



President's Message

As "Custodians not Owners" of the Beaudesert RSL Sub-Branch the Board you elected in 2021 has continued focusing on moving forward with assisting Veterans and their Family Members and consolidating the Business and Property acquisitions, that had been inherited from past Boards and Members.

All Board Members that had previously served in 2020 have been re-elected for the year 2021.

This Year your Beaudesert RSL Sub-Branch is proceeding with an Anzac Day Dawn Service, this will be held in conjunction with any or all COVID restrictions.

We will be updating information concerning The Dawn Service through local newspapers, social media and through personal notification to all our Members. RSL State is encouraging the public to continue with the Light up the Dawn, commemoration and your Sub-Branch supports this initiative. Council will advise if they will be holding the 11.30am Service and Parade.

The Leased business between the Services Club and The Sub-Branch has been resolved to the satisfaction of both entities.

The Contract between the Queensland Ambulance and the Sub-Branch continued during Covid-19 with guaranteed financial support. I make special mention of member Maurie Dux who was an initiator for our Patient Transport with the QAS. Sadly Maurie was one of our Members that passed away recently. Our wonderful Volunteer Drivers continued their activities transporting Veterans and Community Members to their Medical appointments throughout the challenging year. Gratitude for their commitment cannot be praised highly enough by your Sub-Branch.

Our Advocates have continued with their training and qualifications and are recognized through the ATDP program. Jay Collins has attained his Level 2 course in Military Advocacy and we congratulate him for this achievement. We have welcomed to our Sub-Branch Sam Morgan who is completing Level 1, both these members are aligned and have an affinity with the younger Veterans as they have both not long ago left as ADF members. We also have our wonderful Mentors Peter Higgins and Steve Monteath. Please read the comprehensive Wellbeing report attached to this Newsletter. These dedicated Volunteers were available to assist many Veterans during the difficult year of 2020.

A big thanks goes to Kevin Bullock, Kevin has been our Transport and Museum Guru, keeping all our Vehicles ship shape (Navy Term) making sure all the Covid-19 restrictions have been adhered to. Thank you, Kevin and the dedicated Volunteers that assist at the Museum. During 2020 our Secretary Joanne went over and above with the extra duties that were demanded of her due to the Covid-19 requirements of policies and protocols to keep members and visitors from the public safe and aware of constantly changing rules. Along with our Transport Coordinator Dianne, they took on the roles of general Cars, Buses, Sub-Branch and Museum cleaners with all the correct disinfectants, air fresheners, masks, gloves and other PPE, keeping our Volunteer, Drivers and Patients safe. Invaluable Staff make your Sub-Branch

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Wayne Oldmeadow (Assistant)

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Committee

Graham Bird

Brian Buckby

Peter Higgins

Noel V Parker

Wayne Oldmeadow

operate efficiently and with good humor we are very fortunate with Joanne and Dianne who make the work your Board do so much easier, and we are very thankful for them., especially with the increased workload.

I would also like to acknowledge our local Councilor Mr. Michael Enright for his assistance with the correct procedures in dealing with the Scenic Rim Regional Council for our business requirements.

Although the year 2020 has been one of disruptions and uncertainty due to the Covid-19 Virus and the restrictions that have been in place, your Sub-Branch under the Direction of your Board has continued to consolidate your business and maintained the Objects of The League to the best of our abilities. I thank each and every one of them for their support, business acumen and fellowship, looking forward to the New Year with our RSL Sub-Branch upholding a good Standard of Dignity, Service to our Veterans and their Families and Excellent Governance.

Carol Castles

President

Museum – Harry's Haunt

Open Days at present between 10.00am-2.00pm, Tues to Friday and every 2nd Saturday. If this is something you may be interested in with Volunteering and helping, please contact the office or visit Harry's Haunt and have a chat to one of the Volunteers. Thank you to all the volunteers that come in each week to keep the museum open, your dedication is very much appreciated.

Museum Coordinator

PAWS/Wellbeing

Jay is back from School Holidays in the office on Wednesday's. Sam is busy working on her training to complete her Level 1 Advocacy through ADTP and being very patient. Thank you

If you require any assistance with DVA claims or unsure what you are entitled to please call the Sub Branch office and make an appointment to see one of our Advocates who are ready to help.

PAWS office is open for clients on Wednesday by appointment only.

Please call and make an appointment on Ph: 5541 3720 or email: welfare@beadesertslsubbranch.com

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)

A free and confidential counselling service for Australian veterans, peacekeepers and their families.

For more information on VVCS services and eligibility, please visit the VVCS website (www.vvcs.gov.au) or phone 1800 011 046.

PAWS TEAM

RSL Sub Branch Social Members

The Ladies are still running Hoy every 1st Wednesday of the month at the Beaudesert RSL Services Club. I am sure they are looking forward to seeing you all attend and support them.

Mother's Day Theme Cent Auction will be held on 7th May 2021, at Beaudesert RSL Services Club Doors Open at 10.00am. The ladies would like assistance with any donations for prizes for the Raffle. Eg. Mothers day gift items. If you can assist, please contact the Sub Branch for more information.

Hope to see you there to support the Social members and ladies.



LEST WE FORGET

We remember the following Sub-Branch Members who have sadly passed away this year 2021.

♦ Maurice Dux (25.12.20) ♦

Calendar of Coming events - 2021

BEAUDESERT SUB BRANCH

**** COVID-19 Social Distancing Restrictions ****

18 March, 2021	Members Meeting – RSL Club (Function room) 2.00pm & Guest Scenic Rim Wildlife Career's
25 April 2021	ANZAC Dawn Service (4.20am) Cenotaph
25 April 2021	ANZAC Day Rathdowney Service 8.15am Memorial Gardens
7 May 2021	Cent Auction – Mothers Day Theme 10.00am Beaudesert RSL Services Club (Function room)
TBA July 2021	Members Reunion (President Luncheon)
18 August 2021	Vietnam Veterans Day 11.00am – Palm Gardens
14 September 2021	Peace Keepers Day 11.00am – Palm Gardens
11 November 2021	Remembrance Day 10.40am - Cenotaph

Members General Meeting

(Wife/Husband/Partners most welcome to attend)

➤ Next Meeting 18 March 2021 @ 2.00pm – Held at Beaudesert RSL Services Club (Function room)

♦ We hope you can attend for your input and support to the Sub Branch ♦

Birthday Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the following members who had/will have their Birthdays in January and February, 2021



January 2021

T. Barrett ♦ H Burchard ♦ C Maher ♦ C Castles ♦ J Forbe-Smith ♦ G Fysh ♦ B Gordon ♦ I Johnson ♦ B Johnston ♦
S Jones ♦ G Kuckley ♦ B Lange ♦ D Phillippi ♦ H Pohlner ♦ H Rye ♦ I M. Smith ♦ I Turnbull ♦ L Venz

February 2021

D Baty ♦ N Burnett ♦ R Cronk ♦ A Dadson ♦ E Day ♦ C Goodwin ♦ P Lester ♦ R Lomax ♦ B McCreadie ♦
L Milne-Ward ♦ S Murphy ♦ B Noy ♦ E Rassmussen ♦ R Seymour ♦ A Stewart ♦ J Strudwick ♦ S Winson



SUB BRANCH NEWS

Sub Branch Library Open

The Sub Branch has a large collection of books and DVD's that has been donated to the Sub Branch. The Library is open to all members and their families use. Please come in and see what collection of books and DVD's we have.

BEAUDESERT SOCIAL GOLF CLUB

There is no requirement to be a member of the Beaudesert Social Golf Club, however, they would love to see more ex-Military and Veterans in their ranks. It is a great day with 18 holes of Golf, Morning Tea, BBQ lunch and prizes in excess of \$100. They have players of all skill levels, but the main aim of the day is to have fun, enjoy yourself and meet some likeminded people. They have our own Handicap System so everyone regardless of ability has a fair chance to win Prizes. Why not come along and have a game?? For more information contact the Beaudesert Golf Club.

CONGRATULATION TO RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS 2021

Congratulations to Board members on their reelected and appointed positions for 2021.

President: Carol Castles

SNR Vice President: Brett McCreadie

Treasurer: Jon Forbe-Smith

Assistant Treasurer: Wayne Oldmeadow

Committee: Graham Bird, Brian Buckby, Peter Higgins, Wayne Oldmeadow, Noel Parker

NEWS FROM RSL QLD

Dear Members,

Please see below a proactive media statement that will be sent to the media shortly to address misreporting by Queensland media that ANZAC Day events are being cancelled. We want to ensure the record is set straight and ensure community activities are still being finalised in line with Queensland Government guidelines.

RSL QUEENSLAND IS ENABLING QUEENSLANDERS TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS ON ANZAC DAY

RSL Queensland is working with its vast network of clubs to ensure all Queenslanders can pay their respects to the fallen on the coming ANZAC Day.

RSL Queensland State President Tony Ferris said that as the largest ex-service organisation, RSL Queensland understands how critically important it is for veterans to be recognised for their service and sacrifice, and for Queenslanders to have the opportunity to pay their respects on ANZAC Day.

"ANZAC Day is Australia's most iconic commemorative day. It is determined that – just as we did last year – COVID-19 restrictions will not prevent between veterans and the grateful community they serve."

"While every organisation is required to observe Queensland Government guidelines on social distancing and contact tracing, we will also offer complementary commemorative approaches which will ensure that the day is not forgotten."

"Firstly, we are working with our network of 230 RSL clubs to establish local community commemorations, where they can be safely conducted."

"Second, by popular community demand, we will encourage all Queenslanders to show their support through the 'Coast Up The Dawn' personal driveway commemorations on ANZAC Day."

"This will involve providing the public with a commemorative video that can be downloaded or stream from our website on the day of the event. Items they can use on their homes to display their support."

OTHER NEWS

Australia Day Bowls Club Presentation – Vouchers donated by Sub Branch



The LiveLife Mobile Personal Alarm.

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Perfect for people at risk of falls
Texts up to 6 emergency contacts with your GPS location and then calls them consecutively. Can call 000.
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BEAUDESERT RSL SUB BRANCH PAWS/WELLBEING

Activities for 2020

The ongoing activities of this Sub Branch are inclusive of a host of volunteer activities, wellbeing agendas for individual clients and the community of the Scenic Rim District.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and restrictions the numbers of clients for Advocacy decreased during the year, but continued to receive calls to assist veterans and family in the community.

Ongoing claims and enquiries for client's through DVA was carried out and contacts made to ensure Veterans claims, enquiries and accounts were attended to.

Many welfare packs were organised and distributed by the Sub Branch and delivered to those in need and also RSL Qld Hospital Packs for veterans in hospital or aged care.

Jay Collins – Level 2 Advocate to be applauded for his continued efforts and dedication in ensuring all clients received assistance during this time.

The PAWS team Peter Higgins (Advisor/Mentor), Jay Collins (L1 & L2 Advocate, Wellbeing and Compensation), Samantha Morgan (L1 Wellbeing) and Steve Monteath (L1 & L2 Wellbeing, Compensation & ADTP Mentor) have consistently carried out their welfare volunteer assistance for the Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch Inc. Their ongoing support for Veterans in the Community has been significant to those in need and will continue through 2021.

Thank you to Steve Monteath for the ongoing ATDP training for our Advocates in mentoring Jay Collins and Samantha Morgan to the required standards applied by the ATDP. Jay has completed the bulk of his training and once assessment of reports completed, he will be fully accredited by ATDP. Our team is ably and professionally assisted by Peter Higgins with his support and encouragement has gone a long way with the development and professionalism of the Team. Peter has initiated and arranged DVA courses and programmes that enable the continued outreach to our veterans and family community.

PAWS/Wellbeing has had a smaller number of clients and volunteer hours for 2020, but not included in this report are the extra call outs, texts and follow-ups afterhours.

The PAWS/Wellbeing office is open Wednesday's by appointment only, yet seven days a week following up on paperwork and claims and phone calls.

The continued development of PAWS/Wellbeing in our region is warranted and assistance from the Sub Branch and members has enabled the PAWS volunteers to continue their efforts in assisting with claims and accounts for the DVA, to date no claims have been denied.

Thanks to all the PAWS/Wellbeing Team and thanks to a supportive Sub Branch President and Board. During 2020 a collective of welfare services were attended to inclusive of the following:

VOLUNTEER HOURS 2020						
MONTH	JAY	SAM	Steve	Peter	New Clients	On-going
JAN	0	0	0	0	0	11
FEB	17.5	0	2.75	0	5	11
MARCH	17	0	4.75	0	3	10
APR	3	0	0	0	0	10
MAY	7.5	3	3.75	1	0	9
JUNE	10	0	8.25	0	0	8
JULY	12.5	3	11	4	0	6
AUG	10	6	12.75	5.75	0	4
SEPT	42	8	17.5	5	1	2
OCT	10	2	16.5	6	2	1
NOV	12.5	0	15	5	5	8
DEC	8.5	0	6	10.5	2	8
TOTAL	150.5	22	98.25	37.25		
308						

- **Wellbeing of clients** through the advocacy of the PAWS unit which has three volunteer members as follows, 2 ATDP trained and qualified at level 2. This is inclusive of one member who is TIP level 3 and 1 ATDP Level.
The total of volunteer hours in attending to Veterans DVA claims and administration for this period amounts to 308 hours. These hours do not include Training and after hours' time.
- **In attending to our Veteran community**, we have conducted a variety of programs for Veteran and member inclusivity, these are as follows.
 1. Veteran's Health and Welfare Social Connection luncheon. 55 members and partners in attendance 1 PAWS Officer time spent with organisation x 8 hours= **8 hours**.
 2. Discussion group for isolated and home bound Veterans. 3 members x 24 hours=**72 hours**.
 3. Home visitations, 4 members x 50 hours= **200 hours**.
 4. Aged Care facility visitations, 0 members x 0 hours= 0 hours. Due to COVID members where unable to visit.
 5. Attendance at Poppy Services for deceased Veterans and families. attended 3 funerals with up to 30 members attending FOR the Veteran and their respective families. = 30 x 3 funerals x 2hr = **180 hours**
 6. Our 'home assistance' is attended to by the donation of a wheel chair, 1 wheely walker frames, and shower chair. These are available to any member of the Veteran community and the community of the Scenic Rim as and when required.
 7. Phone calls to Veterans during the year attending to their wellbeing and personal needs 178 @ 1 calls per month average 15 minutes each= 44.5 hours x 12 = **Total 534 hours**.
 8. Our Wellbeing funding for Veterans is \$250.00 for a Veteran in dire need of cash for food and rent.
 9. We have put in place a system of 'assistance bags' that contain personal hygiene items and clothes washing items. We purchase goods for these bags and hold 6 in store and replenish as necessary. 2020 we have handed **10 bags** for Veterans in need. Volunteer Hours associated = **20 hrs**
 10. The Scenic Rim is a large area for our volunteers to cater to and through the purchase of a Kia Carnival vehicle we have been able to visit, transport and deliver assistance to our Veteran and families. The total hours of use for this vehicle in the operation and delivery of wellbeing for 2020, is **4759 klms and 180 hours**.
The various roles volunteers undertake in the use of this vehicle range from, transport to and from funerals, RSL memorial functions, commemoration days, Veteran bbq's for isolated members, transport to and from meetings, training days, home visitations, aged care facilities, hospital visits, pick up of family members for hospital and aged care visitations. The members using this vehicle on RSL wellbeing business are 10 members. The hours of use are detailed in the log book entries available from the Administration Manager of the Sub Branch.
 11. Functions held 2020 for Veterans after commemoration days number 3 to date due to COVID restrictions this year. These informal gathering of Veterans enable discussion on wellbeing needs, DVA requirements and news, RSL business for Veterans, personal needs of Veterans, Veterans family activities and information, training and development for Veterans. These functions are generally held at the Services Club and are funded by the Sub Branch. The costings for these are available from the Administration Manager Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch as the PAWS do not engage in the financials of the Sub Branch.
 12. The PAWS section of the Sub Branch works with the Women's Auxiliary in promotion of the RSL and Veteran's needs. Without the ongoing work of these volunteer family members, this Sub Branch would find it hard to have the reach it has in the Scenic Rim District and beyond. The PAWS unit of 3 volunteers regularly meet with the Women's Auxiliary to engage activities to involve the community.

- **Wellbeing Trailer.** This most warmly received vehicle was a project to enable visitation to other Districts, members, community groups. This vehicle funded by DVA for \$22000, built by AJ Bush of Beaudesert/Bromelton, attended to by this Sub Branch volunteers has covered over 4000kms. The vehicle has been used to facilitate the DVA Veterans Men's Health Week, BBQ's for isolated Veterans in our community.
- **Bus Trips, events.** Over the years, the Sub Branch has with the assistance of the Women's Auxiliary, DVA, local traders support and donations been able to provide transport to venues of interest to the Veteran community. Due to COVID restrictions and regulations we have been unable to plan any trips for 2020.
- **Our Volunteers Christmas luncheon** for 2020 was attended to by 57 volunteers and partners, including our Women's Auxiliary, our volunteer drivers and our board members. This was held at the Beaudesert RSL Services Club.
- **Members General meetings** are held throughout the year and the 4 programmed meetings that were Scheduled only 3 were schedules due to COVID-19. There were two meetings where a quorum was attained and these numbered 18 members inclusive of board members. Our regular Sub Branch meetings held every month have been attended by our board and records of these are held by our Administration manage and are distributed to our SED board and State office.
- **Volunteer Drivers.** This Sub Branch has for the year been grateful in the services of volunteer drivers who transport hundreds of patients to and from medical, hospital appointments. The number of volunteer drivers during 2020 was 22 and the hours for the year **3961.75hrs, 122,427kms & 1232 clients**. This is a remarkable achievement for our drivers and very grateful for their service.
- **Schools Visitations.** For many years the primary and secondary schools in the Scenic Rim District have been of foremost attention to this Sub Branch. Every year without fail members in pairs and groups of 6-10 have attended all the schools in our area, these number 6. Total volunteers attending 10 plus, hours involved including travel time in excess of 8 giving us around 80 hours of volunteer's activities for primary and secondary school children. Our RSL is represented at the annual ANZAC preparations by schools in our District and at 2 schools outside our District. The schools, Tamrookum, Rathdowney, Kooralbyn, Beaudesert State High and primary, Jimboomba, Geneagle, Flagstone College and Primary school and as invitation to others as advised. Our RSL Sub Branch volunteers together with Military involvement from Canungra Army is generally around 25 and the amount of time involved in travel and presentations 3 hours per school. Total hours 75 hours on the days before ANZAC Day. At the conclusion of these formal activities, it has been the tradition of the Sub Branch to ask the Military contingent to luncheon with those volunteers who have assisted in the day's activities. This has been of benefit to all as a social outlet that assists members in involving themselves in community activities. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, we were unable to attend School visits for ANZAC Services.
- **Memorial/Cenotaph/Plaques.** This Sub Branch attends to the preservation and overall maintenance of several Military memorials, major cenotaph in Beaudesert and memorial plaques and a significant gated memorial in Rathdowney memorial garden. Several schools in our District have memorial plaques placed within their school environs and these are regularly attended to by students and Sub Branch members. The upkeep of these is significant in progressing the ANZAC spirit in our school's community. The Beaudesert Cenotaph is attended to by the Scenic Rim Regional Council with assistance from the Sub branch as requested. The flag pole used for ceremonial activities in our township is also attended by Council and the Sub Branch. Further to this is the resplendent set of memorial Gates in the Village of Rathdowney Queensland. These Memorial Gates were refurbished by

volunteer Sub Branch member with the assistance of the Rathdowney community and donations and a grant for the Federal/State governments. These Memorial Gates stand proudly and represent the craftsmanship of those involved in their renewal and construction. The hours spent by up to 6 volunteers was in excess of 200 not counting the time spent in travel from Rathdowney to Coffs Harbour NSW to process timber for this project. Reasonable hours assessed as 1200. This is an ongoing programme of maintenance and presentation to the Village, the Shire, the State and Australia of 'bush carpentry, bush mechanics and bush achievements' for fellow Veterans and their families.

- **Cadet Group.** The Jimboomba Cadets perform an active role in this Shire for this RSL Sub. The numbers of cadets attending the 6 formal parades are 24 and each year the Sub Branch makes a donation to the Jimboomba Cadets. We also have supplied uniforms, military items to assist in their respective presentation to the public and advice. Several of our members are heavily involved in the training of this group. We engage the cadets for major formal parades and rely on their presence in the execution of our ANZAC services and Remembrance Day services, Vietnam Veterans Day, Peacekeepers Day, National Servicemen's Day, Reserve Forces, Kapyong, VE Day, Korea, these to name a few.
- **The Volunteers memorial garden.** This large item on display to the community, visitors, Queensland and Australia. This is a commemorative achievement for volunteers across the country.
The volunteer hours for this project in 2020 = **96 hours..**
- **Collective Hours.** This Sub Branch has 178 members from which only 15 offer their services to the Sub Branch. The 15 who do put their hands up have multiple tasking as a dividing line between them and their respective roles.

The dividing line is where home takes precedence over all activities with the Sub Branch coming in a graceful second. Members are invited to come on board and assist the Sub Branch, yet time, age, other responsibilities are to the fore. Those who do put in the time and effort for the Sub Branch do so out of respect, allegiance and duty to the League and for their own self fulfillment and satisfaction. There are no rewards in volunteering other than knowing a job is done for the many, for the few. If hours, statistics, numbers, dollars are to be counted as warranted for the furtherance of the League, then we certainly missed the boat. This Sub Branch relies on the few the further the many. Would that all our 178 members were of calibre to take on a volunteer role, we would stand tall and proud in keeping true to the original intent of the RSL.

Welfare Team

QAS PATIENT TRANSPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR 2020

Forward

2020 was a year like no other for Transport Services. COVID-19 impacted the usual service provision in many ways. At the beginning of the pandemic new protocols had to be implemented to ensure the safe carriage of patients, and the safe delivery of services for the volunteer drivers. QAS assisted us with advice on how to manage the services with COVID safety practises in place for drivers and customers. We initially sourced appropriate PPE for the drivers and vehicles, with spares for patients who presented without their own. QAS has also assisted later in the year with additional supplies, so we remained very well stocked.

The volunteer drivers were given the option of not driving if they felt unsafe to do so. Due to their own personal health concerns, a few drivers did not drive at all for several months.

The demand for service was still met as there was a marked reduction of required appointments due to the extensive use of Telehealth services during that time.

QAS entered into an agreement to pay a monthly amount of \$17,000 if services fall short under this amount to ensure we can meet the costs of providing the service, due to the usual income from services provided would be reduced during the COVID period. That arrangement remains in place to date.

Volunteers

We can only continue to provide the Transport Service with the assistance of dedicated volunteers who provide this service.

Joanne Crocker as Office Manager and Dianne Mulder as Transport Coordinator assist the many volunteers.

Cheryl Oldmeadow continues to offer her services as afterhours contact for Patient Transport, for which we are profoundly grateful. As the office closes early in the afternoon it is imperative that the drivers have some point of contact.

Currently there are 2 volunteers who come into the office to organise patient transport and drivers for the following day, also collate statistical data for monthly costs and volunteers' hours.

We currently have 16 active drivers whom we are profoundly grateful to have as volunteers.

New Volunteers

We constantly advertise for new drivers. During 2020 we recruited one new driver. We had received several inquiries, but potential drivers were found to be unsuitable for the role for various reasons (e.g lack of access to required equipment, very restrictive health conditions, living too far from base with no knowledge of the areas for patient pick up or medical destinations)

When volunteers are recruited, we work closely with them to ascertain how much time they can donate and we respect their wishes in that regard. Some volunteers are happy to drive a few times a week, the normal is 1-2 days. Some volunteers are only able to commit to occasional availability (e.g if they are working full time). All drivers are trained, provided with ID's, Shirt and reimbursed for any expenses incurred.

All inquiries are welcomed. Our volunteer drivers hold a special place in the hearts of the patients they interact with. As there are such limited opportunities for public transport from this area, the patients are very grateful to be able to access their necessary appointments because of this service. The fact that the service is free to the patients is definitely a bonus for them.

Periodically, we hold meetings with the Volunteers (Drivers and Transport Office Staff) and provide a lunch for them and partners at the RSL Club as a thank you gesture for all the work they do, and great service they provide.

Service Demand

All requests for patient transport are sent from the patients' GP to QAS.

RSL Sub Branch Patient transport is notified each day of patients requiring transport. We are unable to provide patient transport for wheelchair or stretcher transport, it is more appropriate for them to be transported by QAS Patient Transport Service.

We work closely with QAS Staff. Our daily patient lists come from the Southport Office and we are in contact with staff there daily. It is essential that we are able to share information relevant to the Patients service and wellbeing.

Patient transport service has been affected by COVID this year, the table below gives a comparison of the activity for 2018 and 2019 against that of 2020.

Year	Patients	Escorts	Trips	Kilometres	Hours	Minor Incidents
2018	1580	117	2817	131877	4777.75	2
2019	1744	122	3077	147,543	4762.25	2
2020	1180	53	2144	111,966	3980.75	6

Patients continue to be transported from a wide catchment area to hospital and medical appointments to all areas around Gold Coast, Springfield, Ipswich, Logan and wider Brisbane areas. The development of so many new housing areas has caused us to travel to more new areas in the past year than ever before.

Vehicles

Patient Transport Services operates a fleet of four (4) patient transport vehicles.

2 x Toyota Hiace Vans; 1 x Toyota Tarago Van; 1 x Toyota Camry Sedan.

The fleet has been kept in good mechanical condition, with regular servicing and safety checks being carried out by McKenna Mechanical. Beaudesert Tyre Store provides professional support with tyres, wheel alignments etc.

The diligence of the drivers in reporting vehicle damage and faults has helped in maintaining the fleet in good running order. All reported issues are dealt with promptly.

Our thanks go to Kevin Bullock for cleaning the vehicles weekly. The drivers wipe down internal vehicle areas at the completion of each shift, and Kevin gives a thorough clean inside and outside on a weekly basis maintaining the vehicles in a clean and tidy condition.

The vehicles have received some minor panel damage throughout the year, which does not detract from the safe operation of the vehicles.

Minor Incidents

No major incidents have been reported this year.

Minor incidents included 4 x minor panel or mirror damage (usually due to tight parking areas)

1x Patient incident (mobility issue)

2 x vehicle breakdowns

Conclusion

We are sincerely grateful to our dedicated group of volunteer drivers who provide transport to residents of Beaudesert and surrounding areas to hospital and specialist appointments. This invaluable service is provided by these generous volunteers on behalf of Queensland Ambulance Service.

The benefits to the patients include their medical needs being met, their required transport being provided by very competent and friendly volunteer drivers, and there is also a social aspect to this service. Most patients will require multiple journeys at some stage and as many are very socially isolated due to their personal circumstances, it is a very good opportunity to meet and chat with fellow patients. Many friendships have been forged, creating a support network. The bonus is that this transport is delivered at no cost to the patients.

It is not widely known that the service is available to the general community. When a medical practice requests transport for their patients, all appropriate requests are accepted by QAS, which are then sent to us.

Our drivers provide consistent services, but due to volunteers taking leave for many varied reasons, there are times we really need more drivers to share the load.

The efforts of the volunteer drivers also generate income from QAS to the Sub Branch in order to be able to continue their support to the Veteran community.

Dianne Mulder

Transport Coordinator

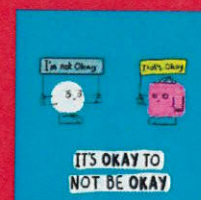
Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch Inc. partnered with Open Arms will be conducting programs during the year. For example:

- Safe Talk
- Mental Health First Aid
- ASIST

Pending on interest from members. If you would be interested in attending any of these, please contact the Sub Branch office on Ph: 5541 3720 or email: admin@beaudesetrslsubbranch.com.au

Dates: TBA

Further information will be sent once we have received enough interest from members to conduct these programs.



Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch Contact

Ph: 5541 3720

or email: admin@beaudesetrslsubbranch.com.au

Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch

Social Members

(Formerly Beaudesert RSL Women's Auxiliary)

CENT AUCTION

7th May 2021

Mothers Day Theme

HELD AT:

Beaudesert RSL Services Club

DOOR ENTRY:

\$5.00

DOORS OPEN:

10.00AM

AUCTION STARTS:

10.30AM

HELP US TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL VETERAN COMMUNITY

Raffle. Assorted dollar value tickets.

ALL WELCOME

