



# RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH INCORPORATED

Patron David Doyle O.A.M.

"The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance"

PRESIDENT: JOHN LLOYD  
HON SECRETARY: COLIN SZTORCH  
HON TREASURER: GARRY HESKETT

COFFS HARBOUR SUB-BRANCH  
PO BOX 180  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450  
PHONE: 02 66919233  
FAX: 02 66518968  
E-Mail: [coffsrsl@hotmail.com](mailto:coffsrsl@hotmail.com)

RSL Sub-Branch Office Hours  
Mon: 10 am – 12 Noon  
Thurs: 'Coffee @ C.ex' or by appt.

13 December 2021

*Dear Members,*

**2021 has been another difficult year for us all;** lockdowns, monthly meetings cancelled, Office closures, social distancing, etc, etc. Hopefully 2022 will bring us some return to normality. Covid casualties included reduced services for the ANZAC Dawn Service, VJ Day, Long Tan Day and Remembrance Day. Our standout rebuttal of COVID was the highly successful ANZAC Day ceremony at the C.ex Stadium. Needing to make a definitive statement to members and our Coffs community that ANZAC Day would not be pushed aside by COVID as in 2020, we created ANZAC Day as a joint stadium event complete with marching bands, Veterans, Schools, SES, 41<sup>st</sup> Btn, RAAF, Army & Navy cadets, memorial display, wreath laying, F35 flyover, et al. All received with great enthusiasm and support from participants and public alike. A COVID safe ANZAC Day, thanks to much support from CHCC, the C.ex Club Group and Stadium staff.

Due to COVID, the Annual RSL NSW Congress took place as an 'on-line' event on 6 & 7 December. Most motions presented were passed. The results include the suspension of annual subscriptions payable by members, being replaced by a voluntary fee that stays with the Sub-branch. **RSL NSW CEO Jon Black** confirmed the rollout of the Strategic Plan. Jon stressed the need for Sub-branches to engage in social activities i.e. have fun and interact with the local community. The proposed Group Investment funding restructure has been finalised with Morgan Stanley being appointed as Fund Managers. RSL NSW gave on-going support for the development of 'Veterans Wellbeing Centres' in regional areas based on the 'Hub & Spoke' model espoused by Richard Kellaway from Coffs MNCVWC. Support for the transitioning of ADF personnel to connect to available wellbeing services, including joining local sub-Branch is a major strategy, assisted by free on-line membership. Clearly Federal Government funding is essential for the success of this much needed project.

**Lest We Forget.**

**Remembrance Day** 'Poppy sales' were also impacted by COVID restrictions and we had to limit sales to Big W and the C.ex Club over a 5 day period. However, we managed a profitable outcome. My many thanks to our volunteer sellers.

**Our December Sub-branch meeting will be held on Saturday 18th December in the Bistro, commencing at 10.25am.** All members and partners are invited to attend. At the conclusion of the meeting we will have lunch in the Bistro. Unfortunately our Christmas Party has been deferred till 22<sup>nd</sup> January, the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in 2022, due to staffing and area restrictions within the Club.

**Our 'Coffee@C.ex' sessions every Thursday** continue to be a big success. Unfortunately the trial of alternative monthly General Meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays has not been as well received. Attendance is down and Saturday meeting remain more popular. We will probably move to retain the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday for Monthly GMs and keep Thursday for social activities. Clearly, COVID is still keeping many members from socialising indoors and joining our GMs and Thursday coffee sessions. Please be assured that the C.ex Club maintains the strictest health/safety regimen in accordance with all Health Dept guidelines; unlike some venues.

I would like to personally thank all the Committee for the support given me throughout this very stressful year; especially our Hon.Sec. Colin Sztorch, Tres. Garry Heskett, Paul Bamford and assistant Margaret Black, who have been outstanding and deserve your praises. I also acknowledge the work done by our Auxiliary members with office work and Remembrance Day sales. We are very keen to gather more Auxiliary members; so if you know of any interested people, please tell Garry Heskett.

On behalf of the Sub-branch I would like to thank John Rafferty and the staff of the C.ex, especially Fiona, Kerry, Melanie and Shona for their ongoing support and assistance throughout this difficult 2021; they are greatly appreciated.

**Any members still owing 2021 Subscriptions** need to pay a.s.a.p. to remain financial. As per the RSL NSW resolution, no subscriptions are payable for 2022; more about this at our AGM.

**The Sub-branch office hours are:** Mondays 10.00am till 1.00pm and on Thursdays by appointment, in conjunction with our 'Coffee @ C.ex' from 10.00am till 12.00pm. Otherwise contact us by e-mail: [coffsrsl@hotmail.com](mailto:coffsrsl@hotmail.com) or mobile. The office will be closed from Tuesday 22nd Dec, reopening on Monday, 17th January 2022. 'Coffee @ C.ex' gatherings will continue on every Thursday at 10AM. Please contact a Committee member should you have a special need for our services.

*Best wishes to you all for a safe Christmas with family and friends. May the New Year bring you comfort, joy & good health.*

*Fond regards,*



**President**

Coffs Harbour RSL Sub-Branch Mob: 0438 325 205

**Lest We Forget.**