



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL Sub-Branch

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

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2015

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“Never under-estimate the power of a kind word or deed”

The President's Message



Christmas is near and I would like take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the best for the season. May you have a safe and joyful Christmas. Thank you all for your ongoing support throughout the year. A special thank you to our Committee and the gorgeous Angels.

Christmas Luncheon



Sub-branch Christmas luncheon will be held in the Lone Pine Lookout on the 16 December 2015. 12 noon for 1230. Tickets \$40.00 each. Remember to bring your entry tickets with the Lucky Draw Prize number on the ticket.



This year's Poppy Appeal was another huge success. Many thanks to the band of volunteers who sold our poppies. As usual Alf Murray led the way with sales of \$2,500.00 closely followed by Cliff Stevens with sales of \$900.00. Our two favorite ladies Irene Axton and Shirley McLaren both achieved sales of \$700.00 each. Well done and thank you. Our co-ordinator Ian Galloway deserves a big vote thanks for his tremendous effort.

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals for 2016 are due. Please ensure that you pay by 10 December 2015.

Welcome to 2016

Our first meeting for 2016 will on Thursday 11 February 2016 in the Montgomery Centre. This meeting will also be our Annual General Meeting. Please join us for lunch after the meeting.

Looking forward to catching up with you.

George Main
President

Chaplain's Corner

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights covering houses or in windows, the cards in the mail, turkey & seafood dinners with family and friends, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the village? Is this really Christmas?

For some, Christmas may be a sad time for many reasons. Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. All this because Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

So why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

Jesus was born so that one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong; we have all sinned. We need to have that sin removed and the only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Only then are we clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

Yes friends, we can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God and Heaven will be our home one day.

Look at Christmas in a new way this year. If He is not already there, this is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice!
Bob Durbin
Chaplain

THE LAST POST CEREMONY AT THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



In the last issue we read of the ceremony held each day at The Menin Gate, but how many are aware that our own War Memorial in Canberra does the same?

At the end of each day, commencing at 4.55 pm AEDT, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony. The ceremony begins with the singing of the Australian National Anthem, followed by the poignant strains of a Lament, played by a piper. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. The Roll of Honour in the Cloisters lists the names of more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in war and other operations over more than a century. At each ceremony the story behind one of these names will be told. The Ode is then recited, and the ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

On the first and third Wednesday of each month the Last Post Ceremony includes the presence of Australia's Federation Guard. At 4.00 pm a catafalque party mounts a vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier in the Hall of Memory. There is a change of guard at 4.30 pm, and the entire catafalque party then participates in the Last Post Ceremony.

Live stream via webcam

To enable anyone anywhere in Australia or overseas to view the Last Post ceremony, it is broadcast live daily via webcam on the Memorial's website from 4.55 pm AEDT. The ceremony is a memorable occasion, engaging visitors and offering them the opportunity to remember those Australians who have lost their lives in war and to reflect on their service and sacrifice

Editor: *Thanks to Bob Durbin for this and the previous article that was in the last (November) Newsletter.*



Dates to Remember

Monday 7th December Committee Meeting 11.00am
(Steven Stack Room)

Thursday 10th December General Meeting
9.30am (Montgomery Centre)

Wednesday 16th December - 12pm for 12.30pm
Sub-Branch Christmas Luncheon, Lone Pine
Lookout, Gallipoli.

First Meeting for 2016

Thursday 11th February Annual General Meeting
9.30am (Montgomery Centre)

Membership

Life Member	= 1
Life Subscribers	=10
Service Members	=59
Associate Members (belonging to other sub-Branches	=40
Affiliate Members	=21
Our strength at 23 th November 2015	=131

Membership Renewals

Just a reminder that the annual membership renewal fee, for all Service, Associate and Affiliate members, is now due. Renewal fee this year is \$10.00. Please forward your payment to Doug Smyth the Secretary/Treasurer, RSL Sub-Branch Office, Ground floor Gallipoli, RSL ANZAC Village.

What do retired People do all day?

Working people often ask retired people what they do to make their day interesting. One retired couple told how they went into town and went into a shop. They were only there for about five minutes but when they came out there was a policeman writing a parking ticket. They went up to him and the husband said, "Come on mate, how about giving a citizen a break?" He ignored him and carried on writing so he called the policeman a nasty name. He glared at them and started writing another ticket for worn tyres. The wife then called him something rude. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windscreen and then started writing a third. With that the couple moved on as they weren't really bothered. They had come into town on the bus and said they try to have a little fun each day now that they are retired as it is important at their age.

Observations on Growing Older

Life is like a symphony of snap, crackle, and pop.
When you're young, it's cereal.
When you're older, it's your joints