

# Southport RSL Sub Branch Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 3

August 2023



**REMINDER**  
**General Meeting**  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August**  
**10.30am**  
**Bring your Partner**

## From the President's Desk

**2023 AGM.** This organisation like all similar organisations, depends on the members of that organisation taking some level of commitment in order to keep the organisation going.

At every AGM there are three of the sitting board members that are required to step down from their position and, if they so desire, re-nominate for that position. At this year's AGM the three positions that became vacant only had one person nominate, and that was the person that had been required to step down.

Now, one could take from that occurrence that the incumbent member was doing so good a job that nobody wanted to replace them. But, the lack of nominees indicates to me that there is no one out there that cares enough to put their hand up.

If this situation continues, the Southport Sub-Branch will cease to exist.

Now to a report on the actual AGM.

We held the meeting in what one day will be our fully refurbished Sub-Branch. We were a little disappointed with the number of members that turned up to the meeting, and at the same time pleased that we got as many as we did. It was a gross miscalculation to have a meeting on the same day as Mothers' Day. And don't think I didn't get some flak from my wife who insisted she would be walking out if the meeting didn't finish before 1130 as she had an appointment with our daughter to go to lunch.

The meeting started a few minutes after the scheduled time of 1030 and finished at 1120, which is a little longer than our usual General Meetings. Of course, it would have gone longer if we had to go through an election process.

I guess what took up most of the time was the in-depth reports that were given by the Board Members and the questions and observations that we got from those attending. One of the most interesting things to come from the meeting was the report from Keith Bazley who is our front man for the fit out of our offices. He told the members that the building team were all ready to start and that building should commence before the end of May.

All-in-all, it was a good meeting and when it concluded we all went down for some nice cold drinks and a few light refreshments. On the topic of the light refreshment, I must say that the Bowls Club Manager, Glen, was very accommodating in giving us space and the eats as the place was fully booked for lunch and the kitchen was working flat out.

At the risk of repeating myself, the Board voted to change all our meeting dates so that a clash like this this year will not happen again. There is a list of the remaining meeting days and dates further on in the newsletter.

**Morning Teas.** The number of people who are coming to our morning teas that are held every third Wednesday of the month are getting fewer and fewer. There is no cost involved in attending the morning tea and it is a great opportunity to catch up with old and new friends. It would be great to see some of our old regulars that seem to have forgotten the good times we had.

## 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:

**16 August 23**

**20 September 23**

**18 October 23**

**15 November 23**

**13 December 23**

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



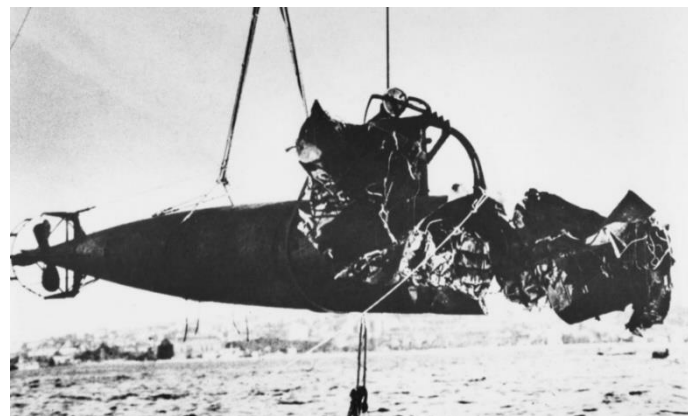
**“Don’t look at me like that, I was polishing it.”**

## Attack on Sydney Harbour Contributed by The Military Voice

On the night of May 31st and into the early hours of June 1st, 1942, three Imperial Japanese Navy Midget Submarines attacked Sydney Harbour, an event referred to by some as the ‘battle of Sydney’.

The brazen attack was preceded by several reconnaissance flights conducted over Sydney that provided valued intelligence. The attack was to be focused on the numerous Allied warships anchored within the harbour, including the prime targets of the HMAS Canberra and USS Chicago.

The first of the three submarines to enter Sydney Harbour on May 31st was M-27, manned by Lieutenant Kenshi Chuman and Petty Officer Takeshi Omori. Entering at approximately 8 pm, the vessel’s propellers became entangled in anti-submarine nets near the western boom gate shortly after. The disturbance was noticed soon after and reported, however by the time patrol boats HMAS Yarroma and HMAS Lolita arrived the submarine’s crew had fired demolition charges that destroyed their craft at 10:37 pm.



**The recovery of the remains of M-27 from Sydney Harbour**

M-24 was the second of the midget submarines to enter the harbour manned by Sub Lieutenant Katsuhisa Ban and Petty Officer Mamoru Ashibe at 9:48 pm. Sighted by the USS Chicago but not successfully repelled by shots, two torpedoes were fired at the Chicago half an hour after the sighting. Both torpedoes missed the target with one running ashore at Garden Island and the second striking the sea wall of Garden Island under the Sydney Harbour ferry Kuttabal, acting as a RAN depot ship. The

Kuttabul sank with 21 Allied naval ratings killed and others badly injured or trapped.

M-24 and its crew disappeared out of the harbour and their end would not be known until 2006 when the wreck of the midget submarine was discovered off Sydney's northern beaches.

The third and final midget submarine, M-22, entered the harbour in the early hours of June 1st. Crewed by Kieu Matsuo and Petty Officer 1st Class Masao Tsuzuku, the midget submarine was detected in Taylors Bay where patrol boats repeatedly depth charged the vessel. The two-man crew were the following day found dead inside their crippled vessel with self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

The audacious and surprising attack from the three midget submarines was a wake up to many Sydneysiders who previously may have felt that the war was something of a world away. This attack remained a watershed moment and helped change the views on Australia from being an outlying Allied member to an important springboard for the defeat of Japan in the Pacific. The loss of 21 Allied lives and the four lives of the Japanese submariners was a stark reminder of the realities of war in an otherwise peaceful feeling Sydney.



**The requisitioned ferry Kuttabul lying on the seabed following M-24's torpedo attack**

The 19 Australians and 2 British ratings were given a burial service with naval honours. The four Japanese submariners were also given a funeral with naval honours at Rookwood Cemetery, a gesture appreciated years later by the Japanese. Two months later their cremated

remains were returned to Japan as part of a diplomatic exchange.

The two recovered midget submarines were put together to construct a composite vessel, on display at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, alongside the wheelhouse from the Kuttabul to create a poignant exhibit. This year, we mark the 80th Anniversary of the attack on Sydney Harbour. We honour and remember the events of World War II and those who defended Australia on May 31st and June 1st 1942.

## Australian Taxation Office

Whether you are an Aussie or not, I think you will find this one amusing and oh so true.

The Australian Tax Office actually commented on this one, emphasising the importance of accuracy in tax returns.

The ATO has returned the Tax Return to a man in Townsville after he apparently answered one of the questions. In response to the question, "Do you have anyone dependent on you?" The man wrote,

"2.1 million illegal immigrants,

1.1 million crackheads,

4.4 million unemployable scroungers,

80,000 criminals in over 85 prisons plus

**450 idiots in Parliament, thousands of 'retired politicians' and an entire group that call themselves 'Senators'."**

The ATO stated that the response he gave was "unacceptable."

The man responded by asking ATO, "**Who did I leave out?**"

### 2023 SCHEDULED MEETING DATES

Board Meeting 21 June 23

Board Meeting 12 July 23

Board Meeting 9 August 23

Quarterly Meeting 20 August

Board Meeting 13 September 23

Board Meeting 11 October 23

Board Meeting 8 November 23

Quarterly Meeting 19 November 23

Board Meeting 13 December 23

## Capt. Sydney Dalrymple and 2/Lt. G. Beagle

Villaverla Aerodrome, Italy, August 1918



**Bristol F2B Fighter D8084/S**

Great War Australian ace pilot Captain Sydney Dalrymple transferred to the newly formed No.139 Squadron at Villaverla in Italy during the summer of 1918, where he would be flying the Bristol Fighter in an armed reconnaissance role. At this stage of the war, Dalrymple only had a single aerial victory to his name, however, this was gained whilst flying the Martinsyde G100 'Elephant', an aircraft which gained its nickname due to its size and ungainly flying characteristics.

Early operations with the Bristol Fighter in Italy proved disappointing, as the aircraft were initially flown in a similar manner to the much-maligned BE2c, flying straight and level to allow the observer to take his pictures. Indeed, the squadron had lost three crews in action during this period and only switched to flying the aircraft much more aggressively following the arrival of famous ace William Barker as their new Commanding Officer, who understood the fighting qualities of this effective multi role aircraft.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918, Dalrymple and his gunner 2/Lt. G Beagle used Bristol F2B Fighter D-8084 to shoot down two Aviatik D.1 Berg Fighters near Caldonazzo during the same mission and would dispatch two Albatros D.III's on 13<sup>th</sup> September flying a different Bristol. Now officially an 'Ace' pilot, Dalrymple was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1918. Bristol F2B Fighter D-8084 was unusual in that it carried Charlie Chaplin artwork on the port side engine cowling

## TROOPER'S PROGRESS and FULL CIRCLE

by Claude Palmer

In 1953, a young Trooper of 2/14 QMI (CMF) marched in to G Coy, 11 NS Bn, Wacol, Qld, in uniform, with CMF ID. He was immediately addressed by Sgt Austin Hogan, then a Regular Army platoon commander: "Who are you?" "Tpr Palmer reporting for National Service, Serg." Sgt: "You're NOT trooper anyone-you're Private Recruit Minor whatever!"

A week later, Pte Palmer was marched into the Infantry Company Commander, Major Wright. "Training Wing is running a first promotion Course for Regulars from 3 RAR. There are a few NS vacancies. Are you interested?" Pte: "Yes, Sir." So, off the Pte went -and qualified, much to the undisguised amusement of the Regular Diggers, mostly Korean Veterans.

So, Pte is now Cpl, assistant to platoon Sgt Hogan. A few weeks later, another Company Commander interview: "Have you thought about the Army as a career?" Cpl: "Applied last year, but rejected as medically unfit!" Major: "Medically unfit? But you've passed all our tests without any symptoms, we'll send you to OCS Portsea-no worries." Cpl: "No thanks, Sir, but Duntroon would be good." Major: "Mmm, but you'd have 4 years there-they'll probably get sick of you in that time!"

And so it happened that the CMF Tpr/NS Pte graduated from Duntroon, then Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and Royal Military College of Science, British Army. Konfrontation, Vietnam, Singapore, eventually to Department of Defence Canberra. Time to go home to Queensland, as Chief Engineer AMPOL Brisbane. Directly reposted from Regular Army to Army Reserve, his final posting, as CO 1 EME Services Unit, Bulimba, where, in 1953, he'd trained with 2/14 QMI. On joining his new Unit, was greeted by the very same Sgt who had met him at Wacol in 1953, and whose recommendations doubtless assisted his career, now a Major, Aussie Hogan!

In memory of the late Major Austin Hogan, RAEME. Arte et Marte. RIP Aussie, Duty done.

## Office Fit Out

In the period since our last newsletter, we have continued to be frustrated in getting the office fit out started. Our architect had completed the plans, the engineer had completed his survey, the certifier had not certified. Why had the certifier not certified the plans is a problem which we had no answer for. The reason the plans were not certified is due to a discrepancy in the fire services to the building. On the one hand the Bowls Club management were assuring us they had passed a fire inspection with no issues but our certifier identified that the building's fire services did not comply with the current standards.

Another issue was the signing of a new licence agreement. The original licence had an end date of June 2024, at time frame that was not acceptable to us and we set about having several meetings with the Bowls Club management which resulted in some subtle changes which included an option to renew the licence for a further five years following the anniversary date. There were some long delays in getting this new licence signed off and approved by the GCCC and we were not too keen to start the fit out before it was in place.



Why retirees are always so happy

**I accidentally rubbed ketchup in my eyes. Now I know what Heinzight is.**

## COVID CAUTION

Monday 15 May, a Veteran and Partner's Unit reunion lunch for 19 people, ages between 75 and 88. One couple had travelled by air from Melbourne the previous weekend, another driven from Port Macquarie. On that day, all well, no symptoms, not a cough or sneeze. Some hugging, many handshakes, much conversation over a three-hour period.

The following Wednesday, the Melbourne male felt ill, both he and his wife diagnosed Covid positive! By the following Friday, 17 of the 19 present had tested positive to Covid also. Of those, at least five had received full Covid Vaccinations, including the fifth Pfizer booster, plus the current Flu Vac. The 17 patients sought medical help; most were prescribed anti-Viral medication. For approximately 10 days thereafter, most experienced serious flu-like symptoms of discomfort, nasal discharge, and coughing. However, as of the time of writing, most have generally recovered, some still experiencing minor flu-like headaches.

A logical hypothesis would suggest that, since the Melbourne couple were the first diagnosed, they probably contracted the Covid virus either in flight within the confines of the aircraft, or from the inevitable airport crowding. The bad news is that Covid remains around, and that social distancing and masking is prudent in any crowded environment.

## RSL State Congress 2023

The State Congress was held on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> June at the Convention Centre in Fortitude Valley. Due to family commitments, this year I chose to attend the Congress on my own and without any of the "frills" that go with it. Consequently, I drove to the Convention Centre early on the Saturday and when the Congress concluded, I came straight back to the Gold Coast.

The Congress began with an opening ceremony attended by all the delegates and many of their partners. Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland attended the opening ceremony and gave a short but meaningful speech.

The business of the day began shortly after the opening ceremony and followed the format of most AGM events. The one variation from this is the calling of the roll where all 190 of the

Delegates were required to indicate they were present in the room.

There were several motions that had to be voted on, the first of which was an amendment to the State Constitution. It was an amendment that had been brought about from a ASIC request and was hotly debated to the extent that a vote on the amendment was postponed while the State Executive consulted their lawyers. So that thing progressed, the remaining motions were presented and voted on.

The first of these was a motion put forward by the Wide Bay and Burnett District asking for a dedicated funeral assistance fund to be set up. After several presentations for and against the motion, it was defeated.

The second submitted by the Emerald Sub-Branch proposed that State lobby both Federal and State governments and authorities to have the following words added to any welcome to country ceremony—*“Let us remember and give thanks to those who have given their lives from all theatres of war and who have given us the freedom and the rights we enjoy today”*. The motion was successful.

The third was submitted by the Kawana Waters Sub-Branch asking for RSL support to have the Domestic Emergency Operations Medal for ADF personnel deployed on national emergency operations. This was successful.

The fourth motion was submitted by the Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub-Branch asking for a review of the cost involved in Sub-Branches providing volunteer advocates and to then provide more funding. This was successful.

Following the morning tea break, the motion to amend the State Constitution was revisited with an amendment to the motion to include the deleted clause 2.1.5 reinserted. The motion was then successful.

Following the lunch break there were a series of presentations made before the Congress finished late in the afternoon.

A full set of the Congress documents is held by the Sub-Branch and may be perused at any time during normal office business hours.

**How much does a chimney cost?  
Nothing, it's on the house.**

## Vacant Position Sub-Branch Treasurer

The person must be computer literate and be competent in the use of Microsoft Word and Excel.

Please contact John Riebeling on

**0407 396 827**

**Old age is when you have stopped growing at both ends, and have begun to grow in the middle.**

### Current Board Members

John Riebeling	<b>President</b>
Ken Orr	<b>Deputy President</b>
<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
Michael Burg	<b>Secretary</b>
Claude Palmer	<b>Director 1</b>
Sandra Riebeling	<b>Director 2</b>
Steve Bloxham OAM	<b>Director 3</b>
Kevin Lloyd-Thomas	<b>Director 4</b>
Craig Thomas	<b>Director 5</b>
Keith Bazley	<b>Director 6</b>

**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](mailto:secretary@southport.rslqld.net.au)**  
**W [www.southportrsl.org](http://www.southportrsl.org)**

**Editor:** John Riebeling  
**Contributors:**

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