

HOSPITAL VISITORS REPORT AND REVIEW

A.G.M. 2009

As I thumbed through the 2009 R.S.L. diary the other day I noticed that the first three objectives listed for the League are (1) Welfare (2) Advocacy and Representation (3) Assistance to all veterans and ex-servicemen and women regardless of their membership in the League. It is pleasing to note that the Cooroy Pomona sub-branch has a strong desire to fulfil to the best of our capacity and ability all these rolls, and I feel privileged to be part of such a team.

There have been four hundred and seventy five bedside visits at Eden Health Care Centre during the past twelve months, of course many patients I contacted more than once during their repatriation and feedback received from patients, staff at Eden, other Sub branches has all been very positive, so we must be doing something right.

Most of the people visited are members of an R.S.L. Club although not all belong to a Sub branch, and many are no longer active members (age has wearied them)

The breakdown by percentage of where these people come from is as follows:-

Maroochydore-----37.5%

Cooroy Pomona-- 13.75%

Kawana Waters---11.35%

Nambour-----9.5%

Caloundra-----8.75%

Tewantin Noosa---7.5%

Beerwah-----4.4%

Gympie-----3.25%

Maleny ----- 1.5%

Tin Can Bay----- 1.5%

Bundaberg-----1.5%

Mary Valley----- 1.25%

Coolum Peregian - 1.25%

Yandina-----1.25%

There was also 1 patient from N.S.W. and 2 from South Australia

In addition to the visits paid to veterans in Eden there were 5 in Noosa Hospital 5 in Nambour Hospital 1 in Royal Brisbane and the occasional visit to Kabara and Noosa Aged Care.

Assistance given has been wide ranging such as purchasing small items, mailing letters, contacting a relative or friend, but mainly just talking and swapping yarns. It has been of particular importance to quite a number to advise them of D.V.A. benefits and assistance available and helping with forms and paperwork. I find the staff at Eden, and in particular the Occupational Therapists, benefit the patients greatly when it comes to mechanical devices and home aids. I often pass on to appropriate Sub branches the names of veterans, to follow up to ensure that post treatment and support is being carried out for greatest benefit.

Enquiries regarding pensions are often received but as this is not my area of training these are passed on to John Simmons who always responds promptly and adequately.

There were a couple of occasions where some of our Sub branch members needed assistance with transport, and we were also able to offer help so that veterans could attend functions and memorial services.

A small ANZAC. service was conducted in the Eden precinct in April by President Ken; and staff there were able to pause in remembrance in November, however they have asked if our Sub branch can assist during November 2009

Thank you to the members of the Ladies Auxiliary who gave assistance so that some long term patients were able to enjoy a little of the outside world for an hour or two. It was also most enjoyable on a couple occasions to introduce some of the male patients to our wonderful club and relax for a few minutes with a “bubbly gold” or two.

John Diprose

