

**Beaundesert RSL
Sub Branch Inc.
Nielsen Building
61-85 Brisbane Street
BEAUDESERT
QLD 4285**

Phone: 5541 3720

Fax: 5541 3336

E-mail:

admin@beaundesertslsubbranch.com.au

website:

beaundesertslsubbranch.com.au

President

Steve Monteath

president@beaundesertslsubbranch.com.au

Vice President

Carol Castles

vicepresident@beaundesertslsubbranch.com.au

Secretary

Joanne Crocker

admin@beaundesertslsubbranch.com.au

Treasurer

Wayne Oldmeadow

secretary@beaundesertslsubbranch.com.au

Committee

Graham Bird

Brian Buckby

Travis Holt

Ian Johnson

John Leatherbarrow

Noel V Parker

*Beaundesert RSL
sub-branch*



NEWSLETTER – Issue 1

MARCH 2023

Calendar of Coming events - 2023

BEAUDESERT RSL SUB BRANCH

25 April 2023	ANZAC Dawn & Main Service - Beaundesert
25 April 2023	ANZAC Day Service - Rathdowney
12 th May 2023	Women's Aux Cent Auction -- Mothers Day theme
12 th May 2023	11am – 55 th Year Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Service at Palm Gardens Jubilee Park
July 2023 (Date TBA)	Presidents Reunion Luncheon
18 August, 2023	Vietnam Veterans Day
14 September 2023	Peacekeeping Day
October 2023	Veterans Health Week
11 November 2023	Remembrance Day
24 th November 2023	Women's Aux Cent Auction – Xmas theme

Members General Meeting

(Wife/Husband/Partners most welcome)

Next Meeting: 18th May 2023 @ 2.00pm

Venue: The Club Function Room

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



LEST WE FORGET

We remember the following Sub-Branch Members who have sadly passed away this year 2023.

♦ Errol Steinhardt (15.12.2022) ♦ Leslie Wilkinson (17.12.2022)
♦ Robert "Bob" Russo (5.01.2023) ♦ Ernie Hardgrave (18.02.2023)

Welcolme and Congratulations New Board members

I would like to announce and congratulate the new Sub Branch Board members for 2023 nominated at our AGM held on 11 March 2023. Please find attached contact details for our Executive.

- President: Steve Monteath
- Vice President: Carol Castles
- Treasurer: Wayne Oldmeadow

Committee

- Graham Bird
- Brian Buckby
- Travis Holt
- Ian Johnson
- John Leatherbarrow
- Noel V Parker



Joanne Crocker
Secretary

President's Message

The AGM for 2023 was attended by a good number of Veterans, invited guests, members, and friends. It was a successful meeting with me taking the presidents chair from Jon Forbe-Smith for 2023. Many thanks to Jon for guiding the Sub Branch over the past year and leading us forward into 2023.

It is intended to utilise the two major grants available for purchase of the new patient transport vehicle and begin the foundations and erection of the new Sub Branch HQ. The two grants will advance us toward fulfilling the course

of actions intended several years ago and be of benefit to our community and our Veterans and families.

Our new Board has some hurdles to tackle, yet I am sure with the experience and qualifications they put to you the members they will achieve the objectives and roles they will have on the Board of Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch.

Our numbers have grown over the past year where membership has exceeded expectation with 171 Veterans and 10 Women's Auxiliary members. We are doing well in membership, yet keep in mind those Sub Branches that are sadly in decline. If we are able to assist local, Scenic Rim, Sub Branches in providing services, then we will do what we can. Our PAWS Advocates are doing just that in assisting other Sub Branches with Wellbeing services and Compensation requests. For that matter, we have PAWS clients from Deepwater, Woy Woy, Gosford NSW and regional Queensland. We also have 'grey nomad' Veterans passing through who seek us out for a chat, DVA assistance and 'getting to know you visits'. We do well for a rural RSL in assisting others.

This year will be one of building our Sub Branch HQ, preparing the current Sub Branch for sale and addressing the ongoing requirements of the business that is currently the Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch.

Our patient transport ably assisted by Dianne Mulder is in need of updating its vehicles. Apart from the new arrival, which by the way is on the high seas making its way to Queensland, we do require new vehicles to safely transport our community to hospital visits etc. Perhaps you have time available to assist in volunteer driving for a couple of hours per week? Please contact admin@beaudesertslsubbranch.com.au or phone 07 5541 3720.

Daily business of the Sub Branch is a major enterprise that demands continual activity and management this is attended to by Secretary/Office Manager Joanne Crocker, whose experience, management skill and expertise is greatly appreciated. As I said at the AGM, 'if Joanne & Dianne' were not on the job, we may as well close the doors. Yet we do go forward with the ever-present assistance of our Board and those volunteers who daily front up for duty.

I trust that I can do what is expected of me in bringing this Sub Branch to the fore and assisting with the Board in providing the services you require as Veterans and members. In closing the ones that deserve accolades and respect are the wives, partners of all who give time and energy to your Sub Branch.

President
Steve Monteath

PAWS/Wellbeing

Over the past month we have had three new clients and four ongoing DVA claims. Both Jay and Chris have been attending to our client base with excellent results from the DVA.

Recently there was a major reply from the Deputy Commissioner DVA Qld re a series of questions relating to Veterans needs and DVA assessments. The items have been included in the newsletter for Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch.

The ATDP/DVA training schedule for our PAWS Compensation Officer L1 Chris Smith is near ending as he prepares for final assessment by the ATDP/DVA. Once concluded, Chris will be qualified to undertake compensation claims for our PAWS clients old and new. We have been delighted to have David Kassulke come on board Thursdays for several hours in assisting with Wellbeing clients, hospital visits, aged care visits and general requests for wellbeing/welfare assistance. He will join Trudi Johnson as wellbeing support. It is encouraging for PAWS to have the extra assistance as time does not generally allow except for emergencies our PAWS Advocates to get out in the field where they may be required. The Sub Branch is extremely grateful to Trudi and David for their time and energy in assisting our Veteran community.

PAWS office is open Wednesdays by appointment and if emergency call the Sub Branch on 07 55413720, admin@beaudesertslsubbranch.com.au

Jay Collins, Chris Smith and Steve Monteath are our registered, ATDP qualified, approved and VITA insured advocates. Thanks to them for their efforts and availability for our Veteran community, let's hope 2023 continues to be a year of good tiding for OURS and their respective engagement with PAWS, the Sub Branch and Department of Veterans' Affairs. RSL Qld Veterans Services has been very helpful and assisting us with Veterans who require assistance and the homeless in partnership with the Salvation Army. •

RSL Qld Veteran Services – Ph: 134 RSL (134 775) (8.30am-4.30pm, Monday-Friday)

Hospital packs are available for those going to hospital for a stay and please ask of the Sub branch if you require one. The contents consisting of personal hygiene items and a couple of 'goodies'.

Veterans and family seeking assistance with claims or wanting to discuss their current DVA needs, Please call the Sub Branch.

Advocates available on Wednesday's. Jay Collins, Chris Smith and Steve Monteath.

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 assist.

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

Please call and make an appointment on

Ph: 5541 3720 or email:

welfare@beaudesertslsubbranch.com

All these services below are available right now - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- **Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling** service is available 24/7 on **1800 011 046**

- **Safe Zone Support** on **1800 142 072** is a free and **anonymous** counselling line for current serving ADF personnel, veterans and their families available 24/7

- **Defence Family Helpline** is available for ADF members and their families, available 24/7 — dial **1800 624 608**



If you know of a Veteran who requires assistance, doing it tough or unwell please let us know. We have welfare bags available for those in need.

We are concerned about any instances of homelessness in the Veteran community. If you or someone you know is in this situation, please contact 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

Veterans and their families who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness can access a wide range of support, including short term emergency accommodation in times of crisis.

Visit: <https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/income-support/help-buy-property-or-find-accommodation/homelessness-support>

PAWS TEAM (Steve, Jay, Sam and Chris)

Museum – Harry's Haunt

Harry's Haunt open; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. We are always looking for more volunteers to assist with keeping Harry's Haunt open. Please contact the Sub Branch if you are able to assist, or pop in on the days open to chat to our volunteers, we would greatly appreciate any help and your time.

Secretary

Women's Auxiliary

The Beaudesert RSL Women's Auxiliary's Cent Auction held in November was a great success and many attendees on the day, with many raffle prizes drawn. Christmas Cards have been collected from all the local schools who participated and delivered to local Aged Care and Nursing home residents, as the feedback from last year was overwhelming and hear warming to hear they were greatly appreciated. We have a new member and we welcome Jen with open arms. Having the extra assistance lightens the load a bit. We would love to see more ladies who would like to assist in any way, please come into Sub Branch for more info and we meet each month for social get together and lunch.

The Beaudesert RSL Ladies Auxiliary is still requiring any Christmas cards that can be donated. Last year (2022) there was nearly 2000 cards delivered to schools and passed on to elderly people in the district. As this project is such a great community effort we require many cards, so if you are out and about please keep a lookout for cards, these can be dropped off to the sub branch office.

Joanne Heit



May 2023

B. Herbert ♦ B. Buckby ♦ J. Collins ♦
J. Doyle ♦ A. Haplin ♦ D. Haynes ♦
B. Holland ♦ R. Mackay ♦ B. Maestri ♦
I. McDougall ♦ A. McKenna ♦ D. Quigley ♦
R. Rumbel ♦ R. Smallwood ♦ S. Stratford

SUB BRANCH NEWS

Welcome New Members – 2023

♦J Barkley♦

Birthday Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the following members who had/will have their Birthdays.



February, 2023

D. Baty ♦ N. Burnett ♦ R. Cronk A. Dadson
♦ E. Day ♦ C. Goodwin ♦ P. Lester ♦ B. McCreadie
♦ S. Murphy ♦ B. Noy ♦ E. Rassmussen ♦ A. Stewart
♦ J. Strudwick ♦ J. Ford ♦ R. Dendle ♦ A. Battle



March 2023

G. Beulah ♦ E. Binstead ♦ B. Cooke ♦ S. Kable
♦ D. Kassulke ♦ D. Percy ♦ R. Smith ♦
J Richardson ♦ M. Wilkie ♦ C. Smith



April 2023

R. Andrews ♦ P. Baird ♦ K. Bullock ♦
J Guevorts ♦ P. Higgins ♦ M. Iverson ♦
M. Macaulay ♦ A. Mackie ♦ S. Mackie ♦
S. Roberts ♦ I. Sinclair ♦ T. Alwyn ♦
P. Watson ♦ B. (Joe) Whyatt ♦ D. Williams ♦
J. Barkley



Great news, we now are on Instagram – thanks to our new Committee member Travis by organising and setting this up, to reach out to more veterans by social media with sharing information out to the community on Sub Branch news and activities.

Check us out on Instagram: [**beaudesertslsubbranch**](https://www.instagram.com/beaudesertslsubbranch) or Scan the QR Code below to take you directly to Instagram page.





LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC
DAY



COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE



ANZAC DAY – 2023 Parade

It is with great pleasure to announce Scenic Rim Regional Council with the assistance by the Sub Branch ANZAC Sub Committee will be holding a Service at Rathdowney and Main Service and parade in Beaudesert for ANZAC Day.

If you wish to participate in the Parade but are unable to walk the distance, please notify the Sub Branch to book a seat in 1 x of 3 Army Vehicles supplied by 11 CSSB (Greenbank Army Reserves). Only 3 seats available.

Dawn Service: 4.20am

Main Service: 11.30am

(Parade form before 11.00am)

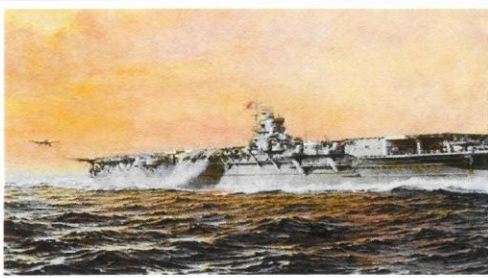
Rathdowney Service: 8.15am

Battle of the Coral Sea

12 May 2023 -11am

Commemoration Service held at the Palm Gardens Jubilee Park.

All members and family welcome.



Australia Day Bowls Club Presentation



QAS Patient Transport Information for Members

We are urgently seeking more volunteer drivers to continue this service for our Community.

If any Members are interested in hearing more about this program, please feel free to call the office to speak with Dianne or Joanne for further information. The office number is **Ph: 5541 3720** and we are available from at least 9am to 1pm each weekday.

As a footnote: the drivers who do volunteer their time find their role very satisfying. It is a really valuable use of their time and they make great connections with other drivers and the patients they transport. It also gives a great insight into the Queensland Health services.

Dianne

Transport Co-Ordinator

The Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch would like to pay tribute to one of our Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch Members and Driver with the QAS Patient Transport program since September 2011.

Mr **Maurice Macaulay** brought his extensive taxi driver experience with him when he answered the call for drivers for the Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch /QAS Patient Transport program. He had been taxi driving for many years and already had extensive knowledge of the local areas we must pick up Patients, along with the knowledge and skills to get them safely to the medical facilities the RSL Patient Transport takes the Patients.

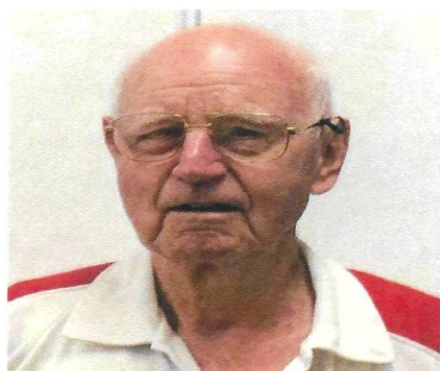
Maurice is an unassuming man with a great many skills and talents. He has been a steadfast pillar of the Patient Transport system for the past 12 years. This is an enormous commitment, and he has conducted himself professionally at all times.

With his common sense approach to the daily workload, Maurice has endeared himself to the Office Staff who make the transport arrangements as sent by QAS, his fellow drivers that he worked collaboratively with to ensure the most comfortable experience for the Patients in his care.

We could not keep count of the compliments heaped on Maurice by the Patients for the care given to them while they were with him. Patients often have a heightened stress level when travelling to Hospital and Specialist appointments, and Maurice's calm and reassuring nature has been a great comfort to many at their most vulnerable time.

We will miss Maurice as part of the Transport Team. We wish him a very happy and satisfying time ahead as he pursues new endeavours.

What a tremendous effort! Thank you Maurice.



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.



DVA NEWS

Pensions and allowances to rise from 20 March 2023, some veterans and their families will receive an increase to their pension payments in line with increases in the cost of living. You don't have to do anything to receive the increase, it will be automatically included in your next payment.

As pension rates are calculated on a daily basis, the pension paid on payday 23 March 2023 will be paid partly at the old rate and partly at the new rate. The first full

payment at the new rates of pension will be payday 6 April 2023.

Refer to the table below:

New pension rates from 20 March 2023

SERVICE PENSION	Old rate (f'night)	New rate	Increase
		(f'night)	(f'night)
Single person	\$1,026.50	\$1,064.00	\$37.50
Couples (each)	\$773.80	\$802.00	\$28.20
Single person - transitional	\$856.40	\$887.60	\$31.20
Couples (each) - transitional	\$690.90	\$716.10	\$25.20
WAR WIDOWS			
War widow(er)'s pension	\$1,044.30	\$1,082.50	\$38.20
Income support supplement	\$309.60	\$321.10	\$11.50
DISABILITY PENSION			
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,617.16	\$1,676.20	\$59.04
Intermediate rate	\$1,072.10	\$1,111.30	\$39.20
EDA	\$872.70	\$904.60	\$31.90
100 per cent	\$561.40	\$581.90	\$20.50
10 per cent	\$63.07	\$65.12	\$2.05
VETERAN PAYMENT			
Single Person	\$1,112.30	\$1,153.50	\$41.20
Couples (each)	\$867.20	\$899.30	\$32.10
MRCA*			
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$1,044.30	\$1,082.50	\$38.20
Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,617.16	\$1,676.20	\$59.04

The indexation factor used to index pensions each March and September can be based on either the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost

Index (PBLCI) or Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE). For 20 March 2023, the indexation was driven by CPI.

For more information on the new pension rates, call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372). Current and historical pension rates are available on the CLIK website (clik.dva.gov.au).

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable.

The first full payment at the new rates will be the payday 6 April 2023.

***Note that the MRCA payments in the bottom two rows are the fortnightly amounts, not the weekly amounts.**

How DVA supports homeless veterans

In this new video from DVA TV, Duncan talks about how he lost his house, his job and his marriage all due to alcohol misuse. Fortunately, he was able to get back on his feet with the help of DVA, Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling as well as RSL Care SA (via Andrew Russell Veteran Living).

DVA

There is support available for you and your family if you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. You can go to one of our [Veterans' Access Network offices](#) to talk to someone about your situation. They can:

- refer you to support services in your local area
- connect you with our support services
- provide you with information on any support payments available to you
- provide you with information about [Services Australia](#) (Centrelink) payments and services
- connect you to a network of organisations that can assist you.

If you need urgent help, please visit our [Receive urgent help and support](#) page. If life is in danger, call triple zero (000).

For more information, see the [Homelessness Support Services page](#).

Open Arms

If you are at risk of homelessness, Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling can help put you in touch with crisis support services in your area.

In crisis situations, Open Arms can also provide support for crisis accommodation. Its [Crisis Accommodation Program](#) allows someone to pause, be in a safe location, and creates a period of time to manage factors contributing to the crisis situation. Any person who is [eligible for Open Arms services](#) can access the program. For more information about Open Arms, visit its [website](#) or phone 1800 011 046. Open Arms is a confidential service and available 24 hours a day.

The RSL, RSL Care and RSL LifeCare

Different RSL support organisations operate in different parts of Australia.

Queensland and Tasmania

RSL Queensland provides homelessness and emergency accommodation, partnering with The Salvation Army to assist veterans in accessing safe and sustainable rentals. Once you're safe, we can help you find appropriate rental accommodation, and link you to our holistic range of services such as:

- advocacy – support with DVA claims and appeals
- employment – assistance in securing meaningful employment.

To find out more about these services, visit the [RSL Queensland website](#).

Robina services are relocating

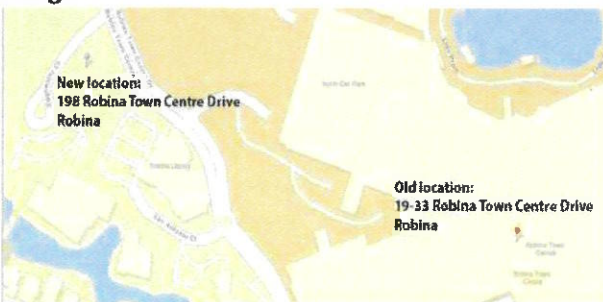
From 27 February 2023, the Veterans' Access Network (VAN) office along with the Services Australia Robina service centre will be relocating to 198 Robina Town Centre Drive, Robina.

Our VAN office's new space will be a welcoming, fresh and contemporary space, while continuing to deliver Australian Government services in the one location.

The location of the new office is 1.1 kilometres from the former office at 19-33 Robina Town Centre Drive, Robina.

The service delivered out of the VAN office in Robina will not change, and a dedicated DVA officer will be available to assist you with your business. To speak to the DVA officer, please check in with the Client Liaison Officer first. Veterans and their families can also access their support and services online via MyService or by calling 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) to speak to a DVA representative.

Image



Free 12-month health and fitness program from the Heart Health Program

24 February 2023 - DVA's Heart Health Program improves veterans' physical health through exercise, nutritional education and lifestyle management.

The department has been working with Corporate Health Management (CHM) to deliver a 12-month program to eligible veterans.

The Heart Health Program is fully funded by DVA and aims to help you increase your physical health and general wellbeing. The goal of the program is to help veterans build their own daily routine for exercise and a balanced diet that will continue long after the program is complete. There are two ways the Heart Health program can be delivered: through the Heart Health Group Program or individually at a time and pace that suits your lifestyle. Programs run in metropolitan areas and rural and remote areas, allowing participants still working or retired, studying or with other time constraints to join in and feel the benefits.

Both include access to a team of health and fitness experts, custom food diary reviews by a qualified nutritionist, a participant manual and an aftercare program to ensure you are maintaining your goals. The program caters for all levels of fitness, health and mobility and people of any age. Qualified trainers provide a safe environment to allow all participants to improve their health and fitness at their own pace.

The Heart Health program is open to veterans and peacekeepers with operational experience and Australian Defence Force Firefighter Scheme participants.

If this sounds like the challenge you want to take for a new you in 2023, visit the [Heart Health program](#) website for further information on eligibility and program locations.

Veterans who need further information are encouraged to contact CHM on 1300 246 262, DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling on 1800 011 046.

The healing power of sport – what are adaptive sports

10 March 2023 - Quite often we hear or read about how being active is good for our health and wellbeing. In fact, the [Australian Government has physical activity guidelines](#) that advises how much physical activity we should be doing each week for good health according to our age.

Participating in regular physical activity can help us maintain a healthy body weight, reduce our risk of developing heart disease, cancer, diabetes and other chronic illnesses, reduce stress, improve our sleep and even improve our mood.

Even if you're injured or ill, you can still be active with others in a safe, fun and supportive environment with adaptive sports. Adaptive sports assist veterans who have been wounded or ill recover and rehabilitate whilst participating in physical activity and sports.

Adaptive sports are usually comparable to classic sports such as rowing, biking, rugby or soccer, with the inclusion of modifications to allow people with infirmities the opportunity to participate independently, with confidence and comfort, for example wheelchair sports.

Connecting with others through sport is a great way for veterans to build connections to their local community. Belonging to a sporting team or group can help build routine and create stability in daily life. What's more - participating in team sport or being part of a group can create an enhanced sense of belonging and builds social cohesion and friendships.

The great thing about physical activity is that anything is better than nothing: do some rather than none. Stand instead of sit, walk instead of stand. Find out what you're capable of and discover sporting and opportunities to be active in your local area:

- Across the country Veterans' and Families' Hubs provide a range of services to all current and former serving Australian Defence Force members and reservists, and families, including mental and physical health services. Each hub delivers a range of support services, activities and events to get the local veteran community involved. More information on what is available at the hubs is on the [Veterans and Families hub page on the DVA website](#)
- Invictus Australia, alongside the ADF delivers the Adaptive Sport Program (ASP) to injured, wounded or ill veterans. Invictus Australia creates local and international sporting and recreational opportunities for veterans to participate as a competitor, volunteer, coach, referee and/or as mentor in sport, including the Invictus Games and Warrior Games. For more information about the ASP or the Australia's participation in the 2023 Invictus Games head to the [Invictus Australia website](#)
- Jointly founded by The Hospital Research Foundation and UniSA, the Invictus Pathways Program (IPP), focusses on the use of sport, exercise and participation in community adaptive sports. More information is available on the [Uni-SA website](#)
- Many ex-service organisations (ESOs) provide veterans with opportunities to be active in their local community or will have links to local sporting organisations. [A list of ESOs is available on the DVA website](#)
- The Vet Friendly Club (VFC) program developed by Rugby 1st Limited, in support of Invictus Australia, engages, accredits and connects sporting clubs, with current and former serving members of the ADF. More information for clubs and players is available at www.vetfriendlyclub.com.au

If you have pre-existing health issues, are new to exercise, or are starting a new activity, DVA recommends speaking to your doctor or a health professional first.



Newsletter - Edition 15 - 7 March 2022

Pathway forward

Recently, we were saddened to learn the circumstances of the death of another veteran whose fight with Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) for entitlements, among other reasons, contributed to his untimely passing. This received wide coverage in the media after his family revealed his last written words, which touched the hearts of many.

We've been hearing about a sense of hopelessness and despair in the veteran community following this event. It's important that we acknowledge the immense pain left when someone takes their life – for family, friends, the Defence and veteran communities. This sense of loss might cause you to wonder what could possibly be achieved by this Royal Commission and whether this is just another inquiry which will be ignored by Government. Let us assure you that we three Commissioners have made a very strong commitment to work together to bring about long-lasting cultural and systemic change to improve the lives of serving and ex-serving ADF members. In doing so, we want to focus attention on the national tragedy of suicide and suicidality in the Defence and veteran communities.

And we renew that pledge here and now to each and every one of you.

The deeply personal stories shared through submissions, public hearings, and private sessions have shone a bright light on how we, as a nation with a proud military past, have failed time and again to protect the health and wellbeing of the men and women who go to work each day to protect us.

Many serving and ex-serving members, in recounting their experiences of military life, have revealed harrowing incidents of abuse, bullying, discrimination, harassment and hazing, as well as the additional trauma caused by the organisation failing to acknowledge what they've been through. This has been disturbing.

And then there's the fight for entitlements which has made life difficult for far too many serving and ex-serving members ... and, indeed, cost lives.

Despite how bleak the situation is, there is cause for optimism and hope.

You'll remember we delivered our [Interim Report](#) last August comprising 13 urgent recommendations to improve the lives of serving and ex-serving members. The Government has so far adopted 11 of our recommendations – this is a positive sign.

Notably, consultation has commenced to improve the laws governing veterans' compensation. These laws are set to be overhauled, consolidating three complex

compensation schemes into one simplified system.

DVA has committed to bring on additional resources to eliminate the backlog of 42,000 unprocessed claims by March next year.

And we've signed an agreement with Defence and DVA to ensure serving and ex-serving members and Departmental staff can share information with us without the fear of punishment or reprisals.

It's heartening to see some progress, but we still have a lot of work to do – and the issues under examination are complex, multi-layered ... and many.

We're acutely aware of the significance of our inquiry. Our recommendations must help to change the environment – build the case for change – and ensure that action is taken by Government, Defence and DVA. The success or otherwise of the measures adopted from our recommendations must also continue to be assessed.

We're keen to make one thing very clear: this Royal Commission is not about portraying our troops and veterans as 'broken'. The large majority have fulfilling careers both in the military and after they leave the services. Nor do we seek to undermine Australia's Defence capability or proud military history.

To the contrary. We aim to bring about long-lasting structural and cultural change to better support our serving and ex-serving members and their families; and build a stronger, more resilient and better ADF for Australia's future defence needs.

- Commissioners Kaldas, Brown and Douglas

Do you need support?

The Royal Commission has a team of Enquiries Officers and Counsellors who can support you if any of this media coverage raises any questions or impacts you in any way.

You can contact us on **1800 329 095 or +61 2 5122 3105**, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday to Friday AEDT, excluding public holidays. Or email us at DVSRC.enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au.

If you need urgent or crisis support see our Crisis Support web page for a list of 24/7 services that can help you.

If you are a serving or ex-serving ADF member who has experienced abuse, bullying, discrimination, harassment or any other form of unacceptable behavior, we want to hear from you.

You can request a private session or make a submission. You can call us on **1800 329 095 or 02 5122 3105**, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday to Friday AEDT, excluding public holidays. Or you can email DVSRC.enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au

THE STORY OF ANZAC DAY: HISTORY AND LEGACY

01 March 2023

ANZAC Day history began in the darkness before dawn, as Australian and New Zealand soldiers rowed towards Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

The landing at Gallipoli was anticipated to be a quick action that would remove Turkey from World War I (WWI). Instead, it escalated into an eight-month battle with heavy casualties on both sides. More than 8,700 Australian soldiers lost their lives and another 19,441 were wounded. The first major military action fought by Australian forces during WWI, it sent shockwaves through Australian society that are still felt today.

As the sun rises every ANZAC Day, hundreds of thousands of Australians gather across the nation to remember the [ANZACs' legacy](#), and the legacy of all those who have followed their example.



*ANZAC troops landing at Gallipoli, 25 April, 1915.
Commander of the 1st Australian Division - Major General Bridges is in the foreground.*

'ANZAC' MEANING

Used in various books and telegrams as early as 1915, the word 'ANZAC' stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. One of the earliest references is in the appendix to the 1st Australian Division War Diary from 24 April 1915 – the day before the Gallipoli landing. ANZAC is,

without a doubt, one of the most significant words in Australian military history.



*ANZAC troops landing at Gallipoli, 25 April, 1915.
Commander of the 1st Australian Division - Major General Bridges is in the foreground.*

WHO WERE THE ANZACS?

The ANZACs were young men who came from around Australia and New Zealand to defend the honour of their countries. The ANZACs' loyalty to their young nations would lead them to brutal battles on foreign soil. Many had no prior experience of combat. Many would never return home.

Over the course of WWI, more than 60,000 Australians died and a further 156,000 were wounded or taken prisoner. Some 23,000 soldiers were missing, and their families would never learn what had happened to their loved ones.

These devastating losses and casualties resonated throughout Australia, uniting the people of a newly formed nation.



Australian and New Zealand soldiers in a frontline trench on the Gallipoli Peninsula, 1915

THE BIRTH OF ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day was officially recognised in 1916, only one year after the Gallipoli landing. These first ANZAC Day marches and ceremonies gave the country a chance to collectively mourn the loss of their young men.

Marches were also held in London where a newspaper

headline referred to the ANZACs as “the knights of Gallipoli”. In true Australian fashion, the Australian camp in Egypt had a commemorative sports day to remember their fallen mates.

But the man credited as the architect of ANZAC Day – laying out the order of service that is still observed today – was an Anglican priest from Brisbane. Canon David Garland created the framework for a non-denominational commemoration to honour the fallen, which incorporated many aspects we’d recognise: the march, the wreath-laying, and one minute’s silence to allow attendees to say a silent prayer in line with their own beliefs.



The first ANZAC Day march in Brisbane, 1916

As WWI continued, Australians in every corner of the world stopped on ANZAC Day to remember the sacrifice made by their mates and fellow countrymen. Parades were held in towns and cities across the country, and the day became our most solemn day of commemoration.

Over the past century, ANZAC Day has become a day to reflect on the sacrifices of all Australian service people since 1915.

HOW WILL YOU COMMEMORATE ANZAC DAY?

Since WWI, more than 1.5 million Australians have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

On ANZAC Day (25 April), we invite you to honour their invaluable contribution and commemorate in a way that is meaningful to you.

Attend an RSL Sub Branch service, take a quiet moment to reflect at home or donate to the ANZAC Appeal and help keep the ANZACs’ legacy alive.
Lest we forget.

Days of commemoration in Australia

Australia’s calendar of remembrance includes officially gazetted days proclaimed by the Governor-General. These dates are formally recognised by the Australian Government, the most well-known of which is Anzac Day.

Here we’ve listed those gazetted days and some others that your community may wish to commemorate.

25 April

[Anzac Day*](#)

8 May

[Victory in Europe \(VE\) Day](#)

27 July

[Korean Veterans’ Day](#)

15 August

[Victory in the Pacific \(VP\) Day](#)

18 August

[Vietnam Veterans’ Day](#)

31 August

[Malaya and Borneo Veterans’ Day](#)

3 September

[Merchant Navy Day](#)

1st Wednesday of September (7 September in 2022)

[Battle for Australia Day](#)

14 September

[National Peacemakers’ Day](#)

11 November

[Remembrance Day](#)

Sent in by members

59 years since Jim went down on the Voyager. It was the first voyage for the Able seaman.

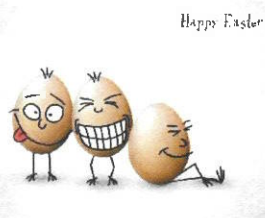
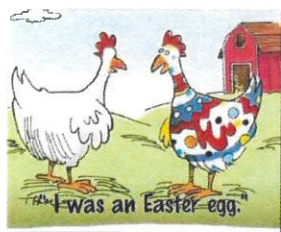


His uncle was Jim Moloney from Bromelton. Jim spent a lot of his childhood with Mr. Moloney and lived with him when he worked for the Beaudesert PMG.

Easter Funnies



shutterstock.com - 127892741



FUNNIES

If you can read this whole story without laughing, then there's no hope for you. I was crying by the end. This is an actual account as relayed to paramedics at a chili cook-off in Texas .

Note: Please take time to read this slowly. If you pay attention to the first two judges, the reaction of the third judge is even better. For those of you who have lived in Texas, you know how true this is. They

actually have a Chili Cook-off about the time Halloween comes around. It takes up a major portion of a parking lot at the San Antonio City Park .

Judge #3 was an inexperienced chili taster Frank, who was visiting from Springfield , IL .

Frank: "Recently, I was honoured to be selected as a judge at a chili cook-off. The original person called in sick at the last moment and I happened to be standing there at the judge's table, asking for directions to the Coors Light truck, when the call came in. I was assured by the other two judges (Native Texans) that the chili wouldn't be all that spicy; and, besides, they told me I could have free beer during the tasting, so I accepted and became Judge 3."

Here are the scorecard notes from the event:

CHILI # 1 - MIKE'S MANIAC MONSTER CHILI

Judge # 1 -- A little too heavy on the tomato. Amusing kick.

Judge # 2 -- Nice, smooth tomato flavour. Very mild.

Judge # 3 (Frank) -- Holy crap, what the heck is this stuff? You could remove dried paint from your driveway. Took me two beers to put the flames out. I hope that's the worst one. These Texans are crazy.


CHILI # 2 - AUSTIN 'S AFTERBURNER CHILI

Judge # 1 -- Smoky, with a hint of pork. Slight jalapeno tang.

Judge # 2 -- Exciting BBQ flavour, needs more peppers to be taken seriously.

Judge # 3 -- Keep this out of the reach of children. I'm not sure what I'm supposed to taste besides pain. I had to wave off two people who wanted to give me the Heimlich manoeuvre. They had to rush in more beer when they saw the look on my face.

More in the next issue



Victory in Europe

THE PRESIDENT OF RSL SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT LTD

MR KERRY GALLAGHER AM

AND THE VE DAY COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

HAVE THE PLEASURE OF INVITING

WWII VETERANS

OR DESCENDANT REPRESENTATIVES

TO THE COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

RECOGNISING THE 78TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

"VICTORY IN EUROPE"

AT THE

ALLIES MEMORIAL

RSL SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT LTD

42-50 OXLADE DRIVE

NEW FARM, BRISBANE

ON SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023

AT 9:55AM

(WREATH LAYING & SERVICE

10:00-11:30AM)

DRESS: UNIFORM OR LOUNGE SUIT

MEDALS TO BE WORN

LIMITED VIP PARKING IS ALLOCATED AT EVENTS ON OXLADE
(NO COST ON STREET PARKING – SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)

CONFIRMATION, BY EMAIL, WOULD BE

APPRECIATED OF ALL GUESTS ATTENDING OF ANY

FOOD ALLERGIES AND

WHETHER THERE IS AN INTENTION TO PROVIDE

A WREATH, POPPY OR ANOTHER TRIBUTE

TO LAY AT THE ALLIES MEMORIAL

RSVP BY MONDAY 10TH APRIL 2023 TO:

MR SCOTT MACKIE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER,

VE DAY COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

BY EMAIL: EVENTS@RSLSOUTHQUEENSLAND.ORG

BY POST: POST OFFICE BOX 45

NEW FARM QLD 4005

PHONE: (07) 3358 3361 MOBILE: 04766 38311

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE OFFERED FOLLOWING
THE SERVICE

Roustabouts RV



Do you love to get away within South East Queensland and Northern NSW on weekends?

Do you dream of getting away on a longer trip to places within Australia?

Do you like travelling our country in security and in the company of friends and like-minded people?

Do you enjoy caravanning and mixing with good friends at Club social events?

Then the Roustabouts RV Club is for you!



This RV Club is for families, singles, working people, retirees, Army, Navy and Air Force veterans, emergency services personnel with access to a caravan, motor home, camper trailer, 5th wheeler, camper van or slide on camper who wish to be part of an active RV and caravan club. Our membership is primarily South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales, but extends along the Australian eastern seaboard.

Free assistance for veterans, ADF members & their families

A free legal service for veterans and Defence members has marked its first anniversary by boosting the assistance it provides to them.

In the past year more than 1,000 people have been helped across Australia by the Defence and Veterans Legal Service (DAVLS).

This service provides free, confidential and independent legal support to people who want to share their story with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

Key dates

Submissions to the Royal Commission must be received by October 13 of this year. But if you want to have a private one-on-one session with a Royal Commissioner, you must submit your request by April 28 of this year.

DAVLS also helps with issues relating to veterans' entitlements and other legal problems commonly experienced by current and former ADF members.

For free, independent legal support, call 1800 33 1800 or visit [DefenceVeteransLegalService.org.au](https://www.defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au)

"In response to high levels of demand, we are increasing the support we provide to current and former ADF members – and their families," says Jasmine Stanton, a

former Navy officer and Army Reservist who is now the Director of DAVLS.

"Our legal help is free and confidential – and it's completely independent. We don't work for the Royal Commission, or the Defence Department, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"We help people share their story with the Royal Commission in an informed and safe way that protects their rights and ensures their voice is heard.

"Real change can happen when people are empowered to speak up."

DAVLS provides tailored legal advice about issues including:

- making a submission
- the rights and obligations of people who make a submission
- privacy, confidentiality, and defamation
- national security laws, and confidentiality provisions in ADF employment contracts
- legal protections for people who make a submission.

For free, independent legal support, call DAVLS on 1800 33 1800 or visit [DefenceVeteransLegalService.org.au](https://www.defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au)

Australian Defence Force

Retirees Association Inc. No.

A0108026R

We represent the interests of Defence Force Retirees regarding their Superannuation [www:](https://www.adfra.org/)

<https://www.adfra.org/> Email: admin@adfra.org

DFRDB UPDATE – MARCH 2023

Federal Court Hearing

We still don't have a decision but received this from Justice Perry's Associate:

"Justice Perry is aware that judgment has been outstanding for some time. Unfortunately, while her Honour had intended to address this judgment over the January court break, her Honour was still recovering from COVID-19 over that period.

While her Honour is unable to give a precise time for delivery of judgment, she will give this matter appropriate priority. Chambers will be in contact with an update in due course."

Meeting with the new Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) President

In Canberra on 16 February 2023, we met with DFWA's new President, Del Goudry. To try and resolve the differences in the DFRDB outcomes being

sought by DFWA and ADFRA, we demonstrated the operation of the DFRDB Act and the implications of DFWA's current proposal.

We have yet to receive a response but are hopeful that DFWA will align its objectives with those of ADFRA and that the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) will follow suit.

Renewed Effort for Fair Treatment

We will never abandon the fight for fair treatment over our superannuation entitlements. To that end, we have produced; *The DFRDB Deception.pdf*, which

is a re-statement of our position and the *Annotated Letter to Mr Ellerbock.pdf*, which debunks the continuing misinformation being spread by the Minister's office.

We encourage members to download these documents, send them to their local Members of Parliament and Senators, and circulate them far and wide. The question which should be asked is "Why is this allowed to continue?"

Jim Hislop OAM



Tri-Services Mixed Dining-In-Night

Presented by

Nerang RSL Sub Branch Inc.

www.nerangrslsubbranch.org.au

- Date:** Saturday 29 July 2023
- Location:** Nerang RSL & Memorial Club
69 Nerang St, Nerang, QLD 4211
- Timings:** 1800hrs Pre Dinner Drinks for 1830hrs Mess assembled
- Dress:** Formal or Mess Kit with miniatures
Ladies Formal or Cocktail Dress
- Cost:** \$50.00 per person includes 3 course meal with limited refreshments purchase your tickets from the Nerang RSL & Memorial Club Reception
Must be a Sub Branch Member or partner, serving/ex-serving member of the ADF, or a front line responder
- Raffle:** Raffle tickets will be sold and drawn on the night

Ticket Sales

3Apr - 31June 2023

From the Nerang RSL & Memorial Club

The aim of the night is to keep the memories of "MESS TRADITIONS" alive, to bring guests together rekindling old friendships and the cementing of new friendships.

Columboola Country
would like to thank you
and all of your members for your service

All Veterans - 25% off

Families, Friends and pets welcome

Columboola Country Veterans Retreat

- * Well appointed cottages
- * Away from everything
- * Fishing, Swimming
- * Creekside settings
- * Modern amenities
- * 265 acre property
- * Peace and Quiet
- * On-site cottages
- * Bush camping
- * Powered sites
- * No crowds
- * Just relax

Navy
Army
Air Force

Served
Serving
Retired
All welcome



Call: 07 4665 8293
1381 Ryalls rd, Columboola
(1/2 way between Chinchilla & Miles QLD)

Cabins: \$100/ night

Cottages: \$100/ night

Powered sites: from \$15/ night

Non-powered sites: from \$10/ night

**** Every 3rd night is free ****

**** extra 25% discount for veterans ****

General public welcome

Please feel free to copy, display
and send this to any, if not
all of your members





Beaunesert Sub Branch Inc.
Women's Auxiliary



CENT AUCTION

6th May, 2022



Mothers Day Theme

HELD AT:

The Club Beaunesert (RSL Services Club)

DOOR ENTRY:

\$5.00

DOORS OPEN:

10.00AM

AUCTION STARTS:

10.30AM

*Tickets available in
different values*

HELP US TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL VETERAN COMMUNITY

Lots of Raffles and Prizes

ALL WELCOME



**Australian Veteran
Health Services**

1300 766 206
contact@avhs.com.au
www.avhs.com.au

NAVIGATING HEALTHCARE FOR OUR VETERANS

DVA Claims

Permanent Impairment Assessments

ADF Transition Medicals

CASA and FAA Pilot Medicals

The Australian Veteran Health Services (AVHS) is a boutique medical service designed to assist service personnel in the most vulnerable part of their lives – the transition from military to civilian life.

A medical service run by Veterans for Veterans, AVHS aims to complement established medical and ex-service organisations by assisting with DVA Claims, Permanent Impairment Assessments and ADF Transition Medicals.

AVHS takes care of Veteran's medical requirements post-discharge until matched with a GP who has experience consulting with ex-military personnel.

**DVA CLAIMS & OTHER SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE
NO COST TO VETERANS - Except CASA/FAA Pilot Medicals**



- Permanent Impairment Assessments
- DVA Claims
- ADF Transition Medicals
- CASA and FAA Pilot Medicals

More information at www.avhs.com.au

**DVA CLAIMS & OTHER SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE
NO COST TO VETERANS (Except CASA/FAA Pilot Medicals)**



- AVHS aims to provide several services for Veterans as they discharge from the military and to be the preferred provider of health services to Veterans by DVA.
- Pre-discharge health assessment (funded by Joint Health Command)
 - Review of Medical Records and writing of reports for service-related conditions to be submitted to DVA via DVA Diagnosis Forms
 - Post-discharge health assessment
 - Provision of Permanent Impairment Assessments for Veterans
 - Ongoing support in the transition period with nursing, social work and case management staff
 - Provision of a 'matching' service, referring Veterans to GP in their town of discharge who are familiar with Veteran Health – AVHS will provide a full health transfer package to their new GP
 - ADF Transition Medicals along with CASA and FAA Pilot Medicals
 - Support Veterans' families throughout the transition process

Suite 603
2 Wellness Way
Springfield Central
QLD 4300



**Australian Veteran
Health Services**



**Australian Veteran
Health Services**

contact@avhs.com.au

Dr Andrew Cronin
Dr Steven Smith
Dr Harsharan Singh

1300 766 206

Suite 603
2 Wellness Way
Springfield Central
QLD 4300