

Southport RSL Sub Branch Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 2

June 2021



REMINDER
AGM
Sunday 13th June
10.30am
Bring your Partner

From the President's Desk

March General Meeting. Sunday 14th March saw our members gather for our first quarterly meeting of 2021. Held at the Southport Bowls Club in their Pavilion. For those that can remember that far back, our first attempt to have a meeting in that venue was spoilt by heavy rain and the actual meeting had to squeeze into the Bowls Club proper.

This time, however, the members of the Bowls Club were going on an excursion to another Club to play, meaning there would be a lot less people using the Club rooms when we were wanting to hold our meeting. We were able to set up several tables similar to what we did last meeting and thirty members were able to sit in the air-conditioned comfort and have our meeting.

The meeting started at 1004 and finished at 1120. It was a very friendly and informative meeting with several of the members posing relevant questions—which I hope we answered satisfactorily.

Following the meeting everyone stayed to have a cold drink and some of the delicious treats that the staff of the Bistro produced. All in all, it was a very enjoyable day.

ANZAC Day—On Again—Off Again The lead up to ANZAC Day this year has been a very frustrating time, particularly for our erstwhile coordinator—Craig Thomas. Craig's efforts in the organisation of this year's events have, as always, flowed very smoothly except for the change in the way we are funded for the affair. However, shortly before our March Quarterly Meeting a very large spanner was thrown in the works when the Queensland Health Department issued us with an extremely complicated 60-page document that was a plan we had to submit in order to run the events. The task of filling out this document was beyond our capability and help was not forthcoming from anyone.

As a result, on the 16th March a very sad decision was made to cancel our ceremonies. The following day, the requirement of the 60-page document was withdrawn and a much simpler document produced. This meant we were able to revive our plans.

The day of the 25th April turned out to be as close to perfect as you could ask for. It was brisk at the Dawn Service, with a gentle south westerly breeze coming off the waters of the Broadwater. The march stepped off from our traditional starting point at the bottom of Short Street and proceeded down the Gold Coast Highway to the Cenotaph.

The new tenting that had been installed gave all the seated public a magnificent view of the Cenotaph and the flags. The ceremony kicked off with our spectacular display from the boats of the Gold Coast Yacht Club together with the sounds of gunfire. The police estimated there were in excess of 7000 people in attendance.

Following the Dawn Service, veterans and the public were invited to participate in the traditional Gunfire Breakfast—this time at the Southport Bowls Club **and** the Memorial Club. Both venues were well attended, but we were very pleased to see the numbers that chose to go to the Bowls Club.

The Citizen Service was not as well attended as we had anticipated, a little over 3000 attending. The march was well supported by Veterans and the public were enthusiastic and appreciative with their recognition of the service given by those marching.

The salute was taken by Brigadier Rod West, together with Mayor Tom Tate and Acting Chief Superintendent Geoff Sheldon.



Brigadier Rod West, a member of our Sub-Branch, gave an inspiring key-note address in which he honoured those that are serving as well as those that have served. He made special mention of the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the RAAF.

A Big Thank-you. As I think back on all the work that Craig had to do in this on-again-off-again leadup to ANZAC Day, I marvel at his dedication and the massive effort that he had to put into the planning and preparation of the event. I, and for that matter, everyone that attended, cannot thank him enough.

Badge Sales. The tradition of selling badges in the days prior to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day was very difficult to carry out last year. In fact, we had to cancel both activities because of COVID-19. This year we have attempted to carry on the tradition by selling badges on four days prior to ANZAC Day. Unfortunately, we had a great deal of difficulty getting volunteers to man the booths.

After a break of one year because of the pandemic, the selling of commemorative badges began on Saturday 17th April. Only two sites were able to be manned—Australia Fair and Southport Park. The general public seemed to be very appreciative of the fact we were there.



**Southport Park with
John Brooks and Carolyn Steadman**

One great innovation for this year was the trial the Sub-Branch participated in involving the use of cashless transaction terminal. For years now we had realised we were missing out on sales because more and more people only carried credit or debit cards and no cash. There was no excuse this year with a swipe-card terminal at both Australia Fair and Southport Park.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the sterling work done by Jordan Alison, who covered a number of shifts on the tables at both Southport Park and Australia Fair, **and he is not even a member of the Sub-Branch.**

Legal Issues The disappointment of not getting a decision when our eviction matter was being heard in the District Court in Brisbane was only

exacerbated by the delay in getting any further with the case over the ensuing months.

Never-the-less, we are continuing to operate from our temporary accommodation at the Southport Bowls Club and members are reminded that they are welcome at the Club where you can relax in a wonderful facility.

Gold Coast Health Veteran Network

by Ken Orr

"There are many occasions when we have all sorts of functions which focus one particular thing, but Anzac Day is the day that is the guardian of the spirit of the nation". Those are the words that Second World War Veteran David Mattiske OAM shared with Gold Coast Health staff at its inaugural Anzac Commemoration.

In recent years he has worked tirelessly to cement ties between Australia and the Philippines. Mr Mattiske's advice was to take the opportunity, when it became available again, to travel to Gallipoli and other important battle fields to understand the Australian presence and how the Anzac spirit was born.

Closer to home, Mr Mattiske encouraged people to travel to country towns and visit war memorials to see the names of people who sacrificed their lives serving their country and consider the impact those losses had on those communities.



Pictured are L-R:

World War Two Veteran David Mattiske OAM, Gold Coast Health Chief Executive Ron Calvert, RSL Gold Coast District President Pat Fairon and Chair of the Gold Coast Health Veteran Network Ken Orr.

The Gold Coast Health Veteran Network was established to create a community of veterans and supporters to promote the veteran spirit at Gold Coast Health. It was created to encourage our veterans and supporters to mentor, share knowledge, create networking opportunities, and assist each other using their shared experiences, to benefit our wider health service. The network motto is "We Still Serve".



Veteran Network members gather following the flag raising at GCUH

The ongoing Network activities include promoting and supporting veteran employment, mentoring, social activities and of course commemorations. The Network also aims to build ties with similar workplace veteran networks.

As well as the commemorative service, network activities in the week leading up to Anzac Day included hanging a large Australian National Flag in the foyer of Gold Coast University Hospital, profiling members on social media, and offering poppies and rosemary to staff at GCUH and Robina Hospitals.

On the Movie Set

by John Riebeling

In late March the Sub-Branch was approached by the advertising arm of RSL Qld to help out in the production of a series of television commercials that would promote ANZAC Day to the general public. We were asked to assemble about 15 members to dress as if they were attending a Dawn Service on ANZAC Day. We were able to do what they asked and assembled at the Broadwater Cenotaph where we spent the best part of two hours posing for the commercial and the audio that would accompany it. Those of you that receive the RSL Qld emailed Member Update may have recognised our Deputy President in the picture that accompanied the article.



ANZAC Ceremonies at Gold Coast Schools

by Kevin Lloyd-Thomas

This year, In the week leading up to ANZAC Day, presentations were given at a number of local schools by Sub-Branch members.

Musgrave Hill Primary School - Jack Snell

Bellevue Primary School - John Riebeling

Southport Primary School - Kevin Lloyd-Thomas

Southport High School - Kevin Lloyd-Thomas

Trinity Lutheran College - Kevin Lloyd-Thomas

Recently appointed director, Kevin Lloyd-Thomas has now taken responsibility for the schools' programs for the Sub-Branch, and this is Kevin's first ANZAC Day experience with the schools.

What a great learning experience I've had!

Having not done this before, I felt proud and privileged to be able to present to these student bodies. The reception and welcome I got from school principals, and the teachers responsible for putting together their ANZAC Day

presentations was awesome. I was able to submit my presentations for their critique, and in every case, they were happy with what I proposed.

The effort, quality, and substance of what these schools put together for their students, and the participation of the students themselves was absolutely brilliant. I was so impressed and honoured to be a part of these ceremonies.

On the presentation day itself, I was introduced to school captains at each of the schools, and I must say, I was mightily impressed by these boys and girls at the primary schools, and young men and women at the high schools. So interested, so polite, and with such inquiring minds.



Kevin Lloyd-Thomas – Presenter

It's so very rewarding when a young man, a final year student at Trinity Lutheran College, comes up to you after the Dawn Service to thank you for the presentation at the school, to tell you how much he and his colleagues enjoyed it and how they spoke about it afterwards as a group of mates.

He wanted to introduce me to his father, and to his grandfather, and for his grandfather to make me aware that he had been in Vietnam in 6RAR, and as an ANZAC Battalion. How good is that?

In the fourth term history curriculum this year, final year students will study the origins, the

war years, and the aftermath of the Vietnam war. Southport High School has asked if I would be prepared to meet and speak with students at that time. It will be a privilege to do so.



Trinity

For Remembrance Day this year, on behalf of the Sub-Branch, I will approach all of the schools to ask what contribution we can make to them. Whatever that is, it will be a pleasure, and I feel privileged being the Sub-Branch Director responsible for schools.

Bellevue Park Primary This year was the first time we have had the opportunity to attend this school and on Friday 23rd John Riebeling presented at the ceremony held in the school's assembly building. All students, from Prep to year 6 were assembled. For the Preps and Year-One's it was their very first assembly and I have never seen a more respectful and well-behaved group of Primary School Students. The whole ceremony was jointly MC'd by the school Captains, pictured below with some of the special guests.



Bellevue Park

ANZAC Commemorative AFL Match

by Ken Orr

A beautiful sunny day again greeted the annual Anzac commemorative AFL match between Surfers Paradise Demons and Labrador Tigers on 24 April. Our Sub Branch was again represented by WWII veteran and AFL stalwart David Mattiske, accompanied by Ken Orr. Before the match both teams and the officials assembled and a short but poignant service was held. As a fitting end to the game the coaching staff from each team nominate the winner of the Spirit of the Anzac Medallion for the opposing team, as pictured. This association with Surfers Paradise Demons AFL is longstanding and we trust will continue for many years to come.



David Mattiske with Spirit of the Anzac Medallion recipients Brody Haberfield and Pearce Hanley

200th Anniversary of Greek Independence

by John Riebeling

The 25th March 2021 saw the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the country of Greece gaining their independence from the Ottoman Empire. A celebration took place at the Greek Orthodox and Community Centre on the 24th March to which myself and Rodney Tagg were invited. There were a number of VIPs that had been also invited and we all were ushered into the church through a guard of honour made up

of children from the Greek School, all dressed in traditional costumes.

The Ceremony consisted of a special mass that was performed in (mainly) the Greek language. It involved a lot of standing which was a little hard to take, but the ceremony and the church itself, were spectacular. Following the mass, we all congregated just outside the church where there is a small cenotaph. There was a wreath-laying ceremony before we were escorted to the function room where light refreshments and drinks were served. There were a number of speeches and a video presentation. At the very end of proceedings, all of the VIPs were asked to pose for a photo.



Guard of Honour



The Invited Guests (VIPs)

The celebration of the Greek Revolution of 1821, less commonly known as Independence Day, takes place in Greece, Cyprus and Greek diaspora centres on 25 March every year, coinciding with the Feast of the Annunciation.

The day is a public holiday in Greece and Cyprus. Usually, celebrations include parades and other celebratory events on the same day or its eve. The largest event is the military parade in Athens on 25 March, while on the previous day, celebrations take place throughout the schools of the country. In other municipalities parades of military divisions, students, clubs, etc. are held, as well as church services.

More broadly, the holiday acknowledges the successful Greek War of Independence (1821–1829) was fought to liberate and decolonize Greece from three centuries of Ottoman occupation. After nine years of war, Greece was finally recognized as an independent state under the London Protocol of February 1830. Further negotiations in 1832 led to the London Conference of 1832 and the Treaty of Constantinople (1832); these defined the final borders of the new state and recognized the king.

The holiday was established in 1838 with a Royal Decree by King Otto's government.

Royal Australian Air Force 100th Anniversary Then ● Now ● Always

On 31st March 2021, the Royal Australian Air Force celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its formation.

Formation, 1912

The RAAF traces its history back to the Imperial Conference held in London in 1911, where it was decided aviation should be developed within the armed forces of the British Empire. Australia implemented this decision, the first dominion to do so, by approving the establishment of the "Australian Aviation Corps". This initially consisted of the Central Flying School at Point Cook, Victoria, opening on 22 October 1912. By 1914 the corps was known as the "Australian Flying Corps".

First World War Soon after the outbreak of war in 1914, the Australian Flying Corps sent aircraft to assist in capturing German colonies in what is now north-east New Guinea. However, these colonies surrendered quickly,



before the planes were even unpacked. The first operational flights did not occur until 27 May 1915, when the Mesopotamian Half Flight was called upon to assist the Indian Army in providing air support during the Mesopotamian Campaign against the Ottoman Empire, in what is now Iraq.

The corps later saw action in Egypt, Palestine and on the Western Front throughout the remainder of the First World War. By the end of the war, four squadrons—Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4—had seen operational service, while another four training squadrons—Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8—had also been established. A total of 460 officers and 2,234 other ranks served in the AFC, whilst another 200 men served as aircrew in the British flying services. Casualties included 175 dead, 111 wounded, 6 gassed and 40 captured.

Inter-war period

The Australian Flying Corps remained part of the Australian Army until 1919, when it was disbanded along with the First Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Although the Central Flying School continued to operate at Point Cook, military flying virtually ceased until 1920, when the Australian Air Corps (AAC) was formed. The Australian Air Force was formed on 31 March 1921. King George V approved the prefix "Royal" in June 1921 and became effective on 31 August 1921. The RAAF then became the second Royal air arm to be formed in the British Commonwealth, following the British Royal Air Force. When formed the RAAF had more aircraft than personnel, with 21 officers and 128 other ranks and 153 aircraft.

David Matisse OAM Holds Court in Government House

by Ken Orr



COVID restrictions have changed the format of investiture ceremonies at Government House,

Brisbane, but possibly for the better. On 11 May David Matisse OAM was officially awarded his Medal of the Order of Australia, accompanied by family and friends. Investitures are now an individual event, allowing a more personal setting and closer interaction with the award recipient and guests. David was able to advise the Governor and his staff on a few of the finer points of AFL history before the group moved on to the courtyard for photos and refreshments. Well done again David!

The biggest lie I tell
myself is
"I don't need
to write that down,
I'll remember it."



Is it a Scam?

By Peter Boyes OAM

You can rely on your RSL to help you with welfare, so this time, I would like to shine the spotlight on a very dark area of all our lives. Scammers, scams, what they are and how they can get you.

It would appear that every day the news tells us about yet another new scam being used against consumers. Unfortunately, we older consumers attract the lion's share on getting caught by scammers. It could be the simple fact that we grew up believing what people tell us and if a government authority contacted us then we take it at face value. I would like to expand a little on what types of scams are out there and what to be on the lookout for to try and reduce the risk of you getting caught in these webs of deception.



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There are many Australian government authorities set up to identify and warn consumers of possible scams currently operating. The federal government uses Scam Alert, whilst states use their Office of Fair Trading and Police to advise consumers. If you ever think you have been introduced to a scam, you can go to any of these websites and check if it is listed. If it isn't, you can lodge a report and they will investigate, who knows you may be reporting yet another new scam. The internet addresses are the end of this article.

You may be wondering how and why these scams work and why we seem to get caught out so easily. I can assure you that it doesn't matter whether you are old or young, rich or poor, male or female, Caucasian or mixed race or any other factor. Scams work because they are designed to achieve success. It sort of works on the old phrase 'build a better mouse-trap'. If a scam doesn't work, they fix it so it does. Having worked with the Qld Justice Department's Office of Fair Trading as an Inspector, I even got caught out by a clever scam. So I am sure possibly everyone has been at some stage in their lives.

A scam works on the basis of someone trying to get something from you that you don't want them to know. There are essentially after 2 things; your personal information and/or your money. It is how their approach may differ, despite the outcome being the same.

The bottom line is that we are all responsible for our own safety and protection to reduce the risk of being scammed. In the past, a scam could be presented to you by a con man who would offer you something that was "too good to be true". In nearly every case, it turned out that it was not true. That is the edge they use to part you from your information and/or your hard-earned money.

These scams can be conveyed to us in so many ways, direct contact via phone, email, internet, Facebook or even mail. These are getting fewer and fewer with the cost of a stamp and again, government regulations really come down hard on these scammers.

So, what are the scams? They come in a very wide array of methods and prey on those of us in the community who are unaware that a scam is even taking place. This is proven in the worldwide success of scammers who take millions of dollars off innocent victims in Australia alone. Last year, Australia's ScamWatch received over 24,000 reports of scams with a reported loss of over \$22,000,000. In short, there are a few things you can do to try and prevent getting caught in a scammer's web of lies.

Broadly, scams can be isolated into these categories:

- Buying or selling;
- Dating & romance;
- Fake charities;
- Investments;
- Jobs & employment;
- Threats & extortion;
- Unexpected money; or
- Unexpected winnings.

Be sure and confident to do your own research to independently verify the person is who they say they are. If you receive a phone call from someone you suspect is a scammer, **HANG UP**, find the organisation's number yourself and call them back. Never use a number they give you. Don't trust a web site or an ad just because it's advertised on social media or classified websites, or claims it's endorsed by a celebrity. Check independent reviews and be wary of offers too good to be true. Be suspicious of emails and messages asking for your personal information, even if they seem to be from a trusted source.

So, how could you win a competition you never entered, it has to be a scam? Why is a company you have never had any contact with suddenly calling you wanting information? They wouldn't. A government agency **NEVER** calls you out of the blue wanting information about you, they should already know, they do have your phone number.

Watch out for follow up signs of a scam such as unsolicited emails and messages, like not using your correct name, typos and grammatical errors, or suspicious web addresses. Don't click on links in unexpected emails or messages, even if it appears to have come from a legitimate source. Don't share personal information online with someone you've never met in person.

Never give financial or account details, or copies of your identity documents to someone online who you've never met in person. Never give strangers remote access to your computer. Limit what personal information you share about yourself online, including on social media.

Use strong passwords for your accounts and internet network, and never share them with others. For example, a 5 lettered password can be cracked by scammers in around 10 minutes. If you change from letters and inserting case change, numbers and symbols, that increases the time to 30 minutes. However, if you increase the digits of your password to say, 8 digits, with a combination of case, numbers, letter and symbols, then it increases the time necessary to break the password to many months. If you used a 13-digit password as above, it will take the cracker over 10,000 years to crack your password. So, imagine how safe a 20-digit password would be. Remembering it could be an issue though. Additionally, regularly and routinely change your passwords and don't use the same password for multiple sites. Never use names, addresses, dates of birth or words that are particular to you. Then, use tools that help you check and protect your online security.

IDcare's free Cyber First Aid Kit can help you work out what to do if you think you've been scammed. This is a free product and is available at: <https://www.idcare.org/learning-centre/apps-and-tools>

Regularly check your bank statements for unknown charges, notify your bank immediately if unsure. Most importantly, install anti-virus software on your devices and keep it up to date. There are many reputable companies who offer antivirus software, so you may need to shop around. Be sure that whatever program you use, ensure it has regular virus updates to ensure your program is able to cope with new scams as they appear.

However, these heads contain something of an endless list of scam names that you may know of or possibly never heard of such as attempts to gain your personal information, hacking, identity theft, phishing, remote access scams, buying or selling, classifieds scams, false billing, health & medical products, mobile premium services, online shopping scams, overpayment scams, psychic & clairvoyants, dating & romance, fake charities, fake

investments, betting & sports investment scams, investment scams, jobs & employment, pyramid schemes, threats & extortion, malware & ransomware threats to life, arrest or other threats, Chinese authority scams, unexpected money, inheritance scams, Nigerian scams, rebate scams, unexpected winnings, scratchie scams, travel prize scams and unexpected prize & lottery scams. These are a mere few of an endless list of known scams. The scary part is these scammers are always on the hunt for newer and smarter ways to trick you.



Types of scams

Identify and
protect yourself



Report a scam

Seen a scam or
fallen victim?

For more information, please refer to ScamWatch at:

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au>,

or the Office of Fair Trading at:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/fair-trading>.

There are 3 articles in this series of scams, so I look forward to the next instalment. Until next time, please look after yourselves and those you love.

If there is any topic you would like to learn more about, contact our Secretary, Rodney and he will pass on your inquiry to me and I will have a go at answering your issue.

Yours Aye, Peter Boyes OAM

Veterans' Morning Teas

All members, their carers, partners and volunteers are welcome to come to our Veterans' Morning Teas. They are held at the Southport

Bowls Club every third Wednesday of the month, commencing at 10:00 am. Put these dates on your calendar:

16 June	20 October
21 July	17 November
18 August	15 December
15 September	

Interesting Health News and History

Eat whatever you like because you will still DIE.

Don't allow motivational speakers deceive you.

1. The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54
2. The inventor of gymnastics died at the age of 57
3. The world bodybuilding champion died at the age of 41
4. The best footballer in the world Maradona, died at the age of 60.

BUT

5. The KFC inventor died at 94.
6. Inventor of the Nutella brand died at the age of 88
7. Imagine, cigarette maker Winston died at the age of 102
8. The inventor of opium died at the age of 116 in an earthquake
9. Hennessy inventor died at 98.

How did these doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life?

The rabbit is always jumping up and down but it lives for only 2 years and the turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives 400 years.

So, take some rest, chill, stay cool, eat, drink and enjoy your life. You will still die.

I'm sending my Nike trainers back for a refund.

Twins

Conjoined twins walk into a bar in Canada and park themselves on a bar stool.

One of them says to the bartender, "Don't mind us; we're joined at the hip. I'm John, he's Jim. Two Molson Canadian beers, draft please."

The bartender, feeling slightly awkward, tries to make polite conversation while pouring the beers. "Been on vacation yet, fellas?"

"Off to England next month," says John. "We go to England every year, rent a car, and drive for miles and miles, don't we, Jim?"

Jim nods.

"Ah, England!" says the bartender. "Wonderful country...the history, the culture, and especially the beer."

"Nah, we don't like that British crap," says John. "Hamburgers and Molson's beer, that's for us, eh Jim? And we can't stand the English people, they're so arrogant and rude."

"So why keep going to England?" asks the bartender.

John replies: "Gives Jim a chance to drive..."

Current Board Members

John Riebeling – **President**
Ken Orr – **Deputy President**
Michael Burg – **Treasurer**
Rodney Tagg – Secretary
Claude Palmer – **Director #1 & Advocate**
Craig Thomas – Director #2
Casual Vacancy – Director #3
Kevin Lloyd-Thomas – **Director #4**
Peter Boyes OAM – Director #5

Note: For the positions marked in **red**, the incumbents are required to stand down and an election for those positions will be held at the AGM.

The position marked in **green** will be filled by an appointment, usually decided at the first Board meeting held after the AGM.

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