



TOUKLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH

Newsletter



Pause to Remember
11-11-11

Issue 90 – November 2023

NEW SUB BRANCH MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new Sub-Branch Members:

Service

Jaime Smith

Auxiliary

VALE

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.**

| | |
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| Remembrance Day | Saturday 11 November 10.30 am |
| Next Committee Meeting | Monday 20 November 10.30 am |
| December General Meeting | Monday 4 December |
| CCDC Meeting – hosted by Terrigal/Wamberal | Monday 11 December 2.00 pm |
| Wellness and Wellbeing sub-Branch Christmas Party | Sunday 17 December 11.00 am to 4.00 pm |

Toukley RSL Sub Branch President's Report:



Another busy month for the Executive and Committee in October.

I attended a social Barefoot Bowls day put on by The Entrance Long Jetty RSL sub-Branch with one of our members Clem Payne. This day was co-funded by DVA and it was a good opportunity to mix with members and committee of another sub-Branch.

Mike and I attended a CCDC meeting to keep up to date on all matters concerning sub-Branches on the Coast. The main topic of discussion on the day was the upcoming State Congress and it gave Mike and I a chance to ask what to expect as it was our first Congress.

Mike and I were also invited to attend Doyalson/Wyee RSL sub-Branch 65th Anniversary dinner – again a good opportunity to foster the relationship with another sub-Branch.

I also attended Government House in Sydney to see Jenny Leach and Sue Allen receive the Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge from RSL National. This is the highest award that can be made by the League to a person, who is not a Service member, in recognition of outstanding honorary service rendered to the League, Ex-Service personnel or their dependants. They received their awards from the Patron of RSL NSW Auxiliary.

Mike Humphries and I attended the Congress in Newcastle from 22 to 24 October. Again good networking opportunities – it was good to talk to other delegates about how their sub-Branches work and to see if we could use some of their ideas to improve things for our members. The CEO of RSLNSW Jon Black also stood down at the conference and his replacement was announced. Ray James the President also had to stand down and he was replaced by Mick Bainbridge.



Sue Allen and Jenny Leach at Government House with their awards.

I also represented the sub-Branch at the AGM of the Ary. Bill Patterson who is part of the Toukley RSL Pipes and Drums who support the sub-Branch in our Commemorative events was successful in being elected to the Board of Club Limited.

Mike Humphries and I also attended an information session on 3 November attended by sub-Branches, ESO's, RSL NSW, RSL Lifecare, DVA reps and David Harris as Minister for Veterans. We were hoping to hear more about the

Veterans Wellbeing Hub to be set-up on the Central Coast. Unfortunately this is still an ongoing issue.

That's all for now but don't forget that at the General Meeting in December . I have invited Jenny Samuels from the Seniors Right Service to be a guest speaker at our December General Meeting. They provide advice to Seniors on a range of topics, including dealing with My Aged Care. This is a free service.

Ian Collier

President

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

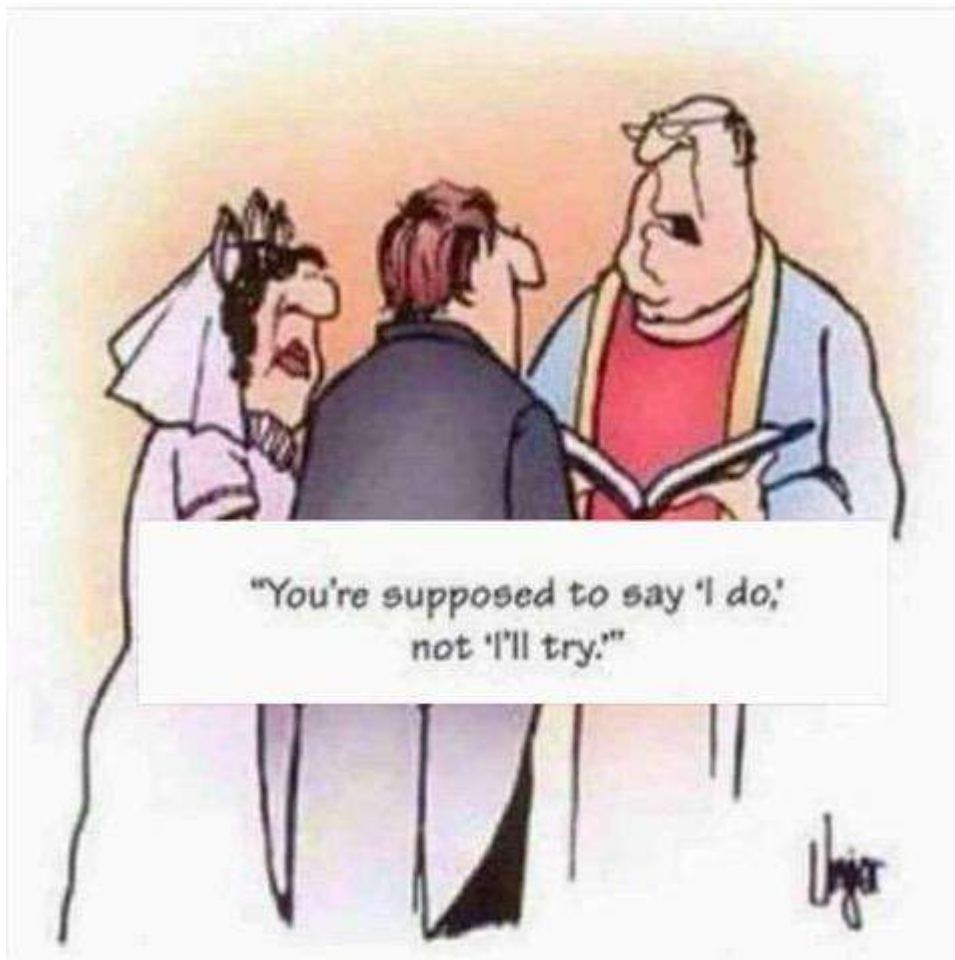
National Servicemen's Association Central Coast Sub-branch Toukley

Benefits- monthly meetings held 3rd 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

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 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.



Puzzle Corner



Trivia

1. What company currently produces Vegemite, the Australian spread ?
2. What proportion of Australia is desert ?
3. What did Australia abolish in 1985 ?
4. In what year was the Sydney Opera House opened ?
5. Near which sea is the capital city of Darwin located ?
6. What is Australia's largest terrestrial predator ?
7. Australia's National Portrait Gallery is located where ?
8. Melbourne has the largest population of which country outside of Europe
9. Which city was Australia's capital from 1901 to 1927 ?
10. What percentage of Australians live on the coast ?
11. The city of Paris, France is located on which river ?
12. What is the state capital of Arizona ?
13. Which country's capital city is considered capital of the EU ?
14. What is the capital of Kenya ?
15. What is the capital city of Alaska ?
16. What is the capital of Slovakia ?
17. Jakarta is the capital city of which country ?
18. What city is capital of Canada ?
19. Which two cities form the Iberian Peninsula ?
20. What is the capital of Mexico ?

Sub-Branch Bus Trip 27 October to Maitland Gaol / Wineries

Bus departed Ary at 8am with the first port of call Maitland Gaol.

The gaol was first opened to prisoners on 31 January 1848 and closed on 31 January 1998.

We saw where the executions took place at the front gate and it was explained that for a number of years the executions were public, crowds would gather on the main road to watch the bizarre and gruesome spectacle. We enjoyed the commentary provided by a gentleman named Terry with 27 years as a "Screw" or a Corrections Officer as we know it. During our 90 minute tour he told us many harrowing tales of what life was like – not only for the prisoners but also the prison officers (who were not armed).He ran us through the problems pertaining to various types of prisoners, Color, Religion, Nationality issues that caused acts of violence and how they were kept apart on different levels within the Jail. He also explained the problems of visitors trying to bring weapons or drugs through the Jail's check points and some of the extremes people went to try and bring banned things in. Privileged prisoners strived to work in the kitchen both for the extra pay and much better living conditions and accommodation. He took us to the 2 different visitation areas, the first being seats facing each other with no screens or barriers separating the visitors from the trusted prisoners, the second was an enclosed booth where hard core prisoners sat on one side and visitors on the other and talking through a screen while a Corrections Officer was in attendance. All of the conversations had when these visits were happening were taped and reviewed later. Ivan Milat was an inmate for 18 months but when he heard the Gaol was to be closed down and he was to be shipped to Goulburn Gaol he hatched an escape plan with another inmate. This was exposed when on one of his visits he advised the person to be outside the gaol on a particular day to pick him up. When day rolled around the swat team pounced and Milat and his accomplice were captured. Milat was transferred to Goulburn and the other prisoner committed suicide a few days later.

We departed the Gaol around 12.30pm and had a great lunch at Club Maitland City. All enjoyed the lunch prior to heading off to wine tasting at McGuigans winery, Pokolbin. We visited the McGuigans Wines Cellar Door for a Wine Tasting and a very educational presentation on the various wines and liqueurs available for purchase. Several of our members bought a few bottles to enjoy at home.

The lucky door prize on the bus on the homeward journey was won by Mike Humphries.

The bus arrived back at the Ary around 5.30pm.

Photos next page show interview room and Denise Humphries on wrong side of bars in A wing.





Member Profile: Eric Noel McDonald

Eric was born at Singleton N.S.W. on the 7th November 1923.

Eric was one of 5 children having two older brothers, Milton (named after his father) and Jack, and two sisters Clare and his younger sister Jean.

The family then moved to Narrabri N.S.W. when Eric's father got a position on the railways.

The Great Depression from 1929 -1939 had a great toll on the family and in 1930 the family moved to Hornsby N.S.W.

Eric started school at Waitara Public and his secondary schooling was at Hornsby Junior Tech. During the depression years the family survived on rabbits.

At the age of 12 in 1935 Eric left school and started work in a fruit and Vegie shop in Hornsby earning 10 shillings a week.

He changed positions and worked at The Turramurra Chemist delivering medication to people on a pushbike.

Eric left that job (and the push bike) and started working for a baker in Hornsby delivering bread in a 1936 Dodge Sedan and Eric says that's where he learnt to drive.

Eric started working for Scanlan Electric Signs in Pitt Street, Redfern making electric switches.

In January 1942 Eric enlisted into the A.I.F. and started Artillery training at North Head.

Eric was posted to Darwin and served with an Artillery unit at Fenton Air Strip, 100 klms south of Darwin where The American Air Force had Liberator Bombers.

Eric was posted back to Sydney for a while serving at Five Dock and Moore Park where he said he dodged a lot of golf balls.

In February 1944 Eric was posted to New Guinea and was stationed at Lae.

Eric was discharged from his military service in 1945 and started back at Scanlan Electric Signs travelling from Hornsby to Redfern.

Eric became a brick classer at Thornleigh brickworks and worked there for 20 years.

Eric had a son Alan and a daughter Wendy, from his first marriage.

Eric married Peggy Judd in 1958 at the Chatswood Registry Office where his mother and future mother-in-law were witnesses.

Eric and Peggy lived at 19 Milner Road, Hornsby and raised two daughters, Colleen born in 1960 and Janeene born in 1962.

Eric and Peggy have 11 grand-children of which 2 grandsons are Doctors and 9 great- grandchildren.

Eric's grandson Tim, has just completed The Kokoda Track that runs 96 kilometres through Owen Stanley Ranges in Papua New Guinea.

In 1997 Eric and Peggy moved to Woy Woy and in 2011 when Peggy became ill they moved into Kanwal Gardens Care Community.

Eric joined N.S.W.R.S.L. on the 12th February 1958 and his service number is NX106242.

Eric transferred from Hornsby R.S.L. to Toukley R.S.L and is a Life Subscriber.

Eric will celebrate his 100th birthday on the 7th of November, 2023 and will be surrounded by his family and friends.

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CENTRAL COAST VETERANS CENTRE Inc

ABN 90 141 703 076

President:

Les Jacobs JP

Secretary:

Cathy Every

Treasurer:

Graham Kerle JP



Address:

295/25MullowayRd

Chain Valley Bay

NSW 2259

Ph 02 43 968807

Ph 02 43 909041

Helping Veterans and Their Families

We are located at 203 Main Road, Toukley. We are available at Toukley on Tuesday morning from 08.00 till midday by appointment, and on Thursdays from 08.00 till midday for interviews and as a drop in coffee centre to meet others and relax.

We are available to assist serving and ex serving veterans and their families in their interaction with DVA as Advocates. We have available;

- Four Advocates to assist with claims advice and general advice on DVA requirements.
- Wellness officers to assist with,
 - Counselling
 - Mental health contacts
 - Seeking appointments with Medical Practitioners
 - Homelessness
 - Widow and widower rights and entitlements.

If you have worn the ADF uniform for more than one day, or are the family of such a person, you may have entitlements that you do not know about. Drop in and let us help you.

We look forward to meeting you.

Welfare Report August 2023

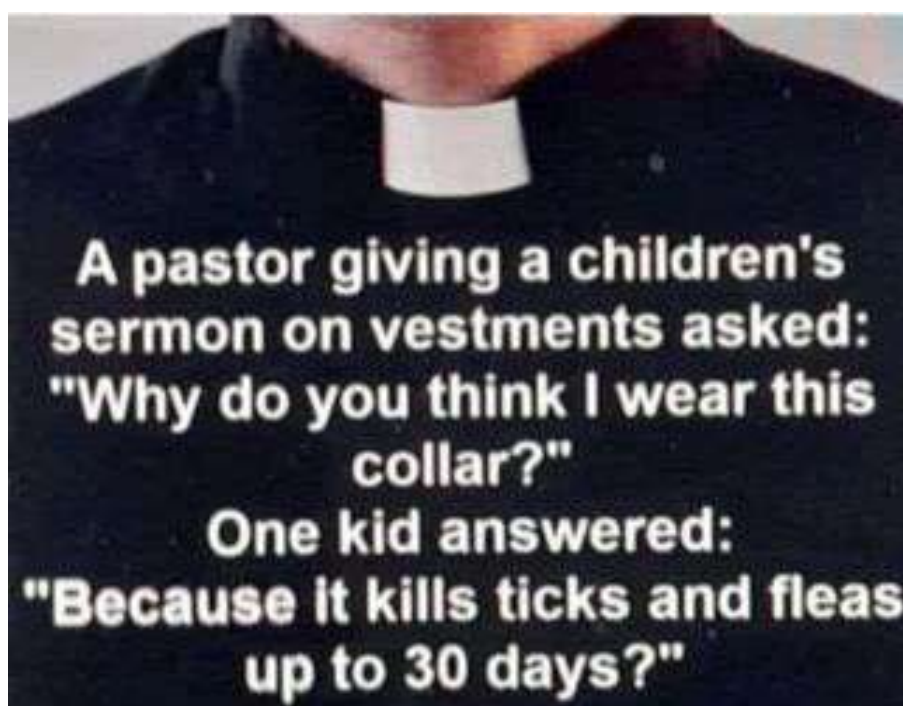


TOUKLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH

WELLBEING/VISITATION OFFICERS' MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE SUB-BRANCH GENERAL SEPTEMBER 2023

| OFFICER | NUMBER OF VETERANS/FAMILY VISITS | HOURS | KILOMETRES TRAVELLED | PHONE CALLS | TRAINING HOURS | FUNERALS Interments |
|----------------------|--|-------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Humphries | 5 | 10 | 42 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Roy Norman | 4 | 34 | 56 | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Tiffany Kelly | 2 | 40 | 25 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Chris Doyle | 6 | 20 | 95 | 0 | 32 | 0 |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 17 | 104 | 218 | 23 | 42 | 0 |

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Emergencies | 000 |
| Open Arms | 1800 011 046 |
| Lifeline | 13 11 44 |
| Kids Helpline | 1300 224 636 |



Puzzle Corner Answers



1. Kraft Foods
2. One-third
3. Death Penalty
4. 1973
5. Timor Sea
6. Dingo
7. Canberra
8. Greek
9. Melbourne
10. 90%
11. Seine
12. Phoenix
13. Belgium
14. Nairobi
15. Juneau
16. Bratislava
17. Indonesia
18. Ottawa
19. Spain & Portugal
20. Mexico City

TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

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|---|--|
| Patron: | Karen McNamara |
| President: | Ian Collier |
| Vice President: | Mike Humphries |
| Secretary: | Judith Walker |
| Treasurer: | Terry Murray |
| Committee: | Chris Doyle Alan Thiele Tommy Hobbs Roy Norman Allan Love Bob Swift |
| Telephone: | 4396.4855 |
| FAX: | 4396.9310 4396.8807 |
| Pensions& Welfare: (Located at Diggers' Inn) | Roy Norman 0409 845 856 |
| Trustees: | Milton Porter, Steve Edmunds, Max Thom |
| Newsletter Co-ordinator: | Ian Collier |
| Phone: | 0412 265 623 |
| Email: | president@toukleyrslsb.org.au ianpamcoll@aapt.net.au |