



HOLLAND PARK-MT GRAVATT SUB BRANCH

News

May 2021



PO Box 119
HOLLAND PARK 4121

Memorial Hall:
58 Arnold Street
HOLLAND PARK 4121

Phone: 07 3397 0561
hpmtgrsl@bigpond.com

Meetings: 10 am
Last Sundays, Monthly
except December and
January

Pres: Alan Hellier
Sec: Sonja Hellier
Trea: Michael Callanan

Advocate Sonja Hellier

This Edition:
Anzac Day 2021

Bus Trips

Annual Reunion:
Saturday
17th July 2021.

Badge Sales: Anzac Day

Remembrance Sales
3 - 10 November 2021.

From the President:

Hope you are enjoying the change in temperature which is a great relief from the heat we have had recently and welcome rain for the garden and laying the dust, not so good for the bities that flourish in the wet!

Well here we are, out of 'hibernation' and getting out and about again following a couple of short lock downs.

The lead up to Anzac Day again looked like being a non-event until the Covid Restrictions were lifted for out-door functions, and people were booking their Covid Jabs.

Our plan B went out the window and we had to set to arranging for fundraising in the shopping centres, offering items to the schools, getting invites out and organising the Anzac Day Service at the Memorial, with less notice than usual.

Secretary Sonja again managed these tasks to provide us with a well supported Anzac Day Commemoration Service. Fewer schools took part this year, mainly as it fell on the Sunday of a long weekend. Many thanks to: BCC for maintaining the Memorial site, Holland Park SHS for providing the band and vocal, Fr Lindsay Howie assisting with the Service and the many volunteers who assisted with the set up before the service.

Holland Park Police provided assistance on the day and suggested there were around 2,000 in attendance.

A big thank you to those volunteers who assisted us once again with fundraising in the shopping centres. We had reduced expectations and shortage of volunteers, but were surprised by the amount of support we received from the public, recording increased volume of sales as well as increased donations.

Our Annual Reunion Luncheon is fast approaching and at present looks like we may be able to go ahead, still maintaining the social distancing required for indoor functions. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Sub Branch receiving its Charter from RSL Qld. It also marks the 100th Anniversary of RAAF, Navy and Army being formed into Australian Defence Force.

Thanks also to Brisbane City Council for providing a grant to assist with expenses involved in conducting 2021 Anzac Day Service.



Dacota -DC3 Gooney
Bird
WWII and for many
years after.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28th February 2021

There was a good roll up to the AGM and there were no changes to the executive. Alan Hellier President, Michael Weibler Vice President, Michael Callanan Treasurer, Tony Summers was re appointed to the position of Project Officer- Works and Sonja remains Project officer- Functions. Sonja advised that she would stand down from the position of Advocate at the end of 2021.. On completion of the meeting, all joined in for refreshments provided by Neil and Mary from Mediterranean Flame on Logan Road.

Citizens Auxiliary: Members of the Citizens Auxiliary are still providing assistance with some of the functions of the Sub Branch, mainly fundraising activities twice a year – many of them are in their 80's!! We need to encourage some of the younger generations to come along and assist with these and other functions of the Sub Branch otherwise we will have to cut back on some of our activities. Citizen Auxiliary members are also welcome to attend Sub Branch meetings, but are not permitted to vote. They can set up their own committee if they wish to do so, with guidance from the Sub Branch. Encourage friends and family to become part of these activities.

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BUS Trips:

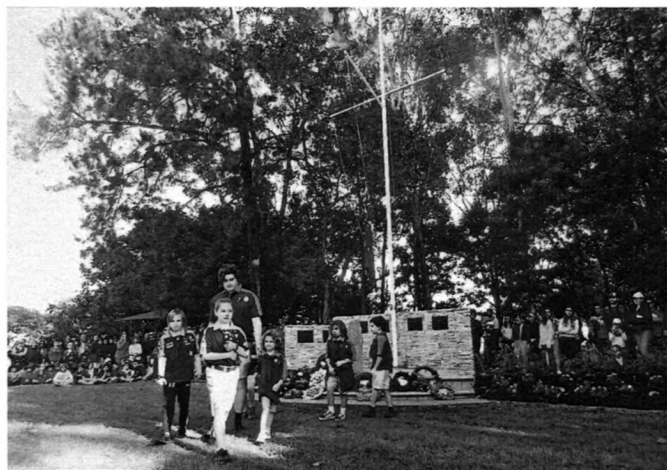
To date we have not been able to conduct any bus trips for 2021 and hope to see all our regulars again when our next bus trip is permitted to proceed. We had hoped to have one in June this year, but with the sudden turn around allowing Anzac Day activities to proceed, there simply was not enough time to arrange bus trips. We hope to be able to have at least one before the end of 2021.

ANZAC DAY 2021: Even though we received late advice as to the lifting of the Covid restrictions, we managed to attract a larger than expected crowd to this year's commemoration service. Many Ex Service, veteran and community groups were represented.

Students from St Catherines, St Joachim's, St Agnes Primary schools along with Holland Park, Greenslopes, Marshall Road State Schools and Cavendish Road, Holland Park, Mt Gravatt and Mansfield State High Schools were also in attendance. Guides, Scouts and Cub Scouts from the local area also participated.

Among those present were Ross Vasta MP for Bonner, Terri Butler MP for Griffith (representative), Joe Kelly MP for Greenslopes, Corrine Mc Millan MP for Mansfield as well as Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner's representative, Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Holland Park, Krista Adams, Cr Fiona Cunningham, Coorparoo represented by Josie Mc Kenzie.

We wish to thank all those who assisted with the Service including Fr Lindsay Howie from St Matthews Holland Park, and the Australian Defence Force for providing representatives.





Vice President Michael Weibler and Member Tony Summers



Deputy Mayor Krista Adams and Secretary Sonja



95 year old member Allen Roseneder assisted by family member; Peter Petu Greek Veterans and Community

Anzac Day Sales: Even though we only booked in shopping centres for the week leading up to Anzac Day, contributions from the public exceeded our expectations. Many thanks to the reduced number of volunteers who gave up their time to assist with this activity which enables us to continue to support the members of the Sub Branch, veteran community and their families.



Newly transferred in member Brian and Margaret Besgrove



Jill and Robert Stanton, supporters of S/Branch activities

REMEMBRANCE DAY: Bookings have also be made with the three shopping centres for fundraising in the lead up to this annual commemoration. Please complete the form at the back of this newsletter if you are able and willing to assist with Poppy Sales in November.

Covid Restrictions permitting, the usual service will be conducted at the Memorial commencing 10.15 Thursday 11th November 2021.



60th ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON: Saturday 17th July 2021. Easing of restrictions indicate that we can have up to 100 persons for a function but still require to maintain social distancing. Invitations included with this newsletter as well as Raffle tickets. Theme this year is RAAF. Volunteers required to set up the venue Friday evening 16th July. Please ring Sonja 07 3397 2663 (leave a message) or 0412 750 372 for further information.



DROP IN CENTRE: **Tuesday mornings 9 – 12.30 including morning tea.** Unfortunately this has yet to get off the ground this year, mainly due to changing Covid Restrictions and sudden lockdowns. Please contact the Office 07 3397 0561 if you wish to utilise this time for social gathering/events.

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Celebration letters etc are available from various levels of government for family member's birthdays and wedding anniversaries. Please ring Sonja 07 3397 0561 for further information and application form.

WELFARE/PENSIONS: This Service is still available through the Armed Services Assistance Centre. Ring the ASAC office for an appointment 07 3358 6522, or Memorial Hall 07 3397 0561.

A new training Scheme for Advocates started in 2017. If you are interested in Advocacy training, contact Sonja on 073397 0561 and training information will be passed on to you.

Sonja will be retiring from Advocacy work at the end of 2021 and as of now, will not be taking on any new or returning clients, but will pass them over to ASAC.



A couple of our members have had ongoing medical problems since our last newsletter, and we wish them all the best for a speedy and full recovery.



DVA Budget 2021-22

RSL Queensland has welcomed the Federal Budget announcement that more than \$490 million will be allocated to programs and services that support Australia's veteran community.

RSL Queensland State President Tony Ferris said the Federal Government's significant injection of funding to support those who have served our country will provide a significant boost to our ongoing work helping veterans achieve the quality of life they well deserve.

"In response to Queensland veterans' concerns, we have been advocating to Federal Government the need for greater investment in key areas, especially much faster claims processing by the Department of Veteran Affairs, and the establishment of wellbeing hubs.

"I am certain our veteran members will be particularly pleased to see an extra \$23.3 million in funding to continue the Department of Veterans Affairs' (DVA) Wellbeing and Support Program, and the planned establishment of a Veteran Wellbeing Centre in south east Queensland."

Mr Ferris said Defence Force personnel transitioning out of the military continue to face a range of unique challenges, with ongoing focus and investment required to address the root causes of veteran suicide.

"We will continue to work with the Federal Government to ensure the collective experience of our 33,000 members, along with our medical research and proven rehabilitation programs, are leveraged throughout the \$492.5 million expansion of the Government's support programs."

"RSL Queensland has stood shoulder to shoulder with Queensland's Defence family since 1916 and we will continue to work with the Federal Government and hold their funding promises to account to ensure a bright future and enduring legacy for all veterans and their families," Mr Ferris said.

Other Budget highlights include:

- \$164.6M for additional DVA staff and resources to aid claims processing
- \$21.4M to expand DVA's capability to monitor veterans' health and wellbeing needs in real time
- \$16.9M to continue the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment trial which funds medical treatment for veterans while waiting for a liability determination
- \$5.1M to expand the Family Support Package for veterans in crisis and their families
- \$2.3M to provide streamlined access to vocational and psychological rehabilitation.



Latest RSL Q Member update:

- **The Member Value Proposition** has been unveiled at all the District AGM's with members largely supportive of the new proposal. The success of our MVP will rely on member's approving the Constitution at this year's AGM in December.
- **The Veteran Services Strategy** has been approved by the Board and we are finalizing a detailed plan that we're looking forward to sharing.
- **Our new Veteran Affairs and Policy portfolio** has been created to focus on establishing RSL Queensland as the peak veteran body and voice on veteran issues.
- **Win Win**, our first new Art Union game in 60 years opened on 30 March and generated almost \$250,000 in revenue, with half of this retained by us to invest into service delivery and half given to the winner.
- We encourage members to engage with their Sub Branches for support in drafting a lodgement to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide directly through the Attorney-General's website. Submissions close 21st May 2021.
- **Charitable Objects Fund (COF)** guidelines will now include necessary travel associated with volunteer welfare training in Sub Branches. This includes Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP), community support training, mental health and first aid training, and suicide awareness.
- **Military Superannuation** - if you receive military superannuation benefits you may be eligible for a recalculation and back payment of tax, following a Federal Court decision and applies to invalidity payments which commenced on or after 20 September 2007.
Email VeteranCommonwealthSuperannuation@ato.gov.au



Please advise your email address if you have ventured into the electronic world so that important information can be sent to you via email. Fees and donations can be paid on line to: BSB 064 112 A/c 0090 0044 but you must remember to send a Remittance advice to hpmtgrsl@bigpond.com so we know who has made the deposit and what it is for.



A psychiatrist congratulated his patient on the progress he had made. "You call this progress?" shrieked the patient. "Six months ago I was Napoleon and now I'm nobody."



Recipe Corner:

Cauliflower soup:

½ Cauliflower, leave reserved, coarsely chopped
1 dst spoon olive oil
1 rasher of bacon,
1 leek coarsely chopped
1 medium potato chopped
2 cups chicken or vegetable stock
¼ cup coarsely grated cheddar

METHOD:

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the bacon and cook, stirring for 5 mins or until crisp. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel.
2. Add leek to pan and cook for 2 mins until tender. Add chopped cauliflower, potato, stock

and half the bacon. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook, covered for 20 mins or until vegetables are tender. Set aside to cool slightly.

3. Stir cheddar into the cauliflower mixture. Use a stick blender to carefully blend until smooth. Season.

Serve topped with remaining bacon and baked cauliflower leaves or finely chopped chives and cream.

Without cream, the soup can be frozen for several months.

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A bit of history:

Hamel, the first set-piece operation planned and conducted under Lieut-General Sir John Monash, the newly appointed commander of the Australian Corps, took place on 4th July 1918. The action was actually a fairly small affair – little more than divisional scale – but has since become famous as a model of the completely successful all-arms battle. In particular, the methodical and thorough way in which preparations were made, the new procedures devised, and the use of conferencing as a means to both inform and consult subordinates, set new standards of generalship which were emulated subsequently by other commanders on the Western Front.

In reality, the scale and nature of the operation left little to chance. Its purpose was limited to straightening the line by carrying it eastwards no further than two kilometres on a frontage of 6.5 kilometres. Covering this movement were 650 guns, and the advancing infantry was supported by the British 5th Tank Brigade containing no less than 60 of the latest Mark V tanks. Overcoming the Australians' unhappy experience of working with tanks at the First Battle of Bullecourt (q.v.), these armoured vehicles were ordered to accompany the assault troops immediately behind the creeping barrage, operating under infantry control to break down wire obstacles encountered and deal with troublesome enemy strong points.

Monash's main worries were concerned with manning levels in his divisions, the ranks of which were already reduced by losses and being thinned even more by an influenza epidemic. To avoid totally crippling any one of the divisions, he resorted to assembling an assault force using a brigade from each of the 2nd (contributing the 6th Brigade), 3rd (11th Brigade) and 4th (4th Brigade). Command of this force in the attack was given to Major General Ewan MacLagan, the General Officer Commanding 4th Australian Division, from whose sector it would primarily be launched. Bolstering the Australian strength were four companies of troops from the American 33rd Division, which were attached by platoons to Australian battalions to gain combat experience.

Arrangements for the operation were developed with remarkable attention to detail. To mask the sound of the tanks moving into position during the night of 3rd July, Allied aircraft bombed Hamel and enemy rear areas. Several diversions were also planned, the main one requiring the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division to strike beyond Ville north of the River Somme. To lighten the normal burden of the advancing infantry, innovative use was made of carrier tanks to bring forward supplies and of air-dropping ammunition to the forward troops.

The result of all this effort was that the assault met with outstanding success. The attack was over barely 90 minutes after it started at 3.10 am, and all objectives had been seized for a cost of just 1,062 Australian and 176 American casualties. German casualties were assessed at considerably more than 2,000, including 1,600 taken prisoner,. In addition, the enemy lost 200 machine guns and trench mortars, plus some anti- tank weapons.

Extract from The encyclopaedia of Australia's Battles by Chris Coulthard-Clark

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Note: Hamel Road is located in Holland Park West and Monash Road in neighbouring Tarragindi. Many streets in these suburbs carry the names of famous Anzacs and Battles which they fought in WWI.

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Dates to remember:

Sunday	30th May	-	General Meeting 10 am
Monday	June	-	Bus Trip Cancelled
Sunday	27th June	-	General Meeting 10 am
Saturday	17th July	-	Invitation included this newsletter
Sunday	25th July	-	General Meeting 10 am
Sunday	29th August	-	General Meeting 10 am
Monday	September	-	Bus trip TBC
Sunday	26th September	-	General Meeting 10 am
Sunday	31st October	-	General Meeting 10 am

Poppy sales Thursday 4th – Wednesday 10th November

Thursday	11th November	-	103rd Anniversary Armistice Day
Sunday	28th November	-	General Meeting 10 am Break up
Monday	December	-	last Bus Trip for 2021 TBC

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Carindale

Greenslopes

Friday 5th November - Wednesday 10th November

Mt Gravatt Plaza

Friday 5th November to Wednesday 10th November

Best day/s Time

Mornings Afternoons
(please circle preference)

Do you need transport Yes ☐ No ☐ (Please indicate.)

Do you wish to obtain information on BCC Lord Mayor's Xmas Parties

Please return to Sub Branch as soon as possible (PO Box 119 Holland Park 4121) or place in the locked letter box on the fence in front of the Memorial Hall as soon as possible.



PLEASE BE SURE TO ADVISE SONJA IF YOU CHANGE YOUR PHONE OR EMAIL ADDRESS.

We are currently updating the membership list and some email addresses and phone numbers appear to be out of date. If you receive emails from the Sub Branch and State RSL, your details should be correct.

If you do not receive emails from State, we need your email address and permission to update on State RSL Membership records.

To celebrate his fortieth birthday, my boss who is battling middle-age spread, bought a new convertible sports car. As a finishing touch, he put on a vanity plate with the inscription '18 again'.

The wind was let out of his sails, however, when a salesman entered our office the following week.

'Hey,' he called out, 'who owns the car with the plate "I ate again"?"

When my younger brother and his wife celebrated their first anniversary, they invited the rest of the family to join them for dinner. The conversation focused on the newlyweds and how they happened to meet. Caught up in the romance of the story, one by one the men related how we had met our wives. Eventually everyone had told his story except for my youngest brother.

All eyes were on him when he said, 'Oh, Cindy and I met at university. We were matched up by a computer according to compatibility.'

'That's the whole story?' my wife asked incredulously.

'Oh, no,' he replied with a grin. 'They've fixed the computer since then.'