

P.O. BOX 38 KIPPA-RING



QUEENSLAND 4021

SITREP

Incorporated 31 Aug 2000

July 2017

ABN 34-392-447-046

Mission Statement

To assist all veterans, dependents and their descendants in all matters relating to health, welfare and wellbeing.

PRESIDENTS PONDERINGS

Around six weeks ago I was sitting in our sunny court yard enjoying a cup of hot tea and reading the “Digger Notes” section of the Redcliffe & Bayside Herald when I noticed an article within it in, in regards to throwing away the Cancer Council of Australia screening test. I of course did just that! I then started to ponder if I made a terrible mistake and yes I did. The next day I made an appointment to see my family doctor and it was the most important thing I have done in many a year. The upshot of that crucial decision is that I spent a day in the Caboolture Private Hospital undergoing a Colonoscopy, Gastroscopy & Banding.

Also, two weeks later I was back to having a double hernia operation, one being quite large. I am still recovering and will continue to do so for another four weeks. I highly recommend to all and sundry if you did what I did, please see your family doctor a.s.a.p. for a check-up. Don't be bloody dill like me.

I will see you at our next General Meeting.

Take care one and all,

Charles Parsons LM

Ich Dien



SOCIAL REPORT

Welcome to the July social report & It's all good news this month. Firstly, we had a \$13.65 return on lotto, whoopee!!. However, the big news is that we were successful with our application to DVA for a grant to go toward the cost of bus trips. This was confirmed to me verbally by Luke Howarth (who at my request, chased this up with the minister himself) & was further confirmed in an email received from the ministers office today. The amount we applied for & will receive is \$4305.00. One of the requirements of the application is that a co contribution is paid by bus trip participants., this may vary for each trip. Now that the grant has been approved, it is now very important that these trips be fully supported. I will issue a separate bulletin listing planned trips. Two of these trips are getting close. The immediate one is to the Kilcoy race club memorial race day on Saturday 19th August. I have booked the 57-seat bus, with a 39 & 27 seat busses on standby. At the time of writing, I have 28 names. Although this is a great start , don't leave it too late as the final cutoff date is 10th August. The cost is \$10.00 pp plus \$10.00 pp admission & we have booked 3 marques. Further information will be advised as we progress. The other date to circle on your calendar is Wednesday 20th September, as I have tentatively book a bus trip to the carnival of flowers Toowoomba (57 seater) , further details to be advised. As you can see, it has been a successful period for us, so I urge you all to support the upcoming events. Planning is also underway for our Xmas party, with details updated as we move forward.

After all that, there is nothing more I can add, other than to thank John Martin (post 55) , our local members both state & federal, the board members of Redcliffe RSL & fellow committee members for their support.

As we always say till next time, take care of one another

Rod P Mike O Rod B



Doug Morris
Jewellers of Redcliffe

Jewellery Design Specialists
Watchmaker . . . Registered Valuer
Member Of Jewellers Association Of Australia . . . MHGA

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**Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
Redcliffe Sub Branch Inc.**

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Unless otherwise notified in the 'Sitrep' newsletter, all meetings of the VVAA Redcliffe Sub Branch are held at 11:00am on the second Wednesday of each month at the Redcliffe RSL, Irene Street, Redcliffe, in the Redcliffe RSL Meeting Room. All VVAA members, members' partners, Members' guests and prospective members are welcome to attend.

Birthdays



Shirley McLoughlin, Lew Kerrison, Rod Newham, Neill Garland.

LAUGHTER PARADE

Golf ball

Two friends went out to play golf and were about to tee off, when one fellow noticed that his partner had but one golf ball.

"Don't you have at least one other golf ball?", he asked. The other guy replied that no, he only needed the one. "Are you sure?", the friend persisted. "What happens if you lose that ball?" The other guy replied, "This is a very special golf ball. I won't lose it so I don't need another one." Well," the friend asked, "what happens if you miss your shot and the ball goes in the lake?" "That's okay," he replied, "this special golf ball floats. I'll be able to retrieve it."

"Well what happens if you hit it into the trees and it gets lost among the bushes and shrubs?" The other guy replied, "That's okay too. You see, this special golf ball has a homing beacon. I'll be able to get it back -- no problem."

Exasperated, the friend asks, "Okay. Let's say our game goes late, the sun goes down, and you hit your ball into a sand trap. What are you going to do then?"

"No problem," says the other guy, "you see, this ball is fluorescent. I'll be able to see it in the dark."

Finally satisfied that he needs only the one golf ball, the friend asks, "Hey, where did you get a golf ball like that anyway?"

The other guy replies, "I found it."

Pregnant

Tom and his wife Jenny were attending a class for parents to be. "Husbands, today we are going to focus on you!" announced the instructor. "I want you all to do the following activities as if you were the one pregnant. This way you will see how difficult everyday activities become for the pregnant women, and you will leave with a greater appreciation for your pregnant wives."

"Wow! This is great! Finally you'll have a feeling for what I've been going through!" Jenny excitedly said to Tom, as he stepped up for his assignment.

"Tom, I want you to pretend to cook dinner as if you were a tired out woman in her seventh month!", ordered the instructor.

"Oh that's simple" Tom confidently answered. "I know exactly how I would do it..."

Honey!" he hollered. "Order us a pie of pizza for dinner tonight. I'm too tired to cook!"

Long hair

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut, then we will talk about it." A month later the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said, "Son, I'm real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get hair cut!" The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair." His father replied, "Yes son, and they walked everywhere they went!"

I am the Common Soldier

I am the common soldier; I've fought a thousand fights;
I've stood by many heroes; not slept on countless nights.
I've fought with clubs and rifles, lances, shields and swords.
I've fought for Kings and tyrants, republics and for lords.

I've suffered wounds of every kind, diseases, hurts and boils,
I've sometimes starved, ate rubbish food, then feasted on the spoils.
I've fought the whole world over, in many different wars;
I've rescued many virgins, and then relaxed with ****s.

I've fought in many battles, in many different climes;
I've fought each day in history, at many different times.
I've braved a thousand crises; I've conquered countless fears;
I've often thirsted for a drink, then drunk a thousand beers.

I've carried wounded comrades, sometimes been carefully nursed;
I've been greeted as a hero, then next week I've been cursed.
I've sometimes stood by Princes; I've sometimes stood by knaves,
I've sometimes stood by cowards; I've sometimes stood by braves.

I've fought for Adolf Hitler; I've fought for Mao Tse Tung,
I've fought for the Emperor Constantine, and all the saints unsung.
I will never be an angel, but I fight evil when I can,
I will never be a devil, for I'm just a common man.

But for me there is one difference, that stands out from the rest,
For I have stood in battle, and I have passed the test.



"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance"

Access to pharmaceuticals through the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS).

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today announced additional funding to ensure Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients would continue to have access to pharmaceuticals through the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS).

"From 1 July 2017, the Australian Government will provide \$663,000 in additional funding over five years for 35 pharmaceutical items," said Mr Tehan.

"The funding will safeguard the availability of 34 items, one new listing and the addition of five generic brands."

The generic brands treat insomnia, skin cancer, fungal mouth infections, diarrhoea and assist in preserving bone mineral density.

Microdacyn, a sterile irrigation solution that assists in the treatment of wounds and is applied as a topical wound healing agent, will be added to the RPBS.

These additions reflect new therapies becoming available, generic brands coming onto the market and pharmaceutical sponsors seeking to vary prices.

"The Australian Government is continuously exploring ways to provide more pharmaceutical options at a lower cost to veterans," Mr Tehan said.

"Australia will always be grateful to our veterans for the service they have provided to the nation. Ensuring access to affordable medications is one way the Government demonstrates our appreciation."

The full list of changed items is available at: [New, Amended and Deleted Items](#).

Approval for the raising of a new Artillery Regimental Headquarters

I am honoured to advise that the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General AJ Campbell DSC, AM has approved the raising of a new Artillery Regimental Headquarters to command the 2nd/10th, 3rd, 5th/11th, 6th/13th 7th and 23rd Light Batteries. The Regiment will be formally raised on 15th January 2018 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Lachlan Searle. Regimental Headquarters will be based at the Kogarah Multi-User Depot in Sydney.

Based on advice from the Regimental Committee, the Chief of Army has agreed the Regiment be titled 9th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (9 Regt RAA). 9 Regt RAA has a distinguished history; one of which the new Regiment will be proud. Raised at Victoria Barracks, Paddington on 1st July 1903, it is the third oldest Australian Reserve Field Artillery unit. In 1914, as 4th Australian Artillery Brigade, it provided almost every one of its officers and a substantial cadre of non-commissioned officers and men to 1st Field Artillery Brigade and 1st Divisional Ammunition Column of the AIF. It was the senior Field Artillery Brigade of 2nd Division Artillery from 1921, and between 1939 and 1941 it carried out the home training for the Sydney University Regiment Field Battery, of which Sir Roden Cutler VC was a member. At the end of 1940 it was reorganised as 9th Field Regiment for the defence of Australia.

The Regimental Master Gunner is working through Army Headquarters to have the Regimental Committee's proposed Colour and Shoulder Patches approved.

This is an exciting development for the RAA. The establishment of this new Regimental Headquarters will enable greater technical competence, ensure all ranks within the 2nd Division are better supported with joint fires advice and capability, and enhance the career paths of Reserve Gunners. Importantly, the Reserve Gunner identity is a fundamental part of the RAA, so strengthening the Reserve by raising 9 Regt will help ensure the Gunner tradition and character are preserved



Energy Assistance Payment for veterans and their families

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today said that 233,000 Department of Veterans' Affairs clients last week received a one-off payment to help with rising energy costs.

Mr Tehan said that the Energy Assistance Payment (EAP) was announced in the 2017-18 Budget and is part of the Government's ongoing commitment to supporting the men and women who defend our nation.

Veterans and dependants receiving an eligible compensation payment will receive a payment of \$75. This includes those in receipt of a Service Pension who will receive \$75 for singles and \$62.50 per member of a couple.

"The Government recognises that there are times when veterans require additional financial support," Mr Tehan said.

"This Budget measure will assist veterans and their families who have been affected by increasing energy prices."

The EAP is a non-taxable payment and does not count as income for the purposes of means testing.

The payment will also be made to eligible Centrelink customers who are Age Pensioners, Disability Support Pensioners and Parenting Payment Single Recipients.

"If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be?"

Defence Community Dogs

Defence Community Dogs manages the Dog Training program which rescues abandoned dogs and trains them become Companion Therapy Dogs to assist Veterans coping with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD). At present, most of the dogs in the program are trained at the Bathurst Correctional Centre with the assistance of trainers and inmates at the Centre while under the guidance of one of Australia's leading Dog Trainers, Steve Austin.



Each Defence Community Dog is carefully assessed before being accepted into the program and is then trained to the level of 'Advanced Companion Therapy Dog'. Once a dog has reached this advanced level, they are partnered with a suitable veteran. Each dog will remain in the program for at least 6 months. The cost to train and maintain the dog is significant and runs into the thousands of dollars for each dog. The dog is supplied to the veteran at no cost to them.

Defence Community Dogs is fully funded by The Defence Bank Foundation, a registered charity which raises funds to support serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members suffering from injuries or illnesses such as PTSD. This is a program which is giving rescue dogs a second chance, an inmate a second chance and a veteran a second chance. This program is saving lives in so many ways. More information on the above can be obtained by accessing the website at <https://www.defencebankfoundation.com.au/the-dogs/>

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'Did You Know

A rat can last longer without water than a camel.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks or it will digest itself. On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily! (That explains a few mysteries....)

Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven (7) times.

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.



TROPHY WORLD

" If it's worth winning We made it !"

Mark Tonkin

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**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD
IN THE R.S.L. MEETING ROOM
Is the AGM After the General Meeting
AT 1100 Hrs on the 12 July**

DISCLAIMER:

*None of the contents of this newsletter necessarily state the views of the Redcliffe
VVAA Sub Branch or that of the Editor, or the VVAA unless otherwise stated.*