



Newsletter of the Toowong RSL Sub-Branch

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Est. 1919



June 2023

Dear Members,

A big welcome to our new members and congratulations to the sub-branch for the momentum that has built up this year.

We have certainly increased our visibility in the community both with our new merchandise, our activities and the new marquees. The new marquees have become a clear feature at Wests Rugby's home games and the 12ACU marquee has been proudly used by Graham Heslin and his team. We are seeing our fundraising at work.

Momentum is also building for the construction of the Bridge of Friendship between Australia and France: Dedicated to every Australian Army engineer unit involved in WWI in Amiens, France. George Hulse continues to work hard to ensure that on 24th April 2024, a 'twin bridge' matching the one in Toowong's ANZAC Park, is installed. We hope that Toowong members can join George in France for the dedication.

A big thank you goes to Steve Thornton for all the effort that went into coordinating this year's ANZAC Dawn Service and this DON R.

Thanks again to all those who volunteered their time for ANZAC fundraising this year.

The Toowong Board has a number of events planned leading up to Christmas, including a Childrens Christmas Party on the Wests Rugby's oval. We do hope that our members participate in these events and have the opportunity to meet and socialise with their fellow members.

Tim Robb, Secretary

President's Report

The sub-branch made a cracking start to 2023 with possibly one of the most event-filled periods in recent memory.



Peter Gow

Thanks to Tim Robb, Vince Atley, Lily Zhu, Ross Williamson and Steve Thornton for driving many of these events.

The activities conducted by the sub-branch since the last newsletter are:

- * 16 January – board meeting
- * 13 February – board meeting
- * 26 February – members lunch at Regatta Hotel
- * 19 March – board meeting
- * 19 March – AGM following board meeting
- * 2 April, 7 May & 4 June – Sunday morning coffee get together
- * April – conducted fundraising activities for ANZAC Day at Toowong Village, Wesley Hospital, St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital
- * 13 April – sub-branch dinner at Wests Rugby with guest speaker George Hulse OAM
- * 15 & 23 April – WW1 plaque dedication ceremony at Lutwyche Cemetery
- * 17 April – board meeting
- * 25 April – ANZAC Day dawn service with member breakfast afterwards at Wests Rugby
- * 8 May – board meeting
- * 20 May – participated in QURA ceremony for Laid-Up QUR Colours and the encasement of Merrington's Flag in Warrior's Chapel.
- * 6 June – LT Eric Simon grave cover dedication
- * 19 June – board meeting



First board meeting of the year in January with a few members dialling in on the big screen

Lunch at Regatta Hotel

We held our first get-together of the year at the Regatta Hotel. The original plan was to have a BBQ lunch on the SED RSL HQ lawns at New Farm to which all members were invited. Unfortunately, the RSVP numbers were considered too low to justify the hassle of setting up a BBQ and making the necessary purchases.

It was decided an alternative location with zero hassle would be found and one of our business supporters, the Regatta Hotel, opened the classy Henley Room for us. Hawaiian shirts made a return and Vince found a bottle of the good stuff in the premium wine rack though as Treasurer he insisted the budget did not stretch far enough for it to be uncorked.



Members at lunch in the Henley Room



Vince Atley going for the good stuff

AGM 2023

The sub-branch held its Annual General Meeting on 19 March with a good attendance. President Peter Gow gave a summary of sub-branch activities and work undertaken and Treasurer Vince Atley provided a breakdown of the 2022 statement of accounts which shows we remain in a healthy financial position.

Congratulations to Chris Mallcott who was elected Vice President with sub-branch stalwart Mike Muirhead stepping down from that position. All other positions have been filled by the existing members. The board for 2023-24 is:

- Peter Gow – President
- Ross Williamson RFD – Deputy President
- Chris Mallcott – Vice President
- Tim Robb – Secretary
- Vince Atley – Treasurer
- David Donaldson
- Keith Lamb
- Mike Muirhead
- Dr. Stephen Thornton
- Dr. Lily Zhu

Coffee Catchups

One new initiative we are trialling is a monthly Sunday morning coffee catchup at Chatterbox, Level 1 of Toowong Village. We have held three so far and while the turnout has been variable, feedback is good.



Coffee catchup at Toowong Village

Guest Speaker Functions

Another initiative we are trialing which has proven popular so far is our guest speaker nights. We held our first one in April with immediate past president George Hulse OAM giving a very interesting presentation of the bridge project in France he is having constructed. As reported in our last newsletter, the bridge in France will be a sister bridge to the one he successfully had constructed in ANZAC Park in Toowong.

Thanks goes to George Hulse, Tim Robb and Keith Lamb for facilitating the event. Special thanks to Lily Zhu for donating the raffle prizes as all who attended were very appreciative.

The next speaker event will feature MAJGEN Mick Ryan (Ret.) on his Ukraine & Taiwan insights.



Guest speaker George Hulse OAM



New bailey bridge in ANZAC Park Toowong

ANZAC Day Dawn Service

The sub-branch conducted its annual dawn service with an estimated 2000 people in attendance which was an excellent turnout and slightly up on numbers from last year.

Congratulations and thanks to Steve Thornton and Vince Atley for their efforts to ensure it was another successful service.

Feedback has been that our newly purchased Toowong RSL Sub-branch branded marquees were pleasing to see at the service. We also thank Wests Rugby Club for the use of a large 8x4m marquee which protected the entire band from a couple of showers during the service.

While we did experience a few showers, Graham Brown OAM president of Wests Rugby Club which is the major sponsor of the event, wrote to us saying:

'The Service gets bigger and better each year. I thought the rain may have reduced the number of attendees, but no it didn't, in fact I think the numbers grew on last year.

Congratulations on a very successful morning. Your efforts in organising this day were outstanding'.

As in past years, it was a good team effort and many thanks must go to Wests for being such a good supporter of our service by providing the mobile buggies and catering for breakfast afterwards, amongst other things.

Local Councillors Peter Matic and James Mackay again stepped up with grant funding and attended the service along with the local state member for Maiwar Michael Berkman MP and federal member for Ryan, Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP.

Many thanks also go to Commanding Officer LTCOL Scott Revell, RSM WO1 Daniel Duncan and CSM WO2 Glenn Swain from Queensland University Regiment that provided the catafalque party as well as a work detail who delivered and set up 120 chairs to enable our guests to be seated. Our relationship with QUR is a strong one and the service would not be the same without their involvement which is greatly appreciated.

Thanks too to the Brizwest Ensembles Band and buglar, SES Western Group for providing traffic management support, Taringa-Milton-Toowong Scouts, Piper Fergus MacDonnell and singer Meg Kiddle.

Photos are at end of this newsletter, taken by board member Lily Zhu. Wests also had an excellent video made of the service which is on their Facebook page which you can access in the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/westsbulldogstoowong/videos/766965244933162>



Dawn service

Farewell to Cr. Peter Matic

As some of you will know, Peter Matic has decided to move on from his position as Councillor for Paddington Ward (formerly Toowong Ward) in which our sub-branch office is located.

Peter has been a huge supporter of the sub-branch for many years since he became councillor in 2007 and we thank him for this and wish him the best of luck for the future.

Peter has been replaced by Clare Jenkinson who was formerly marketing manager at Toowong Village.

WW1 Plaque Dedication Ceremony

On Saturday, 23 April, 237 new plaques were unveiled for WW1 diggers buried at Lutwyche Cemetery. The sub-branch assisted the Australian Remembrance Army in the event.

In attendance were Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins.

The service made the news that evening. More photos at the end of the newsletter. Well done to Vice President Chris Mallcott in his coordination work.



PM Hipkins & PM Albanese

QURA Commemoration Service

On 20th May, the sub-branch was represented at the Queensland University Regiment Association's Soldiers Commemoration Service for the encasement of the laid-up QUR colours and the encasement of "Merrington" flag.

LTCOL Earnest Merrington's Australian flag that was used at Gallipoli and the Western Front is now proudly on display in the Warriors' Chapel at Emmanuel College, The University of Queensland.

Congratulations to Trevor Luttrell RFD and the QURA for a magnificent Commemoration Service.



Vince Atley, Donna Muirhead, Keith Lamb & Mike Muirhead

LT Eric Simon Grave Cover Dedication

Some time ago, the sub-branch was contacted by Leigh Chamberlain of the Toowong & District Historical Society for us to conduct a service at Toowong Cemetery for recognition of former Toowong State School teacher Eric Simon, whose grave had fallen into disrepair.

Lieutenant Simon MM (with bar) was with the 15th Australian Infantry Battalion and died in a swimming accident in 1929, age 33.

This appeared in the Brisbane Courier that year.

LATE MR. ERIC SIMON.

TOOWONG'S TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY.

"I know of no more extraordinary instance of self-sacrifice than where a person lives for others. This was what the late Mr. Eric Simon did. His was a life of self-denial, robbed of all that might give it colour, ambition, and hope, in order to please and make others happy. It was a life-long crucifixion."

This was the tribute, which the head master of the Toowong State school (Mr. F. Bennett, 'B.Sc.) paid to the memory of the late Mr. Eric Wilson Simon at the unveiling of a portrait in his honour at the school grounds yesterday. It is intended that the picture shall be hung in the scholarship room; and to further commemorate the memory of Mr. Simon, what will be known as the Eric Simon medal is to be awarded annually to the scholar, boy or girl, who gains the highest pass in the scholarship examination. The simple inscription-"To the memory of Lieut. Eric Wilson Simon, M.M. with bar, whose work won the admiration of all concerned. Accidentally killed, January 14, 1929"-appears on the portrait.

In unveiling the portrait, Mr. Bennett said that in saying that he missed Mr. Simon greatly he did not mean I to convey any disrespect to the other teachers. For five years Mr. Simon, had been in charge of the scholarship class, and during that period the school on more than one occasion had

been represented among the first ten candidates who passed the qualifying examination. But, perhaps, the greatest achievement of all was that the school had secured the Lilley gold medal two years in succession while Mr. Simon was in charge of that Class. That was a record unique in Queensland, and probably would never be equalled. It only went to show the excellence of Mr. Simon's teaching on the mental side. But Mr. Simon always tried to develop not only the head, but the heart. He wanted the scholars to be clever, industrious, and good. He also took an interest " in sport, and excelled on the side of developing the body. Indeed, it probably would be a long time before they had a teacher who would be able to train the child's head, heart, and body as Mr. Simon had done. Another thing about Mr. Simon which had appealed to him as quite remarkable was the way he sacrificed 'himself for other people. He practically lived for others.



Lieut. E. W. SIMON,
M.M. and Bar.

<https://www.anzac-biographies.com/2020/12/27/simon-lieutenant-eric-wilson-mm-and-bar/>



New grave cover for LT Simon



Member for Ryan, Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP
& Peter Gow



George Hulse and Vince Atley

Sub-Branch Ironman

Our extremely dedicated (and very fit) George Hulse a few weeks ago completed the gruelling Ironman Asia-Pacific event in Cairns.

Proving age is just a number (four score and no more), he completed the 226-kilometre course in

just over 16 hours. This included a 3.9km swim, a 180km bike, and finally a 42km run.

His super-human effort was covered by mainstream and social media.

Well done, George!



Sub-Branch Merchandise

We recently released a range of Toowong and RSL Queensland merchandise. If you would like to order a shirt (or two) please contact secretary Tim Robb. Contact details at end of newsletter.



New Marquee for 12 ACU

We were pleased to receive these photographs from 12 ACU at Bulimba showing the marquee we were able to provide to them put to good use at Fort Lytton.



12 ACU members at Fort Lytton

RSL Queensland Advocates

RSL Queensland employs about 90 paid and some unpaid advocates to support veterans in Queensland and the Northern Territory. The number of paid advocates is increasing as the accreditation requirements increases.

They operate a triage system to support the more urgent cases first. Currently there is a wait of between 30-90 days to get an interview with an advocate. Outside of that, urgent support for homelessness or financial support, etc. is available.

Open Arms provides mental health support for Navy, Army and Air Force personnel, veterans & their families.

They have a 24hr crisis support line as well as free and confidential counselling to partners and children of those who have served. You can call 24/7 on 1800 011 046. More information at www.openarms.gov.au.

Mates 4 Mates supports their members with psychological, physical and social barriers services. To find out more about joining Mates4Mates, accessing services or supporting our cause, fill out the form or call 1300 4 MATES (62 837) during business hours. More information at www.mates4mates.org.

If you feel the need for an advocate to make an initial contact for advocacy support, contact RSL Queensland in 134 775 and choose option 2 to go through to a staff member. They will interview you and get your details. You will then receive an email to read and agree to the Client Services Agreement.

Once you accept this you will receive a second email to complete your:

- Profile Information,
- Living Conditions, and
- Personal Wellbeing Index

Based on your answers you will get another email with useful links such as Open Arms, Mates for Mates, etc.

We encourage all members who may have current or future needs to consider an early approach as the DVA assessment process can be drawn out. Your Regimental Number and/or PMKeys number will be required so have it handy.

Even better your DVA White Card is useful as this has your DVA reference number even if you have only the basic services on it.

Welfare Assistance

Occasionally we are contacted by Sub Branch and ex-service men and women to assist with advocacy regarding the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and other agencies.



In these cases, we can direct them to the appropriate contact within the RSL.

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

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

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

There are also professional services like Australian Veteran Health Services which is run by Dr Andrew Cronin. 1300 766 206. Services offered included DVA Claims, ADF Transition Medicals & Permanent Impairment Assessments.

Hospital and Home Visits

Toowong Sub Branch continues to develop strong relationships with the Wesley and the St Andrews War Memorial Hospital.



Best wishes to Mike Muirhead who is now home recovering from knee surgery.

Remember - if you are doing it tough and require assistance, or just need a friendly ear, please get in contact with us as we are not always aware of members' situations.

Membership

We currently have 96 service members and 24 non-service (social) members being a total of 120 members.



DVA Telephone Number

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

Finances

One Volunteer is Better Than Ten Pressed Men

Our plan of action for 2023 includes the need for fundraising to keep our sub-branch finances healthy.



The sub-branch conducted ANZAC Day fundraising at a number of places and member volunteering was very good and much appreciated.

Thanks goes to the following members:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| - Tez Anderson | - Denis Luttrell |
| - Vince Atley | - Trevor Luttrell |
| - Bill Beach | - James Mackay |
| - Gary Collins | - Peter Matic |
| - Bruce Davis | - Nigel Meadows |
| - Dave Donaldson | - Mike Muirhead |
| - Wayne Fowler | - Tim Robb |
| - Peter Gow | - Maureen Souter |
| - John Hamilton | - Brian Venz |
| - Beverley Hulse | - Barry Weller |
| - George Hulse | - Bruce Woodhouse |
| - Jim Kidd | - Keith Lamb |
| - Ross Williamson | - Sharon Williamson |



David Donaldson, Peter Gow & Mike Muirhead

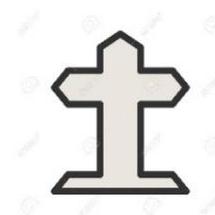
The usual raffle was also part of the fundraising activities. We proved that it is worth our sub-branch members buying lots of tickets, as the ANZAC Prize winner was Mike Muirhead.

We were successful in our grant application to the Lord Mayor's Community Fund including monetary support from both Paddington and Walter Taylor Ward offices to cover many of our costs for the ANZAC Day service including for order of service printing and flyer mailout to surrounding suburbs and traffic control services.

The recently purchased pull up banners as shown in the above photos, we have decided to purchase some ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day pull up banners which will enable us to use these at multiple locations at the same time which will hopefully also benefit our fundraising efforts.

Last Post

A reminder that the sub-branch will conduct a poppy service for any person who has served in the Australian Defence Force. They do not have to have been a member of the RSL. They are free of charge.



An RSL representative will:

- deliver a eulogy, detailing the veteran's service
- recite *The Ode*
- sound *The Last Post* and *Rouse*
- provide poppies for mourners to place on the coffin in recognition of service.

Unfortunately, we are often advised of the passing of a member by family sometime after the funeral so please make your family aware of the poppy service if it is something you would like to be part of your service.

2023-2024 Sub Branch Board

- Peter Gow – President
- Ross Williamson RFD – Deputy President
- Chris Mallcott – Vice President
- Tim Robb – Secretary
- Vince Atley – Treasurer
- David Donaldson
- Keith Lamb
- Mike Muirhead
- Dr. Stephen Thornton
- Dr. Lily Zhu

The office is 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: 0455 655 766

Email secretary@toowong.rslqld.net.au

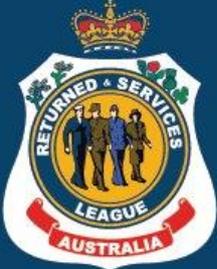
Website: www.rsltoowong.org



Toowong Memorial Park

ANZAC Day 2023

TOOWONG
SUB - BRANCH
FORMED 1919



THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS
ETERNAL VIGILANCE

RSLTOOWONG.ORG

ANZAC DAY 2023

The President of the Toowong RSL Sub-Branch, Mr Peter Gow
invites you to commemorate ANZAC Day 2023

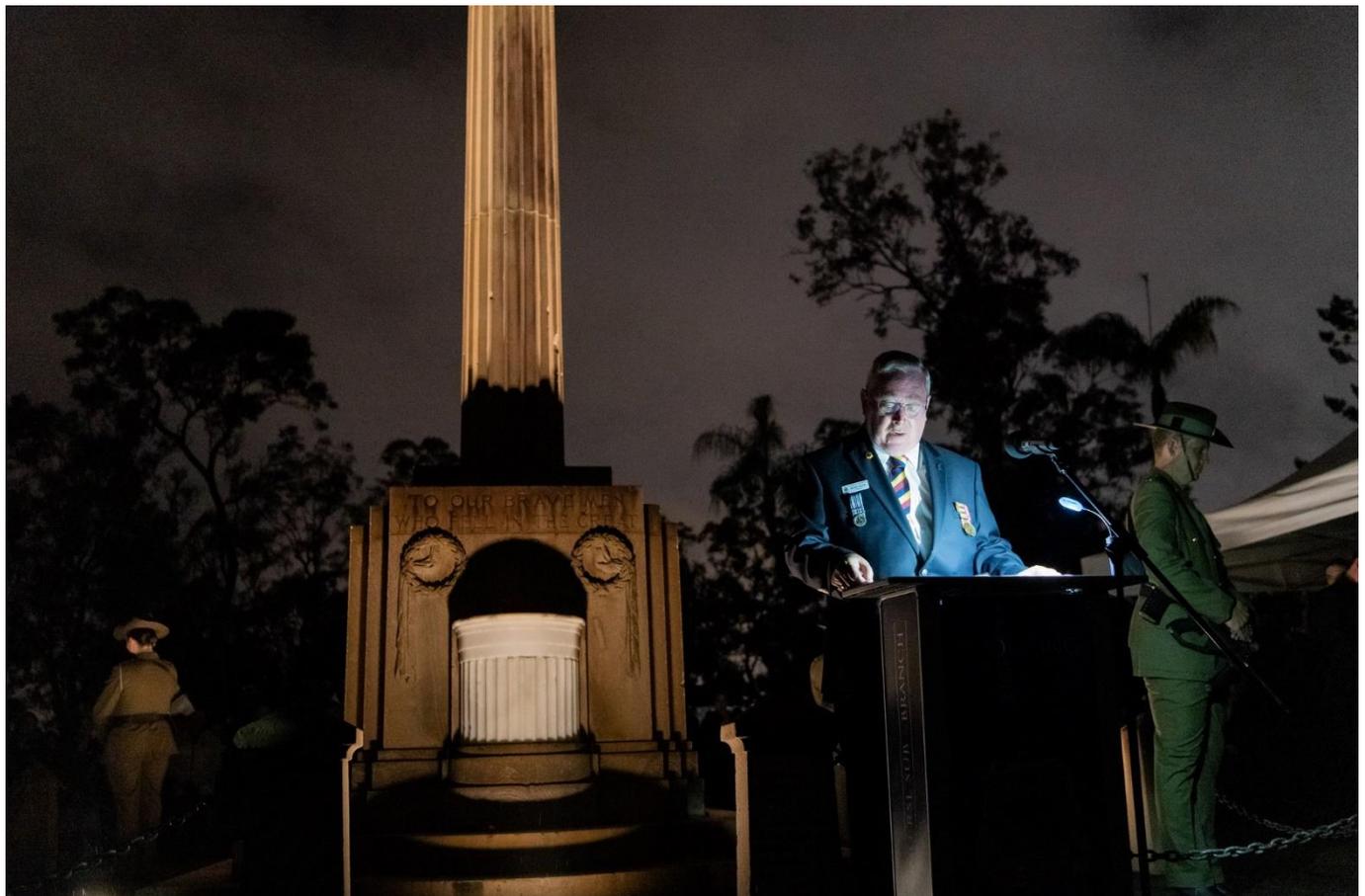
Location: Toowong Memorial Park, Sylvan Road, Toowong
Date: Tuesday, 25th April, 2023
Time: Assemble by 4:30am for 5:00am start at
one of the oldest cenotaphs in Australia

Afterwards all medal wearers and uniformed ADF personnel
will be provided with a gunfire breakfast at the West Bulldogs
Rugby Clubhouse. Other attendees are invited to a sausage
sizzle, tea and coffee in return for a gold coin donation.

Proudly sponsored by



Funding provided through the Lord Mayor's Community Fund
and ANZAC Day Trust Grants Program



President Peter Gow



QUR Commanding Officer LTCOL Scott Revell



Band



Singer Meg Kiddle & Deputy President Ross Williamson RFD





Peter Gow & LTCOL Marcus Linehan (New Zealand Defence Staff Canberra)



Indooroopilly Police

WW1 Plaque Dedication Ceremony



President Peter Gow, PM Albanese & PM Hipkins





PM Hipkins & PM Albanese



Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner



President Peter Gow



Bruce Woodhouse



President Peter Gow & Vice President Chris Mallcott

Guest Speaker Function with George Hulse OAM



George Hulse OAM & Deputy President Ross Williamson RFD



George Hulse OAM



Dynamic Duo – Tim Robb & Ross Williamson



