



Medal Mounting

Prestige Medals are offering discounted services to Cooroy Pomona Sub Branch members. For details contact John Simmons on 5485 5342, also Dadd Medals, 303 Anzac Ave Redcliffe on 3284 3805

Decorative Art Classes

Places in the decorative art classes, to be held by the Women's Auxiliary in the New Year, are filling fast. Anyone interested in joining these classes should call Lyn Morgan on 5485

Care Parcels

We are proposing to commence a program of sending care parcels to our local service men and women who are serving in war zones and peacekeeping forces overseas in order to let them know that we are thinking of them and so that they know that they have our support. If you know of or become aware of any such service people please provide the details to a member of your committee or leave the details at the Club reception.



From the Hospital Visitor

It's been a real pleasure to once again bring some cheer into the lives of veterans and widows whom I have visited in hospital these past few months. The numbers have not decreased and I must say once again what a great job all of the staff at Eden do in the recuperation and rehabilitation process.

Together Don Scott and I were able to conduct a small service at Eden on the 11th of the 11th in remembrance. It was very well attended with some 18 patients and as many staff. The sunroom was filled to overflowing and we will be looking for a larger space for next year.

As with many diseases today most of us have contact in one way or another with the condition of dementia. DVA have produced a handbook to help people understand, to give assistance where we can, and to know where to go for help. They've produced a similar book dealing with the problems associated with prostate. The titles of these books are "Living with Dementia" and "You and Your Prostate", and come highly recommended.

We are all going to 'move on' one day but for those left behind, it is often a struggle to provide all of the information that's required, and there is also a booklet available so that we can record necessary details to expedite the passage of wills and probate etc. This booklet is entitled "Planning Ahead". All of these books are available through the sub-branch office from myself or, if you wish, give DVA a call.

This will be our last report for 2009 and I would like to extend to all our ex-servicemen and women and their families a very "Happy Christmas", and wish you safety and good health throughout 2010.

John Diprose

COOROY POMONA RSL SUB BRANCH NEWSLETTER



Presidents Message

Once again another year has gone. By the time you receive this we will be coming up to our AGM. Please come along for this event as it is the time when all of our members have an input into the direction you would like our Sub Branch to take during 2010. I will be presenting a detailed report on the activities of the past year at the AGM.

I must thank your committee for their efforts through the past year and the members who supported our monthly meetings and commemorative events during the year I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ken Morgan

Veterans In Profile

It is proposed to profile our local veterans in future newsletters. Those profiles will generally include a photo of the veteran taken during their service life and a short overview of their service. If you would like to feature please contact John



This months profile on page 4 —DON BLAIK

Army Combat Badge

The criteria for the Army Combat Badge (ACB), has been changed to include members that have been physically deployed in the same geographical location as a Combat Team and had the primary role to directly support. The purpose remains to recognise service with a combat element in an operational area and not to recognise combat duties.

The broadening of the criteria means that ex-serving members previously not eligible for the ACB may now be.

A copy of the relevant Defence Instruction is attached to the notice board in the Sub Branch office.



COOROY POMONA RSL

December 2009

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' "Never complain, never explain" Kerry Packer , Billionaire

" I admire not idealise" Alice Swanson Australian

Email us at subbranch@cooroyrsl.com.au



Merry Christmas Everyone!!

From the Women's Auxiliary



The Ladies of the Auxiliary have been busy over the last couple of months, with craft days to stock up with items for their craft stall the first week in December.

A very successful stall and raffle were held in conjunction with the 'filling of the sleigh' run by the Sub Branch outside IGA in Cooroy and Pomona. Many thanks to those people who purchased items or brought tickets.

The Ladies of the Auxiliary would like to wish all Sub Branch members a merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Lyn Morgan

Calendar for the Remainder of the Year

Monthly Meetings	Second Monday month 5pm
PLEASE NOTE—There will not be the regular monthly meeting in January	
Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meetings	Second Monday month 1pm
Annual General Meeting	Sunday 14 February 2009

PLEASE NOTE:

The AGM will be followed by the February Meeting



By way of personal instinct, I have an inherent distaste for grandiose rhetorical statements, which don't have any substantive dimension to them

- Kevin Rudd prime minister

Treasurers Trivia

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some ale' and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

Barry Castledine

From the Welfare Officer

I am pleased to report that the number of veterans requesting assistance / advice has increased over the last several months. The 'Planning Ahead' booklets have been popular and I have ordered more of them, please let me know if you would like a copy.

I am running the 'Drop in Centre' at the Club each Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00AM and I look forward to see you there.

Merry Christmas and a safe new year to all.

Don Scott



The Cooroy War Memorial – History cont....

Town of Cooroy area 15.9 perches appeared in the Government Gazette.

The land chosen for the monument was a wise choice as it is situated at the intersection of three very busy roads and has been used for the purpose of a memorial since 1922.

After the apparent haste to have the land for the memorial gazetted, it seems from lack of further correspondence in Land Department records and old local newspapers that the Committee must have spent considerable time from March 1920 to the completion in April 1922 raising money and deliberating about the construction.

The Memorial is constructed of granite and freestone with columns and marble slabs on each side, on which the names of the fallen soldiers are inscribed. "It is 36 feet square at the base, 32feet 10 inches high with a statue of an infantry man on the top of the Corinthian column, and is estimated to cost 350 pounds".

The soldier depicted on the Memorial is typical of 'memorials in smaller towns were simple obelisks or cairns honouring the humble soldier'. These simple monuments usually depict the soldier with head bowed, hands on rifle. In Army terms the pose is called 'rest on arms reversed'. The sculptor was A L Petrie & Son.

On Easter Monday 17 April, 1922 the Memorial was finally ready and was unveiled with great ceremony by General Sir T W Glasgow KCB. The unveiling was attended by relatives and next of kin of the fallen soldiers and many other dignitaries and townspeople. General Sir Glasgow was called upon by the Chairman of the Cooroy Memorial Committee to address those present. "the General congratulated the residents of Cooroy on their efforts in having provided so handsome and fitting a memorial in memory of the valiant boys who had fought and died for their country".

After the unveiling the Union Jack surrounding it was hoisted to the half-mast while a bugler sounded the Last Post. "While many wreaths were being placed at the pedestal, Mr W Brittain, on behalf of the Committee, called upon General Glasgow to formally hand over the monument to the chairman of the Shire Council for safe keeping, on behalf of the citizens of Cooroy.

The Memorial and surrounds have over changed over the years since the dedication. A photograph taken on Anzac Day 1955 clearly shows the urns on the Memorial which have now been removed and also the white wooden fence which no longer surrounds the Memorial area.

In 1993 work was undertaken to upgrade the Memorial surrounds by Cooroy RSL Club, other service groups, private citizens and local businesses. The area was improved by "new paving in the shape of a cross, an abundance of roses and other colourful flowers in the gardens have given the 1922 relic a new lease of life". Subsequent Anzac Day participants have reaped the rewards of these frequent upgrades of the memorial with the paving of the area and permanent seating creatively arranged about. In 1995, with the upsurge of public interest of Australia Remembers Committees, two flag poles were erected and a pine tree from a seed from Gallipoli was planted.

Although there would be very few people living in Cooroy who would remember any of the fallen whose memories are perpetuated by this Memorial, it still is a focal point in the town after all these years.

The tradition in honouring the fallen from the local area has continued, with the inclusion on different faces of the Memorial, of the names of the fallen from World War Two 1939 – 1945. There is also a plaque attached to the Memorial honouring the fallen from Korea, South-East Asia, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam, although no names are inscribed.

The Cooroy War Memorial does not glorify war, as some Memorials do, but is a quite respectful Memorial for the fallen in our area. Its' dignity in the "Little Digger" with head bowed, remembering his fallen comrades signifies the reality of war, the mourning of loved ones. Although women do not feature on this Memorial in any way, their spirit is still apparent and at one with the simplicity of the Memorial.

Prepared by Dianne Bampton - 1997



The Cooroy War Memorial – History

This monument was erected in 1922 as a tribute to the fallen soldiers of Cooroy and district who lost their lives during World War One. The monument is situated in the centre of a triangle shaped reserve at the intersection of Kauri and Diamond Streets and the Tewanin Road. The inscription on the monument reads as follows:-

ERECTED
BY
THE RESIDENTS OF COOROY
IN HONOUR OF THOSE
WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1919

“THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE”

Note: It is proposed to provide the details of the fallen in future newsletters.

In December, 1919 a Committee was formed in Cooroy of local citizens for the purpose of erecting the Memorial. This Committee consisted of Chairman Mr E N Wheeldon, Vice Chairman Mr Chas Bennett, Treasurer and Secretary Mr W F Brittain, Members Mr J Morehead, Mr R S Douglas, Mr W Boxsell, Mr E Bonnell, Mr H Hapgood, Mr G King and Mr J Basing.

A letter to the Minister for Lands, Brisbane from Mr W Brittain, Hon Secretary of Cooroy Committee requesting that permission be given “to grant the area shown in red on the attached plan for the purpose of erecting thereon the Memorial” started the ball rolling. On 10 January, 1920 Mr C W Holland, Under Secretary of Lands Department replied to Mr Brittain’s letter and advised “that a report in the matter is being obtained from the Land Commissioner and on receipt thereof I shall again Communicate with you”

The Land Commissioner (Gympie District) was then written to by the Lands Department, Brisbane “Request by Cooroy Memorial Committee that the ungazetted Reserve of 15.9 perches situated between sections two and thirteen, town of Cooroy, may be set apart as a site for a Memorial to the fallen soldiers who enlisted from the district and placed under control of Noosa Shire Council as Trustee”

This request was received favourably by Mr G Carter of the District Land Office, Gympie who replied to the Land Commissioner “I have the honour to inform you that the area in question is very suited for the purpose and not likely to be required otherwise, therefore I would suggest that this request be favourably considered”

On 24 February, 1920 Mr C W Holland, Under Secretary, Lands Department replied in the affirmative to Mr W Brittain “I am directed to inform you that Executive authority will be sort for the reservation of the land for the purpose mentioned and for placing it under the control of the Council as trustee”.

The speed of Government departments wasn’t quick enough for this Committee, who only wanted to erect a monument and must have felt themselves getting bogged down with Government red-tape. On February 20, 1920 Mr H F Walker, MLA for the area of Cooroy, wrote to the Under Secretary, Department of Lands “Would you kindly hurry up request from the residents of Cooroy regarding small piece of land for soldiers monument. I understand they want to go right on with this work”.

This letter must have proved the catalyst as shortly afterwards the approval for a Reserve for a monument to fallen soldiers (within the Shire of Noosa) County of March, Parish of Tewanin,

From the Pensions Officer

Is your Disability Pension up to date?

Experience shows that many veterans have not kept their Disability Pensions up to date, some reasons are:

The veteran has reached 70 years of age and has received the Gold Card, all treatment is covered, thus, emerging service caused disabilities are forgotten or ignored;

Worsening of Accepted Disabilities are ignored but can be claimed;

New service caused disabilities which emerge many years after completion of service are ignored but can be claimed;

Where the veteran has had exposure to significant noise during service a deterioration in hearing can be claimed;

For Vietnam Veterans, who have had exposure to Dixons, disabilities such as prostate cancer can be claimed, and

Where the veteran has had exposure to asbestos or beryllium, diseases relating to this exposure can be claimed.

If you feel that you could have a claim for a Disability Pension or you should have your Disability Pension reviewed please contact me on 5485 5342.

UK Pensions Increase

Ex UK residents who are in receipt of a UK pension can apply for additional payments through the Voluntary National Insurance Scheme. Applications can be made to the Pension Service, International Pension Centre (RDNP), Tyneview Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE 98 1BA, England UK.

John Simmons

From the Membership Officer

This year all financial members will be issued with a new member card. This will include all life subscribers and life members.

The format of the new cards includes the ambassador card. This will provide members with many benefits and discounts.

Since it is a requirement of the Ambassador Card Company that the financial year be printed on the member card, all member cards, regardless of membership type, will now be printed on an annual basis.

When members pay their annual subscription, they will also receive a 2009/2010 Ambassador booklet and a discount voucher.

All life subscribers will be receiving their card in the mail with the December Sub-Branch Newsletter, or if you are coming to the Club you may like to pick it up at the Club Reception area.

As the year concludes I would like to thank all of the Sub-Branch members and Club staff who have helped me achieve my goals.

Season's greetings to all
Malcolm Muir



Veterans in Profile

Blaik - Don



Don was born in Gympie where he completed his secondary education at the Gympie High School. He represented the school in tennis, athletics, cricket and football (League of course). He joined the Commonwealth Public Service in Brisbane in 1956 with the Australian Customs Service. His military career commenced the same year with 98 days full-time National Service Training (Infantry) at Wacol Brisbane.

His two careers ran somewhat parallel as he moved around the country. He was required as part of his National Service obligation to perform 2 years part time CMF service. However when the Government abandoned National Service soon after, he had taken a liking to the military "environment" with the 51st Infantry Battalion in Cairns and stayed on with the active Reserve. He rose through the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, and WO2 before being commissioned. As a Lieutenant he served with the Officer Training Group in Darwin, Detachment Commander in Bowen and as Operations Officer and Intelligence Officer in Rockhampton. Following his civilian promotion to Canberra in 1967, he was promoted in the Army Reserve to Captain in the Third Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment (3RNSWR). After a number of postings at that rank, and promotion to Major, he was invited to be a UN Military Observer with the Truce Supervision Organisation in Palestine for a period of 12 months (with leave from the Public Service). Expecting the tour to be educational but otherwise uneventful, he paid the fares of his wife and two young daughters to be with him in Damascus. On his third patrol to the Golan Heights between Syria and Israel his expectations were dashed as the fourth Arab/Israeli war broke out on 6th October 1973, the second day of what should have been a four day patrol. He was accompanied by another UN Officer and a Syrian Liaison Officer, a young Lieutenant who proved to be most valuable with his local knowledge and interpreter skills during the war. Don is reluctant to provide details of all that happened but talked of the destruction of their Observation Post over the next week from artillery and aircraft rocket fire. All sleeping accommodation and their vehicle were damaged or destroyed. As Israeli attacks passed their position, the surviving crew of tanks that were hit by rockets were lying near their shelter, badly wounded. On 2 occasions Don was ordered out of the shelter at gun point but was able to talk his way out of the dilemma (young soldiers on battle fields are not always worldly wise about niceties like UN Observers). As rations and water ran low and the post was unable to perform its primary function of radio reporting violations of an old UN cease fire agreement, UN HQ ordered them to return as best they could during the night (after more than a week of war). In a vehicle that lasted only a few kilometres and then on foot, they reached the Jordan/Damascus road just before daylight and watched the curtain of artillery fall down behind them. Don was then sent to Beirut (Lebanon) to act as Liaison Officer for UN families which had earlier been evacuated. With 15 nationalities one can hardly imagine the difficulties. Don still had 5 months to serve in Syria as the war finally wound down. He went back to the Golans to help establish the "new" cease fire lines.

He then served 6 months in Israel mostly in the Sinai Desert checking on the UN agreed lines and numbers of heavy weapons. Patrols in the desert often started as early as 0300hrs as temperatures rose to the high forties by mid morning. Another task he was given was to supervise clearance of minefields to allow movement of UN armed troops between the two forces. Thirteen Syrian engineers were killed in the three day operation.

In late 1974 Don returned to Australia, to his civilian employment. In his Army Reserve role, he was appointed 2IC of 3RNSWR. After qualifying at the Land Warfare Centre Canungra, he was appointed CO of 3RNSWR (Lieutenant Colonel) from 1980-82. On 14th March 1981 the "Freedom of the City" was conferred upon his Battalion by the then Minister for the Capital Territory Michael Hodgman in a Canberra City parade. As his final posting he was an Instructor in Tactics for 2 years at the Army Reserve Command and Staff College in Sydney. Don's civilian career concluded where it began in Brisbane. He was Queensland Manager, Corporate Services. On retirement he moved to Cooroy in 1992 where he and his wife Pat have acreage near Black Mountain. They enjoy caravanning, camping and fishing for 5 to 6 months each year. When they are at home Don plays with the Cooroy Tennis Club.

Sub Branch Annual Dinner 2009

