



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



Est. 1919

August 2021

Dear Members,

Just when we thought we had COVID-19 under some type of control, along comes the 'Indooroopilly cluster' to keep people in the western suburbs on their toes. A few of our sub-branch members had to isolate as close or casual contacts however we have not been made aware of any members falling ill with the virus so that is good news.

Not so good news is the situation in Afghanistan. Our thoughts are with members who have served there and we are here to assist members in any way we can. Also see the flyer attached to this newsletter 'Support for Afghanistan War veterans' for contact numbers.

Finally, as a former gunner, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of artillery in Australia which was commemorated with gun salutes around the country this month. I took the opportunity to purchase a commemorative whisky pack (flyer attached) comprising an etched bottle of single malt and glasses produced by the co-founder of Chief's Son Distillery, who is also a former gunner.

Stephen Thornton, Secretary



President's Report

I am pleased to report the sub-branch continues to increase its membership number and also continues to enjoy a good financial position.



Peter Gow

The board recently discussed how sub-branch members can better interact with each other and it was decided that the current practice of holding quarterly general meetings be replaced by social functions. The new sub-branch Constitution still allows for what are called 'Special General Meetings' and these will be held as and when we need to come together formally to vote on a particular issue or for some other reason where the board determines this is the best forum in which to discuss and decide an important issue.

The usual annual general meeting in March of each year will remain unchanged.

As such, treasurer Vince Atley has organised an end of year get together to be held upstairs in one of the function rooms at the Regatta Hotel on Saturday 13th of November. An invitation will be sent (emailed) to all service and non-service members soon with more details. The three-course event will be paid for out of sub-branch funds.

The activities conducted by the sub-branch since the previous newsletter in April are:

- * 17 May - Held sub-branch board meeting.
- * 20 June - Held sub-branch board meeting.
- * 19 July - Held sub-branch board meeting.
- * 16 August - Held sub-branch board meeting.
- * Made a grant application under the Queensland Government ANZAC Day Trust Grants Program.
- * Financially assisted 12 ACU (Cadet unit) with \$2,000.00 for the purchase of a new trailer which will be used on camps, fundraising activities, etc.
- * Commenced Stage 2 planning for additional commemorative panels along the ANZAC Discovery Trail in Toowong Memorial Park partly funded by a DVA Grant and partly funded by a very generous donation by Wham Family which has strong connections with the sub-branch.
- * Technician visit to the sub-branch office regarding the NBN connection which is expected to be completed in September.

ANZAC Discovery Trail update

As noted by President Peter Gow, the board has commenced planning for additional commemorative panels along the ANZAC Discovery Trail in Toowong Memorial Park. A number of options are currently being considered which will require approval by Brisbane City Council and also the State Government as areas of the park, including the cenotaph, are heritage listed and any development near heritage listed sites requires special approval.

We were successful in our grant application to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for this project and received \$10,000 which will cover some of the costs of the future work. The sub-branch also received an extraordinary donation from the Wham Family of \$50,000 to put toward the future development which should more than cover our expenses. It is proposed to locate a suitably worded plaque on the trail acknowledging the grant and generous financial support of the Wham Family.

Member Value Proposition (MVP)

You will have heard about the Member Value Proposition or 'MVP' being proposed by State Branch this year. The MVP is designed to turn around the decline in membership of RSL Queensland. According to RSL Qld's FAQs sheet, the MVP is a:

'simple and compelling description of the value and benefit of being an RSL member. It is a reason someone would want to join RSL in the first place, and a reason they'd want to keep their membership over time. A clear and compelling MVP helps us to give a consistent message about why veterans and their families would want to join, stay and contribute.

The Membership team has been established to provide support to Sub Branches "in field" – the purpose of this team is to work hand-in-hand with Sub Branches to grow and attract new members within their local communities. In addition to this support, there will be significant marketing activities which will launch in 2022 should the members adopt the MVP at the Annual General Meeting in December 2021. Marketing activity will be designed at attracting new members into the organisation and activating members to contribute within their Sub Branch. There will also be additional promotion of Sub Branch activities and events, as well as promotion of the different Interest Groups on offer to veterans, to encourage a sense of connection and community cemented by common interests.

There will be complimentary membership to all veterans and their families, while the community and supporter members will pay membership fees which will continue to support the Sub Branch. There will be a capitation program funded by RSL Queensland to ensure Sub Branches are not worse off financially because of these changes. Capitation ensures a reimbursement to Sub Branches for each member – the more members a Sub Branch has, the greater the capitation payment.

Renewals will not be required under the proposed MVP for Defence and Family categories, and Members will need to resign from their Membership instead of having to renew each year

Members who purchased a life subscription in 2020 (last renewal period) or sooner will be fully refunded. Refunds will be made on a pro-rata basis for life subscriptions for 2019. There is ongoing discussion on refunds for life subscriptions pre-2019.

Finances

One Volunteer is Better Than Ten Pressed Men

Our plan of action for 2021 includes the need for fund-raising to keep our sub-branch finances healthy and happy which they are currently.



The sub-branch assisted a young veteran who is doing it tough at the moment with gift vouchers and is being encouraged to join the sub-branch.

We also financially assisted 12 ACU (Cadet unit) with \$2,000.00 for the purchase of a new trailer which will be used on camps, fundraising activities, etc.



Peter Gow presenting a \$2000.00 cheque to Graham Heslin of 12 ACU

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 one person since April.

RSL South Eastern District offers free services for veterans & families:

- Wellbeing support, visits & bereavement assistance
- Medical & allied health referrals
- PTSD & mental health support
- Advocacy & research for compensation & welfare
- Career transition assistance
- Financial literacy & crisis support
- Peer mentoring

Located at Greenslopes Private Hospital
Tuesday–Thursday | 10am–2pm or by appointment.

Email: wellbeing@rslsouthqueensland.org
Ph. (07) 3394 7235

Website: www.rslsouthqueensland.org.

Membership

We currently have 95 service members and 25 non-service (social) members being a total of 120 members. This is an increase of four service members since the previous newsletter in April. Welcome to David Donaldson, John Hamilton AFC, Dr. Kim Morgan-Short and Laurie Smith.



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).

You can email the office or call Mike Muirhead on 0419 703 334.

Hospital and Home Visits

John Forrest recently had a fall however was still able to attend our board meeting this month via Zoom. An offer of assistance, if needed, has of course been extended to John who is expected to recover over the next month or so.



This is a timely reminder for all members to reach out if they are doing it tough with either physical or mental health issues as we are not always aware of members' situations. We can provide support or organize for support to be provided to you.

DVA's Telephone Number

DVA's new number is 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) for veterans and their families.

Last Post

We are pleased to report that no sub-branch members have passed in the last four months.



Sub-Branch Board & Contact Details

2021-22 Board Members:

- Peter Gow - President
- Ross Williamson RFD – Deputy President
- Mike Muirhead – Vice President
- Dr. Stephen Thornton - Secretary
- Vince Atley - Treasurer
- John Forrest RFD
- Chris Mallcott
- Bruce Tindall
- Dr. Lily Zhu

The office is located in the Western Districts Rugby Football Club (Wests Bulldogs) building in Sylvan Road Toowong.

Office: 7/65 Sylvan Road Toowong

Postal: PO Box 1564 Toowong DC 4066

Phone: 0456 572 671

Email: secretary@rsoltoowong.org

Website: www.rsoltoowong.org



Toowong Memorial Park

RANCBA Q 75th Anniversary

Luncheon

Sunday 17th October 2021

Memorial Hall

58 Arnold Street, Holland Park

11.30 Wreath Laying

12 noon AGM

12.30 lunch

Dress: Smart Casual

Cost: \$40 pp

RSVP 10th October 2021

[07 3397 2663 or alsonhellier@bigpond.com](mailto:alsonhellier@bigpond.com)

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NAME.....Partner.....
.....

Dietary requirements...../
.....

Please find \$.....to cover the cost of 1 or 2
Payment can be made to BSB 814 282: A/c 3061 6776 with
Remittance advice to alsonhellier@bigpond.com or cheque
to RANCBA Q, PO Box 119, Holland Park Q 4121

Support for Afghanistan War veterans

To everyone who served in Afghanistan: You should be immensely proud of your service. Australia thanks you.

Thousands of Australian veterans and their families access the following support services every year. Don't hesitate to reach out, even if you just want to get something off your chest.



Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling Service
(1800 011 046) or online at www.openarms.gov.au.

Open Arms provides counselling and support programs to ADF personnel and their families and operates a free-call all-hours crisis telephone service as well as providing face-to-face support. The Open Arms website also provides a range of self-help resources and wellbeing tools.



Safe Zone Support (1800 142 072)

A free and anonymous counselling line for current serving ADF personnel, veterans and their families, available 24/7 and provides access to specialised counsellors with an understanding of military culture and experience. The service offers support without the need for individuals to identify themselves or be concerned that their call will be recorded.



Department of Veterans' Affairs 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

Available for current and former serving ADF personnel and their families who may wish to access advice, claims and support services provided by DVA.



Lifeline Australia (13 11 14) is available 24/7 or online at www.lifeline.org.au.

Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24 hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.



ADF Health and Wellbeing portal
www.defence.gov.au/health/healthportal

Providing information on a wide range of Defence websites containing information on ADF Health and Mental Health services and supports, as well as links to many useful external resources.



Defence Family Helpline (1800 624 608), available 24/7 or online at www.defence.gov.au/DCO/Defence-Helpline.asp

The Helpline is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists.



Australian American Association Queensland Division - Brisbane

NEWS FLASH [12] – 21st August 2021

Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland
Address: PO Box 148 Coopers Plains Qld 4108
Phone: (07) 3554 1039

Email: admin@aaabrisbane.com
Web: www.aaabrisbane.com

DATE CLAIMERS FOR TWO MAJOR EVENTS!

Dear Members and Friends,

Please mark your calendars for the following two major events, which our Association is now making preparations for:

❖ Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday 25th November 2021.

Last year's Thanksgiving Dinner was a great success, with our guests very much enjoying the evening. We served lovely food and the ambiance of the venue was pleasant and pleasing. On arrival, guests enjoyed drinks and a chat, prior to being escorted to their tables.

Our Guest speakers - Mr Bill Elliott (a Mayflower descendant) and his wife Chris, spoke about the descendants of the Mayflower and their presentation was given by power-point entitled "Mayflower 1620 & the First Thanksgiving. The three great raffle prizes and the Lucky-door prize were well received by those who won them.



Selection of our Guest Speakers and the Venue for the next Thanksgiving Dinner is yet to be announced, and you will be further advised, well before the 25th November 2021 event date.

[Please go to next page for Second Major Event]



❖ *80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Wreath-laying Service on Saturday 7th May 2022.*

Next year marks the 80th Anniversary of this momentous event, which will be held at the Australian American War Memorial, Newstead Park, Brisbane.

We will again assemble to honour those who fought and those who died, in the battle that saved Australia from invasion. It was fought in waters as close as 800 Kilometres off our Queensland coastline, from 4th to 8th May 1942, by the United States and Australian Navies against the Imperial Japanese Navy. It was the first aircraft-carrier battle ever fought, and the first in which the opposing ships never sighted, nor fired directly upon, one another.

Last year's event was attended by our Association's Patron the Governor of Queensland, the representative of the US Consul-General, the Consul-Generals of Japan and France, and representatives of the Prime Minister, Queensland Premier, Brisbane Lord Mayor, State and Federal Governments, including Armed Forces, Returned Services Organizations and many others numbering some 140 invited guests.



Please Note - Queensland Government COVID 19 Regulations will be strictly complied with, during the time of these proposed events.

Please keep safe and healthy.

Mike Harris, President.



RAA 150th Anniversary Whisky Release

Available for sale Wednesday, 18 August 2021

**150 AUSTRALIAN
YEARS ARTILLERY**
1871 - 2021



**150 AUSTRALIAN
YEARS ARTILLERY**
1871 - 2021

Option One - \$155

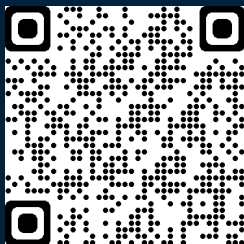
Chief's Son Limited Release RAA 150th Whisky (700ml) in commemorative anniversary box with two laser etched Glencairn glasses. Bottles are numbered 1 - 155 and are available to reserve*.

Option Two - \$155

Chief's Son Limited Release RAA 150th Whisky (700ml) in commemorative anniversary box with two laser etched Glencairn glasses. Bottles are numbered 156 - 1000 and will be sold sequentially.

Option Three - \$105

Chief's Son Limited Release RAA 150th Whisky (700ml) bottle only, which is not numbered. 1000 bottles are available for sale.



Watch the Chief's Son owner and distiller, Stuart McIntosh, showcase the whisky at the QR code above or through [this link](#).



RAA 150th Whisky Anniversary Pack
(Option 1 & 2)



RAA 150th Whisky
Bottle (Option 3)

**CHIEF'S
SON**

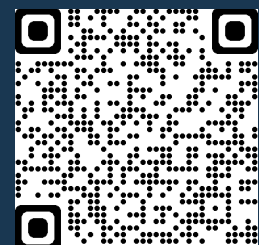
SINGLE MALT WHISKY



Orders: The School of Artillery RTF is facilitating orders through their Square Site. This can be reached through the QR code to the right or through [this link: https://soarty-rtf.square.site](https://soarty-rtf.square.site).

Shipping: Nationwide delivery is available at \$15 per order (Can be multiple packs/bottles) to any residential address. Alternatively, delivery is available at no cost to RAA Regiments or Batteries for collection by members.

* **Bottle Numbers:** The bottle numbers for RAA sub-units have been reserved by Chief's Son Distillery and will not be for sale as they will be gifted to the relevant RAA sub-unit. RAA Regiment numbers will also be reserved to allow Regiments the first opportunity to purchase their respective number.



Order Here 18 Aug!