

Drum

Wyong RSL Sub Branch

Newsletter

November 2021



100 Years Strong

Letters to the editor can be sent to

P.O. Box 423, Wyong, 2259

Or email to info@wyongrslsubbranch.com.au

Our Website address is

www.wyongrslsubbranch.com.au

Presidents Report



Hello Members, How good is it to be able to travel around, go shopping apart from grocery shopping and the local Newsagency.

The sad news is that we lost Graham Leslie Cruickshank on the 28/08/2021. A vale will be held at the next Sub-Branch meeting for which all have been advised.

Again the Centenary Dinner has been postponed due to the Covid pandemic and at this stage it will properly be held during May 2022. A year late but better late than never.

Whilst many restrictions have been lifted, we still need to abide by the rules of Club LTD . These will be given at our next meeting.

Peter Niven is currently working on our next bus trip which I hope all are looking forward too. He will also advise us on the away Christmas Party and the one at home also.

As we approach Christmas and the end of 2021, it's hard to imagine what an extraordinary year we have just faced as individuals and together. From a Sub-Branch perspective, our office has still been able to operate and continue supporting our members due to our Honorary Secretary and Treasurer both attending the office and keeping up to date with information from State HQ.

Many thanks to Tony and Chris.

I was reading an article written by the CEO of State HQ, Jon Black on the Battle of Coral-Balmoral, during the Vietnam War. What he has stated is that the Vietnam

Presidents Report Cont.

Veterans were not made welcome by their local RSL sub-branches who it seems were stuck in a mentality that could not appreciate that for all its differences, those serving in Vietnam faced the same horrors of war and that they deserved the same dignity and respect that returned servicemen and women from previous wars had received,

The Vietnam Veterans Association was created to fill the breach that the RSL left it wide open when it failed to adapt and welcome Vietnam Veterans into the fold. In recent years we have seen a similar breach being filled by literally thousands of other so called Ex-Service Organisations due to younger veterans showing a lack of interest in the RSL and instead turning to other organisations to provide the support they are seeking.



Something to think about////

The statistics are telling, Membership has declined from over 200,000 in NSW to fewer than 26,000, Less than 10% of these are under the age of 55, and less than 1,000 are under 39 years of age. With 89% of current RSL NSW members 55 years or older, including 32% who are over the Australian male average life expectancy, age, without intervention, RSL in NSW will no longer be a viable member-based organisation from between 10 to 18 years from now.

Stay safe, keep well, drink more spirits.

Alan Stanford

Secretary's Report

Hello everyone and I hope you all managed to survive the lockdown without putting on too many Covid kilos!

We have reopened the office and are in there Tuesday and Thursday mornings ready to help out where we can.



On Remembrance Day, Thursday 11th November, we will hold a small ceremony in the carpark as we did last year commencing at 1045 followed by lunch.

Meetings will resume on Sunday 14th November 2021. The Committee will meet at 0930 and the General Meeting will start at the usual 1030. To enter the Club you will need to prove that you are double vaxed and a member of the Club.

After the December meeting on 12th December, we will go to Alison Homestead for a BBQ lunch and get together. Family members are more than welcome.

Our Christmas Luncheon is still planned for 19th December at the Club and Peter is working on a Christmas bus trip.

For catering purposes, if you are attending the December post meeting BBQ and/or Christmas Party please advise numbers at the next meeting or at the office.

I look forward to catching up with you all in the very near future.

Cheers

Tony Drover

Sub Branch Happenings

If you need advice on certain benefits like

- ◆ Benefits for Dependants
- ◆ Partner Service Pensions
- ◆ Family Support Package for Widowed Partners
- ◆ Help for the Cost of Childcare
- ◆ Income Support Supplement
- ◆ Compensation for Dependents under the MRCA Act
- ◆ Bereavement Payments
- ◆ Pensions for Orphans & War Widow/ers
- ◆ Vietnam Veterans children support and grants
- ◆ Dependent children and your income Support Payments
- ◆ Student Support
- ◆ Special Disability Trust
- ◆ Legacy assistance and Education Grants



You can find out more on these topics and much more on the DVA website, www.dva.gov.au or phoning the DVA on 1800 838 372

Keep your contact details up to date

If you have recently moved or your details have changed, please let the sub Branch office know so that we can update your address and contact details.

The information is required so that we can send any correspondence and membership renewals to the correct address.

Also, if you know of a member who has moved, either to another area or to an aged care facility, please notify the sub Branch office.

Sub Branch Happenings

If you haven't got your proof of vaccine here is what the Department of Health has provided.

Either :

Use your Medicare online account, or

Use the Express Plus Medicare app, or

Use My Health Record, or

Call the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 808 to get a immunisation history statement (may take up to 14 days)

Full details can be accessed at Services NSW or phone the sub branch office and we can assist you.

If you or anyone that you know has suffered abuse, either physical, mental or sexual abuse whilst serving in the forces before the 30th of June 2014 you may be eligible for a one off payment under the Defence Reparation Scheme.

This scheme is handled by the NSW Ombudsman and has been extended to the 30th June 2022.

To lodge your report on the "notice of intention to report abuse" you can contact the Ombudsman's office directly on 1300 395 776 and they will register you and send you out an Abuse Reporting form.

The Ombudsman can award up to total of \$50,000 and if the abuse was severe enough you can seek damages through a Solicitor as well.

You can contact the sub branch office for further assistance



Sub Branch Happenings

100th Anniversary

Due to the Covid pandemic the Sub Branch has had to postpone our 100th anniversary dinner to a time when we can gather in sufficient numbers to celebrate this momentous occasion.

On the day, Club Wyong was not quite in lockdown and small gatherings were allowed, so a small number of Sub Branch members gathered and raised a glass to mark the day that we were formed and to remember all the past members who helped make us what we are today.

Today we are a financially stable entity with around 100 members including ex-service personnel, affiliate and associate members.

Our aim is to provide support and companionship for all who have served and are still serving as well as support for their families. We also assist the community with donations and hold Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services where all are invited to share time with us.



Sub Branch Vice President and Trustee Peter Woodhouse leads the toast to celebrate our 100th anniversary.

Sub Branch Happenings

100th Anniversary



Mark, Tony, Lynn, Merris and Chris came along on the day



Bill, Sue, Laimer John, Stephanie, Merve, Les, Irish and Glenn having a laugh whilst enjoying an hour or so with each other.

Sub Branch Happenings

Recently around 35 members and spouses joined in a fantastic day on the Hawksbury River. We enjoyed the Riverboat Postman run with lunch onboard.



Cathy, Brian, David, Sharon, Sue, Chris & Phil having a cuppa



Doreen, Rod and Irish

Outside the world just drifted by, ah! life before the lockdown hit.

Sub Branch Happenings

It was a gorgeous day on the water and the ferry was large enough to move around and enjoy the views



Lynne,
Chris
and
Meriss

Steph,
Sue
and
John



Glenn

Everyone had a great time before we all went into lockdown

Sub Branch Happenings

We're Back

Lake Macquarie Lunch Cruise

Wednesday 8th December



I have had to cancel a few bus trips this year so it's great to be able to book one in before Christmas.

Because of Covid 19 we won't be going to Doyle's seafood restaurant in December but I have managed to get a booking for a lunch cruise on Lake Macquarie.

Fully inclusive of morning tea, two and a half hour cruise with a BBQ lunch consisting of fresh local prawns, scotch fillet steak, gourmet beef sausages and a selection of salads as well as sweets and drinks it should be a great day out.

We will be leaving the club carpark at 9:45am (be there by 9:30) and returning around 4pm.

We will travel to Toronto on a coach and board a large catamaran cruiser and set off.

This cruise is suitable for all abilities.

Please contact the office on 4353 1869 by **30th November** to put your name on the list.

Look forward to seeing many members and their spouses on the day



Wyong RSL Sub Branch

4353 1869

Sub Branch Patron: David Harris
Member for Wyong

President: Alan Stanford

Vice Presidents: Jason Hicks
Peter Woodhouse

Secretary: Tony Drover

Treasurer: Chris Isted

Committee: Brian Barnes Fred Roome
Rod Sykes Bill Stewart
Jan Arnold Mary Bernsdorff
Laima Drover JP Glenn Murray
Laurie O'Sullivan Davis Watts

Trustees: David Watts
Alan Stanford
Peter Woodhouse

Welfare: Peter Niven JP Jan Arnold

Office opened Tuesday & Thursday 10am to 12pm

Club Wyong opens at 10am