



Presidents Report

It has once again been an interesting time for the Ocean Grove Barwon Heads RSL Sub Branch. The Committee has been working hard since our last update/newsletter. It has still been challenging to provide the outcomes and supports to our Veteran Community that your Committee would hope to be able to provide with the pandemic still bubbling along. Despite the current issues that we all face, the Committee has still been able to keep things moving forward.

In March we were able to hold the Annual General Meeting at the Ocean Grove Bowling Club with a reasonable turnout. It was good to be able to provide an update on how the Ocean Grove Barwon Heads RSL Sub Branch is going and to conduct the Committee Elections. Not much of a change in the Committee this year, just a shuffling of the deck with some positional changes.

It was great to be able to provide the opportunity for our community to support this years ANZAC Appeal with our selling points prior to ANZAC Day. Volunteers were down this year in supporting our selling stations, however this could be due to the worry of the Pandemic. A big thankyou to all those Volunteers that did support the Appeal.

Care packages were once again provided to our aging, vulnerable veterans and affiliates on ANZAC Day 2021. This initiative commenced last year during the height of the pandemic on ANZAC Day 2020. These care packages were well received by all that received them. I would like to give my sincere thanks to all that assisted in the provision of these packages. **Special thanks go to The Ocean Grove Rotary Club, Driftwood Café and Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School.**

The Committee put in a tower of work with the State Government and the City of Greater Geelong to be able to provide the Commemoration Services on ANZAC Day in Ocean Grove. Unfortunately, we were unable to provide our normal service in Barwon Heads, due to the restrictions placed upon us by the State Government to run the service in Hitchcock Avenue. The Dawn Service, March and Main Service in Ocean Grove were well supported and the number of attendees matched our required limit of 1000 per event. Thanks to all who supported the organizing, setup, running and pack up of the events. We would not have been able to run these events without the support of our volunteers who provided the mandatory COVID 19 registrations at all of the events.

The Vietnam Veterans Day will be commemorated this year by our RSL on Wednesday 18 August 2021 with a Wreath Laying at the Ocean Grove Memorial, followed by a get together at 3.30pm at the Ocean Grove Bowling Club.

I went to the doctor with hearing problems. He said, "Can you describe the symptoms?" I said, "Homer is a fat bloke and Marge has blue hair.".....

I'm so old, I remember multiplication was called 'Times Tables'.



From the Secretary

I sit writing this report as we head into our fifth lockdown thinking that not much has changed in 12 months but then look back to the last six months in which we have successfully held our AGM followed by a very well supported ANZAC Day Dawn Service, March and Commemorative Service in Ocean Grove. I would particularly like to thank those members and volunteers who helped out with the sale of ANZAC Day badges at the four sale sites. Your selflessness contributed to the raising of upwards of \$24,000 towards veteran welfare.

The numbers at our General Meetings have been down this year but I believe that COVID and the change to the second Monday of the month have affected the attendance. Our next General Meeting will be held on Monday 9 August at 2PM and it would be great to see some new faces coming along. At our last meeting we asked the membership if they had any ideas for future activities. The following day trips were mentioned; Ballarat, Shrine of Remembrance, Bellarine Winery Tour. If you have any additional ideas please let me know.

We are once again coming up to the RSL Victoria Annual Conference, which at this point is being held at the Caulfield Race Course on Saturday 31 July. President Brad and myself have nominated to attend and hope that we will be able to provide some feedback at our next General Meeting (COVID permitting).

We have had a couple of minor changes in the Committee with Treasurer Tony Wheal taking on the Assistant Treasurer role and myself taking over as Treasurer. Not much will change in how we have been managing our finances though. We have also received news from Committeeman Simon Golby that he and his family will be returning to the UK in August. We wish Simon and his family all the best and thank him for his contribution to the Ocean Grove/Barwon Heads RSL Sub-Branch.

On that note, we are a little thin on the ground at the Committee level and urge our members to think about coming on board. If you think you have the time to make some contribution particularly in the welfare and appeals space it would be greatly appreciated. I promise we will not load you up with too much but would appreciate spreading the load. Finally, in the last month we have agreed to support the Queenscliff/Pt Lonsdale RSL Sub-Branch with a donation of \$70K towards the renovations of their ablutions. Without this donation they would not have been able to proceed with any renovations or secure a grant from the State Government. The renovations will ensure this site will continue to provide a suitable venue for veterans to congregate and will be more widely used by the community. If you haven't been over that way recently it is worth popping in for a look around. The bar is open on a Tuesday and Friday evenings. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Richard Lewis

Secretary/Treasurer Mob: 0417 853 219

WELFARE

It has been a busy few months for the Welfare Team. We had seen our Home Visits commence again, only to be put back into lockdown once again. These visits will commence again once the restrictions ease off. If you haven't received a call or visit recently, don't worry, we will get in contact shortly. We only have a small Welfare Team this year, so please be patient. Over the past couple of months, the team have been sorting out the Welfare Equipment in our storage shed. Some of our items were past their use by dates and has seen the team purchase new equipment to replace those items. We have also begun inspecting the issued equipment to ensure it is still fit for purpose. Planning is underway to commence the Welfare organized morning teas which were popular before the COVID 19 outbreak. It will be a little different when it recommences. We will be changing the venue from the Sound Shelter in the Ocean Grove Park. The new venue will be the Driftwood Café, on The Terrace, in Ocean Grove. The morning teas will recommence at 10am on Tuesday 17 August 2021 and will be held on the third Tuesday of every month. It would be great for all of us to be able to catch up again for a cuppa.

If anyone has any Welfare related issues, they need support with, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Brad Clarke – 0407 972177

Merchandise

Polo shirt with or without pocket: \$35.00 (Size needed before order can be made).

Sub-Branch Logo can be embroidered on Clothing \$12.00 per item.

Is there an item that you think the club members may want with the club logo ??

Contact John Dickinson (Dicko) for orders & ideas. 0409 432331 or dingopc@bigpond.com

UPDATE for Pension Assistance

The SurfCoast Veterans Centre (SVC) is no more! However, the good news is that the services provided previously by the SVC are still being provided by Sally, Vicki and the Pension advocate work from upstairs in the Geelong RSL. This amalgamation should provide a more centralised service for the Geelong / Bellarine Area. The service can be contacted on 03 52226003 for appointments with an Advocate.

Remembrance Day

At this stage, the RSL Committee is planning on holding a Remembrance Day Service at both the Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove Memorials commencing at 10.50am on 11 November 2021 Brad Clarke, OAM

Bellarine Young Veterans

Coffee catch-ups continue to be held at Beaches Café in Queenscliffe at 10am on the last Friday of the month with numbers gradually increasing.

The next catch-up is 31st July (COVID-19 Restriction Allowing). If you would like to stay up to date with activities please join our Facebook group 'Bellarine Younger Veterans' or contact Alison.sloane7@gmail.com

What if... and hear me out... we moved the Montague Street bridge to the border?? It is Melbourne's greatest weapon against removalists.



That will be \$1000. Chasing birds is not a reasonable excuse to be outside



ANZAC Appeals Results

The COVID-19 restrictions imposed last year meant that we did not take part in the 2020 ANZAC Appeal.

However, this year we were back in the game with a new collection point at the Kingston Village shopping centre. Of course, this meant we had to forgo collecting at one of the traditional sites, because there were not enough volunteers to man five collection points. Under these circumstances, the Committee decided the best site to close was that which was usually situated outside Liquorland in the Ocean Grove shopping centre.

This year also saw the advent of electronic funds transfer (EFT) terminals at each of our collection sites and this proved to be a positive initiative.

Overall the appeal raised \$24,114; \$18,085 in cash and \$6,029 by EFT.

This result was considered most satisfactory and saw \$12,050 credited to our welfare funds in the Agency account.

CENOTAPH NEWS.

Updating of names on the Memorial wall of ADF Service personal, Born in, Enlisted from or on discharge, Returned and lived in Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads or Connewarre Districts ends on 31st July this year. If there are any that I have missed please don't hesitate to contact me.

John Dickinson: 0409 432331 email: dingopc@bigpond.com

This year in time for Remembrance Day the names below will be added to the wall.

R.L PENN (Mis-spelt on Wall)-WW11	P.B COPE-PROCTOR – AFGAN 2001-	T.J OKEEFE – AFGAN2001
D.N GERLING RFD ED – AUST	A.J CROKE – IRAQ 1990-1991	G.M WILSON - AUST
P.A BURNETT - AUST	M.J SLOANE – PEACEKEEPING	A.M HAINES - AUST

Please Remember, we cannot help any of our members, if we do not know that they are sick, or worse in hospital. So please, if you know of a member who needs help, let us know. We are all responsible for their welfare. If you haven't seen them around for a while, pop in and check on them, and if you think it necessary, report it to us.



Stay healthy!

FEEDBACK FROM THE OCEAN GROVE RSL COMMITTEE REGARDING VETERAN SUICIDE

Following an initial meeting with Ms Libby Crocker a group from the OG RSL met on Monday 10 May 2021 to consider causes and actions to address the high rate of Veteran suicide. The group represented Veterans from the Vietnam era up to and including currently serving members. All three Services were represented and encompassed extensive Operational and Eligible Service.

The group captured our individual and group thoughts on what contributes to and/or causes states of mind and emotions that may lead a veteran to suicide. We believe the issue is complex. However, we are convinced there are actions that can be taken to assist Veterans whilst serving and post discharge to better deal with the stresses and strains of Service life and which may ultimately save Veteran lives.

Space unfortunately does not allow for all the thoughts and suggestions to be displayed, here but the two main Causes identified were **The difficulties of Service life** were clearly evident and the **Lack of preparation for transition to civilian life.**

Solutions/Actions

- More and better de briefs post Military activities both operational and non-operational including psych support as necessary
- Supported/targeted Veteran employment post discharge
- More preparation for transition back into civilian life prior to and post discharge: obligatory (must attend) briefing and training sessions for both long term and short term service members, ongoing mentoring available post discharge,
- Defence take a much higher involvement with Transition
- Psych assessment prior to discharge (as is done pre-enlistment), done as part of discharge medical with a particular emphasis on being deemed 'fit/not fit for discharge
- Lots more paid Advocates with expanded roles beyond Pension and Entitlement matters (perhaps link with Mentoring?)
- Better links to support services (RSL and other ESO's) pre and post discharge
- Improve image of support services
- Explore the possibility of a notice being sent the local RSL or local support body when the individual is or has been discharged so that we can make the approach/ introduction to them (currently we expect them to come to us)
- Reduce DVA bureaucracy/Gold card for all Veterans

DVA News

8th July 2021

MyAccount will be turned off

Over the past few months, we have been increasing the services you can access on MyService. MyService will soon be your one-stop access point for all your DVA online services.

As part of this change MyAccount will be turned off in the coming months.

If you're a MyAccount holder and have correspondence in your inbox that you want to keep, you'll need to save it to where you store your electronic files. To help you do this, we've provided instructions on the [DVA website](#).

5 July 2021

Claim travel expenses' function improved on MyService

DVA is continuing to improve MyService. The need for simpler, better, and more accessible online services has never been more important and your feedback on our services is central to helping us deliver better services for you. Veterans and the veteran community have provided substantial feedback on the new *Claim travel expenses* functionality in MyService over the last few months. Based on your feedback, we've made several improvements, which are available in MyService now. More improvements are coming in the next few months.

3rd July 2021

Improvements to MyService Claim travel expenses from 3 July:

Addition of a comment box in the claim process. This feature was available in MyAccount and has now been reinstated in MyService. You can use this box to add any supporting information that's important for your claim.

Addition of missing Tolls information. Depending on the Act your condition has been approved under, you may not be able to claim road tolls as an expense. MyService now includes a message to tell you if you're unable to claim.

Revised 'New Provider' design. In the initial MyService design, there wasn't a clear link to where to add the details of a new provider. The design has been improved to make it easier for you to enter new provider details.

Revised 'Use Previous' design. This feature has been improved so that you can easily add multiple expenses for the same provider in the same claim. All the providers you enter for all your claims are saved for your future claims.

1 July 2021

Inquiry into unit recognition for ADF service in Somalia

Call for submissions

The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal has been directed to inquire into and report on recognition for Australian Defence Force units that served in Somalia between 1992 and 1995.

In particular, the Tribunal is to examine relevant evidence and consider whether it is appropriate that any Australian units that served in Somalia between 1992 and 1995 be awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation, or another form of further recognition for service.

In doing so, the Tribunal is to have regard to the eligibility criteria for the Meritorious Unit Citation, as set out in the Unit Citations Regulations, or other relevant Regulations.

The Tribunal is to report, in writing, to the Minister for Defence Personnel on the findings and recommendations that arise from the inquiry.

Submissions to the Tribunal close on 31 August 2021, and can be lodged online through the Tribunal's website. More information about making a submission can be found at www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au.

MILITARY HAPPENINGS

JULY

- 1 Jul 1916 Battle of the Somme begins
1942 First Battle of El Alamein begins
1945 7th Division lands at Balikpapan
- 2 Jul 1950 77 Sqn RAAF escorts US bombers in Korea
1952 Operation Blaze raid on Hill 227 Korea
- 3 Jul 1942 NZ Artillery held up Rommel's advance
near Alam Navii. Panzer Army Afrika reverted to defence
- 4 Jul 1918 L/Cpl T.L.Axford VC at Vaire and Hamel Wood
Pte H.Dalziel VC at Hamel Wood. Battle of Hamel
1941 Wng Cdr H.L. Edwards VC for raid above Bremen
- 5 Jul 1950 Commonwealth Naval Forces assume
responsibility for West Coast Korea
- 6 Jul 1918 Cpl W.E.Brown VC at Villers-Bretonneux
1941 Lt A.R.Cutler VC at Merdjoun-Damour Arga Syria
- 7 Jul 1942 9th Division in action El Alamein
1956 Last RAAF transports return from Korea
- 8 Jul 1942 Australians raid along Reweisat Ridge
- 9 Jul 1941 Damour taken Syria
1944 British Army enters Caen
- 10 Jul 1940 Battle of Britain begins
1941 Pte J.H.Gordon VC at Jessine
1951 Cease fire talks begin in Kaesong Korea
- 11 Jul 1940 RAN first casualties HMAS Vampire
- 12 Jul 1941 Cease fire in Syria
- 13 Jul 1943 Mubo cleared of Japanese
- 14 Jul 1945 RAN destroyers in Allied attack on Japanese Islands
- 15 Jul 1940 Volunteer Defence Force formed by the RSL
No. 3 Sqn embarked on the Orontes
- 16 Jul 1940 HMAS Stuart and Waterhen on screen in the
Bombardment of Bardia
- 18 Jul 1918 Lt A.C.Borella VC at Villers- Bretonneux
1945 Liipem Wewako cleared
- 19 Jul 1916 Battle of Fromelles
1940 HMAS Sydney sank Bartolemeo Colleoni Crete
- 20 Jul 1943 HMAS Hobart torpedoed and damaged off
San Christobel
- 21 Jul 1942 Japanese land at Gona and Buna
Battle of Kokoda Track begins
- 22 Jul 1945 Pte A.S.Gumay VC at Tel el Elias
- 23 Jul 1916 Battle of Pozieres begins
Lt A.S.Blackburn and Pte J.Leak VCs at Pozieres
- 24 Jul 1900 Capt N.R.Howse wins first Aust VC
in Orange Free State
1945 Pte F.J.Partridge VC at Bouganville
- 25 Jul 1916 Pte T.Cooke VC at Pozieres
- 26 Jul 1945 Ultimatum issued to Japan
- 27 Jul 1942 Japanese capture Kokoda
1942 First battle of El Alamein ends
1953 Armistice at Panmunjon Korea
1967 First SAS Coy formed in Western Aust.
- 28 Jul 1916 Sgt C.C.Castleton VC at Pozieres
1942 Australians recapture Kokoda
- 29 Jul 1942 Japanese again take Kokoda
- 30 Jul 1916 HMAS Pioneer bombarded Dar Es Salaam
- 31 Jul 1917 Third battle of Ypres begins
1960 Malayan Emergency ends after 12 years 45 days
1962 AATTV arrives in South Vietnam

AUGUST

- 1 Aug 1914 Germany declares war on Russia
1944 Japanese resist on Tinian ends
- 2 Aug 1950 77Sqn RAAF more than 800 sorties flown to date
- 3 Aug 1880 Second Maori War began
1943 Lt. H.R.Syme, GC RANVR Mine Clearing Ops
- 4 Aug 1914 Britian declares war on Germany
1916 AS troops capture the Windmill, Pozieres
- 5 Aug 1944 Attempted breakout Japanese POWS at Cowra
1944 Ptes R.Jones and B.G.Hardy GCs at Cowra
- 6 Aug 1915 Battle for Lone Pine and Sari Bair begins
1945 First Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima
1950 HMAS Warramunga left for Korea
- 7 Aug 1915 Battle of the Nek
- 8 Aug 1915 L/Cpl I. Keysor VC at Gallipoli
1916 Battle of Mouquet Farm begins
1918 Lt. A.E.Gaby VC at Villiers-Bretonneax
Battle of Amiens(the black day of the German Army)
1966 8RAR official birthday
- 9 Aug 1915 6 VCs won at Gallipoli: Capt A.J.Shout,
Lts W J.Symons and F.H Tubbs,
Cpls A.S.Burton, W.Dunstan and Pte J .Hamilton
1918 Pte R.M.Beatham VC at Amiens
1942 HMAS Canberra sunk in Battle of Savo Island
1945 Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki
1989 Mr.O.J.Iree, CV Mt.Damper SAN
- 10 Aug 1919 Cpl A.P.Sullivan VC at Shieka River, Russia
1942 AS troops withdraw from Kokoda
- 11 Aug 1900 HMAS Protector leaves Sydney for China
- 12 Aug 1916 Pte M.O'Meara VC at Pozieres
1918 Sgt. P.C.Statton VC at Proyart
- 13 Aug 1941 Cabinet approves the formation of AWAS
- 14 Aug 1945 Japanese cease fire
- 15 Aug 1945 VP Day
- 16 Aug 1918 AFC Squadrons in raid on the Somme
- 17 Aug 1966 Mortar attack on AS base of Nui Dat SVN
- 18 Aug 1966 Battle of Long Tan. D Coy 6RAR—
US Presidential Unit Citation
Vietnam Veterans Day
- 19 Aug 1943 Japanese abandon positions at Mt. Tambu
- 20 Aug 1969 1 Aust Task Force concludes 3 months of
operations around Dat Do Village SVN
- 21 Aug 1915 Battle for Hill 60 Gallipoli begins
1943 AS troops capture Komiatum
- 22 Aug 1942 18th AS Bde landed at Milne Bay, New Guinea
- 23 Aug 1918 Lt.W.D.Joynt, VC at Herleville Wood
Lt. L.D.McCarthy Vc at Madam Wood
1940 HMAS Sydney, Waterhen and Stuart
Bombard the Gulf of Bomba
- 24 Aug 1942 Naval battle east of Solomons inflicts heavy
damage on JapaneseNavy
2010 Battle of Derapet, Afghanistan
Cpl. D.A.Keighran VC at Derapet, Afghanistan
- 25 Aug 1941 HMAS Kanimbla and Yarra sink the sloop Babr
- 26 Aug 1942 RAAF Squadrons 75,76,30,11 in action at
Milne Bay, Buna and Kokoda
- 27 Aug 1918 L/Cpl. B.S Gordon VC at Bray
- 28 Aug 1945 AS Destroyers enter Tokyo Bay
- 29 Aug 1919 Sgt.S.G.Pearse VC at Emsta, Russia
1942 Pte. B.S.Kingsbury VC in Papua
- 30 Aug 1915 Lt.H.V.H.Throssell VC at Gallipoli
1942 Japanese advance on Milne Bay halted
Battle of Alam Halfa
- 31 Aug 1918 Pte.G.Cartwright VC at Road Wood, France
Battle of Mont Saint Quentin begins
1951 HMAS Sydney and Tobruk sail for Korea



Disclaimer the material contained in the newsletter is in the nature of general comment only and neither purports nor is intended to be advice on any particular matter.. You may find some errors in this newsletter. That is in keeping with our policy of having something for everyone.