



## LEST WE FORGET

“The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance”



## IPSWICH RAILWAY RSL SUB BRANCH

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### Newsletter December 2022

**ANNUAL SUBS ARE DUE EFFECTIVE 1ST OF JANUARY 2023**  
**SUB BRANCH AGM FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2023**  
**CLUB AGM THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2023**

#### President's Report

Well, what a couple of months since our last newsletter with the Flint Street office going great guns thanks to our secretary Peter who has the admin systems in place to deliver timely services. And part of that admin includes processing new members, but sadly, farewelling others for the last time. Vale valued Sub branch members Douglas Allen and Warren Gavin and let us also spare a moment for all those we have lost in 2022.

#### *Lest we Forget*

We also welcome our new members to the Sub branch; Peter Lindgren, Liam Pettigrew, Charles Zammitt, Alan Bailey, Kenneth Pratt, Peter Mcanany, David Earl, Steven Swan, Annette Porter, Jack Paff, Anthony Eden, Clay Beldon, Kenneth Pennell and Ellen Pennell and I wish to acknowledge the work Peter has put in to effecting all those new memberships. With these additions our Sub branch has now grown to 254 financial members.

Turning to our core activity of Welfare, I recently formally authorised Owen and Susan Swan to undertake duties as Wellbeing Support Officers, where they will join Shan Brown's team carrying out home, hospital and aged-care facilities visits, and supporting domestic arrangements for our members, as well as facilitating access to DVA support.

Thank you to Susan and Owen for your commitment and to Shan putting together a program that will ensure we deliver our core business-welfare.

And I am sure all enjoyed our October Sub branch BBQ with a good turnout and some welcome new faces about. These functions are now regular features of the Sub branch calendar and are particularly aimed at ensuring that we provide opportunities for our members, particularly our most "senior" members to get out and about and overcome social isolation

In September a number of Sub branch members also attended the Ipswich Prostate Cancer Support Group luncheon held at CSI, with over \$5000 raised for the Ipswich Hospital Foundation (IHF). We will continue to support future IHF fundraising events at CSI as these causes directly assist veterans in hospital.

And on the subject of health and wellbeing, at our last Sub branch meeting we had Exercise Physiologist (EP) Lewis from Prime Performance Physiotherapy (PPP) give a presentation on the services available to the veteran community through the PPP organisation. We have been promoting PPP and its predecessor ABC for some time and there will be further info on them later in the newsletter.



**President John thanking Lewis for his presentation**

And in late October, I represented the sub branch at a luncheon convened by the Ipswich Sub Branch of the War Widows. The luncheon was held to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the formation of the War Widows Guild.



On the same day, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced that from 19 October 2022, the birthday of Mrs Jessie Vasey (pictured), who started the first Queensland branch of the War Widows Guild in

Toowoomba in 1947. Queensland will annually celebrated as War Widows Day.

On Sunday 20th November, the Sub branch Directors, supported by several other members conducted our Annual Planning Conference where they formulated our strategic plan for 2023. The Plan sets the agenda for our activities for the next 12 months immediately after the AGM and allocates all the funding required to meet our commitment to meeting the objectives of the league. So thanks to those who took the time to participate in this crucial activity.

One of our budget items for this year was for commemorations and this year we and Ipswich jointly made a donation to the Ripley Valley College for the construction of a school memorial, pictured below.



**Cheque presentation at Ripley**

I would like to thank all who sold badges for the sub branch at various locations. We have a strong community profile and by selling badges in the public areas we show our strong link with the community. My special thanks to Heather & Ray for their hard work in putting together the different boxes for the sales centres. My thanks to them again as well as John King and Spike for setting up the tables & displays at the selling points.

And What a wonderful turnout for fur Sub branch Christmas party to end our year.



So until we meet in 2023, my wife Jeanette and I wish you a happy, holy and safe Christmas and please come back refreshed for another year in the new year



Yours in comradeship  
John Dredge  
President.

**A postscript**, having heard the terrible news about the loss of two Police officers yesterday, on behalf of the Sub branch and CSI, I was joined by Club GM Natalia to lay a wreath at the Police memorial in Browns Park this morning in honour of these two fine young people who lost their lives protecting the community.

John



## Sub Branch News

**Succession Plan – The Sub branch Board of Directors.** You will all be aware of recent RSL constitutional changes that limit the length of time a Director can serve on a Sub branch Board. A director can now only serve a maximum of three by three year terms, and that rule now means the terms of Vice President Peter Sutton and Treasurer Spike Dainer will expire at the next AGM and they will have to stand down from the Sub branch Board. This creates two vacancies on the Sub branch Board to be filled at the Board

elections at the AGM on Friday 10th February.

The formal AGM notice, to be published in January, will announce what positions are up for election, so if you believe you have something to contribute, please consider nominating for any vacancies. And on the subject of elections, our Sub branch Secretary Peter has nominated for the position of Deputy President of the Moreton District. If successful, those duties will be in addition to his role as Sub branch Secretary and we wish him well in his quest.

**2023 Membership Fees.** As the headline above says, subs for 2023 are due on the 1st of January, however, renewal payments can be made before that date. New membership and renewals payments can now be paid at Sub branch HQ at Railway House in Flint street.

If you pay at Railway House, please ensure you then present your Club card at CSI reception so that your membership card can be annotated as financial member for 2023. This is critical, as your Club card is used to validate your eligibility to vote at both the upcoming Sub branch AGM on Friday 10th of February, and later at the CSI AGM on Thursday 23rd February.



CSI reception will still process RSL membership payment but for renewals only.

**New memberships must be taken to Flint Street for processing**

**Here's CSI receptionist Annalise waiting to**

**process your RSL membership**

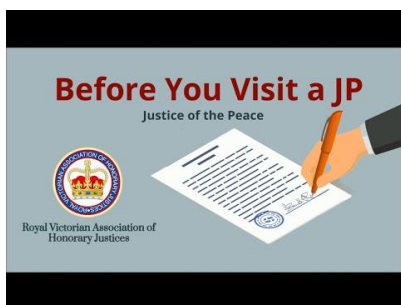
**Remembrance Day.** Remembrance Day was again solemnly observed with a great turnout of attendees at the Workshops memorial. A wonderful tribute to that most

significant of commemorative days on our calendar. And on commemorations, we continued our support of all veterans in Ipswich and the wider metro area by providing poppy services at the funeral of Ex service members, regardless of whether they are RSL members or not. All those who served are entitled to the recognition afforded by that service and we find it is of great comfort to families at a particularly sad time for them.



**Bugler Angus at the Workshops Service**

**Sub-Branch Annual Planning Day.** We held our annual Sub branch planning session on Sunday 20 November and have developed the draft plan of our activities for 2023. The plan and accompanying budget will be distributed at the February AGM, for endorsement at the March 2023 Sub branch meeting. In summary we have budgeted to have an income of around \$170,000 and then expend about \$150,000 over next year, meeting the Objects of the RSL. As always, the bulk of that income comes from donations from CSI, so remember whenever you enjoy the amenity and facilities of our Club, you are directly supporting veterans in Ipswich.



several Justices of the Peace (JP) and Commissioners for Declarations (CDec) at Railway House following the successful completion of a training course sponsored by

**Welfare.**

Firstly, we are proud to announce an enhancement to our welfare services in that we now have

the Sub branch. JP and CDecs are now available at Railway House on most days for witnessing duties, so should you need those services, please ring ahead on Flint Street phone no 2800 8028 to make sure one is in and then come on down.

**On Welfare activity,** it's been another very busy year for Sub branch members, you collectively gave up 6,833hours of your precious time to help others. In doing so our volunteers travelled a combined 21,034kms and the monetary value of those volunteer hours, as determined by the ATO, is \$300,164, seriously impressive and sometimes, a simple thankyou seems a bit of an inadequate acknowledgement of that service to our fellow veterans and others.

**Blacksmithing Family Day.** Just a heads up about a Blacksmithing family day on 25<sup>th</sup> of Feb at the Cooneana Heritage Center. We'll provide full details and registration at the at January Sub branch meeting

**Charitable Objects Fund, (COF).** On a disappointing note, we have been advised that the State RSL funded COF, which has been extremely helpful for providing funding assistance for optical, dental and hearing and other medical treatments for veterans, has been put on hold for a bit. We don't know when or if this program will resume. However, applications for the emergency call "Live Life Alarms" (LLA) is not affected, and applications for LLA will continue to be funded.

**Railway House.** We are now well settled into our Sub branch home in Flint Street and the place always looks a picture due to the efforts of Sub branch Director and "Property Officer" John King. John also gives freely of his time to maintain the District RSL vehicle which is garaged at Flint Street, but always seems busy when other staff leave their car in that space for a wash.

However, we have become a bit of a victim of our own success in terms of accommodating



visitors at Railway House, particularly when dealing with sensitive welfare matters. So we are examining options to expand our footprint at Flint Street to accommodate the welfare and support services we are providing from there. We are looking at additional storage which will free up office space, so hopefully further developments coming in 2023. Having said that, Sub branch members are always welcome to drop in to Flint Street for a cuppa and a biscuit and a chat.

**Sub branch Web Page.** We are finalizing the admin for the upgrade of our Sub branch Website and we will preview the site at the January Sub branch meeting. The site will then go live in March. We propose to conduct a session for members so that even the most fumble fingered of us, (editor included) can take advantage of both the Railway Sub branch website and Facebook pages to stay in touch.

**Vocational Bursary for 2023.** Regrettably, we will not be allocating our Vocational bursary for 2023 as we did not receive any nominations. This is difficult to understand when you consider the number of young people currently undergoing “tradie” training of one kind or another, so perhaps we need to push this initiative a bit harder,. This initiative is designed to help Sub branch member’s children or grand and even great grand children with trade training costs. So keep the trade bursary in mind when we call for nominations for the two 2024 bursaries.

**WIFE: “There is a problem with the tractor. It has water in the carburetor.”**  
**HUSBAND: “Water in the carburetor? That’s ridiculous”**  
**WIFE: “I’m telling you the tractor has water in the carburetor”**  
**HUSBAND: “You don’t even know where the carburetor is. Where’s the tractor?”**  
**WIFE: “In the pool”**

**Fund Raising Badge Selling.** As mentioned by John, our badge sellers out did themselves this year and raised over \$30,000 for the Sub branch this year.

**Stan, Pam and David at Silkstone**



So thankyou to Stan and Pam Dick, Kerry Walker, Heather Dainer, Ray Watherston, Shane Dainer, Smokey Dawson, Bruce Davis, Geof Kleinig, John Lake, David Earl, Keith Fraser, Richard Healey, Tammy Faulkner, Joan Conlon, Peter Sutton, Harry and Sandra Harle, Molly Green, Colin Seeley, Terry Bohn, Bunny Qualischefski, Ron Twidale, Ian DeVilliers, Arthur Everding, John Dredge, Neville Luck, Bob Stumer, Yvonne Obrien , Owen and Susan Swan and Dick Moffitt, legends one and all. Please forgive me if I have left any out any of our wonderful volunteers.



**Bruce, Heather and Geof on badge duty at Bunnings**

The introduction of EFTPOS technology played a significant part in the increased sales as fewer people seem to carry cash these days.

**Sub-Branch BBQ.** Another successful social event that brought together many members for a great get together. We will continue these events and remember, if you can't get out, we will provide a taxi to get you there so you too can enjoy the Camaraderie and fellowship of the Sub branch.

**Presidents Luncheon.** Not long after the above BBQ, President John hosted the annual President's lunch for our over 80's members and carers. This annual event for these youngsters is again designed to ensure those less able to get out, can enjoy a social outing and this year we were again pleased to have the Mayor of Ipswich Ms Teresa Harding along with District President Les Nash as our special guests.



**And yes, that's former President Ray with his new headwear. Can't see it catching on Ray**



**Cowra Visit.** In October, on his way to Victoria for an Army reunion, Secretary Peter, dropped into Cowra NSW to deliver a picture of one of Cowra's sons, William Bear, killed in action on the western front during WW1. The picture

was donated to Railway Sub branch by family members residing in QLD who wanted it returned to Cowra where it will find a home with the Cowra historical society.

**Personal Responsibility** *I would like to share a personal experience with my friends about drinking and driving. This might save you the cost and embarrassment of being arrested for DUI. As you know, people have been known to have unexpected brushes with the authorities from time to time, often on the way home after a "social session" with family or friends. Well, this year, it happened to me. I was out for the evening to a party and had more than several margaritas coupled with a bottle of rather nice red wine. It was held at a great Mexican restaurant. Although relaxed, I still had the common sense to know I was slightly over the limit. That's when I did something I've never done before...I took a taxi home. On the way home there was a police roadblock, but since it was a taxi, they waved it past, and I arrived home safely without incident. These roadblocks can be anywhere, and I realized how lucky I was to have chosen to take a taxi. The real surprise to me was I had never driven a taxi before. I don't know where I got it, and now that it's in my garage I don't know what to do with it. If you want to borrow it, give me a call.*

**School Bursary Presentations** The Sub branch again presented our annual bursaries to the schools in our catchment and this year we added two new recipient schools, the Adventist school at Brassall (primary) and the Australian Industry Trade College in Lowry Street (secondary)

**Below, John King making the presentations at Westmac College**





## State RSL News

The most significant news out of Stare RSL is the finalisation of the new Board of Directors formed under the new constitution. The four skills based Directors are Tony Orchard (Financial Management) Chris Hamilton (Stakeholder Engagement and Advocacy), Ash Naughton (Strategy Development and Execution) and Nic Gould (Legal, Governance and Risk Management). These four members will join the State President Stephen Day, DSC, AM, Deputy President Wendy Taylor, Vice President Bill Whitburn, OAM and Les Nash, (Chair of the Council of District Presidents) to form the new State Board of Directors. The 10 District Presidents, who formerly made up the State Board, will form the Council of District Presidents which is an advisory body to the new State board.

Stare President Stephen said that “the governance structure may have changed, but our priorities have not. Veterans and Members continue to be our priority. With a

new state Board to work on state branch and strategic matters, the newly formed State Council of District Presidents will 100% focused on matters of their Districts”

Stephen commented on the tremendous commitment throughout this process by League members and thanked all involved in the process. He also expressed his heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Board, the District Presidents. They leave the Board having navigated us through the difficulties of the COVID era, refocused us on veterans, developed and agreed a new strategy, and successfully governed us to a healthy business position.

## In Other News

**Young Veterans Ipswich.** We have continued our support for Young Veterans (YV), including some funding for part of their Halloween event. Secretary Peter also went along on the day for the Halloween event (see below) and while he wasn't in costume, he still managed to scare several young children. The YVs, which included our own Karron, brought a team of awesome characters to Ipswich parks to meet with veteran families. The children met all the characters and received a goody bag on the day.



And while still on Young Veterans, they will be celebrating the 5th Anniversary of their operations in the Ipswich region on Saturday 23rd March 2023. They will mark this milestone with a formal 3 course dinner and much more at the Ipswich Turf Club. Ticket

sales will open soon and tickets are limited, but you can make your expression of interest to be notified of ticket sales opening by emailing [yvipswich@outlook.com](mailto:yvipswich@outlook.com)

**Veteran Certificate of Appreciation.** If you're a veteran or a veteran's family member, you may be able to apply for a Certificate of Appreciation. These are issued as a national gesture of thanks for military service. The certificates are a way of expressing the nation's gratitude to those who served overseas in Australia's Defence Force during the Second World War and in overseas wars, conflicts and peace operations since or on the home front in the Second World War. They do not confer any eligibility for entitlements,

You can apply for a certificate if you are a veteran who served in the wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations for which certificates are available, or a family member on behalf of a deceased eligible person. To apply for a Certificate of Appreciation download and complete the application form from:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/certificate-of-appreciation>

and send your completed application form to your local federal member.

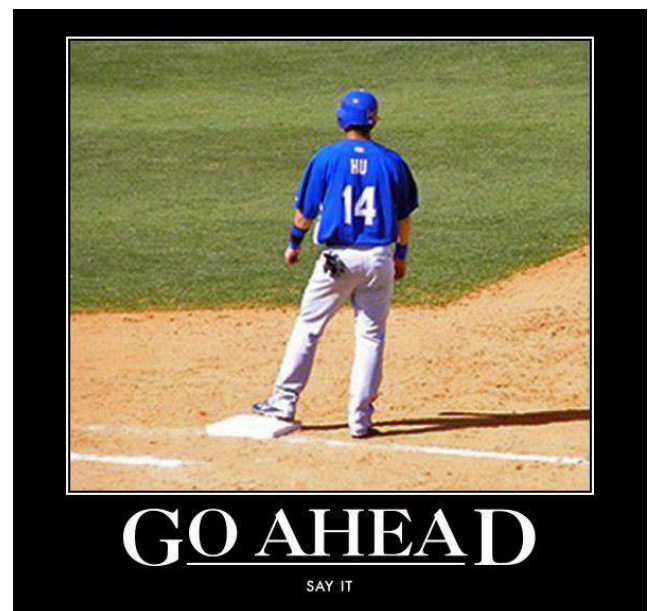
**Register for FREE fire ant bait today!**

Residents in eligible Ipswich suburbs can receive FREE fire ant bait to treat their property. The treatment requires 2 rounds of bait which residents will receive in the mail in February next year. If you register between now and 31 January 2023, you will receive the bait in the second round in February. Please report any suspect ants or nests on your property before you register. To complete your registration call 13 25 23.

**Concessions for QLD Seniors.** A range of concessions are available for Queensland seniors and eligible concession card holders. These concessions help you to save on your household costs for energy, medical, travel

and leisure. Included in the range of concessions are the Seniors Card, Carer Business Discount Card, Companion Card, Australian Government concession and health care cards and others.

Additionally, have a look at the **Smart Savings website** to search for concessions and rebates for Queenslanders linked to energy concessions, COVID-19 household utility relief, electricity and gas rebates, cost of living rebate for households, property, rates and water subsidies, medical aids and equipment, transport concessions, child care fees and benefits and on and on it goes. The Smart Savings website [www.qld.gov.au/concession](http://www.qld.gov.au/concession)



**The Provisional Access to Medical Treatment program (PAMT).** The PAMT pays for treatment for certain conditions without waiting for the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to approve the claim. The scheme has been extended to the 31 December 2024 while the DVA clears a backlog of claims. The PAMT program specifies 20 most commonly accepted conditions and enables the client to access treatment while a claim is being decided by DVA for claims submitted under the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (SRCA) and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004



(MRCA). Contact the Sub branch office for more details about the PAMT program.



I was on Guard of Honour, waiting for the King of Saudi Arabia, on Horseguards. On the right flank; Scots Guard (100 guardsmen) a gap, HM The Queen, mounted in uniform; alongside her the CO Colonel Gerald, another gap, then

on the left flank, the Queen's Company Grenadier Guards (100 guardsmen). We're stood at ease waiting.

Suddenly the silence was broken by Colonel Gerald's charger erupting with horse farts at full volume for two minutes. Embarrassed and staring straight ahead Colonel Gerald says, "Sorry about that your Majesty!" She replies, in a wonderful voice, "That's alright Gerald, . . . I thought it was your horse!" 200 guardsmen silently cried with laughter, and tapped their rifle butts on the gravel. From that moment, every man there adored her!

### Club Report

The Club continues to trade very successfully which means that the Sub branches benefit from the Club's donations. The annual donation will increase from \$90,000 per year to \$105,000 as of January next year, reflecting the prosperity being enjoyed by the Club.



That prosperity does not happen by accident, but by outstanding management by the Club's Management team HCS, headed by

General Manager Natalia, and the wonderful staff of CSI. This leadership was recognized in October when the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) awarded Natalia the prestigious award of Ipswich Business Person of the year, pictured left.

Part of that award also recognised the Club's involvement in not only the veteran community, but also the wider Ipswich community, particularly youth sporting groups by way of direct sponsorship.

The Club's assistance to other Ex Service Organisations in Ipswich also continued this year with the Club facilitating the raising of over \$20,000 which was distributed to the RAAF Association, (pictured below) Young Veterans, Wounded Heroes and the Naval Association.



Remembrance Day was also marked by the Club with a small wreath laying ceremony attended by people returning from other services in the city. Following the service, the Club hosted a light reception for over 100 people

***Below, Chaplain Andrea, GM Natalia and Sub branch President John laying a wreath at the new CSI All Conflicts memorial.***



**Finally, please put the Club AGM** in your diary and come along and have a say about the organization that provides over 60% of the funding needed to run the Railway RSL Sub branch, not to mention the other non cash support in kind it provides to us.

**Last Word.** Well that's almost it for 2022 and I can't let you go without reiterating the importance in you being involved with the succession planning for the Sub branch, and by attending and voting in the AGM on the 10th of February. Remember the Sub branch cannot function without a vibrant Board and that means new blood, so please consider nominating for the vacancies which will occur come February. Even though I will be standing down as treasurer, unless anybody else wants the job, I'll still continue to put out the Sub branch letter, including my very dodgy jokes.

All the best to you and your families for Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

**The first Sub branch meeting for 2023 will be on Friday 13th January at 7.30 in the Long Tan room of CSI. See you all there.**

**Spike  
Editor**

[kangoona@bigpond.com](mailto:kangoona@bigpond.com)



If you are looking for the best night out in Ipswich for New Years Eve, you won't do better than CSI, so put your party hat on and get on down for a beaut night with plenty of promotions prizes on offer.



And while you are there, say g'day to staff member of the month, Chef Chris, who is part of the team that daily produces such outstanding fare for the bistro.



***Lest we Forget***