



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL Sub-Branch

JULY NEWSLETTER 2014

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“Brains of the elderly are slow because they know so much”

The President's Message



Our recent **25th Celebration Dinner** was a huge success. A big thank you to all involved, especially Doug and Carolyn. The highlight of the night was the International Ukulele group supported by Col Crawford on the piano. It was a fantastic night with good food and wine, but more importantly great company.

Our **first meeting in the Monty Theatre** was well attended and the positive feedback from the members was encouraging. I apologise for the minor inconvenience as the room was set up for the Village festival.

Our **membership continues to grow** with new Affiliate and Ordinary / Service members swelling our ranks. We are very fortunate as many other sub-Branches are fighting to remain open due to dwindling membership.

Our **new sub-Branch office will be located in the Gallipoli Building**, Patti Page's old office, and will open early July. Date, to be confirmed. The new office location will provide easier access for our members who wish to avail themselves of the sub-Branch services. The Veterans Centre - Sydney Northern Beaches, will also be located in the new sub-Branch office.



Christmas in July. There are still some seats available. Transport will be provided and bookings can be made through the sub-Branch office.

Over the following months we have secured several **interesting speakers for our meetings**, so come along to the meetings and be entertained, amazed and bewildered by our guest speakers.

President
George Main

Do you know of anyone in the Village who has been in the Military forces and is not yet a member of our Sub-Branch? Ask them today to join.

Chaplain's Corner

One of the questions I am most frequently asked is **“Is there a heaven and if so what is it like?”**

Part of the answer to this question comes from the Gospel of John, Chapter 14 where Jesus is speaking to his disciples.

Jesus' words show that the way to eternal life, though unseen, is secure - as secure as your trust in Jesus. He has already prepared the way to eternal life.

There are few verses in Scripture that describe eternal life, but these few verses are rich with promises.

Here Jesus says ‘I am going there to prepare a place for you’ and ‘I will come back and take you to be with me.’

As ‘the way’, Jesus is our path to the Father; as ‘the truth’, he is the reality of God's promises; as ‘the life!’ he joins his divine life to ours, both now and eternally. What wonderful words of comfort and assurance for each one of us.

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

There is more to the answer but I hope this introduction helps.

As always I would be pleased to talk with you about this or any other issues you may have. **“Do not let your hearts be troubled”**



Grace & Peace
Bob Durbin
Chaplain
0458 005 280

Sinking of Montevideo Maru - 1 July 1942



The *Montevideo Maru* was one of three ships built for their trans-Pacific service to South America. The 7,267 ton ship was constructed at the *Mitsubishi Zosen Kakoki Kaisha* shipyard at Nagasaki, and launched in 1926. At 430 feet in length, and 56 feet in the beam, she was powered by two Mitsubishi-Sulzer 6ST60 six-cylinder diesel engines delivering at total of 4,600 hp, and giving her a speed of 14.5 knots.

The *Sturgeon* pursued, but was unable to fire, as the target was travelling at 17 knots. However, it slowed to about 12 knots at midnight; according to crewman Yoshiaki Yamaji, it was to rendezvous with an escort of two destroyers. Unaware that it was carrying Allied prisoners of war and civilians, the *Sturgeon* fired four torpedoes at the *Montevideo Maru* before dawn of 1 July, causing the vessel to sink in only 11 minutes. According to Yamaji, Australians in the water sang "Auld Lang Syne" to their trapped mates as the ship sank beneath the waves.

The sinking is considered the worst maritime disaster in Australia's history. A nominal list made available by the Japanese government in 2012 revealed that a total of 1054 prisoners (178 non-commissioned officers, 667 soldiers and 209 civilians) died on the *Montevideo Maru*. Of the ships total complement, approximately twenty Japanese crew survived, out of an original 88 guards and crew.

Among the missing prisoners was Reverend Syd Beazley of the Methodist Mission, the uncle of former Australian Labor Party opposition leader Kim Beazley.

Another was Tom Vernon Garrett, the grandfather of former Midnight Oil lead singer and former Australian Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, Peter Garrett.

Another individual, Richard Kingsmill Pennefather Moore, had served in the Imperial Camel Corps as a lieutenant and was awarded a Military Cross. His son, William Richard Moore, married Nora Wish Garrett, aunt of Peter Garrett.

Also amongst those lost were 22 Salvation Army bandmen, the majority being members of the Brunswick Citadel band. The bandmen had enlisted together and comprised the majority of the band of the 2/22nd Battalion.



The memorial to the Australians killed in the defence of Rabaul and the sinking of the MV *Montevideo Maru* on the eastern side of the Australian War Memorial in November 2012.

Dates to Remember

Monday 7th July, Committee Meeting
11.00am (Amy Taylor Room - Gallipoli Centre)

Thursday 10th July, General Meeting
9.30am (Montgomery Centre). Guest speaker.

Thursday 24th July, Christmas in July. See separate details below.

Monday 11th August, Committee Meeting
11.00am (Amy Taylor Room- Gallipoli Centre)

Thursday 14th August, General Meeting
9.30am (Montgomery Centre)

Advance dates to remember:

Tuesday 11th November - Remembrance Day
Service in Village. Details in November Newsletter.

Wednesday 17th 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 the Secretary,
Doug, a note and request one.)

CHRISTMAS IN JULY (Bus Trip, Thursday 24th July)

Christmas in July luncheon, to be held at Berowra Waters. With a visit on the way to our sister village - Rowland Village and Mark Donaldson VC House for morning tea. The bus takes 40 people and at the time of going to press there were 6 seats left. Tickets \$40 per person available from Joy Quin.

Membership

Life Member	= 2
Life Subscribers	=15
Ordinary / Service Members	=49
Associate Members (belonging to other sub-Branches	=44
Affiliate Members	=16
Our strength at the 26 th June	Total=126

We will shortly be welcoming prospective new members, Alan King, James Heggie, Ron Kenny, Ian Galloway, Charles Taylor, Len Woolf, John Taylor, Cynthia Turner, Bevan Harris, Maxine Brodie, Jennie Sellars, Mike Rossendell, Frank Newall, Mathew Spencer, Dennis Turner, Geoffrey Johnson, and Tom Thompson.

A total of 17 new members. Their applications are all at different stages of processing with 6 at State Branch being finalised and the remainder having their applications finalised by the Secretary/Treasurer, Doug.

sub-Branch Office Location

The sub-Branch, occupied by the Secretary/Treasurer, Doug Smyth on Mondays from 9am to 12 noon and on Thursdays from 9am to 12 noon is jointly shared on other day by John McInerney, the Coordinator of the Veterans Centre- Sydney Northern Beaches. The Office is located on the ground floor of the Gallipoli Centre. (The office previously occupied by Patti Page).