

RECORD UPDATE

Please fill in the details below and submit to the Club so that your records may be updated.

Name :

Membership No:

Next of Kin Name:

Contact No:



COOROY POMONA RSL SUB BRANCH NEWSLETTER



COOROY POMONA RSL

September 2011

Inside this issue:

Membership & Treasurers Office	2
Upcoming Events	2
Pensions Office	3
Welfare and Hospital Office	4
Veterans in Profile	5-7
Nashos, Merchant Navy History	7
Vietnam Vets Day Pictures Member Update	8

Presidents Message

Since the last newsletter State Congress took place in Brisbane on 17-19th June . Our delegates John Simmons and Grahame Wearne attended and a social programme allowed some valuable networking as well as the business of the meeting . The election of officers result:- Terry Meehan as State President, John Strachan Deputy President, Roger Bow Vice President. These Members were supported by our Sub-Branch. The main points reported by John and Grahame revolved around the ATO issue. Volunteer work is estimated at \$20 m per year. ATO insists that State , Districts and Sub-Branch constitutions are to be rewritten. The RSL will be recognised as a non profit Organisation across Australia. Sub-Branches will be sorted in to Five classes according to the business conducted, such as those with Clubs and gambling, Sub-Branches that have no business activities, those with stand alone Clubs, Club and Sub-Branch amalgamations and State branch. At this stage Our Sub-Branch is unlikely to be subject to serious investigations regarding our structure. Of note is that there is a

perception that Australia is forgetting and that we need to reconnect. Food for thought here! We do ANZAC DAY well But Remembrance Day is not on anywhere near the same scale. Think about It! Members on DFRB and DFRDB should be aware that the proposed indexation was voted down in the Parliament after early indications were favorable. A Protest Letter form is available from our Secretary to lend your name to a protest. Also in recent days, confirmation of savage cuts to PAWS training has been announced via the Ministers press release. All members should become aware of this outcome and lend a voice to try to redress this situation. This will overload the volunteers who put in the hard yards. Funding for Veteran and community grants programme has also been slashed. These outcomes will increase the workload of our volunteer Welfare officers. The minutes will be available shortly should any member wish to peruse. The Executive will be

addressing these matters at its next meeting. The Grant funding outlined in the last newsletter, has been presented to the recipients and a number of new applications have been forwarded to District for consideration in the next distribution .It was expected that the awards may have been announced at the District Council meeting at Mt Larcom on 25/7/11, however there were applications in excess of the available funding. We have to hold our breath a little longer!! Members are advised that Vietnam Veterans Day will be observed by a service at the RSL Memorial Park at 1030hrs on 18/8/2011, followed by refreshments afterwards at the Club. I look forward to a good rollout of veterans.

On a sad note our membership has been depleted by the passing of five persons with poppy services being provided.

Last Post:

Robert Armstrong,
George Clist
Eric Cull
Brian Langby
Ted Hanns
Ron Sutton

"A bird does not sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song"

Lou Holtz

Email us at
subbranch@
cooroyrsl.com.au

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 Simmons.

Treasurers

Chuckles

My husband and I divorced over religious differences.

He thought that he was God, and I didn't...

From The Membership

Officer

Membership numbers continue to hold steady but we are always on the look out for new members, please encourage other veterans to join. A deficiency in the data that we hold in the membership data base is in many instances the lack of details in regard to Next of Kin. To overcome this deficiency please complete the Next of Kin form included at the end of this news letter and return it reception.

Greg Holmes

Welfare Officers

The Sub Branch is looking to expand its Pensions and Welfare Services (PAWS) it provides to the veteran community, if you are able to assist please contact John Simmons on 5485 5093. Training will be provided.

WW2 & Korean Lunch

Saturday 03 September

A lunch in honor of our WW2 and Korean veterans will be held on Saturday 03 September commencing at 12.00. Sub Branch members and visitors are welcome to come along and to help us honor these veterans. Cost for non WW2 and Korean veterans and their partners - \$35.

The Bus will be available.

Bookings essential – Call 5447 6131.



"Naked" (Bare foot) Bowls

Sunday 25 September 3pm

The Sub Branch will be holding a bare foot bowls day on Sunday 25 September commencing at 3.00pm. This event will be a fund raiser for the Sub Branch so bring your partners and friends along for an afternoon of fun. To register, contact Ron Sutton on 5447 6370.

Remembrance Day

Friday 11 November

The service will be held at the RSL Memorial Park commencing at 10.30am. Following the service there will be drinks and nibbles at the Club. Although there will be no charge you are asked to advise the Club reception of the number of you and your guests for catering purposes not later than Friday 04 November.

Annual Sub Branch Dinner

Saturday 08 October

The timing for the dinner is 6.30pm for 7.00pm. The dress for the evening is – gentlemen, black tie / suit / coat and tie. (Miniature medals to be worn. Ladies, evening wear.)

Cost - \$35 per person, all inclusive. The bus will be available so book early. Bookings are essential – Call 5447 6131

Veteran in Profile cont....

James is buried in the Communal Cemetery in the town of Busigny France, this town is located in the Department of Nord, 6 miles south west of Le Château, it is on the main rail line from Berlin & Maubeuge to St Quintin and Paris. The town was captured by American and British forces on October 9th 1918 in the battle of Cambrai. the cemetery is at the north end of town, on the south west side of the road to Bertry, Clyde's grave is in the south east quarter of the cemetery, where 12 other artillerymen from Britain and Australia who fell with Clyde are buried.

Below left: James Clyde McGrath as a Light Horseman, he was later transferred to the 14th Brigade Field Artillery. Below right: Kennedy McGrath a nephew of Clyde's was the first relative to visit his grave; this was on Thursday 7th February 1985 it was a cold winter day.

Kennedy and his late wife Judy were stunned and overwhelmed by the affection and gratitude shown to them by the citizens in the French village of Busigny when they visited a hotel and asked directions to the War Cemetery, they were similarly treated when they again paid a visit in 1986.



NASHOs 60th Anniversary

The NASHOS 60th Anniversary commemorations will be held in Townsville Thursday 08 – Sunday 11 September this year. For further information and bookings see www.townsville.qld.gov.au

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association

The Association will be celebrating its National Day on Wednesday 31 August. Veterans are invited to attend the Memorial Walk at Enoggera Barracks commencing at 11.00am. Those interested in attending should contact Darryl Cooper on 5442 5545

History

Merchant Navy Day – The contribution of merchant navies during wartime must never be forgotten. In the UK over 30,000 men of the British Merchant Navy were lost between 1939 – 1945. We honour their memory on September 3, the anniversary of the first shipping casualty hours only after war was declared, the sinking of the Donaldson Line passenger ship, "Athenia", and the loss of 112 passengers and crew. For almost six years thereafter barely a day went by without the loss of merchant ships and their crews.

In comparison to the loss of over 30,000 merchant navy sailors, Australian losses during WW2 were 23,365 killed and 6,030 missing!



James Clyde McGrath was born at Jamberoo NSW on 1st March 1898, his parents James & Sophie moved from NSW in 1907/8 to Cooroy via Bundaberg to settle at Happy Jack Creek where they farmed. Other members of the family were Myra, Rita, Mark, Percy, Herbert, and Phillip. In 1915 when aged 17 Clyde as he was known decided-as did thousands of other young men-that he must do his bit for Australia. He joined the military.

Private McGrath 1708, 5th Light Horse 11-14 Reinforcements he embarked on 21st October 1915 in SS Hawkes Bay from Sydney. One of the last known letters from Clyde was written to his sister Myra, it is on "ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE" letterhead. Dated FRANCE 14/7/1917.

"Dear Myra,

Just a few lines hoping to find you in the best of health as it leaves me, still a bit of a cold, otherwise pretty good. I suppose you know by this time that I have been on leave, and had a great time only feeling a little homesick after coming back to France. Scotland is a great place to spend a holiday the Scotch people think the world of us Australians; they can't do enough for us. Boys are pretty scarce up there to, and girls are plentiful, and I am not shy like I used to be, so you can guess I had a pretty good time with plenty of money to spend as well. I sent a parcel to mother with a couple of Brooches in it one of them is for you. I only stayed in London for two days and it was raining all the time so I did not have much of a time. I was there the day after the raid on Saturday it was nearly as bad to live in London as it is to be in France, because you don't know when you are going to get skittled. Me and my mate were asked to a big heads place in Edinburgh but we did not go I was sorry after for not going I think I would have felt out of place though, they had a motor car and all! There was one fault with my leave that was it went to quick. Well Myra how are you all getting on over there I have not got your parcel yet I think it must have gone astray as a lot of our mail goes west. Well we are having lovely weather here at present I only wish it would always stop like this; I am dreading this winter I don't know I will stand it. I think that is all this time as news is pretty scarce and I am a poor letter writer. With best of love to George and family not forgetting yourselves. From your loving Brother Clyde. Please excuse the scribble and don't forget to write. J. C. Mc G."

The news of Clyde's death was released to his parents as Cooroy celebrated the end of the war on Tuesday 11th November 1918. It was reported in the Gympie Times on Thursday November 14th 1918. Killed in Action: Mr. Edwards Shire Clerk was on Monday evening advised that Private J. C. McGrath, son of Mr. & Mrs. J. McGrath, of Cooroy had been killed in action on Tuesday October 22nd 1918.

The sad news was broken to the bereaved parents early on Tuesday morning, by the Rev. J. Gaunders. The young soldier was three years on the front, and close to twenty one years of age. Sympathetic reference was made to his untimely death, at the celebration meeting at Cooroy on Tuesday night. James Clyde was 1.65 meters tall and weighed 57.6 kg, his complexion was 'fair', his eyes were 'blue', and his hair was 'brown'. Clyde was aged 17 years 5 months and 22 days when he enlisted; and at the time of his death he was aged 20 years 7 months and 21 days.

A report in the Australian Red Cross Society "Wounded & Missing in Action" files 1914-1918 states as follows: - "Killed in Action 22-10-18" 14th Bgde. Fld Art: 54th Battery. McGrath Pte. J. C. 1708. I knew McGrath well. He was a tall, fair man, somewhat boyish looking. I recognise this number given as his. He was killed by the same shell as killed W. Hackett. The shell made a direct hit on his dugout. This was just below the village of St Martin, a little to the south. I helped to bring the killed and wounded from the dugout and recognised McGrath when he was carried out. He was dead when we found him, having been hit in the head and in several places in the body and must have been killed instantly. I did not see him buried, but afterwards put the cross on his grave with his rank and name and number thereon. The grave is in a cemetery about 2 kilos from St Martin. Informant: - Saunders. Dvr. J. H. 19090. 14th Bgde. A.F.A. A.E.B. London. 4-2-19. H.G.

www.cooroyrsl.com.au



From the Pensions Officer

The following items are brief extracts from recently updated Department of Veteran' Affairs (DVA) Facts sheets, further information can be obtained from John Simmons on 5485 5093.

Veterans Line

Veterans Line is the after hours telephone counseling service provided by VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Family Counseling Service. The Service is designed to assist veterans and their families in coping with crisis situations outside VVCS office hours. The following persons can access the Veterans Line; Australian veterans from all conflicts and peacekeeping operations, Partners and widows, Sons and daughters, Eligible ADF personnel, F-111 workers and their families, Clients do not require a veteran entitlement card to use the Veterans Line, and counseling is provided completely free of charge.

PTSD

A diagnosis of PTSD is based on the following features; Exposure to an extreme traumatic stressor involving direct personal experience of an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury; or other threat to one's physical integrity; or witnessing an event that involves death, injury; or a threat to the physical integrity of another person; or learning about unexpected or violent death, serious harm; or threat of death or injury experienced by a family member or other close associate OR A response of intense fear, helplessness, or horror ; Persistent re-experiencing of the event ; Persistent avoidance of stimuli associated with the trauma and numbing of general responsiveness (not present before the trauma); Persistent symptoms of increased arousal (not present before the trauma); The re-experiencing, avoidance, numbing, and increased arousal symptoms have been present for more than one month. All veterans, whether they are a White Card or Gold Card holder are eligible for treatment for PTSD on application.

Rent Assistance

Rent assistance is a non taxable allowance to help meet the costs of private rented accommodation. You are eligible for rent assistance if you: Are eligible for a Service Pension; and Pay rent other than Government (public housing) rent; and Pay a minimum amount of rent known as the rent threshold; and Live in Australia.

Entitlements under the Repatriation Transport Scheme

Gold Repatriation Health Card for all Conditions are eligible for assistance towards traveling expenses for treatment of all health conditions. White Repatriation Health Card for specific Conditions are eligible for assistance towards traveling expenses for the following specific conditions, if these are accepted by DVA: war caused or service-caused injury or disease. The following conditions whether war-caused or not: malignant cancer (neoplasia), pulmonary tuberculosis, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety and/or depression.

Diabetes educator services

If you have a Repatriation Health Card – For All Conditions (Gold Card) DVA will pay for diabetes educator services available through DVA arrangements that meet your clinical needs. If you have a Repatriation Health Card – For Specific Conditions (White Card), DVA will pay for diabetes educator services if provided under DVA arrangements, that are required because of an accepted war or service caused injury or disease.

Podiatry and medical grade footwear services

Podiatry services include diagnosis, routine maintenance, selected soft tissue surgery, and physical therapy of the feet. Treatment may also include the prescription of medical grade footwear, footwear modifications and orthoses. If you have a Repatriation Health Card – For all conditions (Gold Card) DVA will pay for podiatry services available through DVA arrangements to meet your clinical needs. If you have a Repatriation Health Card – for Specific Conditions (White Card), DVA will pay for podiatry services that are required because of an accepted war or service caused injury or disease.

Chiropractic services

Chiropractors treat musculo-skeletal dysfunction. Treatment can include spinal manipulation and corrective exercises. If you have a Repatriation Health Card -For All Conditions (Gold Card) DVA will pay for chiropractic services available through DVA arrangements that meet your needs. If you have a Repatriation Health Card – For Specific Conditions (White Card), DVA will pay for chiropractic services, if provided under DVA arrangements, that are required because of an accepted war or service caused injury or disability.

Crisis Payments

A crisis payment is a non-taxable, "one off" payment to financially assist eligible people following a range of defined circumstances. There are a number of criteria relating to eligibility and payment of a crisis payment. The payment is designed to assist the person to establish themselves in a new residence or, for a victim of domestic or family violence to re-establish their current residence after the perpetrator of the violence has left or been removed from the home.



From The Welfare Officer

I have been fairly busy since returning from a six week break. I've seen six veterans and have done four hospital and nursing home visits.

It has been sad to see the passing of so many of our members during recent months but it has been pleasing to see the number of members attending those funerals.

Remember 10.00 – 12.00 each Monday I will be at the RSL if you would like to drop in for advice or a chat.

Don Scott



From the Hospital Visitor

What can I say about visiting people in hospital? Not a lot, except to say that the ones I visit at Eden Rehabilitation Centre are, without exception, some of the happiest people you could wish to meet anywhere. This may seem a strange statement when you take into consideration the fact that the majority are recovering from pretty serious operations. But I put it down to the marvelous treatment they receive from the very caring and dedicated staff. We are indeed fortunate to have such a facility on our doorstep.

John Diprose

Sub Branch Committee 2011

President	Ron Sutton
Deputy President/Pensions Officer	John Simmons
Vice President	Daryl Miller
Vice President	Col Carruthers
Welfare Officer	Don Scott
Hospital Visitor	John Diprose
Property Officers	Vern Johnston & Geoff Roach
Membership Officer	Greg Holmes
Commemorative Officer	Bill Edwards OAM
Library Officer	Jim Dunstan MBE

Veteran and Community Bus Timetable

The following timetable is being operated:

- Tuesdays 9am – 2pm – Shopping
- Wednesdays 8.30am -2pm – Shopping at Maroochydore Plaza, and
- Thursdays 8.30am – 1pm – Shopping and medical appointments locally.
- Bookings 24 hours in advance 5447 6131 "Priority is given to the elderly and disabled"



Calendar for 2011

Monthly Meetings	Second Monday of each month - 5.00pm
(The September & November Meetings will be held at Pomona Bowls Club)	
WW2 & Korean Veterans Day	Saturday 03 September
"Naked" Bowls	Sunday 25th September
Annual Sub Branch Dinner	Saturday 08 October
Remembrance Day	Friday 11 November
Annual General Meeting	Sunday 12 February 2011



Veteran in Profile

William Mark McGrath (Mark) as he was known was born at 'Merroo Meadow' near Nowra NSW on 24th June 1899; his parents James and Sophie moved to Cooroy in 1907/08 and farmed at Happy Jack Creek. Other members of the family were Myra, Rita, Clyde, Percy, Herbert, and Phillip. Until aged 19 he was engaged to work on the farm, but he got his way and on 5th August 1918 he followed in the footsteps of his elder brother Clyde, and joined the military he became Private McGrath 64409 2nd Light Horse.

While in the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force Mark served in Egypt and Palestine his pay Book Receipt states that "Received Soldiers pay book No 403734 from Private W. M. McGrath 64409, on board the Troopship 'ULIMAROA' at sea on 13/03/1919. The Certificate of Discharge (Register Q875) of Private William Mark McGrath 64409 of the 2nd Light Horse A. I. F. States that he was discharged in consequence of the termination of his period of enlistment on May

13th 1919, at age nineteen and a half years, in Brisbane. He served 282 days, 196 of which was service abroad. At the time of his discharge he was 5 feet 4 inches in height, his hair and complexion was described as 'Fair', and his eyes were 'grey'. A report published in the 'The Gympie Times' "Returned Heroes: Privates F. Brady and Mark McGrath, who recently came back from the front, returned to their homes this week and received a warm welcome".

Following his discharge Mark took on a 'Cream Run' delivering cream by a horse drawn wagon from farms in the West Cooroy area to the Butter Factory in Cooroy. He married Eva Mary Cambage in 'Tillowrie', the farm/home of Eva's parents at West Cooroy on Wednesday 26th July 1922. Together Mark and Eva

worked the farm up until about 1944 when they moved into Cooroy. They raised a large family, Billie (deceased), Marie, May, Alan, Jean, Dorothy, Kennedy, and Errol (deceased). Mark also served in the 'Volunteer Defence Corps' from April 19th 1942 until October 21st 1945.

From about 1945 Mark worked with the Forestry Department at Yurol, Imbil, and Coondoo, he retired in 1963 on a DVA pension, and lived at Virginia in Brisbane until his death at Greenslopes Hospital on Sunday 21st October 1979. Mark McGrath was cremated at Albany Creek Crematorium and his ashes held in a niche there with Eva, until Friday 6th March 2009, their ashes were brought back to Cooroy and interned in the grave of their son William James 'Billie' McGrath at Cooroy Cemetery on Monday 9th March 2009, 84 years to the day after the funeral of Billie.



Mark & Eva's daughter Marie, served in the Women's Australian Air Force from 1942 until 1946, their son Alan served in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan from 1946 until 1948, and another son Kennedy, served in the Royal Australian Navy from 1954 until 1960.

Foot note: The dates of 21st and 22nd October are strangely knotted in the stories of Mark and his brother Clyde who embarked in Sydney on Thursday 21st October 1915 for France; Clyde was killed in action in France on Tuesday 22nd October 1918. Mark was discharged from the Volunteer Defence Corps on Sunday 21st October 1945, and he passed away on Sunday 21st October 1979.

At left: William Mark McGrath.