

Caloundra RSL Sub Branch

<https://www.caloundrarsl.org.au/index.html>



Newsletter 12 May 2021

Sub Branch advocate secures donation of \$300,000



Sub Branch welfare advocate Gary Phillips has confounded sceptics by securing a \$300,000 donation towards the cost of a World War II bronze statue at Kings Beach.

Gary's project, titled *4551 at War*, is for a statue showing a nurse attending a soldier (artist's impression, left), and a soldier holding a weapon at high port, on the former military parade ground at Kings Beach

The \$300,000 donation came from philanthropists Roy and Nola Thompson, and Gary, with the Sub Branch, expressed his gratitude for their generosity. Gary said: "We want to show the community of Caloundra the role it played during WWII. This history will be lost to our youth and we want to show them, and others, that history and Caloundra's unique heritage.

"The enthusiasm of the children on Anzac Day this year was infectious to me as a veteran; this would also have meaning to them, as it would be their great-grandfather or great-grandmother who might have served in Caloundra before heading north to protect our shores."

Gary said the Sunshine Coast Council was asking for community support for the project, and asked people in favour to email their support to him at garyp@caloundrarsl.com.au.

Centaur Day

For your diary:

The 78th anniversary of the sinking of the *AHS Centaur* will be commemorated on **Friday 14 May 2021** at 1100hrs at the Centaur Park Memorial, Caloundra Headland. On 14 May 1943 *Centaur* was en route to Cairns when she was sunk by a Japanese submarine off Moreton Island. Of the 332 people on board, only 64 survived.



'Cool' job offers variety

By Sub-Lieutenant Nancy Cotton

When Able Seaman Deneki Stewart spotted an ad for a Navy hydrographic systems operator, she thought it sounded “cool”. Now she is travelling to remote islands and assisting the Navy in disaster response. Denaki, and other members of Deployable Geospatial Survey Team 4, part of the Maritime Geospatial Warfare at HMAS Cairns, have roles that vary from day-to-day, from local training exercises to disaster relief.

“We can deploy to any ship and provide a capability surveying the water to ensure it’s safe, which is important, especially after a major weather scenario,” she said. “You just don’t know what is under the surface.”

Material extracted from [Defence News](#)



Able Seaman Deneki Stewart, right, and Leading Seaman Tanya Maksimovic conduct surveying operations in Chinaman Creek in Cairns.

Resolve subsidies resume



Sub Branch Treasurer Ian Harrison has successfully concluded negotiations with the Services Club for the resumption of Resolve gym subsidies.

From 1 June, the Sub Branch will cover the cost of the “oldies” class at 1130hrs each Monday, so attendees need no longer dip into their pockets.

This class is open to Sub Branch members and spouses, and Resolve staff have already asked participants to complete a form listing name, address, date of birth, email and phone number.

Resolve manager Freyja Gunn said: “This way, participants do not need to scan the QR code or write down their name. We do all the ‘hard’ work.

“This also allows us to monitor numbers quickly and efficiently. Anyone who comes to class and who has not completed the form can do so on their next visit.”

The 50 percent subsidy for Resolve gym membership will also resume on 1 June.

This subsidy is available to Sub Branch members, but not spouses.

The Sub Branch Committee voted to approve the 50 percent subsidy cover for a maximum of 60 people; should that be exceeded the Sub Branch will have to review the subsidy amount.

Two meetings on Saturday

Meeting number 1: Caloundra RSL Services Club quarterly meeting.

The meeting will be held on 15 May at 0845hrs in the Sub Branch Lounge. All financial members of the Caloundra RSL Services Club are invited to attend.

The club doors will open at 0830hrs and members will be required to register under the Check-In Queensland App as well as the club's membership kiosk at Reception. The Caloundra RSL practices Covid Safe procedures throughout the club to ensure the safety of all members and visitors.

Members must also complete the Services Club sign-in register when entering the Sub Branch lounge.

Any member unable to attend should please advise the Club Secretary

(club.secretary@caloundrarsl.com.au).

Meeting number 2: Caloundra RSL Sub Branch monthly meeting.

The Sub Branch meeting will begin at 1000hrs, and members will be required to sign in again - this time on the Sub Branch sign-in sheet in the lounge.

Any member unable to attend should please advise the Sub Branch Secretary

(sub.secretary@caloundrarsl.com.au).

The wheels on the bus go . . .

Excursions organiser Ken Priest wishes to remind people about the bus trip to Government House on 27 May, and especially that it leaves at 0800hrs sharp.

There is also an **upcoming event**: A bus trip to the Caboolture War Plane Museum and the Bribie RSL on 29 June.

Details will be on the notice board soon.

So watch out because places are limited and it's first in best dressed.



SUB BRANCH DRAFT MINUTES

RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA (QUEENSLAND BRANCH)

CALOUNDRA RSL SUB BRANCH INC MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, 17th April 2021

Held at the Caloundra RSL Services Club Inc. Sub Branch Lounge

OPENING: The meeting opened at 1001hrs.

WELCOME: The President welcomed members to the meeting and informed all of the fire exits and fire evacuation procedure.

SILENCE: In memory of fallen and departed Comrades. The President asked members to remember those who had passed away since the last meeting.

Tony Richardson	Army	WWII
Alan Lyall	Army	Vietnam
Mervyn Turner	RAAF	Vietnam
Neville Davey	RAAF	WWII
Joyce Farr	WRAAF	WWII
Allan McLean	Army	Vietnam

Robert Eden	CMF
Kaylene Weller	WRAAF
Leslie Mitchell	Army
Peter Ottley	Navy

ATTENDANCE: Members as per attendance sheet: 43 members and 1 Guest, President, Treasurer, Committee members, **Secretary**.

APOLOGIES: Terry O'Connor, Bob Shiels, Darryl Clarke (Skip) Doug Bowtell (Rowdy) Ted Baldwin, Len Lambert, Warren Duff, Pam Gilvear, Dave Milne, Jan Thorne,
"That the apologies be accepted".

MOVED: Bernard Coyle **SECONDED:** Kenneth Priest **CARRIED**

Standing Orders suspended to introduce guest speaker Mr Nick Forster-Jones from Diggers Rest.

Nick Forster Jones: Diggers Rest is a veteran charity looking after younger vets from Afghanistan, East Timor, Somalia and Iraq and has been running for seven years at our facility in Beerwah on 22 acres which hosts veterans and their families free of charge. To date we have supported 1800 veterans and their families. Our target each year is to have 250 nights slept at Diggers Rest. In 2020 we had an 80% increase with a 60% drop in funding due to Covid.

I thank the Sub Branch and the members for their support during Covid – it was the only Sub Branch in the area to do so – and also for ongoing support.

Previously Diggers Rest would arrange month-long, self-funded trips to South Africa taking 12 veterans and their families however Covid restrictions have stopped this. Last year we did a reconnaissance and took a film crew up to the Cape, travelling up to Bamaga. On the way we came across Vietnam Veterans and serving soldiers recently discharged in these small communities.

On 1 September, nine vehicles with 27 veterans will be travelling to Bamaga (FNQ) and laying several wreaths along the way. First off will be the Avenue of Honour in Atherton honouring the 41 soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan plus the 42 who lost their lives to suicide since returning home. Then moving on up to Cowen where in 1987 the Australian Army held the largest parachute drop since WW2. We lost Lance Corporal Bateman whose parachute did not open and a couple of us were injured (I broke both my legs...) We have seven members of the group who made that jump including the air force officer who pressed the button for us to parachute. We will lay a wreath there.

We will go up to Weipa, where in 2001 an FA18 pilot lost his life. We will lay a wreath there and on up to Bamaga where a WW2 Dakota crashed so we will lay a wreath there as well.

On our way through these areas, we will also be giving "Quilts of Valour". These quilts were first made by the mother of an Afghanistan veteran trying to reconnect with her son and to date they have handed out over 1000 quilts to serving members and veterans. We have been gifted four quilts one of which we will present to an Aboriginal Vietnam Veteran after we were contacted by his niece and a few others we will present to say "Thanks for your service".

Again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. We are very appreciative.

Heather Christie: Thanked Nick for his presentation and commented on the great work he was providing. Resumed standing orders.

Heather Christie: A reminder that the minutes were included in the Newsletter and that members should not expect another copy when they attend the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of 27th March 2021 have been circulated and read and are now available in the Newsletter.

"That the minutes of March 2021 meeting be received as a true record".

MOVED: Helen Smith **SECONDED:** Russell Bourne **CARRIED**

Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence list was included in the handout and all of which had been actioned by the committee and advised to the members.

"That the correspondence for April 2021 be endorsed".

MOVED: Joseph Borg **SECONDED:** Anthony Young **CARRIED**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Heather Christie:

Last call for those who wish to lay wreaths. Please add your name to the list on the notice board. The order will be placed today.

Gunfire breakfast tickets are available for purchase from reception prior to the 25th.

The Services Club will run a bus for members, from their home to the Dawn Service if there are enough people. If not, they will look at sending taxis.

Commander Lee Pritchard and 4 personnel from 816 SQN, Nowra will be attending our ANZAC Day Services. The Road Transport Corridor will be going ahead along Third Ave. regardless of any further protests with ongoing traffic and noise surveys being undertaken after the school holidays.

All parties agreed to ensure the Memorial Garden is redesigned/relocated to our wishes. David Gibson at Tenkate will look after moving the helicopter and ILandscape will look after any landscaping requirements.

State Parliament will announce a new grant for Veterans and memorial projects, \$100,000. Jason Hunt has offered to assist with the writing and supporting a grant proposal for whatever is required in the Memorial Garden.

Huge thank you to the Women's Auxiliary and to Noelene and Peter Robinson for taking over the running of merchandising and memorabilia sales and to those who have helped on the sales table this week.

Gary Phillips has been working hard on the "4551 at War Bronze Project" so I will invite him to give a brief presentation at next month's meeting.

Prior to COVID the Services Club and the Sub Branch had a detailed maintenance plan for the next 5 years. This has now been put on hold. I have brought a few concerns to the attention of management who assures me that Rubicon are scheduled to come in a couple of weeks to assess those items requiring immediate attention.

We are always looking for ideas Guest Speakers, please let Janine know if you have anyone in mind.

Thank you for attending today and for your support.

"That the President's Report of March 2021 meeting be received as a true record".

MOVED: Heather Christie **SECONDED:** Andrew Boyle **CARRIED**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ian Harrison: Tabled the financial report.

"That in the Director's opinion the Caloundra RSL Sub Branch is solvent and have reasonable grounds to believe the Caloundra RSL Sub Branch will be able to pay its debts when they become due."

"That the Treasurer's Report be received and accounts passed for payment".

MOVED: Ian Harrison **SECONDED:** William Roberts **CARRIED**

RSL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Wellness and Activities Report

Ian Harrison:

Recent COVID restrictions stopped visits to aged care facilities for a few weeks however we are now back on track

We hope to expand to home and hospital visits.

Volunteer hours for March were in excess of 360 hrs and it's great to see that people are involved

Poppy Services

Heather Christie:

6 Poppy Services held since the last meeting with two scheduled for the Memorial Garden in the coming week

"That the reports be accepted".

MOVED: Helen Smith **SECONDED:** Leslie Nicholas **CARRIED**

MEMBERSHIPS:

Jeff Faulkner:

16 Applications have been sent to State for processing; 4 Associate, 2 new members, 2 transfers and 8 re-joins

Peter Keddie: Is there any time scale when we might receive the new State cards?

Jeff Faulkner: If you are a Life Subscriber, you will not receive a new card each year, only those who pay annually will receive a year-dated card and this usually takes 4 – 6 weeks.
If you have lost or need a new card, I can order one for you, it takes about 2 weeks to receive them.
Please let me know if you need to update your contact details so we can update our system.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

ANZAC Day

Heather Christie: ANZAC Day has been discussed in detail earlier.

Helen Smith: Can you please emphasise how important it is for volunteers for Saturday afternoon?

Heather Christie: I have more than enough for Saturday afternoon, it's Sunday morning that I need people.

Trevor Smith: Can we have permission to use the Sub Branch Bus on Sunday morning to get workers there by 0400hrs so we are not all trying to find a parking spot?

Heather Christie: Is there anyone here who is coming to help at 0400hrs who would like a lift with Trevor? Who's the driver?

Gary Phillips: I'll drive the bus.

Heather Christie: The Services Club will be providing buses from the Club to the Dawn Service and returning to the Club will have to be booked at reception.

Wal Farquhar: What time do you want the working party and volunteers to set up the wreath laying area at the end of the march?

Heather Christie: What about 8.30?

Volunteer Bus Drivers

Heather Christie: We are in desperate need for someone to drive the Sub Branch bus. Anyone who would like to help, please see Ken Priest.

Any further matters of general business?

Dave Cheatley: Is it possible to get a printed copy of activities in the Club?

Heather Christie: Due to COVID restrictions, the Club no longer prints the booklet showing what is happening in the Club. There are posters and flyers in reception. We can print out a few copies of the newsletter and we try to put as much information on the notice board.

Trevor Smith: raised several issues:

There was an agreement between the two that there would be a monthly review of the Club use of the Sub Branch Lounge and would appreciate some feedback.

That the Services Club had new gaming stools but they were unable to pay rent.

There have been contractors roaming around the Military Museum and I believe they were talking about wiring for the Solar Panels of the roof and would require cutting through the concrete.

Raised the issue that there were a lot of Grants on offer and that there was now someone at State who would assist in the preparation.

Heather Christie:

Yes, the Sub Branch and Club are working together. There will be an Executive meeting between the two in a couple of weeks and these meetings will continue every 4-5 weeks. If we are able to, we will report back to the members the outcomes of those meetings.

The gaming stools were replaced for hygiene purposes and it is understood was paid for by a grant.

The solar panels are on the roof and should have no impact on the Military Museum.

Contractors accessing the area without our knowledge is of concern and I will bring it up with the Services Club.

Yes, there are numerous grants available however the members must advise what they want the grant for.

Heather Christie: Reminder of the funeral of Kay Weller next Thursday and of the ANZAC Day preparation on Saturday and the service on Sunday.
Thank you everyone for attending.

NEXT MEETING: 12 May, 2021

CLOSURE: There was no further business and the meeting closed at 1046hrs.

Certified as a true and accurate record.

Confirmed..... President / /

..... Secretary / /

Veteran Access Network reopens

DVA has advised that support and services for veterans and their families are returning to normal, with the reopening of the face-to-face Veteran Access Network (VAN) shopfronts and offices.

Veterans and their families can access these face-to-face services without the need for a booked appointment.

Veterans are asked to be mindful of health and social distancing recommendations when attending, and they and their families are encouraged to use telephone and online services where by possible by logging into their MyService account, by lodging an online enquiry at www.dva.gov.au, or by calling 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

Anzac Day 2021 well done

Hearty congratulations to both the Sub Branch and the Services Club presidents plus to their committee & board members, who organized an excellent event for the almost post-Covid 2021 Anzac Day commemoration.

The huge turnout at the Dawn Service, along the march route, the Commemoration Service and later in the Services Club & Sub Branch lounge are very positive indicators of the success of the Caloundra RSL Anzac Day event. The "stayers" on the Club reflect the support of the community also.

All of the organisers, especially Terry O'Connor and Ian Harrison, the main wranglers, can be justifiably proud of their efforts as evidenced by the success of the day – VERY WELL DONE EVERYBODY.

Also, the photo montage was very much appreciated , President Heather.

Sincere thank you from Warren Duff



Many thanks, Warren, for the kind words. But the letter was not chosen because it was kind. It was chosen because it is the ONLY letter to the editor that has been received since I took on the role.

Members, this is YOUR newsletter and we welcome your opinions, good, bad and indifferent. We'll publish them, warts and all, as long as they're legal, relevant and courteous.

- Terry O'Connor



Social golf report

On 25 April we had a small field of 20 players at Beerwah with a late hit off on another slow and long track with no run and, happily, no rain.

Dean Wye made a great decision with support from the committee to play a two-man Ambrose. So the teams were set up containing one A grader and one B grader and straight away there looked like clear cut winners and losers.

But this was not the case and Mick Madden and Mike Turnock took out first place with a good score by combining and playing well, with Peter Hayes and Norm

Kolln in second place. Congratulations guys.

Unfortunately the two lads receiving the Bradman's were Tom Major and Gordy Laing who seemed to be getting into a bit of bother at the same time out there.

All in all it was very much a fun and entertaining game to play with lots of chat in the clubhouse after.

On 9 May we had another small field of 19 players at Caloundra. We played a stableford event and in A grade Eddie Osborne shot the lights out to win with Shane Grosse as runner up. In B grade it was a family affair with Debbie Staples winning and her husband Bryan being runner up. The Bradman's was a classic Penthouse to outhouse situation with the previous games runner up, Peter Hayes taking out A grade and the previous games winner, Mick Madden, taking B grade.

Our next games are at Beerwah on 23 May and Woodford on 6 June. On 29 May we are having our weekend away at the Gold Coast playing Colonial on the Saturday and Robina on Sunday. Any members interested in playing golf in a friendly and supportive atmosphere are welcome to email Dean Wye at deanwye@hotmail.com.

– **Tom Major, Secretary**

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Please feel free to contact any of your committee members.

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