



# IPSWICH RAILWAY RSL

## SUB BRANCH NEWSLETTER



### DECEMBER 2019

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**Honour Stone**

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### HEADLINES

**2020 SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> OF JANUARY AND MUST BE PAID BY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO BE FINACIAL (Note, members must be financial to vote at the AGM).**

**RAILWAY RSL SUB BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7.30 PM FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020.**

**THE AGM OF CLUB SERVICES IPSWICH, YOUR CLUB, 7.30 PM THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

#### Presidents report

As the headlines above indicate, we'll soon to be holding our AGM. I have recently been advised by our Assistant Secretary Reg Bond, that he will reluctantly be resigning from his position on the Sub branch board as of the AGM. This means that in addition to our normal rotational election and two new additional Board members, (more on that later) we will have to find a new Assistant Secretary. But firstly, a few words about Reg.



the years.

Reg (pictured left) has been a very, valuable Executive member not only with taking the minutes, but for his work and commitment to a range of projects over

Perhaps, his most significant recent role was his involvement in the development and completion of the **All Conflicts Memorial** at the Workshops. His common sense contribution to the management of the Sub branch over many years, has been greatly appreciated by his fellow Board members. Thanks Reg, you will be missed around the table.

Back to the AGM, we need new blood and ideas, so please don't sit and watch from the sidelines, if you think you can make a contribution, put your hand up and have a say in the direction of your RSL.

Moving on, it is with great pleasure that I can let all Sub branch members know that Ipswich Railway RSL Sub branch has finally secured our own home. After five years since first setting this as a goal, in January 2020, the Railway RSL Sub branch Office will be relocating from our store room in the Club, to a new HQ located at **31 Flint Street North Ipswich.**

The “new” Administration Office is actually a refurbished early 20<sup>th</sup> century three bedroom house that has been fitted out as a business premises, so establishing our HQ in this building will require only minor adjustments.

We have spoken with an architect to help design the layout so as to accommodate our office layout professionally, to meet our needs into the future. Once we have settled in and sorted out our stuff, which is currently stored in mine and Spike’s houses and sheds, we’ll hold an official opening to mark this new chapter in the Railway Sub branch’s history.

Monthly Sub branch and Board meetings will continue to be held in the Long Tan room at CSI as that is the only suitable venue to hold meetings of that size in comfort, not to mention access to amenities, airconditioning and parking.

The Sub branch (SB) has continued its social engagement with the other SBs within the Moreton District (MD). MD has been encouraging SBs, particularly the country folks, to host monthly “sausage sizzles” where members from all MD Sub branches, along with their partners, can meet and get to know other MD members they would not normally get to see, other than at formal MD quarterly meetings.



***Not a sausage sizzle, but a get together at Esk Sub branch.***

November was our turn and while these events are usually held at the host SBs “home”, because we don’t have one, we hosted over 100 visitors to lunch at CSI on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, with the Peters, Dixon and Sutton cooking the steaks and snags on the deck of the Legends Bar, while the rest of us enjoyed the airconditioned comfort inside. Thanks fellas.

On an annoying note, our office computer has been down for a couple of weeks with a faulty modem. After many sessions with Telstra they

finally sent a technician to install a new modem. Then I had to get Sharp out to match it up with the copier. So, if you have been trying to contact us, apologies for ignoring you but it was a matter beyond our control and we couldn’t tell you about the problem. We’re now back on line.

Badge sales during remembrance week went as well as could be expected, but it’s getting harder to get people to part with their hard earned. As always, I want to thank all volunteers who assisted in this task and special thanks Lynn Chapman for looking after the sales at Bunnings.

As you can see by the calendar, it is that time of the year when we plan for our spending for next year. We held our annual planning meeting at CSI on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, (next December it will be in our own home in Flint street). More on that later. Thank you to Charlie, Peter and John, who joined in with the Board and helped to formulate this critical document.

In representational activities recently, John, Michael and myself attended the Naval Cadets end of year parade, while Spike represented the Sub Branch at 1Squadron’s open day at RAAF Amberley. Michael attended Bremer High School while I attended Ipswich State High to present awards to the two students who were selected as recipients of our annual bursary awards. Sub branch members also attended Karalee, Tivoli, North Ipswich, and Brassall State Schools and St Josephs Primary School



***Our Cadets supporting the Sub branch on Anzac Day.***

Reg’s resignation means we will need a replacement Assistant Secretary on the Board come the 2020 AGM, so don’t be shy, please give some thought about getting involved with the running of our Sub branch, we need fresh blood and ideas. More on that and the AGM later.

Congratulations to Spike for finally achieving his RSL Life Membership. I can now get his name on the board.



Finally, as we draw towards the end of another year, as I and June wish all Railway RSL sub branch members, their families and friends the best wishes for Christmas and the new year, I would also ask all to spare a moment to remember all those Sub branch members, and in several cases their loved ones, who won't be sharing Christmas with us this year. This year we lost Ken Clasby, Robert Oliver, Jim Brown, John Cupitt, Graham Macrow, Ron Bateman, Edward Ditcham, George Stack, Graham Jackson, and Vione Fraser and Carol Fraser. They will all be sadly missed, Vale All and Lest We Forget.

See you at our next Sub branch meeting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2020

Yours in comradeship  
Ray Watherston  
President

### Sub Branch News

#### Annual RSL Membership Subscriptions Due.

Further to the headlines above, all members who pay their Subs annually are reminded that their subs for 2020 are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and must be paid by 28<sup>th</sup> of February to remain financial. However, you must be financial before the AGM to vote at the AGM. Subs can be paid at reception at CSI. If you pay your \$20.00 annually, give some thought to taking out membership for life as there are some significant discounts to be had depending on your age and then it's done and dusted forever.

**AGM- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020.** The Sub branch AGM will be held in the Long Tan Room at CSI on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> commencing 7.30 pm. All AGMs are important, but this one more so for other particular reasons. Firstly, to accept the resignation of Reg Bond as our Assistant Secretary and acknowledge his commitment to the

objects of the RSL over many years. We then need to elect a replacement for Reg and also vote on the positions of Vice President and Secretary who are up for election under the rotational arrangements detailed in our constitution.

**Two Additional Sub Branch Directors.** As mentioned by Ray, we will be aiming to add two additional Directors to the Board next year. The Board has invoked the provision in our constitution to add these two additional Board members. It was believed that members might be interested in joining the Board but with only six members, perhaps didn't want to jump straight in to an executive position. Having two extra Board positions will allow newcomers to gain Board experience and hopefully take on an executive role once they are comfortable with how the whole show works

**Planning Meeting.** The SB Board along with Charlie McCoombes, Peter Dixon, Dave Hines and John Jones held the Railway Sub branch annual planning meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. In short, the meeting reviewed our activities over 2019, which will actually continue up to February 2020 and how we met our expenditure forecasts set in last year's planning meeting. And then planned and costed our forecast activities for 2020.

The Planning Meeting is a vital component of our governance procedures, an important process that we have now been undertaking since 2012. It provides an overview of the proposed use of your funds, culminating in the Sub branch members authorising the expenditure of those funds in accordance with the budget for the Annual Plan.

Actual revenue for 2019 was \$244K (to 30 Nov) meaning the SB had a surplus over estimated planned expenditure of \$105K (as noted in the 2019 Annual Plan. This surplus goes back into the kitty, to be used grow our financial security into the future, ensuring we have the financial resources to continue to meet the objects of the RSL, specifically, funding welfare activities. This information will of course be explained in much finer detail during the presentation of the financial report at the AGM.

As in past years the draft annual plan will be distributed to members at the AGM in February meeting and you will have a month to consider it and offer suggestions or recommend amendments. Ratification of the plan will be sought at the March meeting.

**Remembrance Day.** The 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1 was marked with a commemorative service at the Workshops memorial, with Chaplain

Andrea officiating. A good sized crowd was in attendance. This year, we took some time to recognise the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original dedication of the magnificent honour stone at the Workshops. At the completion of the service, 80 people, including the members of the Army's 6 Engineer Support Regiment (ESR), who provided the solemn catafalque party, attended and enjoyed a wonderful catered morning tea at the Railway Workshops Cafe.

**Sub Branch Home.** As Ray mentioned above, we are now the proud owners of our own property at 31 Flint street North Ipswich. There's a bit to do before it is up and running as an RSL office. However, once it is, all Sub branch members will be encouraged to drop in for a coffee to say g'day and catch up on any RSL related matters.

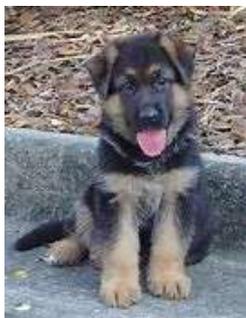


**New SB HQ 31  
Flint St North  
Ipswich**

In time we hope to have our Welfare Officers established in the office and also provide access for

pensions advisors, in a privacy setting. We will also encourage Ex and Serving persons to drop in any time for a coffee, particularly when they feel the need to have a chat with someone, but don't wish to do so in the environment of the Club. We also anticipate that with the establishment of a stand alone presence, we will have to consider engaging a part time office administration person to ensure the office is open at regular hours and able to provide the services we intend to have available.

*This is Lexi, she's an 8week-old German Shepherd,*



*I bought Lexi as a surprise for my wife but it turns out she is allergic to dogs so we are now looking to find her a new home. She is 68 years old, an attractive and caring woman who drives, is a great cook and keeps a clean house.*

**Welfare Report.** John Dredge reported that John Jones had accompanied him on recent welfare visits to a number of members. He had also attended the service for George Stack and the Sub branch presentation was acknowledged by the priest. He also conducted a service for Graham Markcrow. John noted that Rev'd Bob was in

hospital and would welcome visitors. Jeff Freestone reported the RAN was assisting the Ditcham family by burying Ted's ashes at sea.

**In other related welfare news,** John reported on a presentation by the Patriots MCC of watch, belonging to WW2 RAAF aircrew member, Ron Munnich which had been found in an op shop and been refurbished, Arrangements were then made to present the restored watch to Ron's family. The presentation was held over a lunch in the Club and the family was very moved by the occasion and the pride it generated for their dad's service.



**Ron's daughter receiving the refurbished watch.**

John also noted that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had thanked him and John Rossiter for their work to locate a missing burial place of Private Nethercote. Further, the Sub branch will now be liaising with War Graves Commission in regard to other graves. It is believed that there are at least 700 graves of service people in the Ipswich General and Warrill Park cemeteries who eligible for recognition for their service. This will be a long term project with the identification process being the first step in the project.

**Moreton District Get together.** The next Moreton District get together will be at Goodna Sub branch in February next year, date to be confirmed but it will be a Saturday. Come along for a light lunch and some fellowship with other District Sub branch members and partners.



**Live Life Alarms** We've recently had two Life Alarms approved, so if you meet the criteria and feel

you need one of these devices, contact Secretary John for an application.

**School Awards.** President Ray and members John, John, John and Peter presented our annual round of bursaries to the schools we look after. These awards are always gratefully received and we get great feedback from the schools and parents. Here's some of the smiling recipients with the presenters.



**Sub branch Christmas Party.** A great night for those who could make it. Our special guests for the night included State Vice President Bill Whitburn, OAM, from Townsville, Western District President Max Foot, OAM and Moreton District President Les Nash. Great food and great company, a wonderful night to wrap our Sub branch activities for the night, which included a rolling slide show featuring our various activities during 2019. So pencil next year in your diary now, tentatively Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020.



***Hail hail, the gang's all here enjoying the Christmas cheer at CSI***

**Drinking Water Donation for Fire Fighters.** The Sub Branch is also joining with the Club to co fund the purchase of two pallets of bottled water to be donated to the Pine Mountain Volunteer Rural Fire Crew.

### State News



RETURNED & SERVICES  
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH

**RSL QLD Strategy 2025:** State RSL recently released a draft Strategy 2025, a document aiming at identifying the future direction of the League. Here's some key points of where we're heading.

**We have a compelling case for change:** Our membership is in decline, and without change, will be obsolete within 10 years. The needs of our Defence family are changing – and we have not always kept pace with that need.

**We are operating in a very complex and crowded environment.** There are more opportunities for us than ever before, but we need to stand united behind our purpose and vision.

**Our Purpose and Vision.** To provide a bright future and enduring legacy for all veterans and their families, and to be the most valued and trusted partner and to enrich the Australian Defence family's Quality of Life. We will do this by focusing on three strategic goals:

**Relevance:** Transform the lives of veterans, so that their average Quality of Life matches that of the general population.

**Influence:** Become the leading voice representing the Australian Defence and ESO communities, and **Sustainability:** Continue to grow a sustainable business that allows relevance and influence to flourish.

We will know our Defence family and ensure they are at the heart of our decision making. Our Defence family is made up of our members and clients, all veterans and their families, and our Sub Branches and Districts.

We will renew our focus on growing our membership - on reimagining what it could and should be, so that we grow our influence and relevance into the future. We will increase service and support for Sub Branches and Districts to enable them to flourish into the future.

We will do more to address the confusion in the market about what our brand is, and what it isn't. Our brand will become relevant to all veterans, regardless of age, gender, conflict or service history.

We will advocate strongly on issues affecting our Defence family and provide leadership in a crowded ESO landscape. We want you to be involved and to tell us what you think as we embark on this journey together: visit [rslqld.org/strategy](http://rslqld.org/strategy) to stay updated on our progress and provide feedback throughout this journey

**What does this mean?** This is one of the very best times in our history – and we need to stand shoulder to shoulder as we stride forward into the future. There will be a presentation for the District Delegates at a date to be confirmed.



### State President's Message on the Proposed Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide

**Dear friends.** There has recently been substantial media coverage about the necessity of a Royal Commission into veteran suicide. I want to reassure all members that RSL Queensland takes this issue very seriously. It is an unimaginable tragedy when any person takes their own life. One life lost is one too many, and supporting veterans who are struggling with mental health issues remains one of RSL Queensland's highest ongoing priorities.

Although a Royal Commission would undoubtedly delve deeply into systemic issues, we are genuinely concerned that it will take critical time to convene and produce recommendations, with any resulting action coming some way into the future. While we will participate fully, as we have done in all inquiries to date, we do not necessarily believe this is the only logical step for the government to take.

The issue of veterans' mental health and their overarching Quality of Life is complex, and many reviews and reports have been produced on the issue in recent years.

RSL Queensland is keenly awaiting the Federal Government's response to the Productivity Commission recommendations, the implementation of all existing recommendations from previous reviews, and an assessment of how these new initiatives are improving the tangible

experience of veterans, particularly as they discharge from service and adjust to civilian life.

In the meantime, our focus, as Queensland's leading ESO, is on implementing programs that we know have a positive impact during the challenging transition process. Our programs are underpinned by research, meaning we can quantify their impact on the wellbeing of veterans at all stages of their Defence journey. This means we are investing in programs and interventions that have a measurable impact on Quality of Life, and we will continue to do so.

Yours sincerely, Tony Ferris, State President



### In other News

**Recognition of Submarine Special Operations (SSO) Service.** The Minister for Veterans Affairs recently announced changes to legislation to reclassify Submarine Special Operations (SSO) service between 1<sup>st</sup> January 1993 and 12 May 1997. Since 2010, SSO which took place between 1 January 1978 and 31 December 1992 have been classified as 'operational' and 'qualifying service' under the VEA. The amendments now recognise that service on SSO between 1 January 1993 and 12 May 1997 is now also considered 'operational' and 'qualifying service' under the VEA.



An eligible submariner is a member of the ADF who served on a submarine special operation and either has, or is eligible for, the

Australian Service Medal (ASM) with clasp 'SPECIAL OPS' in respect of SSO service between 1<sup>st</sup> January 1978 to 12<sup>th</sup> May 1997.

This reclassification will provide this new cohort of submariners with all the benefits which flow from operational and qualifying service, including eligibility for the Service Pension at age 50 (subject to income and assets tests), the automatic grant of

the Gold Card at age 70 and assessment of compensation claims under the more generous reasonable hypothesis standard of proof.

They will also be eligible for treatment of any mental health condition, any malignant cancer and pulmonary tuberculosis, regardless of the link to military service under the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Non-Liability Health Care program. Due to the highly classified nature of these operations, it can be difficult for a submariner to establish that a medical condition is linked to an incident which occurred on a submarine special operation.



**The National Emergency Medal - Cyclone Tracey.** Established in 2011, The National Emergency Medal is an award of the Australian honours system given for sustained service during a nationally significant emergency.

The medal is awarded for events specifically set out by regulation or may be awarded upon the recommendation of the National Emergency Medal Committee significant service. There are currently only two clasps, the Vic fires of 2019 and the QLD floods of 2011,

The emotional support dog after I get done telling it my problems.



**Veterans' Residences Trust.** The RAAF Veterans' Residences Trust was established by the RAAF Veterans' Residences Act 1953. It provides residences for former members of the Air Force and their families who are in need.

The finance for the trust came from a prize given to Commonwealth Air Forces during World War II,

of which the RAAF's share was \$458,000. Over the years, this has been invested to acquire 76 residences throughout Australia. The residences, located in most capital cities, are generally a one or two-bedroom unfurnished, self-contained unit. Contact details . For further information about the operation of the Trust, including eligibility and Applications for Tenancy, you can contact: RAAF Veterans' Residences Trust, L474 - GF - R41 RAAF Williams, LAVERTON VIC 3028 Email: raaf.vrt@defence.gov.au

**Pensioner Concession Card.** DVA offers health care for all conditions related to service in the Australian Defence Force (ADF). In addition, all current and former full-time members of the ADF, and Reservists with certain service, are eligible for treatment for any mental health condition through DVA arrangements. However, DVA does not have an equivalent of the Health Care Card to assist a client to pay for treatment for conditions that are not related to ADF service or mental health.

Depending on their income, some Veteran Payment recipients may be able to receive the Low Income Health Care Card from Centrelink. More information about this is available on the Department of Human Services website,

For current Centrelink clients, the benefits of the Veteran Payment may outweigh the loss of a concession card, but each person will need to make that decision based on their own circumstances. DVA appreciates the important role advocates play in ensuring that, where appropriate, their vulnerable clients are accessing financial help through Veteran Payment while they await decisions on their claims.

**New RSL Membership Cards.** RSL Queensland has a new membership card! The new card – which has been updated to reflect our new logo and branding – has been sent to all Life Subscribers, Life Members and RSL Queensland Council of Auxiliary members.



Everyone else will receive a new card when they renew their membership. Direct questions to [memberships@rslqld.org](mailto:memberships@rslqld.org).

**Pictured Left, State President Tony with the new card**

**Last Chance to Give Feedback on Draft State RSL Constitution.** The Constitution Working Party has developed a draft working copy that is

now available on the QLD RSL website. Supporting documentation will be posted by Friday 20 December.

This draft addresses all feedback received following the 2019 Annual General Meeting and members are invited to read, review and submit any further feedback to constitution@rslqld.org by 21 February 2020.

Based on this last round of feedback, the Working Party will finalise the Draft Constitution, which will be voted on by delegates at the 2020 AGM.



**Moreton District President Les Nash, chair of the Constitution Working Party**  
*"Its is up to you – all the members of RSL Queensland, no matter where you're from – to look at the Constitution and submit your ideas and your suggestions, because*

*that's the only way this will work,"*

**Video Tour of Memorial Galleries.** The heartbreaking and heroic stories of Queenslanders involved in conflicts from WWI to today is the focus of the newly refurbished Memorial Galleries at ANZAC Square.



**The Gallery under Anzac Square**

The interactive, digital exhibition can be found in the rooms below the Shrine of Remembrance at Anzac Square in Brisbane and took the State Library of Queensland more than a year to create.

**ATDP Training Update.** The ATDP is a partnership between DVA, the Ex Service Organisations (ESO) and the Department of Defence. However, ESOs are the principal service provider of advocacy services and they have developed an extensive network of military advocates across the country to support veterans and their families.

Any advice to veterans or veteran's families must come from ADTP trained and accredited Compensation or Wellbeing Advocates who have

been authorised by their ESO to provide these services on their behalf.

However, Railway Sub branch currently only has one qualified ADTP trained volunteer and it is an area we desperately need to improve. So, if you are looking for a fulfilling voluntary role, this might be for you, particularly if you were previously TIP qualified. Contact the Sub branch and we will source your training. Now that we have our own home, we will certainly have the facilities to provide these services to the veteran community, we just need volunteers to be trained.



**Legacy Club.** Well known long standing Legacy stalwart and former President, Secretary, Treasurer and every other appointment of the War Widows Guild Ipswich, Mrs Del Pears, recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a large group of family and friends at Queens Park.



**Happy birthday Del from the Railway RSL Sub branch.**

**Club Report.** The Club has continued its outstanding trading results over the past six months and this ever improving position is due in large part to the contribution of our vibrant workforce of 50 staff. There have been a number of managerial and other staff changes with Lorressa promoted to the role of Operations Manager, Gayle now the Club's Administration Officer and Laura taking on the Promotions and Marketing role. Hugo has joined the team as a new Duty Manager. We also congratulate our GM Natalia on her recent academic achievement of completing her MBA.

**Next Sub branch meeting.** See you all in 2020. The next Sub branch monthly meeting will be held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January and we hope to see as many of you as possible. The official notification of the AGM is also included in this newsletter, so please put that in your diary.

Last word goes to Reg Bond on his retirement from the Sub branch Board. Here's a few words extracted from Reg's Bonds letter of resignation that might prompt, particularly our younger members, to step forward and offer to serve on the sub branch Board.

Spike  
Editor  
kangoona@bigpond.com

Over to you Reg.....

*"I do not intend to come out in my dressing gown and say my resignation is to have more family time but no doubt this will occur. (who would do such a thing Reg?). I keep harping on about succession planning for the sub branch and my standing down creates a vacancy which could be used as a step for a younger person to enter an executive role, so please, members, we need you to be involved".*



**Rockstar of the Month of October  
Amanda Butler with newly promoted Promotions and Marketing Manager Laura. This is becoming a habit  
Amanda, well done again..**



**During the Christmas function, Donna Regget from "Quilts for Valour" presented Vietnam Veterans Peter, Ray, Bob and Jeff with quilts acknowledging their Service.**



**More funsters enjoying the Christmas party**

**NOTICE OF THE IPSWICH RAILWAY SUB BRANCH  
INC AGM FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2020, LONG TAN  
ROOM, CLUB SERVICES IPSWICH COMMENCING AT  
7.30PM**

Nominations in accordance with sub branch constitution, are hereby  
called for the positions of:

Sub Branch Vice President,

Sub Branch Secretary,

Sub Branch Assistant Secretary

2 Sub branch Board Directors (newly created positions)

4 Directors for Club Services Ipswich Board.

Nominations forms for these positions can be obtained from the Secretary  
or the Reception Desk CSI.

Completed nomination forms to be placed in ballot box at CSI Reception  
Desk. Nominations close 5pm Thursday 30 January 2020.

Please note that all nominees their proposers & seconders must be  
financial for 2020.

In accordance with the by-laws of the sub branch the President of the Sub  
Branch is automatically nominated for the CSI Board. President Ray  
Watherston will be the Returning Officer.

John Dredge OAM  
Secretary  
Ipswich Railway RSL Sub branch Inc

0403 722 946.