



# War Veterans Village (Narrabeen) RSL Sub-Branch

AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2014

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**“Never underestimate the power of a kind word or deed”**

## The President's Message



A big thank you to Bill Nichols and Doug Smyth for another successful Christmas in July. A great time was had by all as witnessed by the joyful faces in the attached collage. Thanks for the photographs Doug!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



This is a call to arms for all Veterans both male and female. We need your help. On the 4 August 2014 at 9.30am, the village will be conducting a memorial service at the Montgomery Centre, for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War 1. We need 58 veterans to accompany 58 school children during the service. Dress is jacket with medals. Please contact Carolyn Walden at the Retirement Living Office if you are able to volunteer. Please phone 8978 4244.



There has been keen interest in forming a Ladies Group as part of the Sub-Branch. If there is enough interested ladies we will organise a morning tea to discuss the way ahead. Please contact Doug Smyth at the Sub-branch office if you are interested in joining. Please phone 8978 4266.

President  
George Main

On his recent visit to the Australian War Memorial, Secretary/Treasurer - Doug Smyth laid a wreath at the 'Last Post' Ceremony on behalf of the Sub-Branch.



## Chaplain's Corner

I often leave a conversation with the phrase “See you in Church!” For some this is a reality - for others perhaps it's a challenge, and yet for others it's a ????????

### NO EXCUSE SUNDAY

**T**o make it possible for everyone to attend church this Sunday, we are going to have a special “No Excuse Sunday”:

*Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, “Sunday is my only day to sleep in.”*

*There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard.*

*Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV late Saturday night.*

*We will have steel helmets for those who say, “The roof would cave in if I ever came to church.”*

*Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold, and fans for those who say it is too hot.*

*Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.*

*Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to church and cook dinner, too.*

*We will distribute “Stamp Out Stewardship” buttons for those that feel the church is always asking for money.*

*One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature.*

*Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.*

*The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them.*

*We will provide hearing aids for those who can't hear the preacher and cotton wool for those who think he's too loud!*

With thanks to “Christians Unite”. Remember that laughter is good for the soul.

### See you in Church!!

Bob Durbin  
Chaplain  
0458 005 280

## Sinking of Montevideo Maru - 1 July 1942

*Missing text from last months article:*

Some readers noted that there seemed to be a paragraph missing. They were oh so right as it related to the submarine *USS Sturgeon*. *Here is the text:*

On 22 June 1942, some weeks after the fall of Rabaul to the Japanese, a large number of Australian prisoners were embarked from Rabaul's port on the SS Montevideo Maru. Unmarked as a POW ship, she was proceeding without escort to the Chinese island

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of Hainan, when she was sighted by the American submarine *USS Sturgeon* near the northern Philippine coast on 30 June.

*Apologies for missing this. Editors don't like making these kind of misyakes!! (Ha Ha).*

We will be publishing an article on the *USS Sturgeon* in the September Newsletter.

### Christmas in July - 24 July 2014

Out with the old and in with the new! I'm talking about boarding a 5-star coach compared to the dilapidated conveyance which arrived last year, to take us to our *Christmas in July* luncheon. What a difference it made. Our journey began at 9.35am blessed with the most perfect weather. Our first stop one & a half hours later was Rowland Village for morning tea, with lamingtons, jam tarts, scones etc - or so we thought. However things didn't go according to plan. Firstly, there was no one to meet us, so those who remembered where we had refreshments last year headed to that venue only to find that no one knew who we were and nothing was ready! As our time was limited and instead of hanging around like lost sheep we headed back to the bus only to find out that a different venue was set-up, but no one in-charge thought to tell anyone, Our driver (sorry coach captain) was getting anxious and his mouth took on a 20 past 8 shape, as our scheduled departure time was up and we still had a long way to go.

So we headed off to our final destination - Berowra Waters, where we arrived safely. We were the last party to arrive, but our tables were pre-booked and in a very good position right in front of the stage. A glass of sherry, a quick introduction at the table. When the entertainment started, after the entree of vegetable soup, it was terrific. Joey Fimmano with his electric keyboard and accordion played and sang songs most of us knew very well. After which the main course arrived - roasted pork belly and turkey breast with the trimmings and sweets of plum pudding with custard, as well as tea and coffee. A good red and white wine were on each table which were replenished as required, as were jugs of water and orange juice.

More entertainment during dessert with some Scottish and Italian dancing. Joey was a very relaxed and professional artist, who spends most of his time on cruise ships (poor bugger!). He had just signed a contract with P&O which shows his popularity. He is accompanied by his dad, who does all the support and background work.

It was also very nice to be able to congratulate village residents - Dennis & Cynthia Turner on their 66<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

The Waterview is a great venue for this sort of function and the host and staff, are first-class. They told us that they are fully booked every day in July each year for *Christmas in July* (and it's not hard to understand why). Our journey back to the Village was a little slow, due to school zones and 'peak-hour' traffic. Lollies were passed around for those who were still awake and we arrived back safely at a little after 4.30pm. I must add that Bill Nichol did a great job as bus compare, as well as our driver Peter, who knows the area really well. No lucky door prizes this time, but maybe next year.

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Just my own thought on the itinerary - maybe cut out the morning tea stop and leave the Village at - say 9.45am and go straight to Berowra.

However, a big thank you to all who helped organise this year's *Christmas in July*.

Author: *The Ancient Mariner*

### Dates to Remember

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 9.30am.** Assemble from 9am WW1 Centenary at **Montgomery Centre**. Veterans supporting 58 School Children as they honor those who fell in the conflict. Village Veterans, Male and Female, please contact, as soon as possible, Doug Smyth phone 8978 4266 or Carolyn Walden 8978 4244 to advise that you will be attending.

Dress: Jacket and Medals.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August, Committee Meeting  
11.00am (**Amy Taylor Room- Gallipoli Centre**)

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August, General Meeting  
9.30am (Montgomery Centre)** Guest speaker:  
Senior Constable Lorraine Yates - Crime Prevention Officer, Northern Beaches.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August VP day.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service at Manly Cenotaph. Bus leaves Opp Shop at 10am. Names to Carolyn Walden - Reception Retirement Living, Gallipoli Center. Phone 8978 4244

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September, Committee Meeting  
11.00am (**Amy Taylor Room- Gallipoli Centre**)

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September, General Meeting  
9.30am (Montgomery Centre)**

### PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE

(From the second Thursday in the Month to the third Thursday of in the month)

### Advance dates to remember:

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Day Service in Village.** Details in November Newsletter.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Sub-Branch Christmas Function. The Lone Pine Lookout - Gallipoli Centre.** Details to be announced in the October Newsletter as to when tickets will go on sale.

### Who's Who - Name Tags

#### Please wear your name tag to all Meetings

(If you need a name tag please drop Doug, a note and request one.)

### Membership

Life Member	= 2
Life Subscribers	=16
Ordinary / Service Members	=53
Associate Members (belonging to other sub-Branches	=47
Affiliate Members	=18
Our strength at 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	Total=136

We will be welcoming new members, Alan King, Winifred King, Mathew Spencer, Will Slatyer and Carolyn Smyth at our August General Meeting.

We have five prospective members with Service records being obtained. These are Ron Kenny, John Taylor, Frank Newall, and Dennis Turner.

War Vets Village  
Sub-Branch  
Xmas in July





What  
a  
top  
day  
we  
had



Top  
entertainer  
nice food