



# Newsletter

## Cooroy Pomona R.S.L. Sub Branch

September 2017

### EDITORIAL:

The first event about which I need to comment is the Members' Annual Dinner to be held on 14th October. The planning for this exercise is now almost complete. All that is needed now is numbers to fill seats, and I want to encourage all members to join with us in a night of celebration.

Cooroy does not offer many events to dress up for the night, so come on people, here's your chance!

Ladies time to 'Glam up'...add a bit of 'bling'. Gentlemen, get that suit out of mothballs, or jacket & pants...black tie or bow tie. Members, remember to wear your small medals. The courtesy bus will be available for pick up and return home at the evening's completion.

At \$40 per head for a sumptuous 2 course meal with drinks (beer, wine, soft drinks, juices) then finishing with coffee & a cheese platter this promises to be a great night out.

11th November brings on Remembrance Day and this is especially poignant, 2014-2018 being the Centenary of World War 1. Planning for this commemoration is still under way and if you are able to help in any way, please make contact via the Club reception 5447 6131. and they will direct you to the appropriate person.

We need people to help with selling poppies and merchandise, delivering poppies to schools in our area, and of course, helping to set up on the day at the Cenotaph.

If you are not yet aware then be reminded that the first Wednesday of each month is set aside for a morning tea or bus trip alternatively. Don Scott as MC is always full of surprises. The next event will be a bus trip to Parrots of Paradise at Beerwah on Wednesday 4th October. If you miss out on this one, there'll be photos & a report in the December newsletter.

Have you been to the Club lately? If so, then you must have seen the completed extensions to the Sub Branch facilities. We now have a renovated office with room to move, counselling and interview area, as well as a good range of books and a quiet place to read. Our members are encouraged to take advantage of these facilities. For photos and more information see page 11. John Diprose Editor



**Our Sub Branch** has the capability to provide a service through members in a voluntary capacity. These volunteers have received training to a variety of levels under the Training Information Programme (TIP) sponsored by Dept of Veteran Affairs. They are able to assist as required .

- Providing an initial contact point for welfare matters
- Assistance and advise in the preparation of disability pension or compensation claims
- Assessment of decisions under the various forms of legislation
- Advise and assistance with application for review of decisions , and
- Where appropriate preparation and presentation of cases for review through the various levels of appeal to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)



**There is no requirement for a person to be a member of the RSL to access this service**

## **From the Pensions Officer / Advocate**

### **Concessions in Queensland**

#### **Who is eligible for concessions**

The organisation that offers product or service, e.g. . your local council, decides what sort of concession is offered and to whom it is offered. DVA Pensioner Concession CARDS (PCC) and Gold Card holders are usually eligible for concessions, but it is important to contact the organisation offering the concession to confirm your eligibility.

#### **Health concessions**

If you have DVA treatment card (Gold or White) you should always use this card for medical, hospital, pharmaceutical and allied health services.

#### **Pharmaceutical benefits**

PCC holders are eligible for medication under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) at \$6.10 per prescription. Your pharmacist can tell you which medicines are listed under the scheme.

#### **National Diabetes Services Scheme**

You can receive a range of Government products at a reduced price. For more information contact the scheme on 1300 136 588.

#### **Hearing services**

The Office of Hearing Services provides vouchers which enable you to get hearing assessments and devices from providers of your choice. This includes the cost of fitting the device For more information contact the Office of Hearing Services on 1800 550588.

#### **Public Transport Concessions**

PCC and Queensland Gold Card holders are entitled to concession fare for travel on Translink, qconnect and regional ferry services. A concession fare is 50% cheaper than an adult fare. TPI and EDA Gold Card holders must have a TPI/EDA Veteran Travel Card to receive unlimited free travel on approved Translink, qconnect and regional ferry services.

#### **Queensland Rail Travel**

Queensland PCC and Gold Card holders marked War Widow/Widower are eligible for 4 long distance Queensland Pension rail travel entitlements per calendar year.

Queensland TPI or EDA Card holders who have a TPI/EDA Veteran Travel Card, receive one free return trip each fortnight on long distance Queensland rail travel.

#### **Further information**

For further information contact John Simmons on 5485 5093.



The Pensions & Welfare Team meet each Monday morning to discuss issues and needs. Pictured on the left is the team utilizing the new Sub Branch facility.



**MEDIA RELEASE**

THE HON DAN TEHAN MP

MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL

MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR CYBER SECURITY

MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC

8 September 2017

## **New compensation Act for veterans**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said veterans would benefit after Parliament yesterday passed measures to simplify veterans' legislation.

Parliament yesterday passed the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (DRCA), which will replace for Australian Defence Force (ADF) members the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA). There will be no change to eligibility or the coverage of entitlements or benefits available to current and former members of the ADF.

The purpose of this change was to move all military compensation legislation under the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. Mr Tehan said the legislation gave the Minister for Veterans' Affairs policy responsibility for all veterans' compensation legislation.

“This new legislation will allow for more consistent for veterans' entitlements subject to consultation with the defence and ex-service community. This will allow the Department of Veterans' Affairs to improve the services it offers,” Mr Tehan said.

DRCA will commence 28 days after Royal Assent when all veterans and ADF members with existing claims under the SRCA will automatically become claims under the DRCA.

Mr Tehan assured the Parliament that there would be no change to coverage in this move but that the Government had put in place a safety net for any unforeseen situations.

Any new claims for injuries and illnesses due to service prior to 1 July 2004 which are lodged on or after the commencement date will now also be DRCA claims.

Further information on the DRCA, and on making a claim for rehabilitation and/or compensation due to a service related injury or illness under any of the military compensation Acts, can be found at [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au).

**Media enquiries:** Minister Tehan's Office: Byron Vale, 0428 262 894 Department of Veterans' Affairs Media: 02 6289 6203

### **The Cooroy Pomona Sub Branch meets**

**2nd Thursday every month at 1500 hours**

We encourage more members to attend to make  
this the best Sub Branch in the district

**YOUR INPUT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE**





Do your medals need re-mounting?

**Medal Mounting Service**

Also available...

Replica Medals

Miniature Medals

Ribbon Bars

CONTACT... GREG

HOME... 5482 9524

MOBILE...0408 829 520

Welcome to our new member Greg McGuire

Support our locals ... see Greg's ad above

**CRAZY CROSSWORD**

How's your general knowledge?

Let's see how you fare with this basic crossword.

You MUST complete the 'across' clues first!

**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

1. Carpenter's tool

1. A vegetable

2. A Party drink

2. Female sheep

3. Hit

3. Lays eggs

4. Judy's friend

4. Ocean

5. Line at the end of a joke

5. Often dropped

1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				



Elaine Williams

Have you missed seeing this familiar and happy face at reception recently.

Regrettably, we said farewell to Elaine early in August.

During her time here she has been an enormous help and support to the Sub Branch. She has moved on to greener pastures and we all wish her every success.

We look forward to working with Shanae.



THE FIRST RSL BUILDING IN GEORBY  
 BUILT: NOT KNOWN (POSSIBLY 1920'S-1940'S)  
 MAVIS KING'S WEDDING TO JIM WHITE  
 PHOTO TAKEN FROM IN FRONT OF THE MEMORIAL HALL  
 1947  
 RSL IN BACKGROUND

Photo courtesy of Adrian Warner



**TRANSPORT TOPICS  
BY DENIS THOMPSON**

Since our last newsletter in June your transport vehicles have travelled some 8038 kilometres carried 383 passengers and accounted for 461 volunteer driver hours. Thank you to all drivers involved in providing this valuable service to our community. As this newsletter goes to print the Kia will be in having its 30K servicing and the Toyota HiAce will be undergoing a face lift to repair 5 years battle damage, and will return looking like new.

Medical trips to the new University Hospital at Kawana involve a minimum of 2 hours for a return trip, at the moment we are managing to do these as individual trips but as more services and specialists move to this facility we may have to introduce a morning and afternoon service to fill these requirements. We will advise our patrons of any changes that we are forced to make to fill these appointments.

—oOo—



**HOSPITAL VISITS  
BY TONY KERSHAW**

Since our last newsletter in June we have made 53 bedside visits at Eden Rehabilitation Centre, including one from our own team, Greg Dyce. Greg had 2 knee re-constructions and needed some encouragement during rehab.

Most of the people we visit at Eden come from other sub branches. We always offer assistance but find that their home ESO looks after them pretty well.

There has been an influx of new residents at Kabara recently and we find there are about 24 eligible for visits. We don't visit all of these every week for varying reasons and we find a number are involved in recreation activities. Our visits here are always much appreciated. You might have noticed a lack of poems in the local Rag of late and this is because Jim Dunstan is now a resident here. "Come on Jim, let's see a few of your poems posted on the walls at Kabara".

The weekly veterans' phone support continues, well attended to by Nick, Greg, & 'yours truly'. I think the guys & gals are doing a fantastic job and if no one else will, give yourselves a pat on the back. My thanks to Tricia, Sue Porter, John D, Nick & Greg and all the other people who helped in some way.

—oOo—



**WELFARE  
BY DON SCOTT**

This department seems to be going rather well at this point in time. However, several of our veterans and widows have passed away in the last month. Our condolences to all the families.

Hilary Harrison, a long time associate of the sub branch has relocated to family in Canberra. Best wishes Hilary

Each Monday morning the PAWS team meet together to discuss progress made last week and what needs to be taken care of in the week ahead. Phone calls, nursing home visits, hospital visits & home visits, are all part of the duties of our Welfare team. If you hear of someone needing our assistance please let us know. John Diprose chairs these meetings.

18th August Vietnam Veterans' Day organized by Peter Watts and his able assistants went off really well.

6th September saw us put on another morning tea, Nick on the keyboard, muffins scones, jam & cream...coffee or tea of course.

Everyone got involved in the game Who Am I? Which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Our next bus trip will be on Wednesday 4th October and we plan on a visit to Parrots in Paradise in Beerwah. If you haven't done so already, you'd better book now as transport is filling fast.

4th September A good number from the sub branch attended a Suicide Awareness Course at Cooroy Library. This was an excellent course, well presented, most informative, and provided the team with a great tool.



Playing "Who am I?"



Picking strawberries & lunching at Cooloola Berry Farm

Bus Trip 7th August



Don's lessons in self defence  
Seniors' morning tea 5th July



Seniors' morning tea 6th September

**COOROY POMONA SUB BRANCH PENSIONS & WELFARE TEAM (PAWS)**

Pensions: John Simmons

Welfare: John Diprose

Welfare: Jo Dyce

Gary Manton

Don Scott JP QUAL

Sue Thompson

Denis Thompson

Greg Dyce

Sue Porter

Greg Dyce

Tony Kershaw

Tricia Geelan

Nick VanZutphen

Carly Read

Peter Watts

Greg Holmes

If you are needing assistance regarding pensions , transport for medical appointments, home visits, hospital visits, aged care support , our PAWS team can be contacted through Club Cooroy reception

**5447 6131**



## September Centrefold



**Congratulation Cowboy  
aka Ray Morrison  
on obtaining your OBE with birthday  
celebrations on 22nd July, blowing the  
froth off a few  
with his many friends & family.**



## Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day 18 August

A memorial service was held for Vietnam Veterans' Day on Friday 18th August at the memorial triangle Diamond St Cooroy. The service was well attended with about 50 veterans and their families participating. The guest speaker was Mr Blair Weaver a Vietnam veteran himself who delivered a very interesting and informative speech which was well received by all. At the completion of the service everyone adjourned back to Club Cooroy for light refreshments and drinks. We all enjoyed catching up and reminiscing. As always, as the morning progressed, the stories became longer and taller. Many thanks to all those who contributed to a successful morning.

The speaker Mr Blair Weaver graduated as an Army flying officer in 1965, having trained in Point Cook Victoria and Amberley Qld. As 2nd Lieutenant was posted to Vung Tau Vietnam in 1966, moved to Nui Dat, Phuok Ti province during which time he was shot down in enemy territory and rescued by an RAAF Iroquois. He completed his tour of SVN in 1967, completed a short service commission as an Lieutenant, Acting Captain of a Recce Flight in 1970. After discharge he continued flying helicopters in PNG, North & Central Queensland and returned to the Sunshine Coast completing his flying duties as a medical and rescue helicopter pilot with the Sunshine Coast Helicopter Rescue Service now known as Sunshine Coast RACQ Life Flight Service. Blair retired in 1999 and now resides on the Sunshine Coast.



During the morning Mervyn Bignall made a presentation to the Sub Branch of his Shoulder Patches, Rising Sun, and a photograph recognizing him as a Gunner with 4th Field Regiment during his time in Nui Dat January 1971.

Photograph shows Sub Branch treasurer Gary Manton receiving the memorabilia.

**GREG HOLMES MEMBERSHIP OFFICER**



Below, for your information, is a copy of the Welcome Letter we give to all new members



**“KEEP THE FLAG”** Poem by Joy Prosser

Our flag bears the stars that blaze at night,  
In our southern sky of blue;  
And the little old flag in the corner,  
That's part of our heritage too.  
It's for the English, the Scots, and the Irish,  
Who were sent to the ends of the earth;  
The rogues and schemers,  
and doers and dreamers  
Who gave modern Australia birth.  
And you, who are shouting to change it,  
You don't seem to understand;  
Is the flag of our law and our language,  
Not the flag of a far away land.  
And the seven pointed star at the bottom,  
All Aussies will gladly relate;  
How it signifies our freedom,  
One point for each Aussie state.  
There are plenty of people who'll tell you,  
How when Europe was plunged into night,  
The little old flag in the corner,  
Was their symbol of freedom and light.  
It doesn't mean we owe our allegiance  
To a forgotten Imperial dream;  
We've got the stars to show  
where we're going  
And the old flag to show where we've been.

*Welcome*

**To Cooroy-Pomona RSL Sub Branch**



Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for joining us to help support each other and assist other ex service personnel, widows and families.

Our Sub Branch is a friendly team dedicated to preserving the camaraderie of the ADF and providing a variety of services including free welfare and advocacy advice.

**Cooroy RSL is a place where you and your family can feel welcome.**

*Invitation*

Please feel free to join us at any or all of our regular activities including...

- Monday Morning Tea at the Club from 10am. Meet with our Welfare, Pensions and Advocate personnel
- Thursday Night Raffles at the Club from 6pm
- Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month at the Club from 3pm
- Bi-monthly Bus Tours to places of interest
- All special events such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

**Please don't hesitate to call us if you need help or someone to talk to, or if in the Club just look for one of the Team in the Blue Sub Branch Shirt.**

Kindest Regards \_\_\_\_\_

**Cooroy Sub Branch Membership Officer**

My saying for this newsletter is : “When you pay for experience, be sure you keep the receipt”

## **NORTH AUSTRALIA OBSERVER UNIT 1942-1945**

The **2/1st North Australia Unit** (2/1 NAOU) was an Australian Army Reconnaissance Unit of World War 2. Formed in early 1942 in Northern Territory, was a light horse mounted unit that was tasked with providing early warning of Japanese activity in Northern Australia at a time when an invasion of the country was expected. As the threat of Japanese invasion dissipated the unit's operations were curtailed in 1943 and was eventually disbanded in the early months of 1945.

The Unit was divided into 4 companies. Headquarters based at Katherine NT (CO Maj Bill Stanner) — A Company based at Roper River NT — B Company based at Ivanhoe WA — C Company based at Gregory Downes Qld

B Company comprised 4 Platoons of 20 men each. Its area of operation was immense, covering from Port Keats on the eastern shore of Joseph Bonaparte Gulf to Prince Frederick Harbour west of Mitchell Falls. (Over 400 km by air). Company headquarters was at Ivanhoe.

My father John Goode SX13193 was assigned to B Company on 29 June 1942. In August, 7 Platoon was based on Carlton Hill Station, 44 km east of Wyndham. The NAOU comprised men drawn from existing army units — they had to be fit and between 20 & 40 years old, have skills in horse riding and bushcraft and be independent of character. They were to patrol the northern part of the Kimberleys and report any signs of Japanese activity by wireless telephone (WT) to HQ in Katherine. They were instructed to stay out of sight in the event of an invasion and to report on troop, ship & air movement. To this end they had to learn to hide in bush and utilize hidden caches of food & stores. They were not to engage the enemy in battle (the platoon armament consisted of 1 Bren gun, 4 Thompson sub machine guns, and a rifle for each man with limited ammunition — (hardly a deterrent against the might of the Imperial Japanese Army!) If threatened they would deploy, sometimes over stretches of 60 kms in any weather and over any terrain, to previously mapped waterholes. They were assigned horses & mules, but lack of co-operation from station personnel in providing horses, they mostly used mules. The vast logistical distances involved meant that resupply of rations was unreliable and the men had to live off the land for food & water, using Aboriginal guides to help them. They were known as the Nackeroos because “the horses were fit only for nackers they live off kangaroos”

In 1972 Stanner summarized the unit in the following terms to the Armory Vane the author of the unit's history. “The Unit was organized somewhat on the lines of a Light Horse regiment but with commando type flexibility. It had a strategic & technical role with duties of reconnaissance, scouting & coast watching and was widely dispersed on a& off the coasts & inland, between Cambridge Gulf & the Gulf of Carpentaria. The members of the Unit tended to operate in very small groups, often of section strength, over an enormous area, manning observation posts or in fixed or mounted roving patrols, so as to answer for the flanks of NT force. They seldom assembled as troops, companies, or squadrons, and never while I was in command as a single unit after once taking up their field stations.

After 10 months of isolated existence on 9 June 1943 John was thrown from his mule (called Jabaroo), & broke his left tibia just below the knee cap. Initially thinking that his leg was dislocated attempts were made by his mates to push the leg back into shape, with no anaesthetic! After 40 lying on his back in the bush the platoon MO arrived and gave him ether before straightening as best he could and putting it in plaster from thigh to toe. An air ambulance was despatched from Katherine but it crashed. Another plane was sent which also crashed. Six days later an RAAF Hudson Bomber arrived and flew him back to base hospital in Katherine, then to Darwin and finally to a military hospital in Adelaide. He remained in hospital until November & was finally discharged from the army in December 1943.

In a letter to his wife of 2 years, Judy, he wistfully wrote “In a way, I'm sorry to be out of the show out there in the bush, for the boys are a fine lot & I would like to share their isolation with them for another few months, but on the other hand the advantage of being able to write & read in utter abandon & of this close link with you is something not to be spurned after 10 months exilement.”

References: 1. John's letter to his wife Judy written in stages from 12 June to late June 1943. 2. Northern Australian Observer Unit, Dr Amory Vane, Australian Military History Publications 2000 ISBN 1-87649-25-4

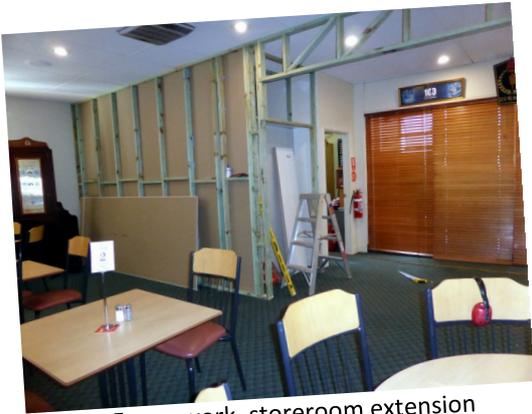
Sub Branch Extension & Renovation



Beginning—enclosing the back verandah



'The new library' --- the old verandah



Framework, storeroom extension



Extended office—new interview room



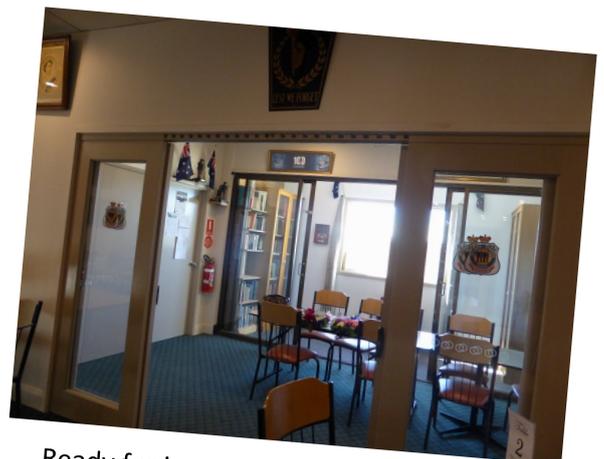
Finishing touches



The new roomy office space



Relocated Flags



Ready for inspection—the finished article

## ATTENTION ALL SUB BRANCH MEMBERS



### Annual Dinner

All Sub Branch members, spouses/partners are invited and encouraged to attend our Annual Dinner.

**Saturday 14th October 2017**

**at 6.30 pm**

**Bookings** are essential at Reception

No later than Monday 9th October

**Cost** : \$40 per head

**Dress Code:** formal with medals

### Remembrance Day 2017

11 November 2017

1030 hours

Service commencing at

1045 hours

The Cenotaph

Diamond St Cooroy



Sub Branch Notice Board  
in Walkway

Don't forget to check it  
for notices of current  
events