

CHARGE SHEET

MAGAZINE OF THE COFFS HARBOUR RSL SUB-BRANCH

SISTER ASSOCIATION OF PAPANUI RSA NEW ZEALAND



Serving Coffs Harbour Veterans for over 100 years.

- The January Monthly Meetings is Sat 22nd Jan, 10.25am. All Members and partners are invited. The meeting will be followed by lunch in the Bistro.
- We have moved our Christmas party to a 'Christmas in July' on Sat 16 July due to these uncertain COVID driven times.
- ChargeSheet is available at the Vernon St Reception.
- AGM: Sat 19th Feb 2022 at 10.25am. followed by Feb GM
- RSL NSW membership now fee-free and available online.
- Join us for "Coffee@C.ex" every Thursday from 10am all through the holiday season.

ISSUE No. 192 January 2022

Email: coffsrsl@hotmail.com Phone: 02 6691 9234

<https://cex.com.au/community/rsl-sub-branch/>

2021 Executive

President:

John Lloyd
0438 325 205

Hon. Secretary:

Col Sztorch
0488 251 034

Hon. Treasurer:

Garry Heskett
0414 512 302

Assistant Treasurer:

Margaret Black

Vice Presidents:

Garry Heskett
Ian Johnston

Assistant Secretary:

vacant

Office Hours:

Mon. Open 10.00am-12.00pm. Other times by appointment.

Thur. Office closed; but please join us for "Coffee at C.ex" every Thursday: 10am – 12pm, in the *Papaveros Italian Cafe*. Everyone welcome to chat and catch up.

Visitation Team:

Rev. Dr. Graham Whelan OAM
Ray Squires
Darrell Groth

Indigenous Liaison Officer:

vacant

Cenotaph Custodian:

Paul Bamford Jnr.



VALE: Woolgoolga S.B. advises deceased member and Vice President: Brad Jackson.

David Ewart Long: A43332. RAF, RAAF. Served in Malaya.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



North Coast Veterans Centre - Pensions and Welfare Matters

All Pensions officers are TIP or ATDP-trained, which means they have completed training accepted by Department of Veterans Affairs, are authorised to practice and follow a strict Code of Ethics.

An appointment is preferred for pension interviews, please contact our Pensions officers.

LOCATION: 4 Scarba Street. (Inside the Legacy Shop). Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

POSTAL: Veterans Centre Mid North Coast
PO Box 736, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

Phone: 02 5621 8108

The Centre is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays (10.00AM - 2.00PM) to assist with welfare matters at the Veterans Centre. Other times by appointment.

Sub-branch Contact Phones: John Lloyd – 0438 325 205
Col Sztorch – 0488 251 034
Garry Heskett – 0414 512 302
Paul Bamford – 0417 689 654
Padre Graham Whelan OAM – 02 665 095

Monthly General Meetings

PLEASE NOTE: During 2021 Sub-branch Monthly Meetings were held alternatively on 3rd Saturday & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 10.25AM; 2022 GM times and dates will be the subject of a decision by members at our AGM.

Location: in the Ground Floor Bistro area (for the moment)

Dates: Sat 22nd January. Partners cordially invited.

E-mail: coffsrs1@hotmail.com, lloyd_adapt@yahoo.com.au

Subs and other payments may be paid directly to our BCU Account as follows:

A/C name: "Coffs Harbour RSL Sub-branch"

BCU BSB: 533 – 000

A/C number: 3285 6268

Catch up with 'Coffee @ C.ex' every Thursday, 10.00am till 12.00pm in the Papaveros Italian café or ground floor Vista Lounge area. All members and partners are invited to come along for a coffee, a chat, raise issues, just say G'day, etc.

We're operating for all Veterans & Members in a COVID safe way!

Sub-branch Office is open Mondays 10.00am till 12.00noon; but we are happy to make an appointment to suit at any mutually convenient time.

Keeping in touch

Members please advise mobile phone numbers and **E-mail addresses** to any Committee member, e-mail to coffsrsl@hotmail.com or leave written details at the C.ex Reception.

Please also check out our Sub-branch page on the C.ex web site:

<https://cex.com.au/community/rsl-sub-branch/>

Booked Car with Driver (BCWD) Scheme.

Under DVA's Repatriation Transport Scheme, DVA will pay for your travel by a taxi car. Veteran Gold Card and Veterans White card Holders are eligible. DVA will pay for your travel to and from your home to medical treatment. We call this the Booked Car with Driver (BCWD) Scheme. **Ph: 1800 550 455**

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling.

provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on 1800 011 046. Safe Zone Support provides anonymous counselling on 1800 142 072. Defence All-Hours Support Line provides support for ADF personnel on 1800 628 036. Defence Member and Family Helpline provides support for Defence families on 1800 624 608.

Veterans' Home Care Services Available.

Our Veterans' Home Care (VHC) program provides eligible DVA clients and eligible dependants with access to services to help them remain independent and in their homes. It offers the following services:

- domestic assistance
- personal care
- respite care, and
- safety-related home and garden maintenance.

To receive these services you will first need an assessment. You're eligible for an assessment if you hold either a Veteran White Card for an accepted service-related injury or condition or a Veteran Gold Card.

Call the VHC Assessment Agency directly on 1300 550 450 if you would like an assessment.

RSL NSW membership now fee-free and available online

RSL NSW is not just for member and veterans of the ADF or Armed Forces. There are options for partners, spouses and families to join some sub-Branches as Affiliate or Auxiliary Members so they can feel a part of their loved one's post-service life and can

support other members who are on the road to recovery from mental or physical health issues, need help with Department of Veteran Affairs claims, employment support, or just need a good mate to lean on.

Who do you know that might want to join the RSL? Let them know that membership is free, and they can **join instantly now!**

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How Times Change! 'Australia and Japan sign historic strategic partnership agreement' (abridged version Ed.)

Security and defence cooperation

The two leaders today signed the landmark Reciprocal Access Agreement between Australia and Japan (Australia-Japan RAA), underscoring their commitment to further elevating bilateral security and defence cooperation in the interests of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Australia-Japan RAA will establish standing arrangements for the Australian Defence Force and the Japan Self-Defense Forces to facilitate cooperative activities such as joint exercises and disaster relief operations.

They confirmed their intention to pursue the completion of respective domestic procedures necessary to give effect to the Australia-Japan RAA as early as possible.

Both countries leaders committed to deepening collaboration to address illicit technology transfers, build resilient supply chains and strengthen the protection of critical infrastructure. They include promoting research and development of critical technologies such as AI and quantum, promoting the application of international law and agreed norms in cyberspace, and cooperating on standards setting in international fora.

They further underlined the need to strengthen cooperation on resource security, including by developing resilient critical minerals supply chains.

Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and beyond

The two leaders concurred that Australia and Japan will play a significant role in realising a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is also inclusive and prosperous, and in strengthening regional resilience.

The two leaders welcomed the strong and enduring contribution of the United States to stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, and the US commitment to close cooperation with allies and partners.

They reaffirmed the importance of reinforcing the two countries' alliances with the United States and promoting Japan-Australia-US cooperation, including the enhancement of interoperability and the promotion of quality infrastructure, with a view to contributing to broader regional stability and prosperity.

The two leaders welcomed the growing quadrilateral cooperation among Japan, Australia, India and the United States, and looked forward to the next Quad leaders' meeting this year to drive forward coordinated responses to the most pressing challenges faced by regional countries, including through supporting the production and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines and the development of quality infrastructure.

They reaffirmed their strong objection to China's unlawful maritime claims and activities that are inconsistent with UNCLOS.

They called on North Korea to end human rights violations and to resolve the Japanese abductions issue immediately.

The two leaders reiterated their grave concerns about the situation in Myanmar.

Trade and economic cooperation

The two leaders confirmed their commitment to a free, fair, inclusive and rules-based trade and investment environment, noting that open and transparent trade settings build trust and prosperity and support economic recovery.

The two leaders also reaffirmed their joint commitments, as well as the commitments of Japanese and Australian businesses, to the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain project, and noted the importance of the project as a world-leading demonstration of a clean hydrogen supply chain. They also reaffirmed their close collaboration on energy transition in the Indo-Pacific.

© 'Contact' newsletter

Rapid Antigen Tests

National Cabinet noted that COVID-19 tests are free and available at state testing clinics for people who have symptoms or are a close contact. National Cabinet agreed that up to 10 Rapid Antigen Tests over three months (a maximum of 5 in a month) will be made available free through pharmacies to people holding the following cards:

- Pension Concession Card
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Care Card
- **Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold, White or Orange Card**
- Health Care Card
- Low Income Health Card.

These free tests will become available in the next two weeks.

From our Padre Rev Graham Whelan OAM



**RETURNED AND SERVICES
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA**
Coffs Harbour Sub Branch

PADRE'S POST

*Joyous
New Year*

Blessings – Padre Rev. Dr. Graham Whelan OAM

As Padre it is always in my mind that we constantly need to give thanks to God for this marvellous inheritance – and under His care, to also give thanks for the loyalty and courage and sacrifice of those men and women who served in the conflicts for our freedom.

In the previous stories I have mentioned in the last few leaflets I have encouraged our members concerning the truth that God cares for us in all situations whether we like to think about it – whether we like it or not.

About 18 months ago I was speaking to one of our members who was feeling down. Recently similar situations have occurred.

So, may I encourage you again with these statements of assurance of God's love and care.

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for us!

For, When You say, "It's impossible".

God says: "All things are possible". (Luke 18:27).

When You say, "I'm too tired."
God says: "I will give you rest".
(Matthew 11:28-20)

When You say, "Nobody really loves me".
God says: "I love you". (John 3:16 & John 13:34)

When You say, "I can't go on."
God says: "My grace is sufficient."
(2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

When You say, "I can't manage."
God says: "I will supply all your needs."
(Philippians 4:19)

When You say, "I'm afraid."
God says: "I have not given you a spirit of fear."
(2 Tim. 1:7)

When You say, "I'm always worried and frustrated"..
God says: "Cast all your cares on ME (1 Peter 5:7)

When You say, "I don't have enough faith."

When You say, "I can't figure things out."
God says: "I will direct your steps."
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

When You say, "I can't do it."
God says: "You can do all things in Me."
(Philippians 4:13)

When You say, "It's not worth it."
God says: "It will be worth it." (Romans 8:28)

When You say, "I can't forgive myself."
God says: "I forgive you." (1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

God says: "I've given everyone a measure of faith." (Romans 12:3)

When You say, "I'm not smart enough."
God says: "I give you wisdom."
(1 Corinthians 1:30)

When You say, "I feel all alone."
God says: "I will never leave you or forsake you."
(Hebrews 13:5)

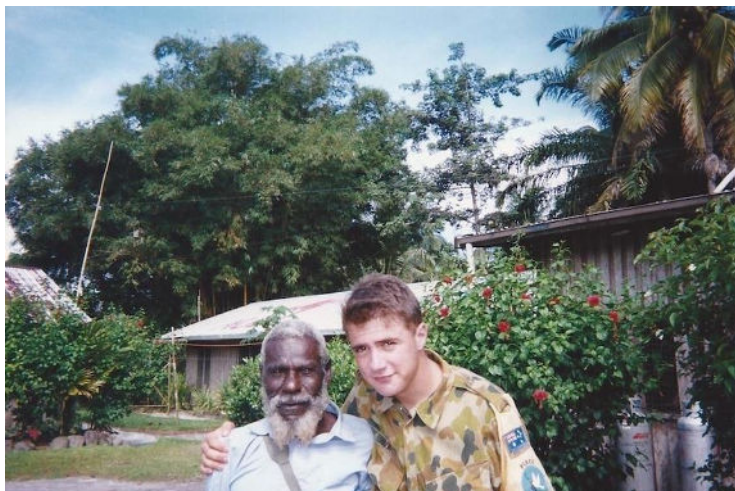
What joy, hope, peace and rest we have in knowing that God truly cares for us.

"Jesus said: - Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
(Matthew 11:28-30)

The Lord be with you.

Graham





RSL clubs finding new ways to stay relevant as some struggle to survive

By Liz Gwynn, ABC.©

Posted Sat 15 Jan 2022

RSL clubs are often considered merely a watering hole for veterans — but it's a perception the leagues clubs are eager to change.

Key points:

- RSL clubs serve an important function for veterans, who may be affected by their military experiences
- Dwindling memberships have forced the closure of several RSL sub-branches in southern Tasmania in recent years
- New programs are being implemented to ensure the organisation is supporting veterans at all stages of their lives

The modern RSL is a place for veterans and their families to dine and socialise, while also a space for hosting wellbeing classes, or specialised support services including housing assistance and counselling.

"Things have changed ... it's a place to come and relax and share memories with people who have experienced the same things as you," Lenah Valley RSL president Michael Howarth said.

Hobart's Joshua Weir joined the RSL while serving in the army, becoming more actively involved with the Lenah Valley RSL in recent years, after leaving the military.

"Just being around like-minded people who have been through the same sort of experiences, is one of the best therapies I've found," he said.

Joshua Weir (right) served with the Australian Defence Force in Iraq and Papua New Guinea. *(Supplied: Joshua Weir)*

Mr Weir joined the army in 1995 and served in Bougainville and Iraq.

"I joined at 17, got out at 32, so I was somewhat indoctrinated into that military mindset," he said. Like many of his fellow veterans, Mr Weir has invisible wounds from his experiences on the frontline, and lives with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"I've seen a fair bit of stuff. I've had friends who have seen a lot worse than me and have suffered great amounts of trauma themselves," he said.

Mr Weir said he struggled in the first few years after leaving the Australian Defence Force, and sought the help of psychiatrists and psychologists to transition back to civilian life.

But he said it was his involvement in the RSL that helped him find his place in society again.

Clubs fighting for survival

Despite playing a vital role, dwindling memberships have forced the closure of several RSL sub-branches in southern Tasmania in the past two years.

Glenorchy and Huonville no longer have dedicated RSLs, which has left veterans in other regional areas concerned for their own clubs' futures.



John Halton (left) and Graeme Walker say their RSL struggles to get new members due to the ageing population of the town. (ABC News: Luke Bowden)

Queenstown RSL sub-branch member John Halton believes the organisation's future is vital in ensuring the traditions of Australians at war over the past 200 years are carried on.

Mr Halton said the changing demographic of the west coast means the average age of RSL members is considerably older than what it has been in the past. "We don't have the young, vibrant population in the town so the actual RSL membership doesn't change — we are all getting older," he said.

New services on horizon to better support veterans

RSL Tasmania recognises it needs to diversify in order to stay relevant and is aiming to implement coordinated wellbeing services in the coming months. "It's not a matter of them getting a pension and us saying thanks again, see you later — we want to be a part of their lives to ensure they are supported in all areas," RSL Tasmania's Acting President Barry Quinn said.

"Once they come into the system they stay in the system, and [RSL Tasmania] will look at their life, their family, and their employment status, and whether they need help in a particular area."

A new advocacy, welfare and wellbeing committee also aims to address veteran homelessness.

DVA MEDIA RELEASE

12 January 2022

COMMEMORATING THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF AUSTRALIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE VIETNAM WAR

Planning is underway for a range of significant events around the country to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War in **2023**.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Andrew Gee, announced that the Australian Government has committed \$6 million to ensure this important milestone is marked with appropriate respect and appreciation for all those who served and those who gave their lives in Vietnam.

"Australia owes our Vietnam veterans an enormous debt of gratitude," Minister Gee said.

"Almost 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War, 521 lost their lives and more than 3,000 were wounded. We honour and remember the service and sacrifice of each and every one of them.

"At places like Long Tan, Nui Lei, Binh Ba, Coral and Balmoral, Ap My An and many others, Australians served with distinction, in the finest traditions of our armed forces. Our country should be very proud of all they achieved.

"Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam conflict will be an important opportunity for Australians to express the pride, gratitude and respect of the nation.

"The Vietnam War and its aftermath exacted a heavy toll on all those who served and their families. The treatment of our diggers upon their return home by some of their fellow Australians remains a source of hurt and pain for many. The 50 year commemoration is another important step in helping to heal the wounds that were inflicted back in Australia.

"The centrepiece will be a national commemorative service at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

"We owe the men and women who served in Vietnam nothing less than a commemorative program that reflects their extraordinary service and sacrifice. Our country will always be grateful for it and we will never, ever, forget it," Minister Gee said.

Further announcements on the details of specific commemorations and the consultation process will be made on the Department of Veterans' Affairs website in due course.

History of the United States Marine Corps

From Wikipedia.



▣ The flag of the United States Marine Corps from 1914 to 1939.

The history of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) begins with the founding of the Continental Marines on 10 November 1775 to conduct ship-to-ship fighting, provide

shipboard security and discipline enforcement, and assist in landing forces. Its mission evolved with changing military doctrine and foreign policy of the United States. Owing to the availability of Marine forces at sea, the United States Marine Corps has served in nearly every conflict in United States history.

It attained prominence when its theories and practice of amphibious warfare proved prescient, and ultimately formed a cornerstone of U.S. strategy in the Pacific Theater of World War II. By the early 20th century, the Marine Corps would become one of the dominant theorists and practitioners of amphibious warfare. Its ability to rapidly respond on short notice to expeditionary crises has made and continues to make it an important tool for U.S. foreign policy.^[1]

In February 1776, the Continental Marines embarked on their maiden expedition.^[2] The Continental Marines were disbanded at the end of the war, along with the Continental Navy.^[3] In preparation for the Quasi-War with France, Congress created the United States Navy and the Marine Corps. The Marines' most famous action of this period occurred in the First Barbary War (1801–1805) against the Barbary pirates.

In the Mexican–American War (1846–1848), the Marines made their famed assault on Chapultepec Palace, which overlooked Mexico City, their first major expeditionary venture. In the 1850s, the Marines would see service in Panama, and in Asia. During the U.S. Civil War (1861–1865) the Marine Corps played only a minor role after their participation in the Union defeat at the first battle of First Bull Run/Manassas.^[4] Their most important task was blockade duty and other ship-board battles, but they were mobilized for a handful of operations as the war progressed.

The remainder of the 19th century would be a period of declining strength and introspection about the mission of the Marine Corps. Under Commandant Jacob Zeilin's term (1864–1876), many Marine customs and traditions took shape. During the Spanish–American War (1898), Marines would lead U.S. forces ashore in the Philippines, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, demonstrating their readiness for deployment.

Between 1900 and 1916, the Marine Corps continued its record of participation in foreign expeditions, especially in the Caribbean and Central and South America, which included Panama, Cuba, Veracruz, Haiti, Santo Domingo, and Nicaragua.

In World War I, battle-tested, veteran Marines served a central role in the United States' entry into the conflict. Between the world wars, the Marine Corps was headed by Major General John A. Lejeune, another popular commandant.

In World War II, the Marines played a central role, under Admiral Nimitz, in the Pacific War, participating in nearly every significant battle. The Corps also saw its peak growth as it expanded from two brigades to two corps with six divisions, and five air wings with 132 squadrons.



U.S. Marines with the 1st Marine Division display

Japanese flags captured during the Battle of Cape Gloucester

During the Battle of Iwo Jima, photographer Joe Rosenthal took the famous photo *Raising of the Flag on Iwo Jima* of five Marines and one naval corpsman raising a U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi.

The Korean War (1950–1953) saw the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade holding the line at the Battle of Pusan Perimeter, where Marine helicopters (VMO-6 flying the HO3S1 helicopter) made their combat debut.

The Marines also played an important role in the Vietnam War at battles such as Da Nang, Huế, and Khe Sanh. The Marines operated in the northern I Corps regions of South Vietnam and fought both a constant guerilla war against the Viet Cong and an off and on conventional war against North Vietnamese Army regulars. Marines went to Beirut during the 1982 Lebanon War on 24 August. On 23 October 1983, the Marine barracks in Beirut was bombed, causing the highest peacetime losses to the Corps in its history.

Marines were also responsible for liberating Kuwait during the Gulf War (1990–1991), as the Army made an attack to the west directly into Iraq.^[5] The I Marine Expeditionary Force had a strength of 92,990, making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history.

Corn Corner and other stuff

1. Did You Hear about the Accident at the Army Base? A tank ran over a box of popcorn and killed two kernels !
2. What's the difference between God and fighter pilots? God doesn't think he's a fighter pilot.
3. Those who wear sleeveless shirts like to defend the right to bare arms.
4. What's Long, Hard, and Full of Seamen? A submarine !
5. The sergeant-major shouted at the young soldier, "I didn't see you at camouflage training this morning, soldier." The soldier replied, "Thank you very much, Sir."
6. What's the Difference between the Army and the Boy Scouts? The Boy Scouts have adult supervision.
7. The reason the Air Force, Army and Navy bicker amongst themselves is that they don't speak the same language. For instance, take the simple phrase " Secure the building". The Army will post guards around the place. The Navy will turn out the lights and lock the doors. The Air Force will take out a 5 year lease with an option to buy.
8. What Do You Call a Soldier Who Survived Mustard Gas & Pepper Spray?
..... A seasoned veteran.



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