



NEWS



The Returned & Services League of Australia Palmerston Sub-Branch Inc. Newsletter

May 2013

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PATRON The Honorable Adam Giles MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

*“At pubs across the country,
war veterans are proving
Anzac Day is not just about
ceremony.*

*Sharing memories with
mates over a schooner or
two is just as important to
those who fought for our
country.”*

*Memories over a
schooner, Sydney Morning
Herald.*

Welcome to Palmerston RSL Sub Branch

Palmerston is situated 21 kilometres south of Darwin, Northern Territory and is an important Defence location.

The Palmerston RSL is integrated with the Palmerston Sports Club Inc, Maluka Street. It offers a wide range of venues and activities. The RSL is the largest ex-Service organisation in Australia with over 240,000 members and 1400 Sub-Branches.

The League is a national, apolitical organisation of returned, serving and ex-servicemen and women formed to promote the interest of the serving and ex-servicemen and women and their dependants.

Membership is available to those who have served 6 months or more, Regular or Reserve, with the Australian Defence Forces or allies. Affiliation allows relatives,

In This Issue

- Welcome to Palmerston
- Editors Comments
- Jokes
- School Visits
- Presidents Report
- Valedictories
- Eulogies
- Meetings





Poppies on the Memorial - 2013 Anzac Day March

Editors Comments

Hello all, my name is Colin Cole and I have volunteered to be the Newsletter Editor for our Sub Branch.

I have been a member of the Palmerston RSL Sub Branch for about 12 months and have been an RSL member for over 25 years. My last Sub Branch was Coochiemudlo Island, located at the southern part of Moreton Bay in Queensland. I was the President and also a Delegate to the RSL South East District of Queensland and to the Queensland RSL Annual conference.

My background was RAAF for 20 years. Initially in Logistics and Air Movement then, as a RAAF Policeman. I separated from the service in 1988 as a Flight Sergeant RAAF Police Investigator. I have had numerous occupations since I left, one of which was as the Security Manager on Gold Ridge Gold Mine on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomon's from 1997 to 2001 (on and off). I was on the island when the trouble began well before RAMSI started. I did not get a cordite allowance (although I deserved it, people kept shooting at me!).

I have used a bit of editorial licence in this Newsletter and have preceded the Presidents Message. This is so that we have a complete report in the one area updating since the last Newsletter. This and later newsletters will be distributed to inform the membership of the current activities of the Club. Along with the Web Site we hope to provide informative and current information on happenings within the Club. This is your club and a Committee has been elected to Guide it but support from the entire mem-

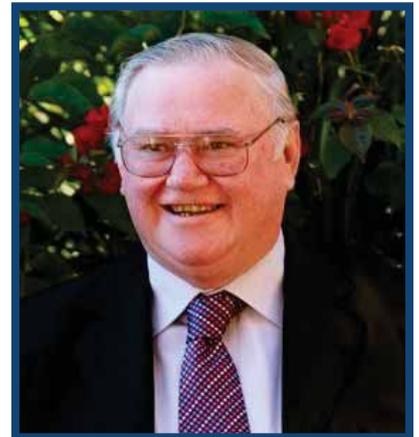
Many Hands Make Light Work

The Committee in the next twelve months will be developing continuity planning for ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and the running of the Sub Branch.

These projects will make for smooth transition when there is a change of committee so that we are not reinventing the wheel each time.

This letter and future ones will be going back to basics, things such as, what is the reason for the RSL?, the significant of the Badge Design? Poppies and Rosemary at ceremonies and other little known facts, plus some general interest items.

I trust that these will be 'informative communications.'



Colin Cole—Editor

Poser

When was the last officially recorded bayonet charge by an Australian Army Unit?

Jokes

A Club manager, praising his staff said, "unlike the other clubs where half the staff do all the work and the other half are hopeless, in this club it's the exact reverse".

Signs on a Club Notice Boards:

"Good clean entertainment every night, except Monday".

"Players picked for the darts team "will be pinned to the notice board on Thursday".

"Ladies are requested not to have children in the Gaming Machine Area".

"If your Poker Machine is out of order, please do not thump it, look for an attendant".

"Toilets out of order, please use the Bistro Area".



Palmerston Senior College — 2013 Anzac Day Parade

School's Anzac Day

Palmerston RSL Sub Branch has for many years encouraged the participation of our local schools to be involved in and on ANZAC Day.

We also, on invitations to our Dawn and Morning Services give invitees a choice of laying a wreath or a book to go to a school or organization of their choice. This, to help build up school libraries on this part of Australian History.

Australian History was deleted from the National schools curriculum at the end of the Second World War. Prime Minister John Howard was instrumental in restoring Australian History to the National schools curriculum whilst Prime Minister.

For our part we try and attend our local schools on the day the school has their Service. I had the pleasure of attending Woodroffe Primary School and was a guest at Palmerston Senior College where I gave an address. I was impressed by the students of Woodroffe Primary School when they sang our National Anthem, with both verses, not missing a word and not a cheat sheet in sight!

This year Garry Markwell distributed books to 18 schools, early learning centres and child care centres in and around Palmerston. Thank you Bones.

Worse Punishment?

Worse Punishment? An Air Force cargo plane was preparing for departure from Thule Air Base in Greenland. They were waiting for the truck to arrive to pump out the aircraft's sewage holding tank. The Aircraft Commander was in a hurry, the truck was late in arriving, and the Airman performing the job was extremely slow in getting the tank pumped out. When the commander berated the Airman for his slowness and promised punishment, the Airman responded: "Sir, I have no stripes, it is 20 below zero, I'm stationed in Greenland, and I am pumping sewage out of airplanes. Just what are you going to do to punish me?"



The Last Post, Palmerston 2013 Anzac Day

Anzac Day

Gunners Breakfast: Well attended by approximately 46 Members and guests and well looked after by Julie and Bree from PSC..

Dawn Service: A large crowd (estimates vary between 1000 up to 1500 people) attended, still an increase on 2012. Training Ship Darwin Cadets were in attendance as they have been since the Consecration of the Cross. Palmerston City Concert Band and Pipers from the Darwin & Districts Pipes and Drums set the scene and mood before the Service commenced. We welcome our new Palmerston Sallyman Captain Simon Pickens who took part in both services. Thanks also to Lt Colonel Darryl Bridgeman, Chief of Staff, Headquarters.1st Brigade who gave an address at both Services.

Services Breakfast: 195 guests joined us (down from the 220 who attended in 2012) for a traditional breakfast served in Outback Jacks restaurant. This year the Licensing Commission approved the consumption of alcohol purchased in the PSC area could be consumed in the restaurant; so getting rid of a problem we had last year. There are many people to thank. First Maurie Johnson who again headed the organizational side. To Garry Markwell and Lance Johnson who picked up the bulk of the donated supplies and others who assisted. To Stuart and his staff at Outback Jacks and especially Chef John. To all those who volunteered to help with serving breakfast and cleaning up. This was a joint operation headed by PSC GM Pam and staff, RSL members and guests.

March: With the rumour mill running rife there was some concern before ANZAC Day that we may not have a body of troops to march with us. Also the newly arrived Marines from Lima Company had gone missing. Some fairly heavy lobbying took place behind the scenes and low and behold on ANZAC Day we had some Marines and Aussies from Robbo to join us. Thanks to Parade Marshall Bill Simpkins, in once again bringing it all together. (Bill will have a megaphone next year} We marched to music provided by the Darwin and Districts Pipes and Drums. Thanks once again.

Morning Service: Again the numbers were up from 2012 but with so many school children in attendance it is difficult to get an accurate estimation (1500 seemed a good estimation). Palmerston was not alone in having increased attendances as ANZAC Day services around the country reported increases

EULOGY

Ray Jefferys

By Daryl Salathiel

It took me some years to actually meet Ray Jefferys properly.

The Palmerston Sub-Branch had adopted the local Sally man Lt James Bortoli to conduct both our Dawn and Mid-Morning Services. James would always place a wreath for the Salvation Army at both Services.

One Anzac Day James asked if it would be alright for him to be accompanied when he laid his wreath. Ray became a proud Service member. The Executive Committee also awarded Ray with an Honorary Membership of Palmerston R&SL Sub-Branch.

On the 1st of January 2010 Ray along with several other members were presented with their memberships by our then Patron the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory the Honourable Paul Henderson MLA.

I recall that the Chief Minister spent quite some time talking with Ray about his wartime service. Ray said afterwards that he did not expect the Chief Minister to spend so much time with him so he, Ray, must be important.

....Continued

Ray Jeffery's Wartime Service History:

02/09/1944 to
06/06/1945

Able Seaman on the Alcoa
Prospector

16/07/1945 to
15/08/1945

Bosun on the Pachaug Vic-
tory

Ray was awarded:

- 1945 Star Pacific Star
- 1939 – 1945 War Medal
- 1939 – 1945
Defence Medal

In addition to this the United States War Shipping Administration awarded War Zone colour bars to their Merchant seaman to con-firm active service in various Zones.

Ray qualified for the:

- Atlantic War Zone Bar
- Mediterranean Middle
East War Zone Bar
- Pacific War



The Laying of the Wreaths, Palmerston — 2013 Anzac Day

Anzac Day

Reunion: The Club was busy all day and I am advised that trading figures were up on year 2012. Re-locating the two-up into the club bar was a winning move. More people were able to see and be I involved in one of the oldest traditions of the Australian Military. I was also advised that the day and evening were trouble free with only one I incident of note. Many compliments about the musical duo who entertained both in the Club bar and dare I say it the Coral bar. There are many people who made the day a success but special thanks to Brett Butler and wife Ange and friend who were tireless in selling tickets for the Kokoda picture. Boxer Peter Shew and assistant Bill Simpkins for the Two-up. Again to Pete Chandler for his bucket. Last but not least the people who manned the barbeque. Among them Ian Warby, Robert Richards, Colin Cole- Garry Markwell and Jack Myatt (Jack assisted in keeping liquid refreshments up to the BBQers).

Sattler's Café: You will have noticed the Sattler Room has now been rebranded to Sattler's Café. The Coral Bar gun board and Honour board have been relocated. With the Coral Bar gun board now located over what was known as the Bistro bar you could now say the Bistro Bar has been rebranded Coral Bar. The original theme for the Café has been kept. Sattler's Café was trialled on Anzac day with good reports on the Coffee and snacks available (thanks to Claire). For the RSL we are much more visible for our members and visiting RSL Members.

Membership: I am pleased to report that our Membership stands at 117 Active members and 21 Cyber Members. A continuing problem is with our Cyber (ADF free members for a year) members becoming financial members and going onto the data base of the Sub-Branch where they joined. Under the first year free they are able to receive an RSL badge and all the privileges and help and welfare that the RSL has to offer, but then don't renew and become financial in the second year. State Branch has been made aware of our concerns. I have suggested that the IMG data base have a directory for Sub-Branch Cyber Members so that Sub-Branches can make contact with reminders to renew their Memberships.

ANZAC Day Debrief: A debrief was held on Sunday 28th April 2013 to report on operations while fresh in our minds. Items identified will be presented to Committee.



Daryl Salathiel—

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



This has been a long time in coming so we have a bit to catch up on. I now have support in compiling our newsletter with Colin Cole putting his hand up. Colin and his wife decided on a sea change from Queensland to Darwin to be closer to family. Colin is assisting with this one and then will take it on. I would also like mm members to contribute articles to our newsletter. Colin will provide details later on how this may be done.

Letterhead: Our letterhead now includes our new patron Chief Minister Adam Giles MLA with our contact details below. The new constitution is still a works in progress. Our Sub-Branch is the lead in getting the new constitution ap-proved to comply with the NT Associations Act for all the NT Sub-Branches. State Branch has advised the other NT Sub-Branches of this and after our approval all the NT Sub- Branches will be provided with a copy.

Movements: August 2012

Your Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members Alf Cross and Lance Johnson along with John Myatt have returned from South Vietnam. We spent more time in Vung Tau this year and this enabled us to accept an invitation from the RA Signals Unit to attend their reunion and concert. This was the last official Unit to leave



Vietnam. It was the 46th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. It is the first time in 46 years since Friday night the 17th of August have coincided when Little Pattie and others including Col Joy were at Nui Dat for a concert. This was the evening that the battle of Long Tan began and continued through to the morning of the 18th. Little Pattie was the guest of honour and entertained us all. And for me was the highlight of the trip.

Fox Company Presentation : A presentation in the form of a plaque with the RSL Badge was made to members of Fox Company 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines by President Bill Simpkins on the evening of the 3rd of August 2012. Bill spoke of the continuing alliance between our two countries and that Fox Company will always be special to our Sub Branch as they were the first to be deployed under the new agreement. The Secretary then gave an explanation of the symbolism of the RSL Badge.

September 16 AGM. At this meeting the following office bearers were elected. Thanks to Joy Handicott for taking the Chair during election proceedings.

Valedictories

I am saddened to report the loss of three of our members:

Vale: Mrs Beryl McIntosh

Beryl passed away on 12 January 2013. Beryl was the wife of Hughie McIntosh one of our Darwin Defenders.

Vale: Peter Boughen.

Peter passed away on 14 February 2013, aged 90. He was a wartime member of 13 Squadron and joined the Squadron as they reequipped with Venturas* which were replacing the Hudson. He was an aircraft maintenance fitter.

* The **Lockheed Ventura** was a bomber and patrol aircraft of World War II, developed from the Lockheed Model 18 Lodestar transport, as a re-placement for the Lockheed Hudson in service with the RAAF .

Vale: Lionel Raymond (Ray) Jefferys

Ray passed away on 20 January 2013. He died-intestate with no surviving family. Palmerston RSL has taken on the role of his final interment. He has been cremated and his ashes are to be spread in Darwin Harbour with the assistance of TS Darwin Naval Cadets on a date to be specified.

The Tank

Britain developed the first Tanks for use during World War I. Even the word 'tank' was designed to confuse, people would think of something used for storing water rather than a war machine. In fact it was first called a Tank by Winston Churchill.

Our Tank

Palmerston RSL Sub Branch was pleased to hear from a former crewman of tank 27744. During his 15 years with Leopard tanks Tim Whitford served as its Driver, Loader and Gunner. Its nicknames included 'Astra Wally' and 'Angry Ant'. 27744 was selected as a trial tank for testing of any new gunnery technology. Tim said "It holds many of my most valued memories and hope that you value it not just as an interesting machine, but as a representation of the many good men who crewed it, in its long period in the service of Australia."

MANY THANKS



Many thanks to all our team and our supporters:

- ⇒ Coles Palmerston
- ⇒ Darwin Bakery
- ⇒ Inghams
- ⇒ Kosmos Food Services
- ⇒ Oz North
- ⇒ Palmerston Bakery
- ⇒ Parmalat
- ⇒ Quality Meats
- ⇒ Wyuna Cold Stores

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Meetings

Under our current constitution all meetings will be called General Meeting with the Committee and all members able to attend. If required the Committee and any Sub Committee appointed at a General Meeting may have extra meetings but in all cases will report back to the Monthly General Meeting. It was decided by consensus that the 3rd Sunday of every month at 1630 hours would be suitable for the majority of members and enable more to be able to attend.

Schedule of General Meetings 2013

19 June 2013 General

16 July 2013 General

21 August 2013 General

Christmas Meeting As per sub branch convention there were no pressing agenda items the President deferred the meeting. The President acknowledge the presence of the Vice President of the Darwin RSL Sub Branch, Mr Bill Buckley. Thanks also to the Darwin and Districts Pipes and Drums for entertaining us once a again with the skirl of the pipes.



Quest Palmerston

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The Quest offers discount accommodation to Palmerston RSL Sub Branch members .

Royal Australian Armed Forces Recruiting Service: We speak ENGLISH

Committee 2013

President

Mr Daryl Salathiel

Vice President

Mr Peter Carthew

Secretary/ Treasurer

Mr Clayton Richards

Committee Members

Mr Bill Simpkins

Mr Garry Markwell

Mr Maurie Johnson

Mr Alf Cross

Mr lance Johnson

Mr Bill Machett

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about RSL Palmerston.

Submissions, photos or letters to the Editor are always welcome. Please forward all submissions to the editor before 25 July 2013 for inclusion in the next issue.

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Visit us on the web at www.palmerston.rlsa.org.au

Next Issue due out:

August 2013

- Sparrow Force
- RSL Salute
- Answer to Poser