

Sub Branch President's Report for year ending 31st December 2009

Vietnam Veterans Day: Another very well attended service with the Noosa Vietnam Veterans Association forming up in 3 ranks to the front of the cenotaph. Vets President Gary Waycott was our guest speaker with our regular piper, buglar, flag orderlies and Padre again assisted.

The service was followed by lunch in the RSL Club for 93 members and guests. The Vets association presented the Sub Branch (on loan only) with a print of our "Diggers" on Cheops Pyramid for display in the club. They also took the opportunity to present a student with the 2009 School Bursary Award.

Remembrance Day: We again achieved record numbers for attendance at this service. Our Piper, buglar and Rev. Doug Lloyd again joined us. Guest speaker was 91 year old Sub Branch member Mr. Jim Dunstan MBE. Who gave a lovely presentation. Indicative of our support was that the "heavens opened up" for most of the service and no one left. We finished the day with drinks and nibbles back in the RSL club.

Annual Dinner: Our black tie dinner saw 88 Sub Branch members and guests enjoy a lovely meal. VIP guests, State Deputy President Terry Meehan and Sue Meehan and District President and Secretary, John and Leone Wilson, were welcomed and gave a short presentation. I took the opportunity of thanking many of our fundraising volunteers and made floral and other presentations in recognition of their work throughout the year. Again our Club staff did an excellent job.

WWII & Korean Vets Luncheon: Now in its second year the lunch was well attended by these Vets and assisted by Sub Branch committee members and wives. Mr. Ian Wischusen spoke briefly and proposed a toast to all. Mr. Stewie Leitch responded on behalf of the WWII Vets and Mr. Stan Phillips on behalf of the Korean Vets.

Widows Luncheon: This luncheon is also in its second year and once again proved a great success. Word had spread and we had a good response and turn out. My thanks to committee members and wives for hosting each table. Approaches to DVA have revealed that there could be about another 30 widows in our catchment area that we know nothing about. A DVA "Outreach Morning Tea" in early 2009 may well get us in touch with more widows.

The Sub Branch was also represented at the Tewantin-Noosa Vietnam Veterans Day Service, and the 128 ACU Annual Cadet Presentations.

Meetings: During 2008 the Sub Branch was represented at State Congress and District Councils (missing one due to most of the committee overseas at the time). We also held 11 monthly general meetings and our AGM in February. Your committee met on 6 occasions during the year. Our senior pensions and welfare officer John Simmons attended a VVRS and advocacy (level 3) courses in 2008. Sub Branch member Malcolm Muir attended a basic welfare course so he could assist with the workload.

Financial: We have had a strong year financially as you will see from Barry Castledines Treasurers report. Barry has once again looked after our accounts and prepared for audit our financial position.

Membership: Unfortunately our records show our membership has dropped by 11 members in the year although we attracted 25 new members. Non-Renewals of 20 members and attempts to contact them have all failed. We recorded and attended the funerals of 8 members in 2008, always a sad loss, and in particular David Smith a good Sub Branch member and 2 time committee member as Secretary and recently Property Officer, he will be sadly missed by all. Advertising in our local paper for recruitment of new members has achieved positive results.

Fundraising: Our Thursday and Friday night raffles are continuing to be well supported and generate the majority of our income. Many thanks to Bill Edwards OAM, Graeme Wearne, Phil Hutchinson, Barry Castledine and Rick Drake together with Mrs Heather Ford and ladies of the Womens Auxillary for their assistance. Special thanks to Heather Ford for her ongoing efforts in street stalls sales of memorabilia for our commemorative days.

Donations: Your Sub Branch continued with its Annual Donations to local institutions and charities and hopes to increase the dollar value of these in 2009. We support our WBB Girl in a Million entrants with purchases of \$200 worth of tickets at each offering. As this report is going to “press” your committee is discussing additional areas that donations can be placed in 2009. We donated \$500 to Kabara Hostel to assist with the construction of their garden of remembrance. The Sub Branch presented members who regularly attend our monthly meetings with 2009 RSL diaries. This year for the first time we decided to help the “Salvos” with their Christmas food collections using our own “Sub Branch Santa Sleigh” collecting donations of food and toys for 5 days outside both Cooroy and Pomona IGA stores. We received overwhelming support that surpassed our imagination coupled with nearly \$300 of cash donations greatly assisted the Salvos in helping those in need. It now appears because of its success it will now become a regular event on our calendar, coupled with the sleigh in the Cooroy Annual Christmas Parade.

Welfare and pensions: Detailed reports from your welfare and pensions team are attached. Combined with the hospital visitations our group is extremely busy. As I mentioned earlier John Simmons is upgrading his qualifications so as to be more effective in his primary role as Pensions Officer. Also now that Malcolm Muir is qualified in basic welfare he can be of assistance to Margaret Castledine and John Diprose in our welfare department.

General: Your Sub Branch has managed quite successfully to access many areas where grants are on offer. We have received grants this year from.

1. BEST- Building Excellence in Support and Training
2. ADCC- Anzac Day Commemoration Committee
3. Saluting the Service
4. District and Sub Branch Welfare Fund
5. Sunshine Coast Regional Community Service Grants

The Sub Branch profile within the community remains very high due to the quality and quantity of media coverage we continue to receive. Albeit not all members agree to seeing my face that often on each edition of our local paper, we still continue to receive great support. It is also pleasing to note that some articles and photos are now being shown in the Noosa papers.

Upon receiving the grant from Saluting the Service we purchased plaques commemorating all wars, conflicts and peace keeping operations that Australians have been involved in. The plaques now mounted on the concrete plinths will be put in the gardens surrounding the cenotaph. My thanks to Bill Edwards OAM for his research and compilation of this data.

I wrote a letter of support for a Cooroy student and 128 ACU member, Sasha Reason for her application for a RSL youth Program award. I am very pleased to advise that Sasha was successful and has acknowledged our support. Another letter supporting Nathaniel Ford was unfortunately unsuccessful.

In May 5 Sub Branch members and wives with Lyn and myself holidayed in Asia. I took along Aussie flags and poppies which we took to Changi Chapel where we had a small service and placed the flags and poppies at the alter.

Cruising from Singapore we passed near the site where the war ships Prince of Wales and Repulse were sunk. We again held a small service led by John Simmons on deck 5 AFT where at its conclusion poppies were thrown into the sea. You may have seen the photos in RSL news.

As many of you are aware I have been successful in “the rebirth” of our Womens Auxillary in early February. A start up grant of money and Woman’s Auxillary badges allowed them to hit the ground running. My thanks to the ladies who have taken up the reins and volunteered to head the committee and for the work they have done throughout the year. Attached is a report from “the Ladies”.

Special Thanks: Any President needs a dedicated and hard working committee and I am indeed fortunate to have one of these. My upmost thanks to a great bunch of people and Loyal RSL and Sub Branch members.

Deputy President/ Senior Pensions & Welfare	John Simmons
Secretary	Phil Hutchinson
Treasurer	Barry Castledine
Asst. treasurer/ Hospital Visitor & Welfare	John Diprose
Welfare	Margaret Castledine
Membership	Graeme Wearne

Graeme has decided to have a spell after 4 years in his membership role, He has done a great job in that time and we hope to see you and Annabelle often, many thanks mate.

Thanks need to be recorded for the wonderful efforts of David Smith (deceased) who worked tirelessly in organizing the memorabilia as our property officer.

Special mention for Ricky Drake for his ongoing garden maintenance of the Cooroy Memorial Hall.

Although I have mentioned many people throughout this report I would again like to have it noted, for without their support the Sub Branch as we now know it would not be the same. Karen and Kaila Marriott, Leanne White and all club staff. Rev Doug Lloyd, Miss Sandi Seaman, the Noosa Pipes and Drums Band, John Pauley of the Woombye Light Horse Troop, Noosa Naval cadets, 128 ACU, Noosa District High School Band, Cooroy and Tewantin SES, Sgt Mal Scott and officers of the Cooroy Police, Cooroy Scouts and Guides and also the many Sub Branch members who have assisted in working bees and baby sitting Santa Sleigh.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the Sub Branch members for their support, in particular those members who regularly attend our monthly meeting, functions and fund raising activities. I look forward to your continued support of myself and your committee through 2009 and hope that we can be as successful in this coming year as this last one has been.

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Ken Morgan
President
8th February 2009

Attachments

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