

COOROY POMONA RSL SUB BRANCH NEWSLETTER



COOROY POMONA RSL

February 2008

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Presidents Message

I hope that 2008 brings you a happy and healthy new year. This message will be brief as I expect that that my report to the AGM will be available on the Sub-Branch web site shortly. It was a very good turn up at the AGM and I look forward to this trend continuing through to the monthly meetings. I welcome the reformation of our Women's Auxiliary and encourage all members' wives and partners to support Lyn Hutchinson and her committee in this initiative.

Finally, many thanks to the committee for an excellent job during

2007 and for standing again this year – 'well done those men'.

Ken Morgan

Newsletter

In order to keep everyone up to date with Veterans' matters and coming events it is proposed to publish four Newsletters this coming year. If there are subjects you would like included please contact John Simmons on 5485 5342. This year we are increasing our

Newsletter

distribution to include Widows of Veterans'. If you know of a Widow of a Veteran who would like to be included on our distribution list please let John know. If you are a Widow of a Veteran and do not wish to be included on our distribution list let John know and he will have your name removed from the list.



Sub Branch Committee

At the Annual General Meeting of 10 February 2008 the following Office Bearers were elected for the following twelve months:

President

Deputy President/Pensions Officer

Vice President/Membership Officer

Secretary

Treasurer

Welfare Officer

Hospital Visitor/Asst. Treasurer

Property Officer

Library Officer

Ken Morgan

John Simmons

Grahame Wearne

Phil Hutchinson

Barry Castledine

Margaret Castledine

John Diprose

Dave Smith

Jim Dunstan



We are online at
www.cooroyrsl.com.au



From the Women's Auxiliary

The Cooroy/Pomona Sub-Branch Inc. Women's Auxiliary has now been reformed. Their meetings are being held every second Tuesday of the month at the 'Drop-in Centre' at the RSL Club commencing at 10.00am.

One of their major aims is to promote friendship. The Auxiliary cordially invites wives or partners of Sub-Branch members to join them at their meetings. For further information phone Lyn Hutchinson on 5442 5690.

Lyn Hutchinson

Treasures Trivia

.....And for the golfers!!

If you really want to get better at golf, go back and take it up at a much earlier age.

Calendar for the next Twelve Months

Monthly Meetings	Second Monday month 5pm
Anzac Day	Friday 25 April
Lunch for Veterans' Widows	Saturday 14 June
Vietnam Veterans' / Long Tan Day	Monday 18 August
Lunch for WW2 and Korean Veterans	Saturday 06 September
Sub-Branch Annual Dinner	Saturday 11 October
Remembrance Day	Tuesday 11 November
Annual General Meeting	Sunday 08 February 2009

COOROY RSL & MEMORIAL BOWLS CLUB INC. AGM

SUNDAY 09 March commencing at 9.00AM

ANZAC DAY - FRIDAY 25 APRIL

- Dawn Service at the RSL Memorial Park 5.00 AM
- Gunfire Breakfast immediately after at the Club - \$2 donation
- Street Parade stepping off at 10.30 AM
- Memorial Service in the Memorial Hall immediately after the parade
- Lunch in the Club following the Service
- Cost TBA and subject to bookings



From the Membership Officer

The beginning of another year and thanks to those who have already paid their 2008 subscriptions. For those who have not, this is a friendly reminder that subs are payable at the Cooroy RSL reception. For those members not renewing their membership by 30 April, their continuity of membership will lapse.

Last year we had a small net gain in Sub-Branch membership, after allowing for deaths, transfers out and non renewals. However, I am sure that there are many ex-servicemen and women who are not RSL members, who we would welcome to the Sub-Branch. If you know of any such people please encourage them to join. The Sub-Branch Committee would welcome any suggestions that may encourage these people to join us.

Grahame Wearne

From the Pensions Officer

Spouse Pensions Cancelled on Remarriage Before 1977

Before 1977, if a widow of DFRB/DFRDB pensioner remarried, they lost their entitlement to a DFRB/DFRDB benefit. In 1977, legislation was changed to allow widows to receive a DFRB/DFRDB benefit for their deceased spouse's service, even if they remarried.

However, widows who remarried before 1977 did not have their entitlement to a DFRB/DFRDB benefit reinstated when the legislation was changed. From January 1, 2008, widows who remarried before 1977 will have their DFRB/DFRDB benefit reinstated prospectively.

Certificates of Appreciation

Certificates of Appreciation are available under the Australian Government's *Saluting Their Service* Commemorations program. They are a way of expressing the nation's gratitude to those who served in the defence forces or on the home front in World War II or in wars, conflicts and peace operations overseas since World War II.

They do not confer any eligibility for entitlements under the *Veterans Entitlements Act 1986* or the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

If you would like an application form please contact John Simmons on 5485 5342.

Driver Licence and Renewals – Medical Conditions and Medications

New laws came into effect on 1 March 2006, commonly known as 'Jet's Law', introducing a mandatory requirement for driver licence holders to report any long term or permanent medical condition to Queensland Transport that may affect their ability to drive safely.

You can no longer wait until it is time to renew your licence to report a long term or permanent medical condition that adversely affects your ability to drive safely. As soon as there is an adverse change to an existing condition, you need to take steps to inform Queensland Transport.

Queensland Transport recommends that you talk to your health professional about your medical condition and any potential impact this may have on your ability to drive safely. Health professionals are qualified to check if you are medically fit to drive. They may provide a medical certificate or official letter stating your fitness to drive.

Drivers who fail to report their medical condition may receive a maximum \$4500 penalty or be disqualified from driving for a certain period.

For copies of fact sheets and reporting forms contact your local Queensland Transport office or go to their web page at www.transport.qld.gov.au

John Simmons



Puckapunyal

To the tune of 'Bye-bye, Blackbird'

Pack up your bags
and kit,

Puckapunyal's up
to shit,

Bye-bye, Pucka.

Stew for breakfast,

Stew for tea,

No more bloody
stew for me,

Bye-bye Pucka.

No more hiking
over bloody
mountains,
We'll be drinking
Fosters out of
fountains.

No more blanco,
No more brass,
You can stick 'em
up your a---

Puca, bye-bye!



RSL Care Development –

Pearsons Road

RSL Care has recently purchased additional land adjoining the initial parcel, this will allow for an expanded development. Funding is now available for the construction of the 240 place low and high care units and funding is available so that a start can be made on the independent living units. It is expected that Council will shortly grant the development approval and once that is received it is expected that construction will commence.

RSL Care has now opened a list for expressions of interest in the independent living units. Anyone wishing to express an interest can do so by calling 1300 558 648.

From the Hospital Visitor

I have been asked on a number of occasions how I am able to constantly visit sick people. Well I want to assure you that I find it a most enjoyable task, I look forward to it each week, and at times I find it an uplifting experience. However I should point out that most of the folk I visit are not suffering life threatening illnesses but are recovering from broken bones, replacement joints etc. But all are receiving therapy so they are able to live independently as possible for as long as possible. Staff at Eden Hospital does a great job of this.

During the past twelve months I have made over 300 visits and it has been a real pleasure to walk beside these people for just a little while to encourage them and assure them that help is only as far away as the telephone. Some have needed a little more assistance than that but between staff at Eden, DVA and welfare workers at our own and other Sub-Branches a good outcome has been achieved.

I want to thank those who have assisted me especially Margaret Castledine who stood in for me while I took a break during November.

While visits to Eden Hospital form the main part of my agenda there have also been a number of visits made to folk at Kabara and Carramar Hostels, Nambour, Selangor, Buderim and Noosa Hospitals and also follow ups by telephone at Greenslopes and Wesley Hospitals in Brisbane.

John Diprose



From the Welfare Officer

This year has been a very interesting one for me as your Welfare Officer, it has been a challenge with the varied problems and enquiries but I hope that I have managed well enough and hope to do better in the future. Transport seems to be a problem for some of you and not all have the Gold Card to take advantage of 'booked car with driver' programme which DVA has in

place, there are options and I will endeavour to help with this matter if I can.

Accommodation is also showing up as a problem with some people as rents are ever sky rocketing and making it difficult for people on fixed incomes but there again help is at hand. I have had a lot of enquiries regarding the RSL Retirement Home at Pearsons Road and hope that more updates

will be available soon, it was deemed that phase one would be completed by the end of 2008, as information comes to hand we will let you know. Don't forget that I can be contacted on 5447 7310 for any help that is in my scope.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at 5pm where we can keep you updated on 'what is going on' in the sub-branch

Margaret Castledine

"RSL Care has now opened a list for expressions of interest in the independent living units."

