

2024 Executive

APRIL 2024

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 lan 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@rsInsw.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

Veterans & 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: 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.

Dates2024: 20th Apr 2024; 18th May; 15th June; 20th July;

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.

Veterans Assistance

Open Arms Veterans and Families Counselling service. Open Arms is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046 or visit OpenArms.gov.au.

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.

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 are all welcome.

Walking Group – 2nd Friday of the Month.

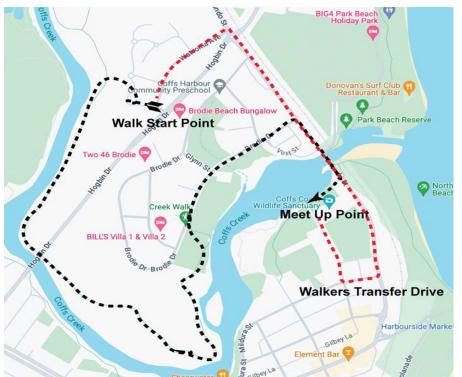


(if you don't want to walk, just come along for the BBQ afterwards.)

Last Walk: Fri 8th March through the Orara State Forest and Bucca state range.

Rose and Bill argue as to who is going to walk behind Col!

Concluded with Coffee at the Moonee Marketplace.



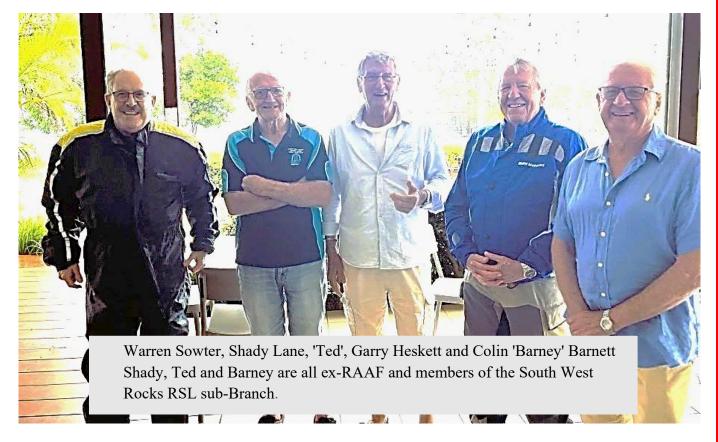
Next Walk: Fri 12th April. Coffs Creek walk.

Start point at the junction of Watsonia Avenue and Hogbin Drive.

Refer Info Sheet for full details. Collect at 'Coffee@Cex' on Thursdays and from the office.

Motorcycle Riders Group –3rd Friday of the Month

Last Ride: South West Rocks, 15th March



Future rides include a trip to the Ballina Navy Museum. More later.

Lawn Bowls Group –Last Friday of the Month.

Next Game: Friday 26th April – subject to fine weather. Join us at 10:00 am for a few ends on the C.ex Greens. Talent is admired; but not necessary. Finish the morning with some cool drinks or coffee in the Club. Cost \$5 per player.



New Members

Garry Heskett welcomes our new member, Martin Buckingham, at the March GM.

Welcome aboard Martin.

Sub-Branch News & Updates



Vale: Ken Morley, Leading Airman/Meteorological Observer 2nd class. Korean Veteran. Ex RN & RAN. HMAS' Sydney,

Albatross, Arunta, Lonsdale.

Discharged: 17 Dec 1957.

Funeral Coramba Lawn Cemetery held on 27th Mar.

We will Remember him;

Lest We Forget

Consultation Now Open On Veterans' Legislation Reform

Following consultation, the draft legislation will simplify the veteran compensation system, with all claims to be considered under a single Act. Under the new system:

➤ All new claims for compensation and rehabilitation from the date of commencement would be assessed under a single Act, an improved *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA)*;

There will also be a number of improvements including:

- ➤ introduction of a new Additional Disablement Amount to provide similar benefits as the Extreme Disablement Adjustment for those post-retirement age;
- making the higher travel allowance under MRCA available to all veterans and for all kilometres travelled;
- providing a pathway for veterans currently only covered by DRCA to qualify for the Specialist Medical Review Council and a Gold Card if they have a new claim accepted and
- increasing the general funeral allowance to \$3,000 with the amount previously set at \$2,000.

More information on the proposed legislation changes, and opportunities to provide feedback can be found at – www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform.

The above article is a summary; Veterans may wish to read the full article in the March ChargeSheet or visit the above link.

Royal Commission Conclusions

A "catastrophic failure" in senior government and Defence leadership has led to a "senseless loss of life" in Australia's military community.

A "catastrophic failure" in senior government and Defence leadership has led to a "senseless loss of life" in Australia's military community, the man leading the Royal Commission into Australia's military suicide crisis has said in scathing remarks delivered at the close of the three-year inquiry.

Deaths by suicide have taken the lives of at least 1677 servicemen and women

between 1997 and 2021 – 20 times the number of service personnel killed on active duty.

The Royal Commission Into Defence and Veteran Suicide, led by Commissioner Nick Kaldas alongside Dr Peggy Brown and James Douglas KC, has held multiple hearings around the country and received some 230,000 documents, 5889 submissions and heard from 344 witnesses – from the chiefs of each military branch to enlisted soldiers, sailors and air force members.

Mr Kaldas, delivering his closing remarks on Thursday afternoon, said the "true toll" of preventable deaths was upwards of 3000 and blasted what he saw as pervasive and systemic failures in senior leadership to address the crisis.

"It's apparent there has been a catastrophic failure of leadership at a government level and within the military to prioritise the urgent reforms and implement effectively the previous recommendations required to deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes for defence personnel and veterans," he said.



Commissioners Dr Peggy Brown, Nick Kaldas (centre) and James Douglas KC at a commission hearing in Hobart.

"And despite all the rhetoric from those in positions of power about people being Defence's greatest asset – the senseless loss of life, and the devastating impacts for families and loved ones, continues to this day."

The commission heard harrowing testimony from former service members who suffered dramatic mistreatment as they grappled with mental health challenges during their service, including former navy diver John Armfield, who suffered alleged mistreatment in the military in the past three years while the commission itself was active.

Mr Armfield lost his brother, RAAF Leading Aircraftman Andrew Armfield, to suicide in October 2011, but Mr Armfield only found out about the existence of an internal report

into Andrew's death 10 years after the traumatic event.



When the report was made available to him, he told the commission how he drove to the post office to pick it up without any support in place to help him process the findings, which he said revealed serious failures in his brother's care.

"I was sitting in my car, broken," Mr Armfield said.

"I'd loyally served my nation and this is how they'd given

me the report on my little brother's death."

Mr Armfield, an Afghanistan veteran and military recruiter, alleged serious failures in the ADF's treatment of his brother and also spoke about a hostile culture as he grappled with the circumstances of Andrew's death. The commission also heard evidence from Colonel Paul Morgan about an unacceptable behaviour complaint he lodged while serving in the Army.

"Colonel Morgan's complaint involved details of a Facebook hate group designed to intimidate gay members of the Defence Force," Mr Kaldas said. "He also received death threats and had threatening letters delivered to his home."

Mr Kaldas said the ADF needed to undertake substantial cultural change to reduce the prevalence of misconduct and its link to elevated suicide risks.

"The final report of this Royal Commission – due to be handed down in September – will be a blueprint for the long-overdue cultural and system-wide reforms required to deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes for our serving and ex-serving ADF members, and their families," he said.

One cultural value he said needed to change was the stigma surrounding mental health issues, which he said prevented members from seeking help for fear of being seen as "weak".

Australian Defence Force chief General Angus Campbell, the final witness before the commission, agreed with Mr Kaldas' emphasis on stigma and said a widespread fear of stigma around mental health was a key factor stopping service personnel from accessing health care.

A mental health issue can affect a service member's medical employment classification status, which can have an impact on deployments and opportunities within the military.

The General said it was "very difficult" change the cultural mindset in the Defence community that might lead to more open reporting of mental health problems.

"This is a constant conversation and one in which things like mental health awareness days and 'Are You OK', the mandatory training sessions that are held, the encouragement at a whole lot of levels but particularly at the local, tactical team level of encouraging and speaking about issues and that mindset that seeking help may see you not participate in tomorrow or the next activity but will enable you to partner in many activities beyond," he said on Thursday.

General Campbell said driving the "right" culture into every layer of the 100,000 personnel-strong Defence enterprise was critical to making improvements alongside pushing the mammoth bureaucracy away from a "disaggregated", or splintered organisation, into a more unitary enterprise with a common set of policy settings and values.

In his final remarks, General Campbell vowed to push for enduring reform in Australia's military and defence culture.

"My comment to everybody would be to know and do what is right and when you see that is not what is happening, just stand up and you will be supported."

Mr Kaldas, however, expressed caution about the ability of Defence leadership to propel reform.

"Serious questions do remain about the urgency with which Defence is responding to the deep-rooted cultural and systemic challenges which are contributing to suicide and suicidality," he said.

"Fixing the cultural and systemic issues we've identified will establish the ADF as an 'employer of choice' at a time of geopolitical uncertainty when our navy, Army and air force need to be attracting the right people, in the right numbers.

"It will help stop the revolving door of employee turnover that poses a real risk to Australia's defence capability."

Where you can get help:

Free and confidential counselling support is available 24/7 for ADF members, veterans and their families by phoning:

Defence all-hours support line on 1800 628 036; Open Arms on 1800 011 046. Safe
 Zone on 1800 142 072



ANZAC Quilt Raffle & 'Anzac Appeal.'

Once again, as on Remembrance Day, we are honoured with a superb Quilt to raffle.

Ticket sales coincide with our 'ANZAC Appeal: 18th – 24th Apr.

- Bunnings Mon 22nd & Tues 23rd Apr
- Big W Sat. 20th Wed 24th April
- C.ex Coffs Club, Castle Street Foyer.
 Thurs 18th Wed 24th April

We welcome your support to fill our sales

Rosters.

2024 ANZAC Day Running Sheet Summary

Date/	Time	Action	Personnel Assisting
25/4 Tue	4:30-5:00 am	Flag Lowering.Radio Station 106.3 FM Dawn Service Broadcast	RSL sub-Branch
Dawn Service	5:30 am Step off 5:20 am	 Dawn Service at Vernon Street Cenotaph Welcome by RSL Sub-Branch Pres. Welcome to dignitaries. Dawn Service Ceremony. Wreath Laying Closure. 	 Police presence. Parade Marshall: Garry Heskett and helpers. Assemble in Vernon Street western end adjacent to Cex Club Catafalque Party First Aid: St Johns
	6:15 am	'Gunfire Breakfast' at Cex Club Auditorium	C.ex staff plus Sub-branch Volunteers required for

2024 ANZAC Day Running Sheet Summary

Date/	Time	Action	Personnel Assisting						
		Service Personnel & Veterans to enter first.	serving						
	25/4/23 ANZAC Day – Main March & Ceremony								
March	8:00am - 8:30am	 Jeeps & Truck collect at Vernon St. outside Cex Club and at the Cnr Park Ave & Gordon St. C.ex Collection of Veterans requiring assistance. Water Stations in place on Vernon Street 	Jeep transport subject to availability.						
	8:15am - 8:45 am	ANZAC Day March Form-up at the round-about cnr Park Ave & Gordon St.	Parade Marshall: Garry Heskett, Glenn Hall, Cmd. JJ Williams, Jason Prewi						
	8.45 am or Earlier Subject to size	 Step Off with the Coffs Pipes & Drums Band. March Order: Jeeps, Light Horse, 725 Sqn, Veterans & Ex-ser., VVA, ANSA, Cadets, Police, Fire Brigade, SES, Community Groups(lions, Coffs SLS, etc.) Primary Schools, High Schools, Scouts & Guides, Members of the Public marching for a Veteran, et al. 	 Coffs Harbour Pipes and Drums St. Johns Paramedic Disabled Veterans in jeeps, etc. to lead parade. Light Horse 						
	9:00 am – 9:20am 9:30am	March arrives at the Cenotaph. Line up on Vernon St. March placed on parade by Parade Marshall.	 Volunteers to monitor crowd, school children, Veterans, cadets, etc for heat stress. Distribute water. First Aid Tent 						
Main Ceremony	9:30 am 9.35am	Ceremony and Address. RSL Sub-Branch President's welcome ANZAC Day Ceremony	Guest Speaker: LCDR Michael Cairncross 725 Sqd. Exo: Lt. Cmd.						
ANZAC Lunch and Entertainment	unch and noon Veterans' free entry. All else to purchase		Vet's tickets available from: JL, Warren, Garry. Sub- branch members to collect at April GM 20/4. Please purchase Luncheon Tickets ASAP to assist Catering arrangements.						
Games	2:30- 3:00 pm Two-up in Vista Lounge Visit by Pipe Band.		Jeff Cox, David Doyle, Sub-branch assistants.						

RSL NSW

Padre's Post





ANZAC Day

From the Padre:

I constantly give thanks and praise to God for His love and care to us all for His provision of this wonderful nation Australia. Most of all we thank Him for the strength He gave those who served.

Our RSL Prologue

On this day we remember the sacrifice of such men and women for an ideal, a way of life. Let us take strength in the knowledge and hope that our sons and daughters will never forget the example set by their forefathers.

On this day we think of every man and woman who, in those crucial years, died so that the lights of freedom and humanity might continue to shine.

We nurture, too, <u>the</u> obligation of showing gratitude for the peace we enjoy and the <u>responsibility of ensuring that freedom and liberty so costly won is not lost through our own indifference.</u> In our everyday lives let us carry on those traditions established in past wars and conflicts at such great cost.

So let us mourn with Pride, but let us also remember with equal pride those who serve and are still alive. "See that ye hold fast the heritage we leave you. Yea and teach your children that never in the coming centuries may their hearts fail or their hands grow weak.

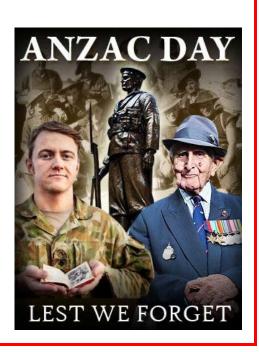
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Commemoration of the Fallen

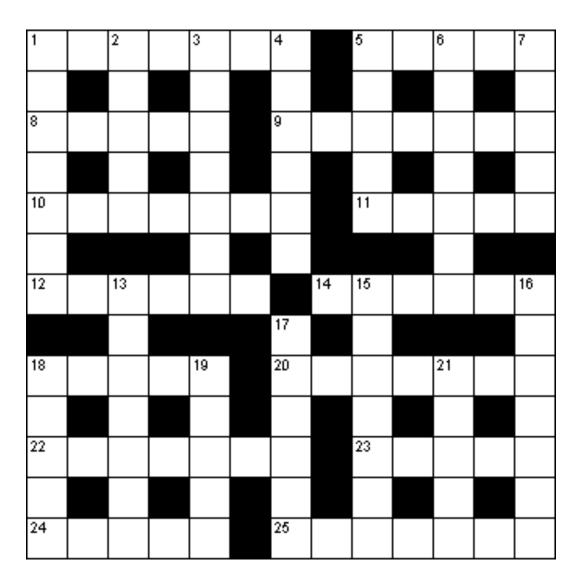
O Lord, through the mouth of your Prophet you declared that all souls are Yours, We thank You for the brave and faithful dead, who willingly laid down their lives on the battlefield in war or succumbed to the perils of the deep or of the air. We bless you for the dauntless courage of those defenders of our Commonwealth who have fallen in the cause of truth and righteousness. In Your hands, O Father, we leave their departed spirits. Grant us to follow in their good example in faithfulness and endurance, even unto death, that we may with them be found worthy of the crown of everlasting life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be they name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our trespasses as we
Forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen



Interesting Articles: CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Samson's temptress (7)
- **5** Army officer (5)
- 8 Hours of darkness (5)
- 9 Unlawful (7)
- 10 Falsehood (7)
- **11** Book of maps (5)
- 12 US coin (6)
- 14 Cake-burning king (6)
- 18 Thigh bone (5)
- **20** Freedom (7)
- 22 Capital of Ontario (7)
- **23** Prepared (5)
- **24** Coin-tossing call (5)
- 25 Erased (7)

Down

- 1 Philanderer (3,4)
- 2 Illumination (5)
- 3 Salad ingredient (7)
- 4 Altitude (6)
- **5** George Cross island (5)
- 6 Vein in the neck (7)
- **7** Regulations (5)
- 13 Lake District county (7)
- **15** Generous (7)
- **16** Tearless (3-4)
- **17** Edible nut (6)
- 18 Command to a dog (5)
- **19** Items of jewellery (5)
- **21** Respond (5)

Corn Corner











I've found marriage to be very educational. For example, I had no idea there was a wrong way to put milk in the fridge. I woke up this morning,
with a terrible
hangover.....to the sound
of my neighbour,
mowing his lawn.
I was going to get up.
Then I thought "Nah,
he can mow
around me !!"



FOR MANY YEARS FRED'S SECRET SUNDAY AFTERNOON NAPS WENT UNDETECTED

'Well you see, Norm, it's like this . . . A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo; and when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Now, as we know, excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. And that, Norm, is why you always feel smarter after a few beers.'

Theory of Intelligence.

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 Australia Bumper Stickers

For sale at cost to sub-Branch members. If you would like some, please contact Sub-branch Office. Available at Coffee@Cex on Thursdays.



Circular 12/24 Middle East Area of Operation (MEAO) Commemoration on 11 July

RSL NSW is proceeding with an inaugural Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) commemoration on 11 July 2024, and continues to lobby RSL Australia for a national commemorative day.

The MEAO commemoration will honour those ADF personnel who served in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan during 2001 - 2021 and marks the date troops were withdrawn on 11 July 2021.

NSW State Government - Crown Reserves Directory

The Crown Reserves Directory provides public information on reserves across NSW. There are over 400 Crown reserves currently listed in the directory. The directory provides reserve details including activities undertaken on the reserve, facilities available, images and contact information.

Non council Crown land managers and Common Trusts are encouraged to submit details of their reserves to be included in the directory. New reserve listings and updates to current listings can be made via the Reserve Manager Portal. Refer to our guide for assistance in updating the directory.

N.B. I've had a look at the interactive directory; it's easy to use and very informative. Very useful to plan driving and camping trips. Ed.

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

(f) (in) (in)



Licensed Real Estate Agent

6 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



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







