

# COOROY POMONA RSL SUB BRANCH NEWSLETTER



COOROY POMONA RSL

June 2008

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## Presidents Message

It is hard to believe that another ANZAC Day has come and gone. From the reports I have received and the press coverage we have had it proved to be another very successful day. Police estimates put the Dawn Service at around 1,000 and double that at our parade with more Vets marching than in 2007 and lots more school children joining in. Thank you one and all for your support. I would like to give special thanks to your committee for their efforts which are helping to make it a bigger day each year. Grahame Wearne, our Membership

Officer, has indicated that he would like a break at the end of this year, he has been four years in the position. If someone would like to take up this role please contact either Grahame or myself for details. Please note our calendar of events and attend and support your Sub-Branch where and when you can.

Ken Morgan



## Newsletter

A reminder that if there are subjects you would like included in our quarterly newsletter please contact John Simmons on 5485 5342. If you know of a Widow of a Veteran who would like to be included on our distribution list please let John know.



Sub-Branch members recently in the Changi Chapel having placed Australian flags and poppies.

L - R Barry Castledine, Margaret Castledine, Phil Hutchinson, John Simmons, Ken Morgan, Stan Wood and David Smith.

## Sub Branch Committee

President	Ken Morgan
Deputy President/Pensions Officer	John Simmons
Vice President/Membership Officer	Grahame Wearne
Secretary	Phil Hutchinson
Treasurer	Barry Castledine
Welfare Officer	Margaret Castledine
Hospital Visitor/Asst. Treasurer	John Diprose
Property Officer	Dave Smith
Library Officer	Jim Dunstan

"I can do no great things, only small things with great love."

Mother Teresa

Visit us at  
[www.cooroyrsl.com.au](http://www.cooroyrsl.com.au)

### From the Women's Auxiliary

The Women's Auxiliary continues to go from strength to strength with our latest activity being an ANZAC day raffle consisting of a 'Big Boys BBQ', with the prizes being worth more than \$450.00. The raffle was well patronised and all the ladies gave a hand with selling tickets. Our next big scheduled activity will be a Fancy Dress Ball to be held in the hall in September, we will need all hands on deck to make it an enjoyable occasion for the whole community. We would welcome new members! You do not need to be the partner of a Sub-Branch member or indeed a club member, simply being an interested community member is sufficient. As we grow many more exciting events will be planned, so get involved with our friendly group of ladies who meet on the second Monday of each month in the Board Room of the RSL Club at 1.00pm.

Lyn Hutchinson



### Calendar for the remainder of the Year

Monthly Meetings	Second Monday month 5pm
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**



### LUNCH FOR VETERANS' WIDOWS

The annual lunch for Veterans' Widows will be held on Saturday 14 June in the Club commencing at 12.00. The Sub-Branch will be hosting the widows and Sub-Branch and family members are encouraged to support the function.

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL – CALL 5447 6131**



Sub-Branch members recently on the Quarter Deck of MV SuperStar Gemini in the South China Sea, off the coast of Malaysia, having conducted a service to remember the 840 sailors who were lost on 10 December 1941 when Japanese air attacks sunk the battleship HMS Prince of Wales and the battle cruiser HMS Repulse. Those pictured L - R Phil Hutchinson, John Simmons, Jackie Simmons, Stan Wood, Jo Smith, David Smith, Margaret Castledine, Ken Morgan, Lyn Morgan, Lyn Hutchinson, Barry Castledine and (not shown in photo) Joan Wood

## From the Pensions Officer

### Australian Defence Medal

It is estimated that there are about one million serving and ex-service members eligible for the Australian Defence Medal but since its approval for issue on 20 March 2006 only about 300,000 applications have been received by Defence. **Have you applied for yours?**

The Australian Defence Medal recognises Australian Defence Force personnel who have completed either:

An initial enlistment period, or

Four years service,

Whichever is the lesser, and all of the relevant service was **after 03 September 1945**. For an application form call John Simmons on 5485 5342.



### Anniversary of National Service 1951 – 1972 Medal

The Anniversary of national service 1951 – 1972 Medal was introduced in 2002 to recognise those who completed their obligation under the two National Service schemes that had been operating in Australia between 1951 and 1972. **Have you applied for yours?**

For an application form call John Simmons on 5485 5342.



### NATO Medal

The federal government has formally accepted the **NATO Medal** with clasp 'ISAF' for wear by Australian Defence Force Personnel for their service in Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Defence civilians working with ISFA are also eligible for the award. To qualify ADF members need to complete 30 days force assigned service with Operation Slipper in the area of operations from 28 July 2006. **Have you applied for yours?** For an application form call John Simmons on 5485 5342.

### Medallion to Honour Nuclear Test Veterans

A medallion to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the British Nuclear Testing Program in Australia will be distributed to those Australians who directly participated in, supported or assisted in the tests, The Minister for Veterans' Affairs said recently.

The Minister said that the medallion was commissioned by the Australian Government, and will be provided to honour the service of the Australian military and civilian personnel who were involved in the British Nuclear Test Program in Australia between 1952 and 1963.

Medallions have been distributed to those who directly participated in, supported or assisted in the tests, and their widows or widowers. Nuclear test participants who have not yet been contacted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs can call 1800 044 029 for information on how to apply for a medallion.

John Simmons

## Treasurer's Trivia

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts ... So in old England when customers got unruly the bartender would yell at them "mind your pints and quarts and settle down". It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'.



## Recommended Reading

Barry Heard's book, **Well Done, Those Men**, is the autobiography of a Vietnam veteran, but it's so perceptive it represents a whole generation ... The book is very well written, clear in its descriptions, self-aware in its assessments and surprisingly, not depressing to read. It is amazing that Barry Heard has been able to get all this traumatic material down so vividly, and to be able to interpret his experiences so convincingly. The book is published by SCRIBE and a copy is held in the Sub-Branch library.

Barry has followed up with **The View from Connor's Hill** which covers his life up to the time he was conscripted. It's a good read and has recently reached the book shops.

## From the Hospital Visitor

Since my last report there have been 118 visits at Eden Hospital, 1 at Kabara and 2 at Nambour Hospital. I have been able to be of assistance to some patients on a number of occasions by running small errands for them, purchasing items that are unavailable to them whilst they are incapacitated and making enquiries for them in relation to entitlements. Thanks to John Simmons for his assistance in relation to pensions matters.



During the past three months there have been several referrals to other Sub-Branches for their welfare officers to follow up their members upon their discharge from Eden.

On ANZAC day, whilst there were there was interest by several patients to attend, when the day came, only one was able to take part. Thanks to Ron Sutton for supporting me in these arrangements.

Once again, please let me know if you are going to hospital and would like a visit, or if you are aware of a veteran or a member who would like a visit. I can be contacted on 5447 9355 or leave a message for me at the RSL reception.

John Diprose

Email us at  
[subbranch@  
cooroyrsl.com.au](mailto:subbranch@cooroyrsl.com.au)

## From the Welfare Officer

I have been receiving a large number of enquiries in regard to the progress on the RSL Care Village planned for Pearson's Road, if all who have enquired were to be housed, there would be a need for two villages. The latest is that RSL Care have purchased additional land and consequently the plans have had to be resubmitted to Council for approval it is expected that it will be several

months before that approval is received. Thus it is likely that we might not see a commencement on building works until late 2008 or early 2009. I will keep you up to date as news comes to hand.

John Diprose and I have been discussing ideas about how we can further assist veterans who are hospitalized in Eden Hospital and we would love your input. Thank you to all of those who have

contacted me during the past year, it has been an inspiration to continue in the welfare role and it gives me great pleasure to be there for you.

Margaret Castledine



***“it is likely that we might not see commencement on building works (RSL Care) until late 2008 or early 2009”***