



TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

Newsletter

Issue 70– February 2022

NEW SUB BRANCH MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new Sub-Branch Members:

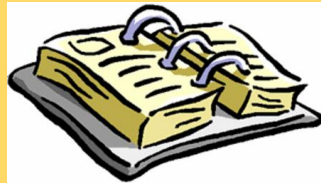
VALE

Rowland Simpkin
Harry James

Lest We Forget



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Sub Branch General Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month,
At 10.30am, upstairs in Club Toukley RSL, with the exception of January.
All Members are invited to attend.**

AGM	Sunday 13 February 10.30 am
Next monthly meeting	Monday 7 March 10.30 am
Wallerah Bay Anzac Service	Sunday 10 April 9.00 am

Toukley RSL Sub Branch President's Report:

A very happy New Year to all! Let's hope 2022 is much brighter and we can all return to a more normal life following the restrictions of the past two years.

I trust that you all had a safe and happy Christmas with family and friends.

Our popular Wellbeing Function was held on Sunday 19 December 2021 with approximately 70 members, partners and invited guests in attendance. The fabulous food was in abundance and I'm sure that nobody went hungry on the day! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we had many positive comments. It was great to be able to get together and catch up over a lovely meal and a "little" Christmas cheer. If you had a good time, like I did, mark Sunday 24 July 2022 in your diary for our next Wellbeing Function (Christmas in July).

This year, the Committee will be looking at a few possible projects and improvements. Bob Swift and George Meier are managing our current project of replacing the old bottlebrush trees in the Sub Branch carpark with more leafy shrubs and renewing the garden borders at the same time. An extra rubbish bin will also be installed in the Sub Branch carpark. As previously advised, when a suitable Grant becomes available, we will look at installing safety walkway lighting at the cenotaph. The viability of renovating Diggers' Inn is also being considered, and I have been endeavouring to source a Design Architect to look over the building, and come up with some ideas, so that I can report back to the members on whether the prospect of renovating is going to be viable and cost effective.

I am pleased to advise that we have now been able to locate a company here on the Central Coast to engrave our cenotaph plaques and are very pleased with the standard of the engraved plaques. Recently, we had a total of twelve plaques to be engraved – some were replacement and others new. Our previous plaques were engraved by Vice President George Meier's family company in the United States we are very grateful to George and CHE Precision for the supply and engraving of over 400 plaques up until this time, at no cost to the Sub Branch.

We endeavour to keep our members informed of Sub Branch happenings and events as best we can through the monthly Newsletter, Sub Branch webpage and Facebook page and at General Meetings. Over recent months, we have been sending a notification SMS for upcoming meetings and general information. We have now commenced sending an SMS message to members' mobile phones to notify of the passing of a member, together with details of the funeral, and upcoming interment services. If you have not already supplied your mobile phone details to Vice President, George Meier, and would like to receive notifications to keep updated, please see George at any General Meeting, or email vicepresident@toukleyrslsb.org.au with your details and he will add your name to the list.

We are receiving positive feedback about these SMS messages as a way of keeping members informed and up to date.

Anzac Day planning is well under way and we are looking at new ideas and enhancements for both of our Anzac Day services. We are hopeful of having a march, and I have spoken to Central Coast Council as well as completing and lodging a traffic management request plan for both the Dawn and Morning Services. All invitations have been posted and we are beginning to receive responses. We are currently taking bookings from schools and Aged Care Facilities who would like representation from the Sub Branch at their Anzac Services. However, this will all be dependent on Covid restrictions at the time.

Steve Edmunds has resigned from the Committee in December. I would like to thank Steve for his contribution and input during his time on the Committee. Bob Swift is now looking after Diggers' Inn.

Following the December 2021 Central Coast District Council Meeting, Graham Tredinnick resigned as Toukley RSL Sub Branch representative. George Meier was elected as his replacement at the December Committee Meeting. Thank you, Graham, for volunteering your time for this role over many years. Graham will remain as the Sub Branch Wellbeing Officer.

Just a reminder that the Sub Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 13 February 2022, commencing at 10.30am. Please ensure that you have your current Sub Branch Membership card with you to gain entry. **Doors will close at precisely 10.30am**, after which time you will be denied entry, so please arrive early! There will not be an election for the Committee at this AGM. This will occur at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. So if you have aspirations, essential knowledge and time to become a member of the Sub Branch Committee, consider putting your name forward next year.

We welcome new members, so if you know of a veteran who may be interested in joining our Sub Branch, please contact either of our Membership Officers, Ian Collier or Roy Norman for a Membership Form.

R Wilson

Bob Wilson
President
Toukley RSL Sub Branch

. Keeping your Sub Branch Details Up to Date

If you have recently moved, or your details have changed, please let the Sub Branch Office know so that we can update your address and contact details.

This information is required so that we can send any correspondence and membership renewals to the correct address.

Also, if you know of a member who has moved, either to another area or to an Aged Care Facility, please notify the Sub Branch Office.

A note from Tommy Hobbs to all members :

i aim to fund raise for the Westmead Childrens Hospital

all going well and hoping Covid wont put the brakes on

things and not allowing us to run . My first fund raiser

will be in April the second one will be the iconic

City2Surf in August and if my memory is correct it will be my 38/39

If i am still kicking by November my last will be the local

Hash House Harriers 1/2 marathon /10 klm Entrance run

in late November. I am hoping our members have long

arms and short pockets and donate generously to

this very worthy cause . tommy hobbs.

AUSTRALIA UNDER ATTACK 1940-1945

The Japanese first attacked the Australian mainland on 19 February 1942 when they launched a devastating air raid on Darwin in the Northern Territory. Two weeks later, more aircraft attacked Broome in Western Australia killing about 70 people. By the end of September 1943, Japanese pilots had flown 97 air raids against towns and bases in northern Australia. On 31 May 1942, the war came to the east coast when three Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney Harbour. In June 1942 a submarine lightly shelled the eastern suburbs in Sydney and then Newcastle. Japanese submarines also attacked coastal shipping, causing the loss of some 60 lives and 29,000 tons of shipping during the two months after the midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART28520

Darwin, 19 February 1942, Ray Honisett, 1984 [Oil on canvas 122x182.8cm. AWM ART 28520]

Journey's end for a mother

Lieutenant Kieu Matsuo was the commander of the midget submarine from 'the mother sub', I-22. He and his crewman had shot themselves to avoid capture. Their bodies and those of two other submariners were recovered from the submarines and cremated with full naval honours and their ashes were returned to Japan. The Japanese Ambassador, Mr Tatsuo Kawai, and his staff, who had been trapped in Canberra since the outbreak of the war, were offered their return passage to Japan in an exchange of Allied and Japanese diplomats. Ambassador Kawai carried the submariners' ashes back to Japan. In 1968 Mrs Matsuo travelled to Australia to see where her son had died. During her visit she presented a number of gifts, including this handwritten poem, to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

I nurtured my son just as I grew precious flowers

So that he could dedicate himself to the Emperor

Now that the storm has passed

And all the cherry blossoms have blown away

The garden looks very deserte

Lieutenant Matsuo's mother wrote this poem to commemorate her son's death in the midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour on 31 May/ 1 June 1942. [This translation was provided by the Australia-Japan Research Project at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra]

Puzzle Corner



Trivia

- 1 During which civil war did the battle of 'Spring Hill' take place?
- 2 Who did The Duke of Windsor and Wallis Simpson meet in Germany in 1937?
- 3 In 2013, the Falkland Islands voted to remain as part of what nation?
- 4 Who killed Abraham Lincoln in 1865?
- 5 Which singer faced assault charges in 2014?
- 6 What was the first country to put men on the moon?
- 7 François II was the king of which European country?
- 8 The chemical symbol K stands for what?
- 9 Bill Clinton admitted he had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky after a stain was found on what type of clothing that belonged to her?
- 10 Which river is the longest in the world?
- 11 Who was British Prime Minister between 1979 and 1990?
- 12 Which river is the longest in the world?
- 13 What was the name of the rock opera released by The Who in 1969?

LITTLE-KNOWN OPERATIONS 1939-1945

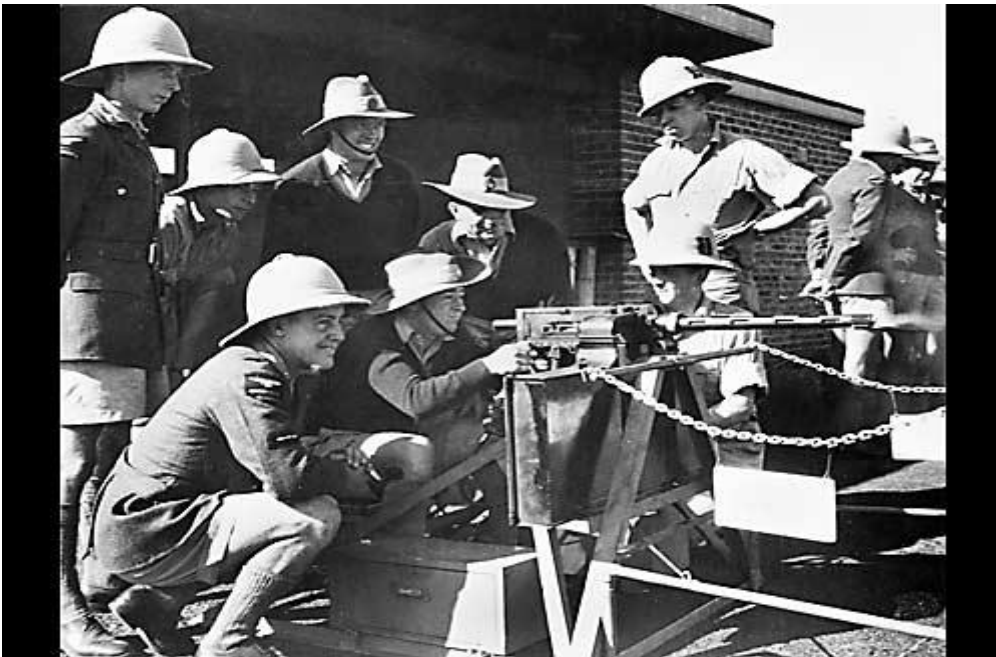
Several thousand Australians served in locations remote from the main areas of Australian operations during World War II. They served in places like China, Russia, the Faroe Islands, Madagascar, Burma, the West Indies, Iraq, Kenya, the Azores and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) personnel were the more likely to serve in far-flung locations. For instance, the crew of HMAS *Perth* spent the first six months of the war escorting tankers between Trinidad in the West Indies and Venezuela in South America as well as duties in the western Atlantic. HMA Ships *Napier*, *Nizam* and *Norman* participated in the invasion of Madagascar in 1942. Other RAN personnel served in British and Allied ships including convoy escorts from the South Atlantic to the Arctic and even a mini-submarine raid in Indo-China (Vietnam).

Aircrews trained under the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) could be sent literally anywhere with Royal Air Force (RAF) units. Most served in Europe and the Mediterranean but others, such as Flying Officer John Richard Hutchins, served in diverse locations. Hutchins became the only Australian serviceman lost off the coast of Brazil after his RAF Transport Command aircraft crashed. Several thousand Australians served with squadrons in India and Burma.

Members of some Australian Army units also spent time elsewhere. The 7th Division Cavalry Regiment was in Cyprus in 1941 and the 16th and 17th Infantry Brigades served in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) during 1942. Others were posted to special duties in even smaller groups, such as the officers and men from the 8th Australian Division sent to China with 'Tulip Force' during 1941-1942.

AWM MED0010



Rhodesia, South Africa Trainee Rhodesian, Australian and British air crews on the ranges with their guns during the early stages of their training. The men are grouped around a British .303 Browning gun. Rhodesia, c1940. [AWM MED0010]

Mission 204 - 'Tulip Force'

A small group of Australians from the 8th Australian Division was posted to the Bush Warfare School in Burma in 1941. The men were trained in demolition, ambush and engineering reconnaissance during October and November. The two officers and 43 men became part of 'Tulip Force', a top-secret mission to train Chinese guerrillas to fight the Japanese. The British provided equipment, supplies and the remainder of the men. In February 1942, the men travelled in trucks up the Burma Road towards China for 18 days, covering more than 3000 kilometres. From there they travelled another 800 kilometres by train into China before trekking into the mountainous border region to join the Chinese 5th Battalion commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Chen Ling Sun. They travelled with eight tonnes of equipment and their explosives were packed into small square coolie baskets and carried with them.

The Australian Minister in Chungking, Sir Frederick Eggleston, visited the men in their camp at Kiyang at the end of May. After his visit to Kiyang, the Australian Minister sent another cable to Australia recommending that the men remain there.

The Australians remained in the mountains with the Chinese guerrillas until September 1942, when the project was abandoned. The Australians did not participate in any of the Chinese guerrilla activities; they suffered from malaria, dysentery and typhus; and they had no confidence in the Chinese commander under whom they were to serve.



Puzzle Corner Answers



1 America

2 Hitler

3 UK

4 John Wilkes Booth

5 Justin Bieber

6 USA

7 France

8 Potassium

9 Dress

10 Nile

11 Margaret Thatcher

12 Nile

13 Tommy

Just been in Morrison's
and watched a bloke
buy all the mussels,
crabs and lobsters . 🙄
I thought you shellfish
bastard.



TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

Patron:	Karen McNamara
President:	Bob Wilson
Vice Presidents:	George Meier Ian Collier
Secretary:	Judith Walker
Treasurer:	John Fraher
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