

PRESENTATION TO SED MEETING 7th MARCH 2024

KOORALBYN RSL SUB-BRANCH

A quick intro to the little village of Kooralbyn. It's a beautiful part of the Scenic Rim about 90K South Southwest of Brisbane and about 90K due west of the Gold Coast. It has a population of around 2800 with it feels like more arriving every day. The demographic is elderly.

Kooralbyn has some unique attractions, some due to the fact that it was a retreat for Kerry Packer in his day. Features include

- An airfield
- A first-class Golf Course with resort accommodation
- An International School
- A world renown mountain bike track with an annual international event
- Two polo fields not recently used
- A Fire Station
- A Hotel
- A Community Hall
- A Men's Shed
- A small shopping Centre with
 - Supermarket
 - Doctor and Chemist
 - Service Station and mechanics
 - Hairdresser
 - Café's
 - Wildlife Op shops

And of course, our little RSL. The history of the RSL has been somewhat lost in time. We do believe it was formed in 1996 when a group of veterans decided the price of beer was too expensive at the hotel. It moved around from place to place until presently located in rented premises in a small industrial area. It has 2 meeting rooms resplendent with memorabilia, and a separate kitchen and bar.

Though the RSL has a small veteran, ex forces and auxiliary membership, it plays an important role in activities in Kooralbyn community.

On the second Sunday of every month, it manages a market in the park opposite the shopping centre. It usually features about 30 to 40 stalls including

- Craft and produce
- Coffee and food
- Bric a brac and second hand
- Community information such as disaster management, health, and social issues
- Live music is provided by local entertainers.
- The RSL runs a sausage sizzle and bacon and egg rolls.

At the RSL Premises itself regular activities are

- Monday - Body Corp meeting
- Tuesday - Craft group
- Wednesday – Bible study
- Thursday – Card night
- Friday – Bingo
- 1st and 3rd Saturday nights – music and karaoke
- Sunday morning – Church service

Casual events include

- RSL Committee meetings
- Cup Day and Christmas events
- Ad hoc community and business events

The RSL sometimes helps with village events such as

- Drag Racing on the airfield
- Car and bike show at the Community Hall and other Hall events

The RSL also supports

- 100th Army Cadet Battalion Beaudesert
- Infantry Army Cadet Unit Jimboomba, currently loaning them a jeep and trailer

The RSL made donations to all Fire Brigade units that did a wonderful job protecting the Kooralbyn and surrounds from a recent grass fire.

Beside the Community Hall is a registered War Memorial Stone with a garden, four corner blocks, flag pole and service flag mounting stands. Services held there are

ANZAC Day – approx. 120 locals attend dawn and morning march

Remembrance Day - featuring release of doves

Vietnam Veterans Day – last year's special feature was a C190 Birddog aircraft, which served in Vietnam, landing at the airfield. This was a much sought after photo op.

I really must mention the participation of the students from the International School who attend these events in uniform in number and lay wreaths. A special student is Typhoon Lebarge, a 14 year old whose grandfather was a Vietnam veteran. He volunteers to play the last post at all these services.