



RSL NSW
Coffs Harbour

Issue 216
January
2024

2024 Executive

President:

John Lloyd
0438 325 205

Hon. Secretary:

Warren Sowter
0423 418 651

Hon. Treasurer:

Garry Heskett
0414 512 302

Asst Treasurer:

Margaret Black

Vice Presidents:

Garry Heskett
Ian Johnston

Asst Secretary:

vacant

Visitation Team:

Rev. Dr. Graham
Whelan OAM
Ray Squires

Indigenous

Liaison Officer

vacant

Cenotaph

Custodian:

Paul Bamford Jnr.

Office Hours:

Mondays:

10.00 am-12.00 pm.
Other times by
appointment.

Thursdays:

Office meetings by
appointment.

The ChargeSheet

The Coffs Harbour RSL sub-Branch Inc. Newsletter



Email: coffs-harboursb@rslnsw.org.au | **Ph:** 0423 418 651

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



sub-Branch Newsletter Highlights

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Sub-Branch Administration

Veteran & Veterans' Families Welfare & Well-being

Coffs Coast Veteran and Family Wellbeing Centre

Founding member of the Veterans Wellbeing Network MNC, the Centre's advocates and wellbeing support officers are authorised to lodge your claims for DVA entitlements, link you with wellbeing service providers and advocate on your behalf. Getting support is simple, secure, and online through:

<https://www.vcmnc.org.au/veteran-and-family-triage/>

Location: 4 Scarba St, Coffs Harbour (Inside Legacy Op Shop)

Phone: 02 6521 8108 | **Email:** contact@vwnmnc.org.au

Coffs RSL Sub-branch Inc. Meetings

Monthly General Meetings

Monthly General Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10.25 am.

Location: C.ex Coffs Club Vista Lounge Function Room, followed by lunch in the Bistro. Partners always welcome.

Dates: 20th Jan 2024; 17th Feb 2024; 16th Mar 2024; 20th Apr 2024

Annual General Meeting

2024 Annual General Meeting will be held on the 3rd Saturday of February.

Location: C.ex Coffs Club Vista Lounge Function Room, followed by lunch in the Bistro. Partners always welcome.

AGM Date: 17th February 2024 starting at 10:25 am.

Membership Fees

Member's Admin Support Levy

In their Strategic Plan 2020-2026, RSL NSW waived Annual Membership Fees. Our sub-Branch has introduced a Member's Voluntary Admin Support Levy for the coming years to assist with our operating costs.

The Members Voluntary Admin Support Levy of \$15 falls due on the 31st of December each year.

Members' Payments may be paid directly to our BCU Account as below:

A/C name: Coffs Harbour RSL sub-Branch Inc. | **BCU BSB:** 533 – 000

A/C number: 3285 6268 **(Please include your name and description)**

Payments can also be made using our 'Tap-n-go' electronic swipe card facility.

Member Clothing

The sub-Branch Committee has organised several items as part of our sub-Branch 'identity' and as part of the RSL NSW Branch.

The Committee has made arrangements with a local supplier to maintain and enhance the sub-Branch's connection with the Coffs Coast community.

Supplier: 'Wear It!' (*Speak to Tanya*)

Address: 1/21 Isles Drive, Coffs Harbour

Contact: Ph. 6652 8211

If you would like to obtain any items:

- to ensure correct sizing make your way to 'Wear It!' and try on some items.
- order what you want via Tanya.
- let Warren know that you have made an order.
- when it arrives, you can pay for it via the Secretary or Treasurer

We are now resourcing women's versions of these items.



L/S Shirt – Est. \$55.00



S/S Shirt – Est. \$53.00



L/S Rugby – Est. \$44.00



s/s Polo - \$22.00



Jacket - \$133.00

Regular sub-Branch Activities

Coffee@C.ex – Every Thursday at 10.00 AM..

including the holiday season.

Members gather for coffee, a chat and to tell stories, embellished, exaggerated and in some cases total lies, over coffee.

Join us for convivial, but rarely contentious discussions and recollections.

Location: Vista Lounge of the C.ex Coffs Club. Partners, visitors, veterans.

Walking Group – Usually, 2nd Friday of the Month.

(But if ya don't want to walk, just come for the BBQ)

Last Walk: Bonville Waters. 9.30am Friday 12th Jan 2024.

- An interesting cool walk along Bonville Waters to the western picnic area where we concluded with a BBQ lunch. Refer photographic evidence below. Thanks once again Chief Wrangler Bill, Log Stat Surveyor Bernie, Mission Auditor Warren, Forward Scout Steve, BBQ Cook Darrell, Tail-end Charlie John and others too numerous to mention.

Next Walk: Spring Tank Rd, Bongil Bongil Nat Park. 9.30am Frid 9thFeb '24.

- All welcome: partners, family, friends & Veterans of all ages.
- Meet-up Point: junction of Overhead Bridge Road and Spring Tank Rd. in Bongil² Nat Park.
- At completion of walk we will return by car to the BBQ area in the Bongil^Ø Picnic Area, Williams Rd., Bonville – the site of our January BBQ.
- Make sure you bring a chair, sun-protection, BYOG and water.

Refer Info Sheet for full details. Collect at 'Coffee@Cex' on Thursdays in January and Feb GM on Sat 20th Jan.

Ø: ancient first nations word for burnt snag. Ed

Motorcycle Riders Group – Usually, 3rd Friday of the Month

Next Ride: Operation Nambucca Heads: Fri 15th December

1. Our last ride was to Nambucca Heads for lunch at the Nambucca RSL.
2. We started from the BP Boambee, 601 Pacific Highway at 9:30 am on the 15th of December; travelled mostly off the main H'way/Motorway to enjoy a few more corners!
3. Future rides include a trip to the Ballina Navy Museum. More later.

Lawn Bowls Group – Usually, Last Friday of the Month

Next Game:

1. Join us at 10:00 am for a few ends. Talent not a prerequisite.
2. Finish the morning with some cool drinks.

Sub-Branch News & Updates



Membership

Vale: Nil

We will Remember Them; Lest We Forget



C.ex Group President, Member and Patron David Doyle OAM, receives his OBE from Coffs RSL President John Lloyd at our Christmas Luncheon.



Quilt winner and regular supporter Robe Mitchell with Garry and JL



"I'm just going to step into the bank to get some money for dinner."

BEAUFIGHTER BOYS' - *On the Attack...!!*

The ANZAC Strike Wing of Coastal Command took part in some of the most significant and dangerous aerial assaults of WW2, flying the celebrated Bristol '*Beaufighter*.'

The RNZAF 489 Sqn was equipped with the Beaufighter in late 1943, together with 455 Sqn RAAF, forming the *Strike Wing*. Flying with the UK Coastal Command they became operational in January 1944 and eventually made a major contribution to winning of the war denying the Germans of essential iron ore supplies from Norway. Their role being to attack the ore-carrying ships and the Flak Ships with their AA Guns protecting them.

Equipped with 4 x 20mm cannons, 6 x .303 machine guns and able to carry bombloads and torpedoes the Beaufighter proved to be a deadly attack aircraft with ability to operate as a night fighter as well as in daylight. Much tonnage of enemy shipping was destroyed by these fighters. As D-Day approached, many dangerous sorties were conducted over the Dutch, Belgian and Norwegian coasts where they encountered many flak-ships escorting the freighters in convoys. German E-Boats were also a favoured target.



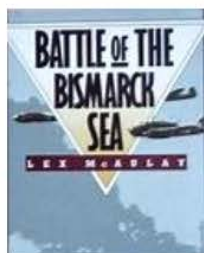
The RAAF was a keen operator of the Beaufighter in WW2 in the Pacific with British-made aircraft being delivered in late April 1942. These aircraft were posted between 30 Sqn in New Guinea and 31 Sqn in NW Australia. Mostly they were used in anti-shipping roles following the Japanese invasions of the SW Pacific countries.

On 28 February 1943 a Japanese convoy of 8 destroyers and 8 transport ships with 6900 enemy troops covered by 100 fighters left occupied Rabaul for Lae in PNG. On 2 March the convoy was spotted and Beaufighters of 100 Sqn at Milne Bay attacked unsuccessfully with torpedoes scoring no hits. A mixed force of USAAF Boston Bombers and B-25 Mitchell bombers together with RAAF Beaufighters assembled and 13 Beaufighters of RAAF 30 Sqn flew in at mast height to provide heavy suppressive fire for the waves of attacking bombers.

The Japanese convoy, under the impression that they were under torpedo attack from *Beauforts*, made the tactical error of turning their ships towards the Beaufighters, which allowed the Beaufighters to inflict severe damage on the ships' anti-aircraft guns, bridges and crews during strafing runs with their four 20 mm nose cannons and six wing-mounted .303 machine guns.

The Japanese ships were left exposed to mast-height bombing and skip bombing attacks by the US medium bombers. Eight transports and four destroyers were sunk for the loss of five aircraft, including one Beaufighter. This became known as the "*Battle of the Bismarck Sea*" fought from 2 to 4 March 1943.

The role of the Beaufighters during this Battle was recorded by war correspondent and film-maker Damien Parer, who had flown during the engagement standing behind the pilot of one of the 30 Sqn aircraft; the engagement led to the Beaufighter becoming one of the more well-known aircraft in Australian service during the conflict. 373 aircraft were manufactured under the Dept of Aircraft Production (DAP) at Fishermans bend Victoria from 1944.



Walking Group – 2nd Friday of the Month

Last Walk: Bonville Waters. Friday 12th Jan 2024.

Once again Bwana Bill led our intrepid walkers into the untamed wilderness buoyed by one thought, that at the end there would be 'The BBQ!'



L to R: John, Steve, Warren, Bill waiting at the starting point for their Uber.



Meanwhile Bernie is convinced there's Kookaburras about somewhere.



Just as we suspected, they all made it to the BBQ. John F, Steve, Warren, Bill, Bernie, Darrell, Fran.



Corn Corner

Catholic Dog

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, 'Father, my dog is dead. Could ya' be saying a mass for the poor creature?'

Father Patrick replied, 'I'm afraid not. We cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature.'

Muldoon said, 'I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?'

Father Patrick exclaimed, 'Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why didn't ya tell me the dog was Catholic?'

Father O'Malley answers the phone. 'Hello, is this Father O'Malley?' 'It is!'

'This is the Taxation Department. Can you help us?' 'I'll try!'

'Do you know a Ted Houlihan?' 'I do!'

'Is he a member of your congregation?' 'He is!'

'Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?' 'He will!'

Chicken Surprise

A couple go for a meal at a Chinese restaurant and order the "Chicken Surprise"... the waiter brings the meal, served in a lidded cast iron pot.

Just as the wife is about to serve herself, the lid of the pot rises slightly and she briefly sees two beady little eyes looking around before the lid slams back down.

"Good grief, did you see that?" she asks her husband. He hadn't, so she asks him to look in the pot. He reaches for it and again the lid rises, and he sees two little eyes looking around before it slams down. Rather perturbed, he calls the waiter over, explains what is happening, and demands an explanation.

*"Please sir," says the waiter, "what you order?"
The husband replies, "Chicken Surprise".*

(You're going to love this)

"Ah! So sorry, "says the waiter, "I bring you Peeking Duck."

Padre's Post



*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Lest we forget.

Prayer for Australia Day

“Almighty and most merciful God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Blessed Trinity – on this celebration of Australia Day we give thanks and praise and glory for our Christian heritage – our history, our civilization, our previous freedoms in our beautiful land Australia.

We thank you for your providence in granting us a land of opportunity and abundance, for your supply of all our needs. We give thanks for our system of government. On this Australia Day we pray for those in authority over us.

Father, we stand under our standard at this memorial, consecrated to those who served with loyalty, courage, honour and sacrifice to win our freedoms, may we never take those freedoms for granted.

Father we thank you for those who have come from other places in your world and declared their allegiance as Australian subjects – be with them, strengthen their commitment to this their new home, and Father, please encourage us to continue as loyal subjects. Strengthen us to love and trust you for the freedoms you give us now and eternally in Jesus and strengthen us to love and serve one another.

In Jesus name – Amen!”



Padre's Post

This is a time when we remember.

There have been many conflicts since the time the sub-Branch was established. The Bible teaches that there is a time for everything under Heaven:

*"A time to be born and a time to die,
A time to plan and a time to uproot,
A time to kill and a time to heal,
A time to tear down and a time to build,
A time to weep and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn and a time to dance,
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
A time to embrace and a time to refrain,
A time to search and a time to give up,
A time to keep and a time to throw away,
A time to tear and a time to mend,
A time to be silent and a time to speak,
A time to love and a time to hate,
A time for war and a time for peace."
(From Ecclesiastes 3)*

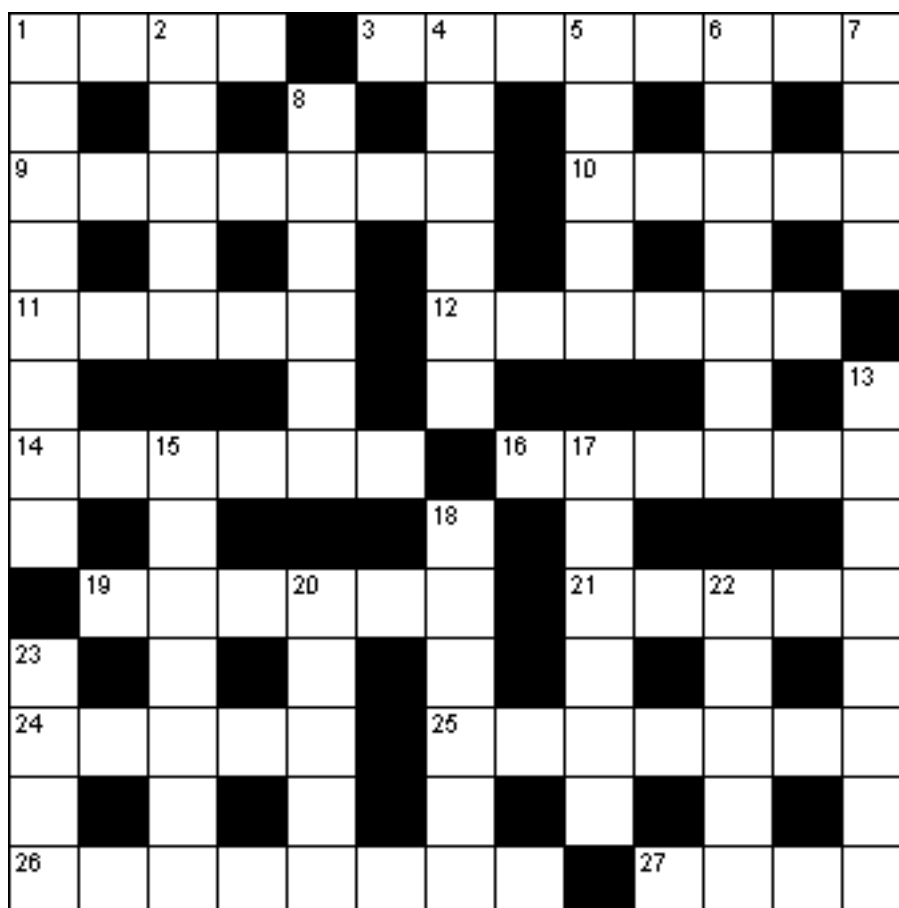
"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

Blessings – Padre Rev. Dr Graham Whelan OAM



Interesting Articles: CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Jason's ship (4)
- 3 Begin (8)
- 9 Lingered (7)
- 10 Homer Simpson's wife (5)
- 11 Fracture (5)
- 12 Very dirty (6)
- 14 Conan Doyle's detective (6)
- 16 Threefold (6)
- 19 Saw eye to eye (6)
- 21 Make sure (5)
- 24 Tarka, for example (5)
- 25 Get better (7)
- 26 Shortened (8)
- 27 Colouring substances (4)

Down

- 1 German motorway (8)
- 2 Eat gluttonously (5)
- 4 Fall asleep (3,3)
- 5 Language of Sri Lanka (5)
- 6 Zeppelin, for example (7)
- 7 At all times (4)
- 8 Inconstant (6)
- 13 Devil-may-care (8)
- 15 Not so heavy (7)
- 17 Cooking instructions (6)
- 18 Hold in high regard (6)
- 20 Went astray (5)
- 22 Hard dark wood (5)
- 23 Deep unconsciousness (4)

Sub-Branch Marketplace – Buy, Swap or Sell

Got something you don't need? Need something someone else has got? Interested in a swap? Interested in selling? Advertise in the ChargeSheet!

FOR SALE

RSL Bumper Stickers

Allan could not find any RSL Australia stickers available for purchase. He has had printed a number of RSL Australia stickers that can be used for all sorts of purposes including vehicles. He has offered them for sale at cost to sub-Branch members. If you would like some, please contact Allan directly.



Phone Allan Long: 0408 653 970

From RSL NSW

Circular 1/24 Member Portal is coming in February.

From February, online member resources on the RSL NSW website will be moved to the new password-protected Member Portal, accessible only to RSL NSW members.

The Member Portal will house information and resources related to services and support, governance, Veteran Support Fund, awards and recognition, sport and recreation, merchandise, commemorations and events, membership forms, and ANZAC House communications. ANZAC House has been working with a reference group of members to garner feedback and input into its design.

The Member Portal will not replace the sub-Branch Portal or its contents.

It is anticipated that access to the Member Portal will be available to all members from mid-February, using their full name and member number to log in. Once this change comes into effect, member resources cannot be accessed on the public-facing website.

ANZAC House will communicate directly with all members when the Member Portal is launched and will continue to consult with members to make ongoing enhancements to the Portal.

If you have any questions about the Member Portal, please contact your Member Support Team via support@rslnsw.org.au or 1300 679 775.

Jeff O'Brien, State Secretary, RSLNSW

Supporting Businesses

The following businesses have demonstrated support for the Coffs Harbour RSL sub-Branch Inc. and offer their services to members and their families.

Lawn Care & Maintenance Services

Contact Chris Dooley at
Empire Lawn Care & Maintenance
M: 0429 073 192



Buying, Selling, Looking to Rent?

for Real Estate Needs, Contact

Greg Renet



Licensed Real Estate Agent

☎ 0411 121 579

✉ greg.renet@atrealty.com.au

www.atrealty.com.au



Health and Fitness

HOYS ALLIED HEALTH + Wellness

Physiotherapy • Exercise Physiology •
Dietetics & Nutrition • Remedial Massage •
Occupational Therapy • Core & Exercise
Classes • Hydrotherapy • Radial Shock
Wave Therapy • Women's Health

Visit: Coffs Harbour Jetty

Shop 9, Jetty Village Shopping Centre
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

Call: 02 6652 7355

Online: hoyshealth.com.au

Vehicle Body Repairs

MINOR DENTS AND SCRATCHES?

Give Lyle DENSTEN a ring on

0411 506 514.

Lyle is a Vietnam Veteran with a small motor vehicle repair hobby shop for his Veteran & Vintage car maintenance activity that keeps him sane & happy. Lyle is more than happy to assist with small scratches, dents & scrapes repairs for our members.

Motor Vehicles

A locally owned and operated company,
committed to the Coffs Coast Community



TPI/Korean War Veterans can receive a
National Fleet Discount on all New Hyundai
vehicles. Coffs Harbour Hyundai call us on:

02 6652 1933

192-196 Orlando Street, Coffs Harbour
Coffsharbourhyundai.com.au



The following businesses have demonstrated support for the Coffs Harbour RSL sub-Branch Inc. and offer their services to members and their families.

Coffs Park Beach Plaza



**ADVANCED MECHANICAL
SERVICES COFFS HARBOUR**

Unit 6/163 Orlando Street, Coffs Harbour.
NSW. 2450.
(M) 0431 231 920

COAST TO VALLEY EARTHWORKS

*NO NEED TO DEBATE, CALL ME TO
EXCAVATE*

Contact: BRADEN 0432 597 626

E: admin@c2vearthworks.com or

braden@c2vearthworks.com



**I once dated a lady who broke up with
me because I only have 9 toes.**

Yes, she was lack-toes intolerant.

True story, Ed.

