

## ***August 2021 – Toukley RSL Sub Branch President's Report:***

As I commence my report for this month, we are almost five weeks into lockdown, with confirmation last Wednesday that this has been extended for a further four weeks, until Saturday 28 August. This a difficult time for all of us and I hope that you have all remained safe and well during these trying times.

Regrettably, our rescheduled Wellness and Wellbeing Function (Christmas in July) has had to be cancelled, due to the extended lockdown. There is no point, at this stage, in scheduling any further activities until we are back to some sort of normality. All monies paid for the Christmas in July Function can be rolled over to the Christmas Function on Sunday, 19 December 2021 and new tickets issued. However, should you prefer a refund, this will be arranged, once the Main Office re-opens.

The Committee has been working out of Diggers' Inn, in a reduced capacity, on a Thursday each week to carry out essential Sub Branch work. The Committee is also working from home to keep on top of the general day to day activities and to answer enquiries.

Thank you to Tom Hobbs who, since the start of this lockdown, has been putting the cenotaph flags up and taking them down each day. Bob Swift and Tom have also been tending to the cenotaph gardens, fertilising of the new plants and generally ensuring that the grounds are kept neat and tidy.

I would personally like to acknowledge and thank all of those from the Committee and Welfare who have kept in contact with veterans in Aged Care, or at home, who are isolated and possibly not in the best of health, especially during this current period. Your phone calls to these people make a big difference. I have regularly been kept updated on the welfare of some of our members. Your efforts are much appreciated.

With strict Covid restrictions in place until the end of August, unfortunately the July and August General Meetings had to be cancelled.

We have put all information on our Webpage, Facebook Page and George Meier has also messaged as many members as possible. Thanks to both George and John Noorbergen.

Hopefully, the September General Meeting will go ahead but we will not know until closer to the date.

At the next General Meeting, if you have not already done so, could you please advise George Meier of a **Mobile Phone Number** (not a home number), so that you can be notified and updated on Sub Branch activities and events. There are times when we need to either cancel or re-schedule an event at short notice, and we want to be able to notify all of our members of any changes. By having your mobile phone number, we will be able to text message you with notifications. You can also email George, if you prefer, with your details.

Just a reminder that if you have any queries during lockdown time, please email either myself ([president@toukleyrslsb.org.au](mailto:president@toukleyrslsb.org.au)) or Vice President George Meier ([vicepresident@toukleyrslsb.org.au](mailto:vicepresident@toukleyrslsb.org.au)). Both George and I are checking our emails on a regular basis. Also keep a watch on the Sub Branch Webpage under *What's Happening* and the Facebook Page for updates.

We understand that the Sub Branch mural is progressing well. They have been able to source the weatherproof board on which the mural will be mounted and that has now been ordered but, again, progress is hindered by the lockdown.

The recent plantings in the memorial gardens are coming along well. Although quite small, they are all thriving (because of the loving care they are receiving).

Bob Swift has made some enquiries regarding replacement of the back fence at Diggers' Inn which is in a bad state. With the proposal to erect a suitable shed across the back of the block, it seems prudent to replace the fence in the immediate future. A quotation has been received and accepted. The back neighbours have agreed to share the cost of a new fence plus the removal of the current one. This work will be done once the current restrictions are lifted.

Plans for our Remembrance Day service are almost complete and good progress has been made on Anzac Day 2022. The Committee is making use of the time at home to do as much forward planning as we possibly can. All of our Policies and Procedures have been reviewed and almost all updated as well.

The Sub Branch has in its possession a number of donated original medals from WWII veterans, all in a state of disarray and requiring re-mounting. I am pleased to say that, with the total support of the Committee, these medals are in the process of being restored. When received back at the Sub Branch, they will be

displayed in the Memorabilia cabinets, on new display boards. The Committee agrees that we have a moral obligation to restore these medals to ensure that they receive the respect they deserve.

Sadly, two of our Sub Branch members passed away in the past month.

Warren William Kelly – 05 July 2021

Allan James Howarth – 20 July 2021

*Lest We Forget*

Stay safe and stay well.

*Bob Wilson*

President