



## War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL Sub-Branch

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2014

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**"Happiness: A feeling you have when you are too busy to be miserable"**

### The President's Message

The Annual General Meeting will be held immediately after our normal monthly meeting on the 12 March 2014. All committee positions will be declared vacant and voting will commence under the supervision of the Returning Officer. Committee nomination forms are available from the Retirement Living reception counter.

I would like to thank all our members for their support as this past year has been very rewarding with great functions, Poppy Day Appeal and our membership increasing to just over 120.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing committee for their continued support this past year.



### "Gala Night 28 May 2014"

Come and join us as we farewell the past 25 years and welcome in the next 25 years. The Lone Pine Lookout, top floor of the Gallipoli building is the venue, 6.30pm for 7pm Dinner and drinks, entertainment and dancing. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Seating is limited to a member and guest. Bookings are essential and can be made with Bill Nichols-phone 9982 3647 or by seeing Bill at the conclusion of the next Sub-branch meeting.

### "Never Give Up"

Mum & Dad along with two small children were on the adventure of a lifetime. They were sailing their yacht around the world, yes! An adventure of a lifetime. Both parents would take turn about to sail the yacht while the other parent cared for the children. One late afternoon just on dusk Dad and the children were asleep below when Mum decided to take a bath and wash her hair. Mum set the yacht on auto and climbed into the dinghy tied to the stern of the yacht when, without notice a freak wave tipped her out of the dinghy. Her cries for help were not heard as the family was asleep below. The nearest land was 3000 kilometers away. The yacht sailed off onto the horizon. It would be another 6 hours before her husband would wake and ready himself for the change of shift. On awaking Dad realized that his wife was missing and must have fallen overboard. He turned the yacht around and sailed back on the same course. 12 hours later he found his wife alive and trending water.

### "Never Give Up"

### Chaplain's Comment

Did you ever insure your car? What about your house and its contents? I would like to think that for most of us the answers to each of these questions would be yes. We might say, 'Why wouldn't we do these things?' For most, each of these represents preparedness in our lives - being prepared for that unwanted, unexpected and certainly not planned accident - to make our lives easier if something does happen. Yes, natural courses of events that we take each and every day for that "it won't happen to me" event.

Have you made a will or prepared a Power of Attorney? Unlike insurances, being prepared through these actions is designed to make our families' lives easier. Again, I would like to think that each of us has recognised this and not only told your family or executor but has also done everything necessary to have them put into effect.

I am not trying to be morbid in any way by bringing this subject up but the natural extension of this is when we die. I have taken an active roll in almost 800 funerals since 2000 and I have experienced some "Wow!" moments during the course of this important part of ministry. The greatest sadness when I am in a funeral service for a veteran is when we are not able to let people know just WHAT people do in the defence of our country, and/or its way of life. Yes, we do receive the basic information from the appropriate (Australian) records office but this will only tell us some of the WHERE and WHEN of a persons military service. What is missing is the real WHAT of that service. For allied veterans it is even more difficult to gain information.

You could always say "So what. Is it important?" The simple answer is yes. The funeral service is as much about the living as it is the dead and it is important that service in support of our country is recognised. There will be those who might say "Yes, but I was only JUST a...." I would say to those people - please remove the JUST word! ALL service is important. I heard statistics which indicated that during WWII the ratio of field combatants to support persons was 1:7. In Afghanistan it was 1:14. I am not too sure of the accuracy of these figures but they can't be too far off.

We should be proud of what we have achieved in our lives. Those who come to our final service want to hear and share in our experiences as I am sure you have when you have attended funeral services for mates and family.

I encourage you to think about this. I encourage you to consider putting your experiences on paper or keyboard. I encourage you to do that now and not wait until, as the saying goes - it is too late! Be proud of your life's achievements; let people know who you really are; let them be proud of you!

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Help your family to be prepared for that inevitable day in each of our lives when they let go of our physical beings, but give them something incredible to hold on to and remember. This is part of your life's legacy.

Lest we forget!

Bob Durbin  
Chaplain

### Defence Force Flags (continued from last month)

The Royal Australian Air Force Ensign is used by the Royal Australian Air Force and the Air Force Cadets in Australia and overseas.



It is based on the Australian national flag, with the field changed to Air Force blue, and the southern cross tilted clockwise to make room for the RAAF roundel inserted in the lower fly quarter. The roundel is a red leaping kangaroo on white within a dark blue ring. The ensign was proclaimed as a flag of Australia under section 5 of the Flags Act on 6 May 1982.

The Army has historically used the Australian Flag.



The flag of Australia is a defaced Blue Ensign: a blue field with the Union Jack in the canton (upper most quarter), and a large white seven-pointed star known as the Commonwealth star in the lower hoist quarter. The fly contains a representation of the Southern Cross constellation, made up of five white stars - one small five pointed star and four, larger, seven-pointed stars.

The flag's original design (with a six pointed Commonwealth Star) was chosen in 1901 from entries in a world wide competition held following Federation, and was first flown in Melbourne on 3 September 1901: this date has been proclaimed as Australian National Flag Day. A slightly different design was approved by King Edward VII in 1902. Over the next few years, the exact specifications of the flag were changed several times both intentionally and as a result of confusion. The current specifications were formally gazetted in 1934. And in 1954 the flag became recognised by, and legally defined in, the Flags Act 1953, as the "Australian National Flag".

## NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Colooli Community Room  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 9.30am

2014 Committee members will be announced from Nominations received.

Nominations are being called for the positions of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee members (max 5).

Nominations can be made on the forms held with the Ballot Box which is located in the reception area at the Retirement Living Office in the Gallipoli Center.

Be sure your nomination is in the ballot box by noon Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

### Dates to Remember

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March Committee Meeting  
11.00am (Colooli Community Room)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March General Meeting  
9.30am (Colooli Community Room) followed  
by Annual General Meeting

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April Committee Meeting  
11.00am (Colooli Community Room)

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April General Meeting  
9.30am (Colooli Community Room) followed  
by Annual General Meeting

### Who's Who - Name Tags

Please wear your name tag to all Meetings  
(If you need a name tag please drop the Hon.  
Secretary a note and request one.)

### Membership

Our strength at the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Life Member of our sub-Branch	= 1
Life Subscribers of our sub-Branch	=15
Ordinary Members of our sub-Branch	=46
Associate Members (belonging to other sub-Branches) in our sub-Branch	=47
Affiliate Members	=17
<b>Total</b>	<b>=126</b>

### Troubles

I've got a heap of troubles,  
and I've got to work them out.  
But I look around and see there's  
troubles all about.  
and when I see my troubles,  
I just look up and grin,  
and count all the troubles that I ain't in.

### Sub-Branch Office Hours

Monday . . . . . 9 am - 12.00 pm  
Thursday . . . . . 9 am - 12.00 pm