



RSL NSW
Coffs Harbour

Issue 225
October 2024

2024 Executive

President:

John Lloyd
0438 325 205

Hon. Secretary:

Hon. Treasurer:

Garry Heskett QBE
0414 512 302

Asst Treasurer:

Margaret Black

Vice Presidents:

Garry Heskett QBE
Ian Johnston

Asst Secretary:

Joaly McBaron

Visitation Team:

Rev. Dr. Graham
Whelan OAM
Ray Squires

**Indigenous
Liaison Officer**

vacant

Cenotaph

Custodian:

Paul Bamford Jnr.

Office Hours:

Mondays:

10.00 am-12.05 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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Breaking News

- **M.E.A.O. Veterans Open Forum Thursday 10th October at 6.30PM**
- **Join the Stay Well Stay Connected Forum at C.ex Coffs in the 'Blue Room' at 6.30PM for a presentation involving a panel of special guests to review the needs of our Coffs Coast contemporary Veterans and examine support services on the Mid North Coast. We are looking for experienced Veterans to offer advice and ideas to build a structure of support for our contemporary Veterans. Refer P 7.**
- **Next BBQs: Sat 19th October, Friday 8th November**
- **Next Walk: Fri 11th of Oct at 9.30AM. North Coast Regional Botanic Garden.**
- **NB: October GM moved from 19th October to Saturday 26th October.**
- **Monday 11th November Remembrance Day – Form up 10.30AM**

Quote: “The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.” **G. K. Chesterson**

Sub-Branch Administration.

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@vwmnc.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.

[Except for October where we have moved to the 4th Sat, 26th Oct.]

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

Dates2024: 26th Oct. 16th Nov. 21st Dec. (Plus Christmas Luncheon).

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.

Veteran care is the mission of RSL LifeCare. <https://rsllifecare.org.au/home-care/department-of-veteran-affairs/>

PH: tel:1300 853 146

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:

⑩ to ensure correct sizing make your way to 'Wear It!' and try on some items.

⑩ order what you want via Tanya.

⑩ let Warren know that you have made an order.

⑩ 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 and enjoy a chat, tell stories, embellished, exaggerated and educational (Hmmm). Join us for convivial, but rarely contentious discussions and recollections.

Location: Vista Lounge, C.ex Club. Partners, visitors, Veterans all welcome.

Walking Group – 3rd Friday of the Month (11th Oct)

(If you're not up to the walk, just come along for coffee afterwards.)

Last Walk: Fri 13th Sept Tuckers Rock Rd to Bundageree Head & return.

Next Walk: Fri 11th of Oct at 9.30AM. North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, Coffs Harbour. Travel the Grand Circuit Walk for approximately 2.5 km around the. Nice & flat, easy walking, so bring the family.

• Getting to the Garden:



- By car, turn off Harbour Drive at Hardacre Street (look for the 'Botanic Garden' sign) between the city and the jetty, west of the roundabout intersection at Hogbin Drive or,

- Walk or cycle via the Coffs Creek path which passes by the garden entrance car park – a short walk from Coffs CBD.

- Meet at the Coffs Harbour Botanical Gardens

Hardacre Street Car Park at 9:30am. EDT). Enter the Botanic Garden via the Information Centre & Shop.

- Walk along Grand Circuit through the Botanic Garden.
- Gather in the picnic table area for coffee/tea, cake, sambo's, etc.

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

NOTE: The walk will depend on fine weather, mostly. TBA.

Lawn Bowls Group –Last Friday of the Month.

Last Game: Friday 30th August. – a very comfortable day with Bruce Bailey showing us what a smooth bowl looks like.

Fri 27th Sept – Washed out.

Friday 25th Oct: Join us at 10:00 AM for a few ends on the Cex Greens. Talent is admired; but not necessary. Complete the morning with some cool drinks or coffee in the Club. Cost \$5 per player.

Open to all Veterans and their family etc.

Motorcycle Riders Group

Last Ride: Friday/23rd August our bitumen basted Bikers tackled the Waterfall Way to Dorrigo and return.

Next Ride: Thursday 24th October an overnighter to Ballina Museum with dinner at Ballina RSL Club. Open to all riders, local Veterans and family. A bus will be hired to drive non-bikers. Garry is chasing up a suitable motel. Full costs will be advised asap. **All interested parties are requested to report to Garry Heskett – M: 0414 512 302. More later.**

Sub-Branch News & Updates



Vale: John Arthur Phillips. D.O.D 29th September 2024
at Wauchope.

We will Remember them.

Lest We Forget

Bunnings BBQ

Next BBQs: Sat 19th October, Friday 8th November

I'm looking for volunteers to join Garry, '*Chef*': Merv Orr. '*Money-Man*:' Eric Pitman. *Servers*: Bernie, Wally Sims, John Flick, Col & Rose. '*Drinks & Ice*': Ivor McMahon. Not everyone can do the whole day so the more the merrier to share the duties. Many thanks to all volunteers. Set-up from 8.00am. Serving from 8.30am. Pack-up 4.00PM.

Remembrance Day Badge Sales, Sat 2nd Nov.

On Saturday 2nd November we will be selling badges, etc. in the Bunnings Foyer from 8.30AM. Volunteers required. Please contact JL.

Remembrance Day Monday 11th November

This year will be a repeat of 2023 with 725 Sqd joining us from Nowra.



Details:

- 10.30AM Form-up on Vernon Street and march to the Cenotaph.
- Remembrance Day Ceremony with Last Post at 11.00AM.
- Parade dismissed.
- Retire to Cex Club for refreshments.

M.E.A.O. Veterans Open Forum Thursday 10th October at 6.30AM

Join the **Stay Well Stay Connected** Forum at **C.ex Coffs** in the 'Blue Room' at 6.30PM for a presentation involving a panel of special guests to review the needs of our Coffs Coast contemporary Veterans and examine support services on the Mid North Coast . **Topics of discussion will include:**

- The Royal Commission into Defense and Veteran Suicide,
- Employment and housing for veterans in the local area,
- Transitioning programs for veterans' and their families,
- The current situation of Defense recruitment and operational service.

We aim to foster a sense of community and well-being amongst veterans; but we need your help!

The Forum is supported by the SGT Matthew Locke MG Charity and the DVA Veterans Health Week initiative. See you there!

Our sub-Branch members are encouraged to attend to lend support and ideas to help built a permanent support network. We have the experience to give a genuine hand; so join in.

John Lloyd, President. Adam Fuller, convener of 'Stay Well Connected Forum'.

Corn Corner

Q. Did you hear about the first restaurant to open on the moon?

A. It had great food, but no atmosphere.

Q. Did you hear about the cheese factory that exploded in France?

A. There was nothing left but de Brie.

Q. What's orange and sounds like a parrot?

A. A carrot.

Q. What did Mr. and Mrs. Hamburger name their daughter?

A. Patty!

Q. Where do beef burgers go dancing?

A. At the meatball.

Q. Why can you never gossip in a cornfield?

A. Too many ears.

Q. Why are fish so smart?

A. Because they live in schools!

Q. What do you call a bear with no ears?

A. A "B"!

Q. What happened when the ice cream cone and cheesecake abandoned their fellow soldiers?

A. They were wanted for dessert-ion.



SAVE THE DATE

**WWII 80th Anniversary Charity Concert
by The Clarence Valley Orchestra & Chorus.**

**Sat. 26th Apr 2025 at 2:00pm at Woolgoolga Sports Complex –
Solitary Islands Way.**

More Info as the date approaches.



Our Christian Civilisation & Tradition



The Bangka Island Massacre

One of the worst sorts of evil one can commit is to do harm or kill those who look after the infirm and injured. People who clearly care and have a kind spirit.

Alas this happened during WWII and still happens nowadays and not only in war-torn countries.

The Bangka Island massacre was one of those atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial forces in 1942.

On the 12th of February 1942, with the fall of Singapore to the Imperial Japanese Army imminent, sixty-five Australian Army nurses, including Sister Vivian Bullwinkel, were evacuated from the besieged city on the small coastal steamer *Vyner Brooke*.

In addition to the Australian nurses, the ship was crammed with over two hundred civilian evacuees and English military personnel. As the *Vyner Brooke* was passing between Sumatra and Borneo, Japanese aircraft bombed and strafed the overloaded ship, and it sank quickly.

Wearing their Red Cross armbands and having protected status as non-combatants under the Conventions of War, the nurses expected to be treated accordingly by the

Japanese when they reached shore. About 100 survivors reunited near Radjik Beach at Bangka Island, in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia), including 22 of the original 65 nurses. Once it was discovered that the island was held by the Japanese Imperial Army, an officer of the *Vyner Brooke* went to surrender the group to the authorities in Muntok. While he was away nurse Irene Melville Drummond suggested that the civilian women and children should leave for Muntok, which they did.

The nurses stayed to care for the wounded. They set up a shelter with a large Red Cross sign on it.

At mid-morning the ship's officer returned with about 20 Japanese soldiers. They ordered all the wounded men capable of walking to travel around a headland. The nurses heard a quick succession of shots before the Japanese soldiers came back, sat down in front of the women and cleaned their bayonets and rifles.

A Japanese officer ordered the remaining 22 nurses and one civilian woman to walk into the surf. A machine gun was set up on the beach and when the women were waist deep, they were machine-gunned. All but Sister Lt Vivian Bullwinkel were killed.

Wounded soldiers left on stretchers were then bayoneted and killed.

Shot in the diaphragm, Bullwinkel lay motionless in the water until the sound of troops had disappeared. She crawled into the bush and lay unconscious for several days. When she awoke, she encountered Private Patrick Kingsley, a British soldier that had been one of the wounded from the ship and had been bayoneted by the Japanese soldiers but survived. She dressed his wounds and her own, and then 12 days later they surrendered to the Japanese. Kingsley died before reaching a POW camp, Bullwinkel spent 3 years in one.



She survived the war and gave evidence of the massacre at a war crimes trial in Tokyo in 1947.

She died of a heart attack on the 3rd of July 2000, aged 84, in Perth, Western Australia.

Sister Vivian Bullwinkel at the time she joined the Australian Army Nursing Service in 1941

**The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance.
We Will Remember Them
Lest We Forget**

Blessings – Padre Rev. Dr Graham Whelan OAM

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



Ph. Shannen Mitchell:0474 324 398

BBQ 4 Burner with Gas
cylinder - Good Cond - \$50

Email: mshannen53@gmail.com

10mm Irrigation Pipe: \$30

Roof Racks: \$40

Stainless Steel Sink -unused: \$70

Beekeepers Suit: \$100



Lawn Care & Maintenance Services

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



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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



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