



RETURNED & SERVICES  
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH

# COOROY POMONA RSL SUB BRANCH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

**EDITORIAL:** During the past four years we have felt a mixture of emotions as we've remembered, commemorated & celebrated the events & armistice of World War 1. The remembrance of many of the well known battles & the loss of family members & loved ones has been a poignant reminder of the horrors & futility of war.

As members of the sub branch presented the 10 day Armistice exhibition in the Cooroy Memorial Hall these reminders were very vivid, making the Remembrance Day service even more meaningful.

It wouldn't be right to overlook the many hours of dedicated effort, over 1200 hours in fact, by Ian Whisker Air Cdre. (Ret.) AM, researching, planning & preparation of the exhibition. We also acknowledge the great team effort by many sub branch members erecting & manning the display over the 10 days in November.

Over 1500 members of the public plus many school groups viewed the display, & judging by the written comments the whole exhibition was very much appreciated.

If you didn't visit the display, you missed a very notable community event.

John Diprose

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL  
FROM YOUR SUB BRANCH



## President's Message:

Hello members, here we are almost at the end of another year and I hope this finds you well and in good spirit for the coming festive season.

It has certainly been a tumultuous year for our Sub Branch. We have seen some members unfortunately depart us and certainly had our fair share of sickness within our members and families. The passing of John Simmons left a huge void that we are still trying to fill. Our volunteers are bearing a very large load and things are not looking to quieten down anytime soon.

Since our last edition we held our annual dining in night with Marty Hunt MP as our guest speaker for the evening. He gave us a very interesting speech on his time in the police force and also talked about PTSD. A great night out was had by all that attended and we look forward to seeing many of you again next year.

Most recently we held the Armistice Exhibition that I hope most of you were able to attend. It was a fabulous display and credit to all those involved in the lead up and volunteering during the event.

This led into our Remembrance Day service, with Ian Whisker AM producing yet another moving speech for the day. Special mention to our singer Ashleigh who sang Amazing Grace acapella style, it was just beautiful.

Our last meeting of the year will be 13<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. One of our agenda items will be regarding AN-ZAC Day 2019 as some possible changes will be brought to the table. This event is coming up fast and we need to get started on the process.

Again, a huge "Thank You" goes to our volunteers. Without the time and dedication you show we would not be able to do what we do for our veterans in this community and their families.

The New Year will hopefully bring with it, Health and Happiness to us all.

I wish you all a very safe and Merry Christmas wherever you are and whoever you are spending the time with.

*Kind Regards and  
Christmas Wishes.  
Tricia Geelan  
President*



## Remembrance Day

2018



## *Sub Branch Dining In Night 13 October*

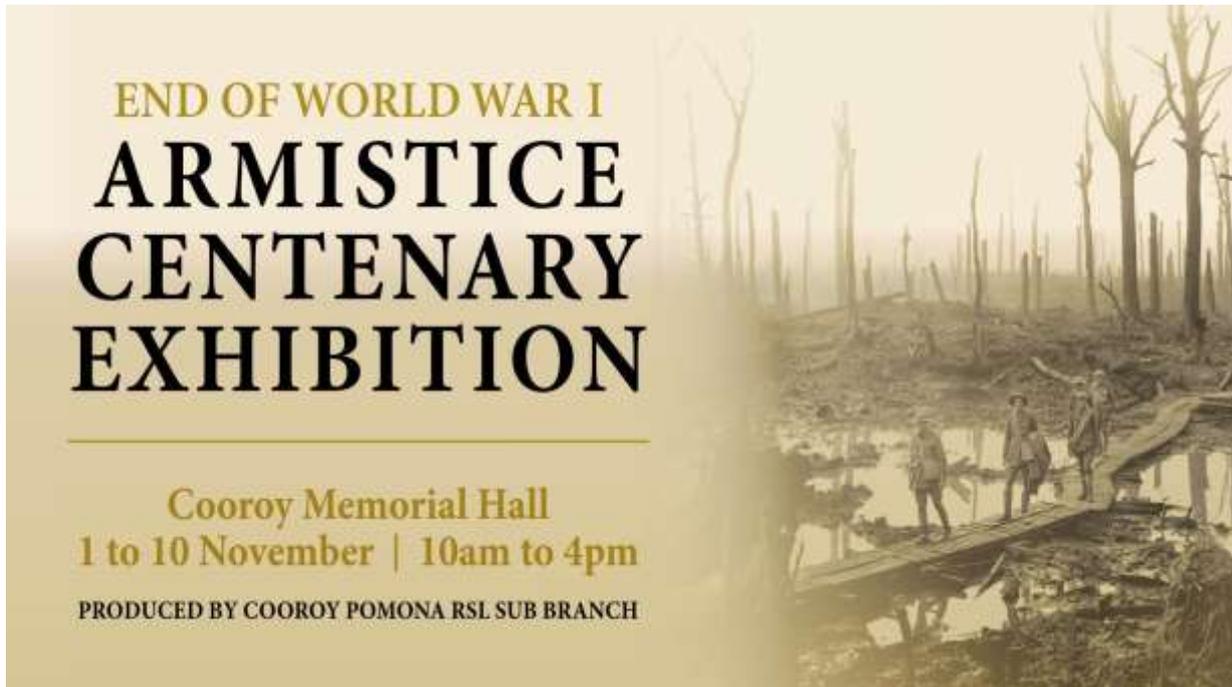


The Sub Branch Annual Dining In Night was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, which began with sherry as we were piped to the tables by Don Drysdale.

President Patricia Geelan gave everyone a warm welcome, Chaplain Shane Brigg said Grace, and then guests were treated to a sumptuous meal followed by cheese platters and coffee.

Marty Hunt MP for Nicklin was the guest speaker. He referred to his time in the Qld Police Force & the trauma of attending road traffic accidents. He spoke about his involvement with Blue Light Disco & Police Citizen's Youth Club & how important it is to look out for each other. He congratulated the RSL on the way in which they care for one another, Mates 4 Mates etc





## Cooroy Centenary of World War One Armistice Exhibition

Over the past four years the Australian Government has encouraged the community to remember the 100th anniversary of the First World War. In November 2017 the Department of Veterans Affairs [DVA] asked for expressions of interest from community groups to commemorate the end of the war and the armistice, and for applications to be sent to the local Member of the House of Representatives.

In 2016 we had commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and remembered all Australians who fought in Vietnam with a successful exhibition in Cooroy. With this example in mind the Sub Branch planned a similar exhibition to commemorate the Armistice of World War One. Our proposal was one five projects agreed for the Wide Bay electorate and it was submitted to DVA in February.

As DVA agreement was not expected until about August, research and writing had to start much earlier. The core of the exhibition was the history of the First World War and Australia's involvement and this was in the form of an illustrated narrative of more than 230 pages with over 500 photos and maps taking up 50 metres of display space. Short biographies were included of some of the 68 soldiers from Cooroy and district who died in the war.

Supporting this was a replica of a Western Front trench designed and built by Denis Thompson and a group of volunteers. John Cantwell built an excellent replica of a Lee Enfield rifle and periscope sight for the trench. The loan of soldier and nurse uniforms by the Moura Sub Branch was a great addition for the display.

**By Ian Whisker**  
Air Cdre(Ret) AM



The history of the RAN in the war was told in a series of banners from the National Maritime Museum, and local Sunshine Coast soldier stories from the Adopt-a-Digger program were a welcome asset to the display. Memorabilia from the Australian War Memorial, Tewantin Noosa Sub Branch, and from our own collection, arranged and displayed by Vern Johnston all added to the experience for both students and adult visitors.

The exhibition was officially opened by the Member for Wide Bay Mr Llew O'Brien on 1<sup>st</sup> November, and the opening was attended by the Mayor of Noosa, Tony Wellington and the President of RSL Queensland, Tony Ferris.

A general theme of the comments of visitors over the ten days was, "where is the exhibition going next" or "where can my friends and family go to see it". While there are no plans for the exhibition to "travel" it has been offered to other Sub Branches in Queensland if they wish to use the display for their own exhibition.

*If any Sub Branch members would like a copy of the text and photos of the exhibition it can be copied on to a USB Flash Drive from the computer in the Sub Branch office.*



The Bunker with WW1 Nurse & Lighthorseman



Replica WW1 Trench



Some of the 230 pages of narrative & 500 photos



Banners depicting history of RAN in WW1



Guests at the opening ceremony



Replica uniforms...nurses in training

ARMISTICE  
CENTENARY  
DISPLAY  
PHOTOS



Local MP Lew O'Brien talking with a veteran

## **Remembrance Day Centenary 2018, Western Front Tour - Trip of a life time, Written by Melissa Roberts, Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch**

In 2015 my husband Brett and I went to Gallipoli, in remembrance of Brett's ancestor who lost his life during the Gallipoli landing. After experiencing this once in a life time event, we decided to continue our pilgrimage in the steps of the AN-ZACS to honour those family members who sacrificed their life in the battlefields on the Western Front in France and Belgium. Knowing little about the great war's battle sites, dedicated memorials, and cemeteries, we decided to go on a tour, to see, experience and learn from the experts. We chose Mat McLachlan's Battlefield Tour of 9 days, of which 7 full days were spent visiting preserved battle sites, cemeteries, museums, and commemorative sites and ceremonies.

<https://battlefields.com.au>

Prior to leaving on the tour we were invited to put forward a list of our ancestors who fought at the Western Front. Our historian Tom Morgan assigned to our tour group conducted research on each person's ancestor. I put forward two sets of brothers from my maternal and paternal side. Tom presented me with a full report of all my ancestors which far exceeded my expectations, with information much more than what is recorded in their respective war records.

My ancestors two brothers Pte Arthur Penna and CPL Herbert Penna, were both killed in action at different times and places. Arthur is on the memorial wall at the Menin Gate along with over 50,000 others who died near Ypres and have never been found. Herbert is buried at the British Borre Cemetery. The itinerary was modified to ensure all cemeteries or memorials were visited so tour group members could pay their respects to their ancestors. Tom was amazing with the level of detail he could recall from; where Battalions lost men under enemy fire, battles won or lost, trench warfare and no mans land areas, to where casualty clearing stations had once been and now cemeteries remain.

Ypres, was welcoming and busy with tourists just like ourselves paying respect to the fallen leading up to the Armistice centenary. Saint Georges Memorial Church wall was covered in knitted or crocheted poppies and was breath taking. Chocolatiers had made commemorative Belgium chocolate for the 100 years of Armistice. It was standing room only at the Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony, which has been conducted by volunteers every night since 1927 with a short break during WWII. I had the honour to lay a wreath on behalf of the Bus Tour, a moving ceremony, takes place every night at 2000, and is not to be missed.

There is so much to write about from our trip so I will follow up with more in a future newsletter, However, the Brother's in Arms project should be mentioned sooner than later.

In 2006, 5 Australian soldiers were found, during road work digging to lay a gas pipe line. Johan Vandewalle, an amateur archaeologist assisted with the excavation of the bodies. The last body to be removed, through DNA testing, a year later, was confirmed to be Pte John Hunter from Nanango, Qld. In 2007 a remarkable story unfolded, told by John's ancestors, John's brother Jim had buried his own brother, carefully wrapping his brother in a ground sheet and laid pointing toward home to Australia. After the war ended in 1918, Jim went to

search for his brother to bring him home, however the the burial position was not recognised so his brother could not be found. You can continue to read the full story here.

<https://brothersinarmsmemorial.org/wp/story/>

Since finding the 5 Australians, and hearing the story of the two brothers, Johan and a team of WWI enthusiast have created a not for profit association to raise funds to build a memorial to commemorate those brothers who were lost to the great war. The memorial also provides recognition to families who grieved the loss of many fallen sons or brothers. The project is called The Brothers in Arms Memorial project.

Johan is also the owner of Café de Dreve where we stopped for lunch and we were given first hand the story of the Brothers in Arms. During our visit we could see the foundation of the memorial, and the replica of the future Brother in Arms bronze statue. The bronze statue will be completed once funds have been raised. For further information or to give a donation on this great discovery and story go to <https://brothersinarmsmemorial.org/wp/story/>

**On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November this year, at the Australian War Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, the cold weather and light rain did not deter a moving ceremony. I had the privilege and honour to represent Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub Branch to lay a wreath in memory of our fallen. My husband accompanied me laying a wreath on behalf of our families. Lest We Forget**



Replica bronze statue "Brother in Arms"



Poppies outside St George Memorial Church, Ypres



Large screen at Australian War Memorial



Café de Dreve's museum of Australian memorabilia



Melissa & Brett laid a wreath on behalf of Cooroy Pomona Sub Branch at Villers Bretonneux



In Memory of Australian Imperial Force at Villers Bretonneux

## TRANSPORT TOPICS

Welcome to the December issue of our newsletter. Your transport team since our last newsletter has logged 9,522 kilometres carried 347 passengers and accounted for 484 driver hours. The editor has requested that I keep this report brief so brief it shall be. **Transport will be ceasing on the 20/12/2018 and recommencing on the 08/01/2019.** Medical appointments may be available over these dates subject to driver availability.

On behalf of your transport team, Denis Thompson, Tony Kershaw, John Dillon, Robin Taylor and Bob Else we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Transport Officer Denis Thompson

## PENSIONS.

A busy time for the pensions department since our last newsletter. We currently have 17 members with VEA claims, 4 members with DRCA claims and 1MRCA claim all awaiting decisions at DVA. 3 claims for the special rate disability pension have been approved and those members have received their Gold Cards, also 2 DRCA claims have been approved just awaiting the compensation details. We are currently working on 4VEA claims and 3 DRCA claims those will be filed once final medical reports are received.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
The Pensions Team.



*Pictured: A typical Monday morning meeting discussing & reviewing pensions & welfare issues.*

*Gary Manton (pensions) is currently on compassionate leave.*

*The Sub Branch Executive also attend, keeping the team current on policy changes & finance.*

Photo by Leo Wiles

## HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

Another year comes to a close. A very busy one. The team continue to visit patients in Eden Rehabilitation Hospital every week, asking if we can be of any assistance or just a chat to let them know they are not forgotten. A lot of these patients are away from family and friends so a visit from us is very well received.

The residents of Kabara Aged Care facility welcome our weekly visits which help brighten up their lives a little bit. Sadly we have farewelled a few of the residents this year with Jim Dunstan and Stewie Leitch being World War Two Veterans and also Joan MacMillan who was the widow of a World War Two veteran. We had many memorable talks with these residents. There are still plenty of people to see and talk to with up to fifteen residents visited every Monday.

The Monday morning phone calls are progressing well with Nick and Greg doing the bulk of the work, keeping in touch with veterans and the elderly in our community. A service that is well received by all.

On a sad note this year seven Poppy services were carried out for members of the sub branch with attendances at other funerals as well. The families of the deceased members were very appreciative of our involvement in their services.

If you do know of anyone who is in hospital or planning a stay please inform the sub branch so that a visit can be arranged. I hope everyone stays healthy so that this is not required. Finally I would like to say on behalf of the welfare team a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.

Tony Kershaw  
Hospital Visitor.



## Membership Report

Membership renewal invitations for 2019 have been despatched. We remind “Life Subscribers” that;

1. Your Sub Branch card is a permanent card and is only replaced if lost or damaged.
2. You will need to collect your free club card from the club’s reception desk if you do not have one.

Some members in the past have had some difficulties gaining entry to other RSL clubs using their Sub Branch card, however as we have an excellent membership system here of two (2) cards, they were admitted on production of their club card.

We now wish to bring to your attention part of the correspondence received as regards to “Club Entry Rules for RSL and Defence personnel 14/12/2011”.

- Legislation granting current serving and ex-service Australian Defence Force personnel entry to RSL and services clubs as ‘honorary members’ without the need to ‘sign-in’ is now in force in New South Wales, as well as Victoria and Queensland.
- Under the newly introduced NSW provisions, ‘service members’ of the RSL and current serving Australian Defence Force personnel (including Reservists who also carry the same card) are granted honorary membership status for the day they attend the club on producing either their Defence Force ID card, or for ex-servicemen and women their membership card of the Returned & Services League Australia, which is now uniform across the country. It will be a requirement that members of the RSL also produce evidence of membership of at least one RSL or services club.
- The new rule applies to RSL, Ex-services, Memorial, Legion or other similar registered clubs, or a registered club that has objects similar to, or is amalgamated with, an RSL or kindred club. The recognition of this honorary status will bring NSW into line with similar requirements. Provisions are a part of a wider raft of legislation passed under the second phase of the Memorandum of Understanding: Strong Clubs: Stronger Communities agreement signed by the new State Government and the NSW Club Industry in the lead-up to this year’s State Election.
- The NSW provisions were introduced by the new State Government in recognition of the service by our current Defence and ex-service men and women to their country. It will now allow the RSL and Defence Force Members easy access to RSL and services clubs as they travel around the state and in Victoria and Queensland. The new legislation carries forward the previous provision allowing such ‘honorary members’ to sign in their family and friends.

### A book for recommended reading;

*“The Silent Invasion of Australia” Author – Clive Hamilton Re: China's Influence in Australia. You can borrow this book from of your local library.*

### Quotes for this Newsletter;

*“When you pay for experience be sure you keep the receipt”.*

*“If a person deceives you once, shame on him/her. If twice - Shame on you”.*

A Happy Christmas to you all and may 2019 turn out the way you wish for!

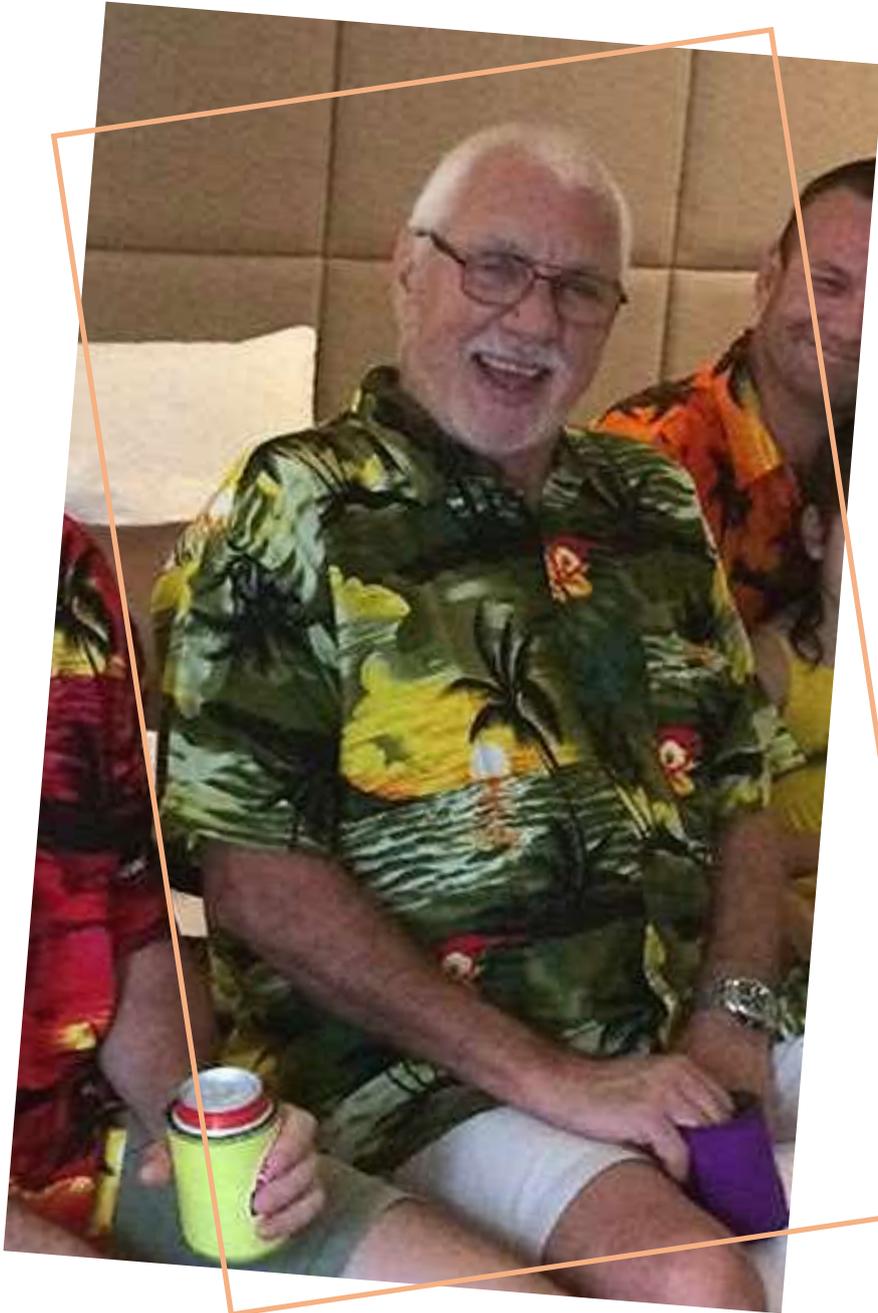
Greg Holmes

Membership Officer

### FUN FACTS!!

1. You can't see your ears without a *mirror!*
2. *You can't count your hair..*
3. *You can't breathe through your nose with your tongue out.*
4. *You just tried no 3!!*





Our R el axed  
Minister  
F or  
Tr anspor t

(Upholding the law.....  
Note his empty stubbie  
holder....)



# DECEMBER CENTREFOLD



## Dates to Remember !!

- Christmas Morning Tea for Seniors ... Wednesday 5th December 10 am
- Christmas Lights Tour .... Check at reception for times
- Sub Branch Meeting ... Thursday 13th December 4pm  
(be there! This is an important meeting!)
- Sub Branch A.G.M. .... Sunday 3rd February 9am SHARP
- 1st Sub Branch Meeting 2019 ... Sunday 3rd February after the AGM



Do your medals need re-mounting?

### Medal Mounting Service

Also available...

Replica Medals

Miniature Medals

Ribbon Bars

**CONTACT... GREG**

phone: 5482 9523 mb: 0408 829 520  
email: [luw@bigpond.com](mailto:luw@bigpond.com)

### ARE YOU NEEDING

### *A Justice of the Peace?*

Monday	Noosa Magistrates Court	9am—4pm
	Pomona Community House	2pm-4pm 5485 2427
Tuesday	Pomona Court	9.30am— 12.30pm
	Noosa Library Eumundi Rd	9.30am-noon
	Noosa Civic	1pm—4pm
	Cooroy Library	12.30pm—4pm
Wednesday	Coolum Library Park St	9.30am-noon
	Noosa Court	9am-4pm
	Pomona Magistrates Court	2pm-4pm 5485 1385
Thursday	Cooroy Library	9am-noon
	Noosa Fair (Junction)	10am-2pm
	Noosa Civic	9.30am-12.30pm
	Pomona Magistrates Court	2pm-4pm
Friday	Noosa Magistrates Court	9am-4pm
	Noosa Civic	9.30am-12.30pm
	Pomona Community House	1pm-3pm 5485 2427
	Noosa Library Eumundi Rd	9.30am-12



The "Armistice Centenary" was painted & donated for the 1st prize by Beth Diprose

### *Results of the Armistice Centenary Raffle*

The 1st Prize winner was.....Tony Kershaw!

2nd Prize :Marion Dickson *Bear*

3rd Prize: Lyn Bunney *Lighthorseman*

4th Prize: Ian

5th Prize: J Olley

6th Prize: Moira



We wish you all a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy & Healthy 2019



ATTENTION ALL SUB BRANCH MEMBERS

# SUB BRANCH AGM

**SUNDAY**

**3 FEBRUARY 2019**



**0900 hrs**

**SHARP**

Location: RSL Club Cooroy, Maple Street

There will be no Sub Branch meeting in January  
The next meeting will be held immediately after the  
AGM on 3 February 2019

Out of the membership of 250 only 20 –25 members attend  
our monthly Sub Branch meetings.



We need more input  
from all members.

