



Newsletter of the
Toowong RSL Sub-Branch
The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance



Est. 1919

September 2020

Dear Members,

Welcome to the September newsletter. The past three months has again been a busy one with the service in Toowong Cemetery to mark the end of World War Two being well attended and a success. More on that in the President's report.

The committee has also investigated the merits of incorporating the sub-branch. To this end, we have been in contact with State Branch and have approval for a constitution which meets their organisational and legal requirements. This will be put to members to vote on at the upcoming general meeting next month. More on that on page 3.

Finally, congratulations to our immediate past President, Kerry Gallagher AM, for receiving life membership of RSL Queensland.

Stephen Thornton, Hon. Secretary



Kerry Gallagher AM receiving RSL Queensland life membership, presented by SED President Wendy Taylor with George Hulse OAM in attendance

President's Report

The committee of management recommenced face-to-face meetings on 20 July 2020 continuing this form of meeting on 17 August and 21 September. We observe social distancing and keep the COVID-19 requirements at the forefront of our minds.



Salute to the end of WWII

The sub-branch conducted a Salute to the end of World War Two at the Stone of Remembrance and Cross of Sacrifice in the Toowong Cemetery on 15 August 2020. We recited the Ode, played the Last Post and Rouse and laid wreaths in honour of our fallen of WWII. This was followed by a visit to the gravesites of four veteran WWII veterans who are buried in the Toowong Cemetery. They included a sailor, a soldier, an airman and a nurse. Commentary on each veteran was delivered by Mr Darcy Maddock of the Friends of Toowong Cemetery.

The Salute was attended by Mrs Ethel Hemming (a WWII veteran), members of the general public, our sub-branch members, all our local Councillors, State member of Parliament and the Federal member of Parliament Mr Julian Simmonds. Julian presented the sub-branch with a commemorative medallion of the end of WWII. The same medallion and a Certificate is to be awarded to every veteran of WWII by the Federal Government. See the image below. Many thanks go to member Lily Zhu for volunteering to be the photographer on the day.

This event was conducted under a rigorous COVID-19 plan.



WWII Commemoration Medallion

Future Activity

Given our experience with delivering a COVID-19 plan, the committee is working to deliver the following activities:

- 11 November 2020 we intend to conduct two separate services and a dedication. These are:
 - a. Commencing at 9:00 am a gravesite service to Major Heaphy VC in the Toowong Cemetery.
 - b. Commencing at 10:45 am at the Toowong Cenotaph in Sylvan Road we will conduct our full Remembrance Day service.
 - c. Dedicate the first three WWI panels of the ANZAC Discovery Trail located adjacent to the cenotaph at the completion of the Remembrance Day service.
- 25 April 2021 we intend to conduct two separate services. These are:
 - a. Commencing at 6:30 am at the Toowong Cenotaph in Sylvan Road we will conduct our full ANZAC Day Dawn service;

- b. Commencing at 10:45 am at David Garland Place a short service in honour of Canon David Garland followed by a gravesite visit to his final resting place.

Quarterly General Meeting

The sub-branch Quarterly General Meeting (QGM) is to be conducted on Sunday 18 October 2020 commencing at 1100hrs in the dining facility of Wests RUFC (Figs Restaurant area). Agenda and other items will be sent out soon.

Constitution

We are putting the final touches to our sub-branch Constitution. The committee, on your behalf, worked on the wording of a suggested RSL Constitution and modified it to suit our needs. We forwarded it to SED and State RSL for their comment. They responded with a couple of amendments in order to comply with the covenants of the RSL system. We will be putting the Constitution to the vote at a Quarterly General Meeting soon. You will have an opportunity to read the sub-branch Constitution in the near future.

Incorporation

The sub-branch committee wishes to have Toowong RSL sub-branch incorporated with the Office of Fair Trading (Qld) as an incorporated body. This confers greater legal protection for the sub-branch compared to an unincorporated entity. This item will also be discussed and voted upon at the QGM next month.

ANZAC Discovery Trail - Interpretative Panels

We intend to dedicate and officially open our first three ANZAC Discovery Trail interpretative panels immediately following our Remembrance Day service on 11 November 2020 at the Cenotaph in Sylvan Road. The initial three panels have been in place for several months and we had planned to officially dedicate them on ANZAC Day 2020 – but COVID-19 got in the way.

The sub-branch intends to continue with our days of commemoration using a COVID plan if necessary. The uncertainty is only about the numbers of people who will be allowed to attend. Let's hope that ANZAC Day 2021 will not be affected in the same way as it was for this year.

In soldiering

George Hulse OAM, President

Toowong Sub-Branch Incorporation

Toowong RSL Sub-Branch is an unincorporated association. In the last three months, the committee has been investigating the benefits and costs of incorporation for our sub-branch. The fee to incorporate is \$165.05 so the cost is not a significant factor in the decision. Given we already have our financial statements audited each year, the ongoing costs are not going to be much different either.

The most important benefit of being an incorporated association is that the sub-branch becomes its own separate legal entity which has the same powers, benefits and responsibilities as a person. It is legally separate from its members.

This means that:

- the committee makes decisions
- the association becomes legally liable for these decisions
- individuals on the committee aren't personally liable (as long as they acted in good faith).

This means that anyone nominating for committee positions in the future can rest assured that they will not be personally liable for decisions made where it can be demonstrated they acted reasonably in the circumstances.

To incorporate, we must convene a general meeting of our sub-branch and propose resolutions to become an incorporated association and also appoint a person to prepare and make the application. The

resolution must pass with a 75% majority of the vote of those present at the general meeting.

All incorporated associations must have a written set of operating rules. These rules are sometimes known as the association's constitution. The rules come into effect once the association is incorporated which takes around 3 – 4 weeks after the application is lodged with the Office of Fair Trading.

We have adopted the model constitution recommended by RSL Queensland with some minor amendments which have been agreed to by State Branch. The name of the incorporated association is proposed to be the 'Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Toowong Sub-Branch Inc.'

A general meeting is to be held on Sunday, 18 October 2020 at 11am at 'Figs on Sylvan' at the Wests Rugby Club, 65 Sylvan Road Toowong. A notice of meeting and information kit will be emailed to all members soon.

Note – this information has been sourced from the Queensland Government website and more detailed information can be accessed here >> www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/associations-charities-and-non-for-profits/incorporated-associations/set-up-an-incorporated-association

Finances

One Volunteer is Better Than Ten Pressed Men

Our plan of action for 2020 includes the need for fund-raising to keep our sub-branch finances healthy and happy which they are currently.



Our fundraisers are dependent on our members stepping-up-to-the-plate and volunteering their precious time at shopping centres and sausage sizzles.

On the initiative of sub-branch member George Vaivarins, a fundraising table has been established at the Regatta Hotel, ably assisted by Mike Muirhead and Nigel Meadows with George Hulse taking over duties for the next little while until George V. returns.

Welfare Assistance

Occasionally we are contacted by sub-branch and non-branch service and ex-service men and women to assist with advocacy regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and other agencies. In these cases, we are able to direct them to the appropriate contact within the RSL. We assisted four people in the last three months.



Angus House in Toowong

Did you know that accommodation is available for \$20/night (including dinner) at Angus House for veterans who need to stay in Brisbane while receiving medical treatment?

That's pretty good value. Angus House is operated by RSL Queensland and run by Manager Michelle Byrne.



FEATURES AT A GLANCE

- \$20/night per person, including dinner
- Address: 53-55 Bayliss Street, Toowong
- Close to Toowong Private Hospital and Wesley Hospital
- Stay with other members of the Defence community
- Staff sometimes offer transport to nearby hospitals
- 11 bedrooms, four shared bathrooms, three TV rooms, dining room, kitchen and laundry
- Designed for members of the Defence community receiving medical treatment

HOW TO BOOK A STAY AT ANGUS HOUSE

Phone: 0418 721 300

Email: michelle.byrne@rslqld.org

More info: www.rslqld.org/find-help/angus-house

Proposed National Defence Chaplains' Memorial Grove, ANZAC Park, Toowong

We have been made aware of a group of individuals petitioning Brisbane City Council to set aside a suitable portion Toowong's Anzac Park to be 'The National Defence Chaplains' Memorial Grove'.

The grove is proposed to be in the form of a mixed grove of native shrubs and/or native trees to honour the unsung contribution of hundreds of volunteer military chaplains, in times of war and peace.

You can find the online petition here if you are interested to know more about this. Please note, the sub-branch has not formally committed to support this initiative at this stage and anyone who signs the petition does so as a private individual.

<https://www.epetitions.brisbane.qld.gov.au/petition/view/pid/943>

DVA's New Telephone Number

Please note that DVA's new number 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) will become its primary access number for veterans and their families.

Membership

Membership of the sub-branch continues to increase with four new service members and a social member.



Welcome to Portia Meadows, David Carey, Chris Gladstone, Greg Choma and John Muirhead. Toowong sub-branch now has 112 members.

Every member of the sub-branch, both service and non-service members, should have been provided with a name tag to wear at functions. If you weren't provided with a name tag at the time you joined, or if you have misplaced it, please contact our Membership Officer Mike Muirhead for a new one (free of charge).

We also have a number of new membership kits at the office, which also includes the RSL badge. These will be brought along to the QGM on the 18th of October. We also plan to hold our end of year QGM in December and these items will be brought along then too.

If you can't get along to the office (ring ahead) or attend one of the QGMs, please email us or call Mike on 0419 703 334 to make arrangements for these to be posted to you.

Hospital and Home Visits

Due to COVID-19 visitor restrictions, our contact with members and other ex-service persons who were ill is often restricted to telephone and electronic communications. Nil in the last three months.



Last Post

We are pleased to report none of our sub-branch members have passed in the last three months.



Sub-Branch Committee & Contact

2020-21 Committee:

- George Hulse OAM - President
- Nigel Meadows - Senior Vice-President
- Ross Williamson RFD - Vice President
- Dr. Stephen Thornton - Hon. Secretary
- Vince Atley - Hon. Treasurer
- Mike Muirhead – Membership Officer
- Peter Gow
- Bruce Tindall
- Janelle Voysey

The office is located in the Western Districts Rugby Football Club (Wests Bulldogs) building in Sylvan Road Toowong. Please note it is only open at certain times and it is best to telephone first (the office telephone number is redirected to the secretary's personal phone number).

Office: 7/65 Sylvan Road Toowong

Postal: PO Box 1564 Toowong DC 4066

Phone: 3870 1379

Email: secretary@rsltoowong.org

Website: www.rsltoowong.org



Toowong Memorial Park

Photos of WWII Service held 15 August at Toowong Cemetery



President George Hulse and Julian Simmonds MP



Some of the attendees at the service



Playing of the Last Post



WWII veteran Ethel Hemming with daughter laying a wreath, assisted by committee member Mike Muirhead



Sub-branch committee member Mike Muirhead with WWII veteran John Briggs



Hon. Treasurer Vince Atley on flag duty



Sub-branch committee members Stephen Thornton, George Hulse, Nigel Meadows, Ross Williamson & Peter Gow



Friends of Toowong Cemetery's Darcy Maddock leading the walk to graves of WWII sailor, soldier, airman & nurse

