



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL Sub-Branch

Through an active membership we keep the ANZAC spirit alive and growing

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2016

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“Failure is not when you dare to act. Only when you don’t”

The President's Message

Vietnam Veterans Day Church Service

On Thursday the 18 August 2016 we held a church service at the “War Vets Chapel” at Narrabeen to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and to remember all those who served and also remember our mates who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The service was well attended and our Commemoration Address was delivered by LtCol Graham Kells MC. Graham’s address was very moving and from the heart. Light refreshments in the Afghanistan Room followed the service.



A Poem by the late Corporal Ralph Belcher 2/4 Armoured Regt

We propose a toast to our Army mates,
Each one a dinkum friend
As our wartime years together
Forged a bond that has no end.
Now men may join exclusive clubs
If all their dues are met,
But entry to the thinning ranks
Is more exclusive yet.
“The Last Post” sounds each now and then
And we mourn a pal so fine
That it makes the rest of us feel close
As our members so decline.

Reminder

The September meeting is now on the 15th not the 8th September due to the Annual RSL LifeCare conference.

Committee Vacancy

Looking for a volunteer to fill the Committee vacancy created by Mavis Wheeler’s resignation. Please contact Stu Doyle for more information.

Christmas Function

This year’s Christmas function is to be held on the 14th December 2016 in the Lone Pine Lookout. 12 for 12.30 and the cost is \$30.00 per head.

George Main
President

Chaplain's Corner

WHO KNOWS?!

In all of my roles within the RSL and even now as a Chaplain, the greatest problem I have always and continue to have is one of knowledge - or should I say the lack of knowledge. Before you state the obvious, the knowledge I speak of is the personal information about our members - you!

Having conducted about 730 RSL Funeral Tributes in the past 12 ½ years, conducted many funeral services and sat with many grieving families, I am amazed at the life stories that remain untold until it is too late. These stories are not just the “war” stories of ones’ military service, but also the life stories of just who and what you are; what your life’s journey has been; the people you have met and influenced or have been influenced by.

Sadder still is that even family members don’t know the full life story of their loved ones. Yes, we know that people don’t want to blow their own horn; that they walk humbly through life. But this is more than that. What I am talking about is history and legacy. What do you know of your own family; your parents and their siblings? Is all you know the simple raw data of birth, school, marriage and family make-up?

Life is so much more than dates and places! In the movie ‘The last Samurai’, the Japanese Emperor asked the character played by Tom Cruise how the “Last Samurai” died. The response was unexpected. He said “I will not tell you how he died, but how he lived”.

This is important for your family, for the legacy you leave them. I encourage you to talk with them, or at least put pen to paper, finger to keyboard, and let people know just who you are, have been and will continue to be to them. Tell your sub-Branch Secretary of your military service.

Your life story is part of our country’s history. No matter how little YOU think you may have contributed to this great country of ours, when added to the lives of those around you it has and does make a difference.

Let your family and friends be proud of you - God is!

Blessings always

Your Chaplain

Bob Durbin

0458 005 280

Yesterday is History, Tomorrow is a Mystery. Today is a Gift. That’s why they call it the Present.

Modern Warfare - Can you believe it?



Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVS), also known as drones, are aircraft either controlled by “pilots” from the ground or increasingly, autonomously following a pre-programmed mission. While there are dozens of different types of drones, they basically fall into two categories: those that are used for reconnaissance and surveillance purposes and those that are armed with missiles and bombs.

The use of drones has grown quickly because unlike manned aircraft they can stay aloft for many hours (over 82hours nonstop); they are much cheaper than military aircraft and they are flown remotely so there is no danger to the flight crew.

While British and US drones are physically in Afghanistan and Iraq, control is via satellite from a USAF base outside Las Vegas, Nevada. Ground crews launch drones from a conflict zone, then operation is handed over to controllers at video screens in specially designed trailers in the Nevada desert. One person ‘flies’ the drone, another operates and monitors the cameras and sensors, while a third person is in contact with the ground troops and commanders in the war zone.



It turns out Australia isn't a bad place to test secret supersonic drones! Well, BAE Systems (British Aerospace Company) is keen to put its unmanned ‘Taranis’ stealth, unmanned aerial vehicle (UVA), through its paces by scooting around the atmosphere above a RAAF facility in Woomera in South Australia. Taranis has taken to the air to exercise its flying abilities – not such a bad idea considering it's the world's first supersonic UAV. As you can see from the image above, Taranis is similar in appearance to a typical stealth bomber... except for the perhaps the creepy, HAL-like red eye, where a cockpit would normally reside.

Will we see a drone above us soon????

Dates to Remember

NOTE: Changed dates for September

Committee Meeting **Monday 12th September**
(previously Monday 5th September) 11.00am
(**Somalia Room**)

General Meeting Thursday 15th September
(previously Thursday 8th September 9.30am
(**Montgomery Centre**))

Committee Meeting Monday 10th October 11.00am
(**Somalia Room**)

General Meeting Thursday 13th October 9.30am
(**Montgomery Centre**)

NOTE: Changed dates for November

Committee Meeting **Monday 31st October**
(previously Monday 7th November) 11.00am
(**Somalia Room**)

General Meeting Thursday 3rd November
(previously Thursday 10th November 9.30am
(**Montgomery Centre**))

Committee Meeting Monday 5th December 11.00am
(**Somalia Room**)

General Meeting Thursday 8th December 9.30am
(**Montgomery Centre**)

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Lone Pine, Gallipoli Building

Wednesday, 14th December 2016

12.00pm for 12.30pm

Sub-Branch member and a guest only

Dress - Smart Casual

\$30.00 per person

Tickets available at September General Meeting

Membership

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|--|------|
| Life Member | = 1 |
| Life Subscribers | =10 |
| Service Members | =61 |
| Associate | =39 |
| Affiliate Members | =21 |
| Our strength at 30 th August 2016 | =132 |

Newsletter

Note: Our Newsletter will be published bi-monthly in the future.

We are looking for a new Editor to replace Doug Smyth.

Please consider this opportunity and support our Sub-Branch as we need your help.