



# Pause to Remember

# 11-11-11

TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH  
*Newsletter*

Issue 79– November 2022

## **NEW SUB BRANCH MEMBERS**

Welcome to the following new Sub-Branch Members:

Mark Osborne

David Craig

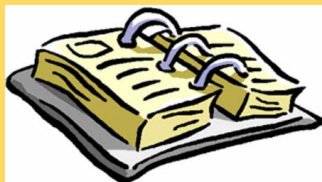
### **VALE**

Arthur Giblin

***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.**

Remembrance Day	Friday 11 November 10.45 am
Merchant Mariners Day Norah Head	Saturday 3 December
Next monthly meeting	Monday 5 December 10.30 am
Members Xmas Party & Raffle	Sunday 18 December 11.00 am
Committee Meeting	Monday 19 December 10.30 am
Annual General Meeting	Sunday 19 February 10.30 am

# ***Toukley RSL Sub Branch President's Report:***



## **Congratulations**

### **Tom Hobbs**

We have just been advised that our committeeman Tom Hobbs has been awarded Life Membership of the RSL. On behalf of all the members we congratulate Tom on receiving this most prestigious award. Of the over 350 Sub Branches and 20,000 members, only 5 in NSW have been given the honour this year. Tom has served our Sub Branch and members over a very long period and we feel his outstanding dedication has now justifiably been rewarded.

Our Remembrance Day Commemoration and Dedication Service will be held at the cenotaph on Friday 11 November 2022, commencing at 10.45am. We are proud to have the addition of the Iraq/Afghanistan plaque on our cenotaph as a reminder of all who served and those who made the supreme sacrifice, during both wars, and this plaque will be dedicated as a part of the Remembrance Day service. Refreshments will be served upstairs in The Ary Toukley for members, partners and invited guests, at the conclusion of the service.

The RSL NSW Annual Congress was held in Newcastle on 31 October and 1 November 2022. This year, we had the option of attending in person or participating virtually. I feel that there is more to be gained from attending, as it provided the opportunity to speak and network with delegates from other Sub Branches around the State. A report has been prepared and will be submitted to members at the November General Meeting.

The Sub Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 19 February 2023 at 10.30am in Celebrations Function Room, upstairs in The Ary. Notifications to members will be mailed on 1 December 2022. In accordance with RSL NSW's Standard Operating Procedures, nominations will open four (4) weeks prior to the AGM, on 22 January 2023, and must be lodged with the Secretary no later than 5.00pm on Sunday 5 February 2023. If you wish to

nominate for a position on the Committee, please contact The Secretary, between 22 January 2023 and 5 February 2022, for a Nomination Form.

Those members who are interested in volunteering on the Committee can download the Duties and Responsibilities for all/any positions from the RSL NSW website.

It is pleasing to see that Diggers' Inn is being utilised more regularly. Tiffany Kelly from Open Arms, who many of you would have met at our General Meetings or workshops, has been instrumental in arranging and running workshops and, commencing 3 November 2022, will be working out of Diggers' Inn with the aim of assisting veterans on the Central Coast. Together with Tiffany, representatives from Legacy, Open Arms, Welfare Advocacy and Pension Advocacy will be in attendance on the following Thursdays:

3 November 2022  
17 November 2022  
1 December 2022  
15 December 2022  
12 January 2023

If you have time, have a query, or are passing by on any of these dates, drop into Diggers' Inn and say hello.

The Sub Branch recently received a request through RSL NSW to assist a veteran living in the Toukley area. Following a phone call to Tiffany, this matter was immediately dealt with and the wheels put into motion to get it resolved. I am pleased to be able to report a very pleasing outcome to the complete satisfaction of the veteran and also the Sub Branch. This is what we are about: assisting our veterans in whatever way we can.

Thank you to RSL Anzac Village at Narrabeen, and to Tiffany, for your input and assistance. It is very much appreciated.

Preparations for Anzac Day 2023 are well under way and we have commenced taking bookings for Commemoration services at schools and Aged Care Facilities and liaising with Central Coast Council and Police coordinating road closures and logistics for the march.

The annual Merchant Mariners' Day at Norah Head will be held on Saturday 3 December 2022, commencing at 11.00am. The Sub Branch bus will be leaving from outside The Ary Toukley at 10.15am for those who wish to attend. Please give your name to Bus Manager Allan Love if you wish to reserve a seat on the bus. The Sub Branch has been part of this Commemorative Service for a number of years and we are honoured to support it again this year.

Tickets for the Wellness & Wellbeing Function (Christmas Party) are now on sale. Please see Tom Hobbs for tickets and table reservations. Tickets can be purchased at the General Meetings or on Thursdays from 10am-12noon from the Sub Branch Office. If you have any special dietary requirements, let Tom know when purchasing tickets. Great prizes have been purchased for the raffle at this popular event.

Further on in this Newsletter, editor Ian Collier has included an article on the history of the Sub Branch and a few photos from the early days, kindly provided by Committeeman Roy Norman. We have come a long way since its formation, and should all be proud of our achievements over time.

*Bob Wilson*  
President

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## **. 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 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.



## **WANTED NEW MEMBERS**

### **National Servicemen's Association Central Coast Sub-branch Toukley**

Benefits-monthly meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month except APRIL, DECEMBER and JANUARY, regular social luncheons for members, family and friends, BBQ's, Bus trips to places of interest.

Membership forms available from our Membership Officer Bobby Byrnes on 0400 352 811 or email [robertbyrnes7@bigpond.com](mailto:robertbyrnes7@bigpond.com)

### **Volunteers required for Vietnam Veterans Park at Gorokan.**

The Vietnam Veterans Park which is on the left hand side of Wallarah Road just as you drive over the Toukley Bridge towards Gorokan is maintained by the Vietnam Vets group. The group would appreciate some assistance if anyone has a few hours to spare. They meet on a Wednesday at 9.30 every five weeks in winter and about every 2-3 weeks in growing season. If anyone has some spare time please contact John Fraher on 0408 092 230 or email at [jffcashman@hotmail.com.au](mailto:jffcashman@hotmail.com.au).

# Puzzle Corner



## Trivia

- 1 Honiara is the capital city of which island country?
- 2 Who served as President of the United States from 1993 to 2001?
- 3 What is the capital of Germany?
- 4 Which mammal is Australia's equivalent to the Easter Bunny?
- 5 Number of strings on a cello?
- 6 In which European city is the Bridge of Sighs?
- 7 What is the largest desert in the world?
- 8 How many players in a basketball team?
- 9 What is the world's smallest country?
- 10 How long does a kookaburra live ?

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**Ill never forget the  
look on the cashiers  
face, when she  
scanned the packet of  
bird seed,  
And I asked her how  
long does it take for  
the birds to grow once  
I plant them.**

## **Member Profile : Robert Edward Williamson**

Robert was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1947 at Semaphore, South Australia.

Robert's family moved to ANZAC Village Holsworthy N.S.W. in 1953 as his father was in the Army. His Primary Schooling was at Hammondville Public School and his Secondary Schooling was at Liverpool Boys High.

In 1963 Robert started an apprenticeship in Accounting doing his studies through the Hemmingway Robertson Institute via correspondence whilst being employed at Bradford's Insulation Pty Ltd in Auburn .N.S.W.

Robert then joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1965 and started recruit training at H.M.A.S. Cerberus and was then posted to H.M.A.S. Melbourne as an Ordinary Seaman Communicator.

In 1966 Robert was posted to H.M.A.S. Vampire which was deployed for six months to the Malayan Strategic Reserve and his tour of duty included Borneo, Malaysia and Singapore. On completion of this tour Robert completed a radio operator course at H.M.A.S. Cerberus in 1966-67 and on completion was a qualified Able Seaman Radio Operator and was posted to H.M.A.S. Perth from 1967 until 1969 with 2 deployments to Vietnam serving under the United States Navy 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet in the Tonkin Gulf.

From 1969-1971 Robert was posted to H.M.A.S. Harman which served as a Ship to Shore Communications and Major Communications Relay facility.

Robert then had multiple postings from 1972-1974 after being promoted to Leading Radio Operator which included H.M.A.S. Kimbla, H.M.A.S. Perth and H.M.A.S. Stalwart.

From 1974 -1975 Robert was posted to H.M.A.S. Kuttabul operating the Local Sydney Harbour fleet broadcast.

After a short 18 months shore posting in late 1975 he was posted back to sea to several ships: H.M.A.S Swan, H.M.A.S. Yarra, H.M.A.S. Stalwart until 1977

In 1977 to 1979 his final days in the R.A.N. was at H.M.A.S. Platypus submarine base.



Then in 1979 Robert joined the Royal Australian Air Force and served at Edinburgh South Australia, Laverton, Victoria and Support Command, Victoria Barracks, Victoria as a Communicator Operator.

1981-1984 Robert was posted to Operation H.Q.O.C. Lapstone NSW and then to 1 Central Ammo Depot at Penrith.

1984 Robert was promoted to Corporal and posted to R.A.A.F. Base Darwin and after 4 years was posted back to H.Q.O.C in 1988 and promoted to Sergeant and resigned in 1990 after 23 and a half years of military service

Robert married his lovely wife Virginia in 1969 and they have 3 children, 2 girls and 1 boy and 4 Grand-children and 2 Great grand-children.

Robert keeps active and is a regular at Toukley R.S.L. Sub Branch meetings, functions and services and is also involved with The Vietnam Veterans Park adjacent to the Toukley Bridge

Robert supports The West Tigers in the N.R.L. and looks forward to them winning the 2023 Grand Final.



## History of the Toukley RSL Sub Branch

The Toukley RSL Sub Branch, then known as The Upper Tuggerah Lakes Sub-Branch, was formed on 9 November 1948.

On 24 October 1949, the Sub Branch purchased the old Wyong Bakehouse for one hundred and four pounds, five shillings and with voluntary labour, reconstructed the building with suitable additions which, when finished, was a double frontage weatherboard building on land purchased where the present main entrance to the Club is now. A new brick building was erected in 1963 and named the Toukley RSL Sub Branch Club.



*1st section of Toukley RSL  
1948-1949*



*1st Toukley RSL Anzac Day Toukley 1949*

*Photos courtesy of Roy Norman*

In 2008 the Sub Branch sold the Club to Club Toukley RSL (now known as The Ary), retaining the cenotaph and the small carpark where the Sub Branch Bus shelter sits. Toukley RSL Sub Branch, although a completely separate entity, has its offices upstairs in The Ary and is currently run by eleven volunteer Sub Branch Committee members.

In 2014, the Sub Branch purchased a building at 203 Main Road, known as Diggers' Inn, to house its Pensions and Welfare volunteers. This was deemed necessary when the State Government closed the DVA Van Office in Gosford, creating a greater workload on our Welfare and Pensions Officers. It is currently being used on weekdays by the Toukley RSL Sub Branch and the Central Coast Veterans Group, and on weekends by the Veterans Motorcycle Group – all working for the benefit of veterans and their families. The Sub Branch also has an extensive library for the use of veterans.

During COVID restrictions and lockdown, the Sub Branch was able to use Diggers' Inn to carry out normal day to day work, thus ensuring that accounts were paid and enquiries attended to.

We have been fortunate to have been approached recently by Open Arms to use Diggers' Inn for workshops and also the future use as a "one-stop shop" for all veterans' and their families' needs, including Pensions and Welfare advice.



*Diggers Inn*

The first interment of ashes in the Cenotaph Memorial Gardens, known as Toukley & District War Memorial, was in 1974, those of Walter Cliffe.

Over the years, the elements have taken their toll, and the Committee and Members have taken action to replace the old plaques and coping around the six garden beds and add a Lone Pine tree. In 2018, two bronze statues were sourced and placed on the cenotaph and, in 2019 the sandstone cenotaph was replaced with granite, with an eternal flame on the top. New granite pathways, a safety fence on the Main Road end, new greenery in the garden beds and a hedge garden on the southern side, a beautiful mural on the fence bordering the Police Station and the recently acquired Afghanistan/Iraq plaque on the cenotaph almost complete the upgrading.

The Sub Branch is very proud of the enhancements carried out over the years, which gives the 429 departed Sub Branch veterans whose ashes are interred there, and future veterans, the respect they deserve for their service to our country.

The ashes of 429 deceased Toukley RSL Sub-Branch veterans are interred at the Cenotaph Memorial Gardens including eight known Rats of Tobruk.

The oldest veteran, Walter Cliffe, was born on 15 January 1894. He joined the Australian Army in Sydney at the age of 20 years and 7 months and became a driver, serving in France from January 1916. Mr Cliffe also served as a Gunner with the 10 Field Artillery Brigade. He returned to Australia on 22 September 1918 and was discharged from the Army on 3 February 1919. Walter Cliffe passed away on 24 May 1974 and, according to our records, is the first veteran to be interred in the Toukley Memorial Gardens.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month, the Sub Branch proudly celebrates 74 years in operation. Happy Birthday Toukley RSL Sub Branch!

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### Welfare Report

#### WELLBEING/VISITATION OFFICERS' MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

OFFICER	NUMBER OF VETERANS/FAMILY VISITS	HOURS	KILOMETRES TRAVELLED	PHONE CALLS	TRAINING HOURS	FUNERALS Interments
Tiffany Kelly	3	12	286	2	10	
Michael Humphries	2	2	15	0		1
Roy Norman	4	8	120	8		
Ian Collier	1	6	90	3		1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>

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**From the Editor :** Thank you to Roy Norman, Mike Humphries & Bob Wilson for contributions to the newsletter.

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# ***Sub-Branch Christmas Party***



***Sunday 18 December 2021***

***11.00am – 4.00pm***

***3 course lunch***

***Refreshments***

***Entertainment by Brassick***

***Monster Raffle***

***Tickets \$20 per person for members and partners.***

***Tom Hobbs will be at Sub-branch office on Thursday from 10.00 am to noon  
and also at the December General meeting selling tickets***

***Tables of 8 can be reserved with names and money ( 8 X \$20.00 pp ) at time of  
booking.***

***Dress : Smart casual***

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

Only a fraction of people will find this funny.

**SO I WAS AT THE BAR LAST NIGHT  
AND THE WAITRESS SCREAMED...  
"ANYONE KNOW CPR?"  
I SAID "HELL, I KNOW THE ENTIRE  
ALPHABET."  
EVERYONE LAUGHED...  
WELL EVERYONE EXCEPT THIS  
ONE GUY.**



# Puzzle Corner Answers



- 1 1. Solomon Islands
- 2 Bill Clinton
- 3 Berlin
- 4 Bilby
- 5 Four
- 6 Venice
- 7 Sahara
- 8 5
- 9 Vatican City - .44 square Kilometres
- 10 About 15 years

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<b>Emergencies</b>	<b>000</b>
<b>Open Arms</b>	<b>1800 011 046</b>
<b>Lifeline</b>	<b>13 11 44</b>
<b>Kids Helpline</b>	<b>1300 224 636</b>

# TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

Patron: Karen McNamara

President: Bob Wilson

Vice Presidents: George Meier  
Ian Collier

Secretary: Judith Walker

Treasurer: John Fraher

Committee: John Noorbergen  
Michael Humphries  
Tommy Hobbs  
Roy Norman  
Allan Love  
Bob Swift

Telephone: 4396.4855

FAX: 4396.9310

4396.8807

Pensions & Welfare: Roy Norman  
*(Located at Diggers' Inn)*

Trustees: Bob Wilson, George Meier, Milton Porter

Newsletter Co-ordinator: Ian Collier

Phone: 0412 265 623

Email: [ianpamcoll@aapt.net.au](mailto:ianpamcoll@aapt.net.au)

