

Southport RSL Sub Branch Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 1

February 2023



REMINDER
General Meeting
Sunday 12th February
10.30am
Bring your Partner

From the President's Desk

It is well past the silly season now and I hope all of you had a pleasant time. I know some of you may have missed out on being with family this year, but I recall when I was serving in the RAAF that I would very often be on Base during the Christmas-New Year on many occasions and missed being with family and friends—it taught me to accept these things.

The new year promises to be eventful for the Sub-Branch, hopefully all in a good way.

Remembrance Day. Shortly after the sending out of the November issue of the Newsletter we held our Remembrance Day ceremony at Anzac Park in the Broadwater Parklands. Just prior to the 11th, the Park maintenance crew had spent a considerable amount of time tidying the area and planting additional colourful plants.

The ceremony was very well attended, especially when you consider it fell on a normal working day for the general public. The weather was perfect for holding such a ceremony with a

gentle breeze tempering the heat of the bright sunlight.



Following the ceremony, a good portion of those that attended then came to the Bowls Club where a small section had been set aside for us with light refreshments and some cold ales and an enjoyable afternoon was spent socialising and telling tails.

Badge and Poppy Selling. This exercise is becoming more and more difficult to organise as our pool of volunteers seems to be getting smaller every year. We decided to try for a four-day selling period from Monday the 7th to Thursday 10th at two locations, Southport Park and Australia Fair. The general public seemed to really appreciate us being there and we met some very nice people. It is a very rewarding feeling to meet with these people and I would like to encourage those that can, to put up your hand when we ask for volunteers in the days prior to ANZAC Day next year.



Southport Park



Australia Fair

Joining with the SEAKs. One of the good things to come out of last year was the way in which the Sub-Branch and the SEAKs Association have begun to work together as a team. Our Quarterly meeting in November last was held immediately prior to the SEAKs monthly meeting and was followed by a joint

session of socialising. I think everyone who took part were happy with the joint exercise and we look forward to more similar experience.

New Secretary Needed. Due to circumstances which cannot be divulged in the newsletter, our secretary, Rodney Tagg was forced to resign his position in December last year. Since then, we have been carrying on our Sub-Branch business with Michael Burg filling the dual roles of secretary and treasurer.

This arrangement, while workable for a short time, cannot continue. We are therefore looking for someone who has a lot of time on their hands and would like to be able to fill the position. While not mandatory, our secretary is usually required to attend the office for two hours each day of a working week, from 1000 to 1200.

My grandson made the mistake of telling me I was being overdramatic so I just changed the WiFi password. We'll see who's overdramatic in about 5 minutes.



"Why don't you listen? I said, 'Send over a can of glue.'"

50 Years Since Our Involvement in the Vietnam Ended

The last Australian troops left Vietnam in December 1972 and Australia's war officially ended on 11 January 1973 with a proclamation by Governor-General Paul Hasluck. Almost 60,000 Australians from all three services served in Vietnam. More than 3,000 service personnel were wounded and 521 lost their lives. The Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial remembers the courage and sacrifice of all those who served.



This year, the Australian Government will mark the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, culminating with a National Commemorative Service in Canberra on 18 August 2023.

District Christmas Lunch

Each year the Gold Coast District hosts a Christmas Lunch (sometimes a dinner) in the early part of November. This year the lunch was held at the Currumbin RSL Club on Sunday 20th November. The event was attended by representatives from the twelve Sub-Branches that go to make up the Gold Coast District.

Our Sub-Branch was represented by three of our Board Members and their wives, while your President and his wife served a dual roll of representing the Sub-Branch and District. Those attending were Rodney Tagg and his wife

Sandra, Michael Burg and his wife Lisa, Keith Bazley and his wife Pauline, and John Riebeling with his wife Sandy. They are pictured below.



The Southport Representatives

During the lunch there was an inaugural presentation of Certificates of Appreciation that were given to five volunteers that had shown outstanding commitment in delivering welfare to our veterans. It is with great pleasure that the Southport Sub-Branch was to provide one of those five outstanding volunteers. Much to her surprise (and it bought a tear), Sandra Riebeling was one of the five to receive the Certificate.



Sandy receiving her Certificate



“He’s lost his worm again.”

Call for Advocacy Volunteers

A Plea by John Riebeling

Every now and then I ask for volunteers to take on the role of a Compensation Advocate, but I rarely get a response. It has been suggested to me that I might get a better response if I explained just what an Advocate does.

I began my association with the RSL when I walked in the door of the Southport Sub-Branch and proclaimed my wish to “*give something back*” for the help that I had received on two separate occasions when submitting Disability Compensation Claims to DVA. When I started out, the term used was “*Pensions Officer*” because most DVA claims ended up providing the veteran with some sort of disability pension.

In today’s world the same result occurs when an Advocate helps the veteran complete and submit, a claim for compensation for injuries and illnesses the were the result of their service.

The current Advocate is required to complete on-line training through an organisation set up by DVA and referred to as ATDP. While undergoing this training, the person can help veterans under the guidance of a mentor.

So, having given a somewhat brief description of what a Compensation Advocate does, I would like to encourage anyone out there that has time on their hands and would like to get involved

with something that is a very rewarding undertaking, to contact me and set up a meeting,

Is it a Scam? 2023 Update

Peter Boyes OAM

Last year I wrote an article on the many scams running around with some advice on how to avoid them. With the events of the 2022 hacking of Optus and Medicare still in mind, I offer this update on how scams are evolving in order to catch you in their web of deceit.

According to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), between 1 Jan and 25 September 2022:

- Scamwatch received 603 reports, with losses of over \$336,000 to charity scams.
- The most common contact mode was phone (296 reports), social networking/online forums (77 reports) and email (73 reports).
- The majority of losses were paid via bank transfer (\$287,180), followed by cash (\$18,170) and World Remit (\$15,000).
- People aged 65 and over reported the highest total losses (\$171,105), followed by people aged 45-54 (\$94,855) and 25-34 (\$23,379).
- Reports from men (282) and women (290) were on par (noting 31 reports not specified), however men suffered higher total losses (\$255,506) compared with women (\$75,161).

To reduce the scam, risk every person needs to be alert. If you are unsure, never agree to paying anything ‘on the spot’. Get their contact details and then speak to either a family member or friend to seek their view on whether it is a scam. A legitimate organisation or charity will readily give you their contact details.

Fake charity scams are sadly a common occurrence and disappointingly, scammers try to cash in on the generosity of Australians in times of natural disasters by impersonating charities. It is always best to check to ensure a charity is legitimate before donating to them. Many people may not know to report fake charity scams to Scamwatch, or may feel too embarrassed to but it is important to report fake scams if you become aware of one.

If you have been the victim of a scam, or you are suspicious of a request to donate, report it to Scamwatch. Reporting a scam helps the ACCC

to warn people about current scams, monitor trends and disrupt scams where possible.

For more information about scam activity in Australia, or to report a scam, visit scamwatch.gov.au



© ACCC ScamWatch 2021

Until next time, please look after yourselves, and those you love.

Yours Aye,
Peter Boyes OAM

Albert Ball VC

Contribution by John Riebeling

SE5a A8898, the personal aircraft of Captain Albert Ball VC, No.56 Squadron Royal Flying Corps, Vert Galant Aerodrome, Amiens, France, 5th May 1917 - Final victory in a SE5a.



At a time when Britain was suffering horrendous losses on the Western Front and the nation was in desperate need of a hero, they found what they needed in a handsome young fighter pilot from Nottingham named Albert Ball.

Fiercely patriotic and desperate to do his duty, Ballad displayed both bravery and real flying skill in amassing an impressive victory tallying a relatively short period of combat and by September 1916, he had at least 31 victories to his name, making him Britain's most successful flying ace.

Most of his victories were scored whilst flying the nimble Nieuport Scout and when he was forced to exchange this for the new, but heavier Royal Aircraft Factory SE5 upon joining the elite No.56 Squadron RFC, he was initially less than

impressed. He soon came to appreciate the rugged and heavily armed new fighter, as it was more than a match for the latest German Albatross D.III's he was now facing in combat.

During a period of combat inactivity due to bad weather, 56 Squadron ground crews painted several of their SE5 fighters in flamboyant schemes, reportedly in response to the colourful German aircraft which were opposing their pilots. This unusual embellishment would prove to be relatively short lived, as higher authority took a dim view of the practice and ordered the markings removed immediately.

On Receiving My Australian Defence Reservist Badge by Mark Samson

I have been invited to write a short article about applying for my Australian Defence Reservist/Veterans Badge by Club President, John Riebeling, and the great assistance I had from Matthew Luscombe and the Welfare Team.



Mark Samson

I have been a member of Southport RSL for several years and my father was a part of the Polish W.W 11 Contingent at Southport RSL and we regularly had lunch and a drink at the club and felt very welcome. I was a Lance Bombardier in H.Q Battery, 5/11 Field

Regiment, R.A.A and served on Iron Gauntlet '87 in New Zealand and numerous exercises throughout Australia. Unfortunately, I had a breakdown and was diagnosed with Schizophrenia and was discharged. I went through some very difficult times and struggled to obtain full-time work. After my father died, I took a chance and moved to the U.K to look for work and within a week of arrival, I was employed by the London Borough of Islington as agency staff in 2000 and made a full time Council employee in 2004 and continue to be employed by them.

A game changer of a moment was when I was presented the A.D.M at Australia House in London and now felt welcome to attend parades. It was at Islington Town Hall on Armistice Day that a parish priest, Father Jim Kennedy who was a former Royal Marine asked me about my medal and said he is currently trying to form a veterans' club as the local Royal British Legion had folded a few years earlier in Islington and there was a need to have a forum to promote and assist to all those who served. I said yes, the Islington Veterans Association was born and promptly made treasurer. Since then, we have actively worked with the Royal British Legion, especially with the annual poppy appeal of which we helped to raise more than £30,000 (that's pounds and not dollars) last year.

In June 2022, I was visiting family in Southport, the first time since the Covid outbreak and attended the AGM of Southport RSL and made more than welcome. Here, I met up with Matthew Luscombe and he said I was eligible for the Australian Defence Reservist Badge, and he assisted me with my application and gave me valuable advice on what the Department of Veterans Affairs could accommodate me and if it was feasible to return to Australia to retire.

The badge arrived at my London address in the post just days before the run up to the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal of which I am a collector. Whilst collecting, a couple of veterans asked me about my badge and medal, and I was glad to talk about them. A favourable discussion ensued, and a couple ten-pound notes were deposited in the collection bucket.

I highly recommend Southport RSL members to apply for an Australian Defence Veteran/Reservist badge and to ask the welfare team as to what the Department of Veterans' Affairs can afford them. Have a chat over a cup

of tea, it costs nothing, and Mathew can assist you do it online for you. Wearing the badge is a visible sign of your proud service and helps to promote the aims and values of the RSL and all its members.

Once again, I thank John Riebeling for his warm welcome and to Matthew Luscombe for all his help.

UBIQUE

Mark Samson

Southport RSL Member

London, England

Veterans' Morning Teas

All members, their carers, partners, friends, 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:

15 February 23

19 April 23

21 June 23

16 August 23

18 October 23

13 December 23*

15 March 23

17 May 23

19 July 23

20 September 23

15 November 23

17 January 24

***Note:** The December Morning Tea will be on the **second** Wednesday of December

There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator.

Only a fraction of people will find this funny.

Meeting	Date
General	Sun, 14 Aug 22
General	Sun, 13 Nov 22
General	Sun, 12 Feb 23
AGM	Sun, 14 May 23
General	Sun, 13 Aug 23
General	Sun, 12 Nov 23
All meetings start at 10:30	

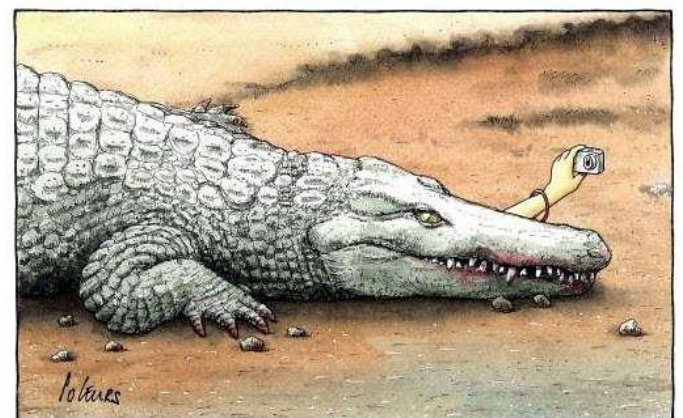


“Linda, those pants we had on sale... were they machine washable?”



“Dad, watch me juggle!”

A man and a woman were travelling in a train.
Woman: “Every time you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place.”
Man: “Awwwww.....! Are you single?”
Woman: “No, I’m a Dentist.”



Saturday morning, I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked up the boat to the van and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50 mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back; now with a different anticipation, and whispered, *"The weather out there is terrible."*

My loving wife of 5 years replied, *"And, can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?"*

And that's how the fight started...

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary.

She said, *"I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds."*

I bought her a bathroom scale.

And then the fight started.....

I took my wife to a restaurant.

The waiter, for some reason, took my order first.

"I'll have the rump steak, rare, please."

He said, *"Aren't you worried about the mad cow?"*

"Nah, she can order for herself."

And that's when the fight started....

Current Board Members

John Riebeling	President
Ken Orr	Deputy President
Michael Burg	Treasurer
vacant	Secretary
Claude Palmer	Director 1
Sandra Riebeling	Director 2
Steve Bloxham OAM	Director 3
Kevin Lloyd-Thomas	Director 4
Peter Boyes OAM	Director 5
Keith Bazley	Director 6

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed.

But somehow, I always had something else to take care of first, the shed, the boat, making beer. Always something more important to me.

Finally, she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors.

I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again, I handed her a toothbrush.

I said, *"When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."*

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping channels.

She asked, *"What's on TV?"*

I said, *"Dust."*

And then the fight started...

Southport RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
Corner Marine Parade & Queen Street
PO Box 31
SOUTHPORT BC QLD 4215
T 0484 280 750
E secretary@southport.rslqld.net.au
W www.southportrsl.org

Editor: John Riebeling
Contributors: Peter Boyes OAM
G Hatchman

Sponsors: Ms Angie Bell, Federal Member for Moncrieff (**Printing**)
Mr Rob Molhoek MP, State Member for Southport (**Mail**)