



## LEST WE FORGET

“The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance”

# IPSWICH RAILWAY RSL SUB BRANCH

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## Newsletter June 2022

### President's Report

I'll start this report by letting you know that at the RSL State Congress over 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of June, the new RSL Constitution was voted on and we will now have a State Board that is skills based rather than the current set up where the State Board is simply made up of the District Presidents.

The new structure will be covered in detail later in the newsletter. Enough to say that this is a significant step to ensuring the future of the RSL in Queensland will remain in the hands of RSL members and we will not have outside Directors imposed on us as has happened in other states who did not react to the changing demands of modern governance rules.

So the year marches on and, as if Covid wasn't enough, there's now a virulent strain of the dreaded lurgie about so I hope you and yours are staying warm and healthy and have had your flu shots.

Looking back over the past couple of months, our Sub branch has been very active in the community. In March, a number Sub branch members & partners attended a luncheon at the club to celebrate International Women's Day. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, particularly our Mayor, who interrupted her vital flood response duties, to join us for a short time at the IWD lunch, wearing her very fashionable Hi Viz work kit.

Shortly after, Sub branch Directors also attended an update from our funds manager, David Dobbrick of Dobbrick Financial Services, as to how our managed fund is progressing. It was a very positive briefing and notwithstanding the ongoing volatility of world share markets, our holding remains very healthy with annual returns in the order of 5%.

Later that day, Spike, Secretary Peter and Directors Shan, Reg manned an information booth at the Workshops Rail Museum as part of the Welcome to RAAF Base event to show newly posted RAAF members and their families what services are available to them in Ipswich that could support their service needs.



*A likely looking mob at the Amberley welcome day at the Workshops with the Senior ADF Officer Group Captain Iain Carty. He's the good looking bloke in the uniform.*

Sub branch members involved in direct welfare support also had their First Aid skills updated in March when they attended a first aid course at Railway House. The course was conducted by Peter Felton Jnr, a well respected lecturer in First Aid and associated fields. The course was great and I am sure all benefitted from the experience.

On Monday 21st March Secretary Peter and I visited sub branch member Edgar Owen in St

Andrew's Hospital to present to him a State RSL certificate to celebrate his 100th birthday. Sadly, Edgar passed away shortly after, before we could award him his certificate recognizing his 60 years plus membership of the RSL

The Sub branch also held our Community Engagement breakfast in March, an annual event to say thank you to fellow ESOs, community group representatives, senior defence personnel, business leaders, health and education providers and other individuals who we liaise with. It was a great success with almost 60 guests in attendance.

#### *Part of the attendance at the Community brekky*



During the breakfast we were informed that Mr Samuel McClelland, a nursing student at USQ, had been selected as the recipient of our USQ nursing scholarship for 2022. In May, Peter and I attended the Springfield campus of the University of Southern Queensland for the presentation of the scholarship to Samuel, who was most appreciative of the scholarship as were his parents. I invited Samuel to attend one of our sub branch meetings as soon as he can fit it into his schedule.

On 20th April Secretary Peter and I attended a morning tea at the Memorial Gardens in honour of Mr Ralph Edwards who turned 103 the next day. Mr Edwards is the oldest member of the Ipswich Sub Branch and we presented him with a birthday certificate from Railway Sub branch.



*Mayor Teresa presenting Ralph with his certificate.*

Our Anzac Commemorative Services were again well supported this year and will be covered later the newsletter. However, I wish to pass on my personal thanks to all those members who represented the Sub branch at schools and other community groups for Anzac services

Our badge selling in the leadup to Anzac Day was a great success. My thanks to Heather Dainer, Ray, Spike and John King for setting up the booths on each day of selling and taking them down in the afternoons. The Board thanks all you special sub branch members who manned these booths and helped boost funds for our important welfare programs.

On Sunday 22nd May my wife Jeanette and I were guests at The Gathering, a festival of pipe bands, dancers, other performers at the Ipswich Turf Club where we were thanked by the Thistle Pipe band officials for the financial support we have given them over many years.

On a sad note, in addition to the passing of Edgar Owen, I also conducted a poppy service for Raymond Green who was a member of our sub branch for many years. I would add that Edgar, along with 28 of his mates from the Pine Mountain area who served in WW2, will also be recognized by having their names included on a new plaque to be attached to the existing WW1 honour stone at Pine Mountain.

I'll conclude my report on a couple of more cheery notes, firstly, welcome to new members Rob O'Brien, Jaiden Robson, Isaac Zylden, Will Durston, Jamie Freeman (transfer) Craig

Holliday, John Lyddiard (transfer) and Len Mahon.

Finally, going back to our 86<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner, it was also my great pleasure to offer my sincere congratulations to those members who were recently awarded their certificates recognising their 30 years of RSL membership. Your commitment to the league does you great credit fellas. I also wish to thank our State MP Jim Madden for his wonderful speech honouring the Sub branch and proposing the toast to all who went before us, thanks Jim, your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.



*Jim Madden proposing the toast to the Sub branch. And below, new member Rob O'Brien being welcomed by John and presented with his Sub branch polo shirt*



Until next time

Yours in comradeship  
John Dredge  
President.



## Sub branch news

**Sub branch Anniversary.** Our 86th anniversary dinner on Saturday 30th April was a great success. Great food, good company and wonderful entertainment. A highlight of the night was the presentation of **RSL Life membership to Reg Bond** by District President Les Nash, pictured below.



Reg has been a stalwart on the sub branch committee for over 10 years and his Life Membership recognizes the outstanding contribution he has made to the RSL in general and the Ipswich Railway RSL Sub branch in particular, congratulations Reg, a job well done.

Congratulations also to Bevin Shiplock, Rhod Bell, Warren Cummins, John McDonnell, Tom Blair, Wayne Howarth, Richard Healy and Keith Fraser on their award of their 30 years RSL membership.

*Here's Warren and Rhod, receiving their awards.*



**Anzac Commemorations.** On Saturday evening 23rd April responding to an invite from the Ipswich Bulls Football Club, President John along with Garry Rule, a bugler from the Salvation Army, conducted a pre-match Anzac Day service at Sutton Park before the commencement of the A Grade men's game.



*President John at the pre game Service.*

This invitation allowed John the opportunity to share the meaning of Anzac to an audience who otherwise might not get to participate in such a service. John reported that all patrons applauded the ceremony and he thanked Nicole Woodward secretary of the club for the kind invitation.

**And on the 25th.** Well, what a great day we had on Anzac Day. The good Lord held off with the heavy rain for the sub branch's Anzac Day service. The rain did not deter the commitment by all to honour this sacred day. Our hosts at the Workshops Museum advised that we had approximately 1500 attend the service.



*Marching on at the Workshops*

The later Ipswich City Service at the memorial gardens was also well attended. **Sub branch Presidents John and Michael of Ipswich Sub branch at the Soldiers Memorial Hall after the Ipswich Service.**



We were also represented by Sub branch members at a range of school services with Peter Sutton at Brassall SS, David Nicholas Ipswich Adventist School Brassall and IGGS, Ray, Peter, John and Reg ISHS, John at Karalee SS, John King at Nolanvil, Bob Stumer at North Ipswich SS, Rod Powell at Silkstone SS, Spike at Westmac, and John King at Brassall Aged Care. Thanks to all for your attendance.



**President John and Club GM Natalia also laid a wreath at the new All Conflicts memorial** that has been installed at the Club. The ISA memorial has also been relocated to compliment this new memorial area at CSI



**And on Anzac How Good Are Anzac biscuits**

*An elderly man lay dying in his bed. While suffering the agonies of impending death, he suddenly smelled the aroma*

*of his favourite Anzac bikkies wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning on the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort, gripping the railing with both hands, he crawled downstairs. With laboured breath, he leaned against the door-frame, gazing into the kitchen. Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven, for there, spread out upon waxed paper on the kitchen table were literally hundreds of his favourite Anzac bikkies. Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of love from his devoted Aussie wife of sixty years, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man? Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself towards the table, landing on his knees in rumped posture. His aged and withered hand trembled towards a biscuit at the edge of the table, when it was suddenly smacked by his wife with a spatula \*\*\*\* off" she said, "they're for the funeral."*

**Welfare report - ATDP Training.** Owen & Susan are Swan continuing their training, Geoff Freestone is currently off line with a dodgy wrist (get well soon Geoff ) and David Nicholas has returned after his own health issues and is now well into the Membership Register update project.

**Live Life Alarms.** Hopefully, everybody who has a Live Life Alarm sourced through the Sub branch have returned the alarm for a replacement that has been configured to the new Telstra 4G network. If not, please contact the Sub branch office as we've already had one case where a 3G alarm did not activate. No new Doctor's certificate is required, it's just a straight change over. Any the new applications are still processed in the usual manner under the Charitable object fund (COF) for referral to district.

**Outings Coffee.** Just a heads up that our Wellbeing team will shortly be commencing small group coffee outings. Contact the Sub branch office on 28008028.

## In Other News

*Amberley Open Day. The Australian Defence Force will open the gates of RAAF Base Amberley to the public for the first time since 2008 this October as part of its 2022 Ipswich Amberley Air Tattoo.*

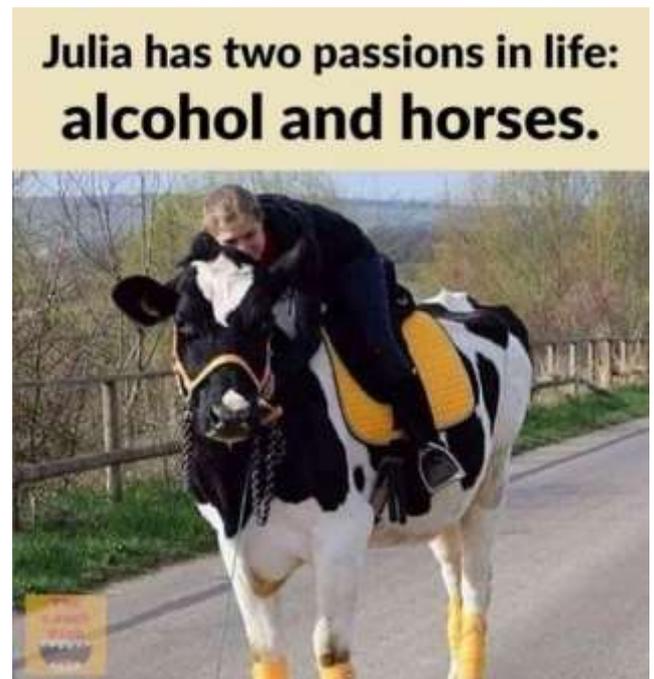


*The Air Tattoo, run in partnership with the Ipswich City Council, will take place on Saturday, 29 October and Sunday, 30 October, Defence has announced.*

The event will involve flypasts over the Base throughout the weekend, organised by the Royal Australian Air Force, as well as static aircraft displays on the ground. Other items, including military equipment from across the ADF, will also be on display throughout the weekend. Tickets for the event will be released for purchase later this year, however, non-ticket holders will still be able to catch a glimpse of the aerial displays at one of the multiple designated viewing hubs in Ipswich, Springfield, and Rosewood, free of charge.

**Bus Trip to Caboolture Sports Club.** We had great feedback on the recent bust trip to Caboolture Sports Club, the first such outing since the Covid restrictions were lifted. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume our regular schedule of trips as they are greatly appreciated, particularly by those who have limited ability to get out and about. If you are aware of a destination that might be of interest to our members, please let us know at the Sub branch office so that we can investigate.

**Sub Branch BBQ** By the time this edition hits the mail boxes, we will have already held our second Sub branch BBQ for the year. Again, these events are a wonderful opportunity to get our isolated folks out for some vital socialization. If you or any Sub branch member has transport problems and cannot get to one of these events, please let us know and we will arrange transport free of charge to ensure you can participate. **Next Sub branch BBQ will be held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October**



**Sub-Branch Ties.** Sub-Branch RSL ties will be available for purchase at “Railway House” during office hours. No cash is kept on the premises and transactions can be completed by card.



**Upcoming Events.** In recent times the Sub branch has been engaging with other ESOs particularly those that attract contemporary Ex Service personnel, such as Young Veterans.

**Young Veterans are particularly active** in the community and they have invited veterans of all generations to participate in their upcoming events.

These include:

**FRI 01 JUL-MON 04 JUL** – Banks Creek Retreat Camping Trip. All veterans and families are invited to join us for a weekend under the stars and around the firepit. If you do not have camping supplies, Young Veterans can loan out tents and stretchers. Catered group meal Sat 02 Jul by in house chef, David. To book, email [yvipswich@outlook.com](mailto:yvipswich@outlook.com)

**SAT 02 JUL** – Coffee Catch Up, 9.30am Banks Creek Retreat Coffee Catch Up will be held at Banks Creek Retreat. BYO chairs, and coffee. Young Veterans will have some sachet café style coffee available onsite. Plenty of room for the kids to run around. Due to this being held on BCR, you must RSVP to [yvipswich@outlook.com](mailto:yvipswich@outlook.com) as a day trip booking needs to be done.

**SUN 31 JUL** – Team Young Veterans PARK2PARK, 9Aam Bill Paterson Oval . Young Veterans Ipswich will once again be submitting a team for Park2Park. We will be accepting registrations for the 5km walk and 5km run (conditions apply). To register, please email [yvipswich@outlook.com](mailto:yvipswich@outlook.com) for more information.

**SUN 30 OCT** – Halloween 2022 TBC

**SAT 25 MAR 2023** – 5th Anniversary of Young Veterans Ipswich

Enquires Email: [yvipswich@outlook.com](mailto:yvipswich@outlook.com)



**DVA White Card.** You may be eligible for a White Card to cover treatment for any mental health condition if you have at least one day of continuous full-time service (CFTS) with the ADF; or are a reservist and have completed disaster relief service, border protection service, or were involved in a serious service-related

training accident. If you would like to discuss, contact the Sub-Branch Office on 2800 8028 or your Wellbeing Team direct on 0499 33 22 08

**Our History.** Recently Rob Shiels, senior curator of the Workshops Rail Museum, presented to the Sub branch railway plates & other metal signs to recognize the important connection between the railway workshops & our sub branch. One of the plates bore the date 1936, the year our sub branch received its charter. They will hold pride of place in Railway House.



*President John, Committee member Shan with Rob with the "1936" Plates.*

**Badge Sales.** As reported by Pres John above, our badge sales during Anzac week were simply outstanding. The introduction of Electronic Funds transfer technology (EFT) Early indications are that the introduction of electronic funds transfer (EFT) played a significant role in achieving record sales. We also acknowledge the support of Bunnings that allows us to utilize their store at West Ipswich for our vital fundraising activities.



*Badge selling stalwarts Geof Kleinig and Bruce Davis on our stall at Bunnings West Ipswich.*

We will be doing some fine tuning for a similar campaign in the leadup to Remembrance Day. President John will be hosting a special “thankyou” morning tea for our members and friends who sold badges in the lead up to Anzac Day on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of July.

### State RSL News

**Our Constitution** - Following the vote for the new constitution at the State Congress, the existing Board will stand down on 24<sup>th</sup> of September and be replaced by the new “skills based” Board.

**Current Structure.** The current Board of RSL QLD comprises 13 Directors. These are the State President, Deputy President and State Vice President. These three Directors are elected for three year terms by the members of the RSL. The remaining 10 Directors are the 10 District Presidents who are appointed to the Board, regardless of their expertise or qualifications.

This structure was found to be wanting by the ACNC in terms of Governance requirements, and they recommended a change to the structure to have Directors who have broad formal qualifications and practice skill in a range of areas such as finance, legal and corporate governance. This is the change that required an amendment to the Constitution which has now been passed.

**New Structure.** Under the new structure, the State Board will consist of eight Directors. The three currently elected Board members, President, Deputy and Vice President will remain. Four new Directors, who will have the required skill set (as yet to be finally determined), will be elected by the RSL members. The eighth Director will be one of the 10 District Presidents who will form a new “Council of District Presidents”.

***All candidates for the RSL State Board will have to be Ex Service members of RSL QLD.***

**Indigenous Memorial Unveiling.** 30 May marked an extra special occasion at ANZAC Square in Brisbane, with the unveiling of the first memorial in Queensland to honour Indigenous soldiers. The bronze sculpture was designed by Wakka Wakka artist John Smith Gumbula and

sculptor Liam Hardy. It features Indigenous soldiers representing Army, Air Force, Navy and Medics, and dancers representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture.



***Premier Anna unveils the Indigenous Memorial in Anzac square***

The memorial is a collaborative effort spanning the past decade, driven by the members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dedicated Memorial Committee Queensland (ATSIDMCQ) and President Aunty Lorraine Hatton OAM. The idea to establish a memorial at ANZAC Square was started by Dr Dale Kerwin, a professor at Griffith University, and Rick Gross, a Minjerribah man from Stradbroke Island who served in Vietnam and was a member of the stolen generation.

While some won't see the final memorial standing proud in ANZAC Square, the legacy they have created can now contribute to a national journey of healing, in particular for those remaining Indigenous Veterans who served during a time when they were not recognised as citizens. Attendees to the unveiling described the moment that the cover was lifted from the statue as emotionally overwhelming, bringing back painful memories while at the same time bringing a renewed sense of hope for the next generation. You can view the statue in ANZAC Square, Brisbane City.



**Australian Army  
Reservists  
Employment  
Transition Study**

Researchers from  
Swinburne  
University of

Technology are conducting a study into how Australian Army reserve soldiers draw on external narratives to re-establish their identity within the civilian workplace after overseas operational duty

The researchers would like to hear from current or former Army Reserve personnel who have served overseas as a reservist, are between the ages of 21 and 60 years, are or have been in the civilian workforce in any capacity (contract, casual, part-time, full-time) for at least three years and be available for a one-hour private interview at a CBD veteran centre in Melbourne, Sydney, or Brisbane.

Serving or former Reservists will be asked to complete a written questionnaire that helps us understand your background followed by one-hour one-on-one interview. Results from this study will help researchers develop a better understanding of how reservists renegotiate their identity when returning to civilian employment after serving overseas on full-time duty. Please contact the Principle Investigator, Mark Schroffel, by emailing [mschroffel@swin.edu.au](mailto:mschroffel@swin.edu.au)

## District RSL News

Our Sub branch was represented by President John at the recent Moreton District AGM, at the Soldiers Memorial Hall, where the positions of District President & District Vice President were opened for election. The incumbents Les Nash and Ross Wadsworth were the only nominees as President & Vice President respectively, hence both gentlemen were elected. Spike, who is also a District Vice President will continue as his position was not up for re election.

## Club News



**Biggest Morning Tea.** Wednesday 18th April a number of Sub branch members plus partners enjoyed the biggest morning tea in hosted by the Club support of the Cancer Council of Australia, raising over \$1000.



*Stan and Pam Dick enjoying the fare at the Biggest Morning Tea.*

**Financial Support to the Veteran and wider Community.** In addition to providing the major source of funds for the RSL to operate its activities in Ipswich, CSI also makes a significant donation to other Ex Service organisations and community groups.

Other ESOs will be invited to participate so that the charity dollar can be spread as wide as possible in our community.



*Here's the YVs David and Mark receiving their latest cheque from CSI Board members Dave, John, Bruce, Paul and Shan.*

In March, Railway Sub branch and Ipswich Board members and partners joined the Ipswich Sub branch Board at a function to honour Ray's service to the CSI board both as a long serving member as well as well respected President. State MP Jim Madden, Mayor Teresa, Ipswich Councillors & other invited dignitaries including members of RSL Clubs QLD, and HCS senior management also attended. Jim Madden, MP, Club President John, General Manager Natalia present Pay with his much deserved award recognising his contribution to CSI.



*Thanks Ray!!!*

### **Club Community Engagement**

Sponsorship. As part of the afore mentioned community support, CSI also sponsors community sporting bodies such as the Ipswich city Bulls soccer club, the eagles Aussie rules club, the Stingers and Strollers cricket club.



*Club GM Natalia and President John, Secretary Spike and Director Greg Owens and Councillor Russell Milligan welcome the coaching staff of the Ipswich City Bulls to the Club*

**Last word.** At the recent State Congress, our new State president Stephen Day, DSC, AM, noted that the core of RSL activity can be summed up in three words, **Care, Commemorations and Camaraderie.** We at Ipswich Railway should be proud that these three words are at the forefront of our activity. And on the subject of Commemorations, our next event is Vietnam Veterans Day, and while this event is sponsored and hosted by the Club for all veterans, Railway has always had strong representation at this Service and I hope we continue to do so.

Regards to All  
Spike  
Editor

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### **The Nursing Home Disaster Solution**

*If you are a senior citizen, can no longer take care of yourself and need Long-Term Care, but the government says there is no nursing home care available for you, what do you do? You may opt for Medicare G Program*

*The Program gives anyone 75 or older a gun and one bullet. You may then rob a bank. This means you will be sent to prison for probably the rest of your life where you will receive three meals a day, a roof over your head, central heating and air conditioning, cable TV, a library, and all the health care you need. Need new teeth? No problem. Need glasses? That's great. Need a hearing aid, new hip, knees, kidney, lungs, sex change, or heart? They are all covered! As an added bonus, your kids can come and visit you at least as often as they do now!*

*Three meals a day, a roof over your head, central heating and air conditioning, cable TV, a library, and all the health care you need. Need new teeth? No problem. Need glasses? That's great. Need a hearing aid, new hip, knees, kidney, lungs, sex change, or heart? They are all covered! As an added bonus, your kids can come and visit you at least as often as they do now!*