



Special Interest Articles:

- MI RSL Remembrance Day success!
- Australia day
- New display at the Magnetic Island Museum
- ANZAC Cove preservation works commence.

Individual Highlights:

ANZAC Day	2
MI RSL AGM	2
Australia day	2
Games Night	3
Printer for Sale	3
ANZAC Cove	4
Ruxton	5
HMAS Choules	6

The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

Magnetic Island Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day, 11th November 2011, a dedicated group of locals, community members as well as ex-Service members, assembled at the RSL Memorial Hall in Hayles Avenue to pay tribute to those Servicemen and women who have fallen in defence of their countries. In particular we remembered those currently serving overseas in war zones and on peacekeeping activities.

Our MC Jim Davis introduced the guest speaker, WGC DR Stuart Dowrie, Commanding Officer of No 38 Squadron at RAAF Base Townsville. Also attending were Ewan Jones MP, Councillor Trevor Roberts, NQ District RSL President Ewan Cameron, representatives of Department of Veterans Affairs, Australian Army units 11 CSSB and Maritime Wing ALTC, and our own cadet unit TS Magnetic Island.

Reverend Beryl Finch conducted the service and wreaths were laid at the Stone of Remembrance. A number of books were also donated to the Magnetic Island State School library.

Red poppies were in abundance on the day, symbolic of the poppies which flowered in Flanders Field after the battles of World War 1.

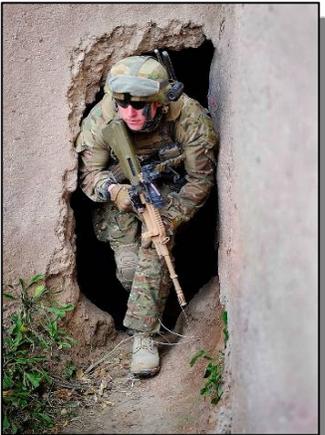
Many thanks to all those who attended and helped make this commemorative day so special, and also our thanks to those who assisted in any way with the organisation and preparation for the day.

Your help was greatly appreciated.





“Reverend Beryl Finch conducted the service and wreaths were laid at the Stone of Remembrance.”



“Australian Army officer Lieutenant Stephen Ryan, Mentoring Task Force – 3 Other Government Agencies Platoon commander, conducts a clearing patrol prior to a series of meetings with elders and the women of the village in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan...”

2012 ANZAC Day

The planning and arrangements for ANZAC Day 2012 are progressing very well.

Negotiations are underway with Sealink and the Bus Company to ensure smooth seamless logistics.

A traditional breakfast of bacon,

eggs, sausages and bread will be on sale for \$5.00.

The RSL bar will be open until midday and drinks will be on sale at the following prices:

- Heavy Beers \$4.00
- Mid Beers \$3.50
- Light Beers \$3.00
- Water and soft drinks \$2.00

2012 Australia day Celebrations

Australia Day Celebrations promise to be a very tasty event, indeed!

The RSL hall will be infused with the aromas of the very best Australian lamb roast to tuck into, at \$10 a head.

THEN! Top that off with a decadent serving of Pavlova at \$5. Yum!

Starting at 5:00 pm. Come spoil yourself.

Newsletter distribution...

NOTICE

Issues of our newsletter, and links to previous editions, will always be available on our website,

www.rslmagneticisland.com

Copies can be downloaded at your convenience.

Hardcopies of the latest newsletter will be printed off and available for collection from the MI RSL hall. Previous editions will be printed for a small donation.

AGM on the 11th March 2012

Please make a note of the date for the next Annual General Meeting, which will be held on the 11th of March 2012.

There will be a vote on the introduction of the new Rules for RSL Sub-Branches which have been developed by the Queensland RSL

All positions on the Committee (now to be known as the Board)

will be vacant and we will shortly be seeking nominations for those positions.

The position for Branch President is vacant and a volunteer is called for.

Please watch the Events calendar and Latest News entries on our website for any updates that may occur after publication of the Newsletter.

Games Night on the move... **SALE! LEXMARK C510**

The Games Night will soon be moving to Saturday nights to make it easier to attend for working people and school-going youngsters.

It will no longer be a weekly event and will be hosted once a month; Note that the first Games Night for 2012 will be on Saturday the 4th of February and thereafter on the first Saturday of each month, from 5pm to 8pm.

Colour Laser Printer

The Magnetic Island RSL offices are offering a Lexmark C510 Colour laser printer for sale at the low price of \$200. It comes with about \$500 worth of ink cartridges thrown in.

The printer is offered **free** to any Community Organisation, but note that it is on a First In, Best Dressed basis. Please contact the MI RSL Office for more detail.



“
Lexmark C510.”

New Magnetic Museum Display; a must see...

Have you checked out the current exhibition at the Magnetic Museum? Located at 11-15 Granite Street, Picnic Bay (next to the Police Station), the Museum is currently featuring a display of the role women have played in the development of Magnetic Island.

Of particular interest to our members may be the display on the role of women in World War II on the Island.

Prepared by Sub-Branch Secretary, Pat Trewin, it covers:

- the roles of women in the Army, Navy and Air Force,
- servicewomen who served on the Island, particularly at the rest camps at Arcadia and Picnic Bay,
- the effect on women and families when their men folk joined up,
- the Red Cross,
- the Land Army,
- our own Centaur House, and
- a special feature on former Magnetic Island resident and servicewoman, Bonnie Maisch.



“
*In Flanders fields the
poppies grow
Between the
crosses, row on row,
That mark our place;
and in the sky
The larks, still bravely
singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the
guns below...*”

Swell in pride translates to vital support

Remembrance Day 2011 in Queensland was a red hot triumph. This crucial commemorative day was clearly marked by a wave of red poppies worn proudly by Queenslanders of all ages. The noticeable shift in support to the day was evident by increased attendance at services across the state, a twenty percent surge in fundraising revenue to

the annual Poppy Appeal and all this despite the scorching November heat.

A spike in community awareness of the Afghanistan conflict due to the tragedies experienced by Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel in the past fortnight resulted in a swell of support in 2011. Returned and Services



“...the erosion at ANZAC Cove has continued to wear away areas along the Gallipoli peninsula.”



“Australian soldiers from Mentoring Task Force – 3 Other Government Agencies Platoon prior to a series of meetings with elders and the women of the village in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan..”

League of Australia (Queensland Branch) chairman, Terry Meehan, highlighted the surge in support enjoyed by the League at services across the state and through the Poppy Appeal was a bittersweet success.

“We raised significantly more than last year’s Remembrance Day poppy sales. The desire of the wider community to be seen wearing a poppy was undeniable, and this went hand-in-hand with a desire to give back to Queensland’s Defense Community. The support was outstanding. We had people offering to pay \$50.00 for a single poppy,” said Mr. Meehan. “Queensland is home to a large ADF Community and the impact of losing three local boys was very evident on Friday. The broader community has been touched by recent events and responded by supporting RSL Queensland in our commitment to the welfare of returned and currently serving personnel, together with their dependents” Mr. Meehan continued.

Work to preserve ANZAC Cove begins

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Warren Snowdon, has announced preservation work has begun at ANZAC Cove to protect one of the most iconic sites in Australia’s wartime history. The work is being carried out by Turkey with the full support of the Australian Government.

In addition to the growth in fundraising, 2011 saw the emergence of Fields of Remembrance in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns. More than 2000 crosses were laid in memory of a fallen comrade, absent loved one or a respected war hero from any of the conflicts in the last century, including the Unknown Soldier. The fields were graced by hundreds of crosses, featuring personal sentiments or messages, and served as a vivid illustration of Queensland’s collective desire to recognise the contribution of past and present ADF members in preserving the freedom enjoyed by all Australian’s today.

Funds raised through the 2011 RSL Poppy Appeal will be dedicated to providing vital welfare and advocacy services for Queensland veterans, currently serving defence personnel and their dependents.

In recent years, the erosion at ANZAC Cove has continued to wear away areas along the Gallipoli peninsula and if allowed to continue, the area is likely to succumb to further deterioration.

The works are set to include the construction of a concrete gravity wall along the back of the beach through ANZAC

Cove, which will protect the area and nearby headland cemeteries from the impact of the sea. The surface of the road above ANZAC Cove will also be upgraded with the installation of proper drainage and the surrounding land side slope will be landscaped.

“These unobtrusive works are about protecting and preserving the Anzac Cove area and I’m sure I speak for all Australians in expressing our gratitude that

steps are being taken to look after this special place,” Mr. Snowdon said.

Turkish and Australian engineering experts are confident the planning and design of the works will be effective in preventing further erosion at ANZAC Cove and preserving the area for future generations. The works are expected to be completed in time for the 2012 ANZAC Day commemorations.

Bruce Ruxton passes on...



On 23 December 2011, RSL members and former President of the Victorian Branch, Bruce Ruxton, passed away.

Bruce Carlyle Ruxton, AM, OBE, was born on 6 February 1926 and enlisted in the Australian Army on 22 February 1944, employed as a company cook.

He served in World War II in the South West Pacific, the Netherlands East Indies and Borneo, and for three years he served in Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force,

as a rifleman in the 2/25 Australian Infantry Battalion. He discharged from the ADF in 1949.

After his war service, he became a vocal spokesman on behalf of war veterans and their families, ensuring they received their pensions and entitlements.

As the Second World War veterans grew older, he lobbied on their behalf regarding issues such as nursing homes and retirement accommodation. He was President of the Victorian State Branch of the RSL from 1979 to 2002.

Outspoken and often controversial, Ruxton achieved national media coverage with his strong views on a range of issues relating to topics such as republicanism, the role of the monarchy, the retention of the current Australian Flag and the role of Japanese and Vietnamese in Australian society.



“
Bruce Ruxton.”

**Magnetic Island
RSL
Sub Branch**

31 Hayles Avenue
Arcadia
QLD, 4819

POST:
P O Box 25
Magnetic Island QLD
4819

PHONE:
+(07) 4758 1233
FAX:
+(07) 4758 1266

E-MAIL:
office@rslmagneticisland.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.rslmagneticisland.com

HMAS CHOULES... What a Christmas present!

ABC transcript, Dec. 13, 2011:

"...The Royal Australian Navy has commissioned HMAS CHOULES in Fremantle today in memory of the last known veteran of both world wars.

Claude Choules was Australia's oldest man when he died in a Perth nursing home in May at the age of 110.

British-born Mr. Choules served in the Royal Navy during World War I and witnessed the scuttling of the German fleet at Scapa Flow.

He was born in 1901 and had signed up for the Great War at just 14 years of age.

After the war he moved to Perth and joined the Royal Australian Navy, working as a demolition officer at Fremantle Harbour during World War II.

The 16,000-tonne HMAS CHOULES can carry 160 personnel and will be docked in the eastern states.

Its commanding officer, John Cowan, says the ship's name honours a great man.

"Like Claude Choules, it is not an exaggeration to say that all members of the ship's company, no matter where they were born or when they came to this country, are fully committed to serving Australia through the best years of their lives, now and into the future," he said.

"Our namesake's example of dedication, unselfishness and his sense of duty serves as a constant reminder to our obligation to honouring his legacy."

Mr. Choules's grandson Malcolm Edinger says his grandfather would have been honoured.

"He'd be saying I don't deserve it or he'd be very humbled definitely," he said.

"He was never a man that put himself out to be bigger or better than anyone else, so he'd be very humbled and I think he'd be greatly surprised actually."

HMAS CHOULES was formerly known as RFA LARGS BAY and served as a landing ship with Britain's Royal Fleet Auxiliary from 2006 until its sale earlier this year.

The RAN Seapower Centre's webpage for HMAS CHOULES with her full details is here:

www.navy.gov.au/HMAS_Choules



Disclaimer...

The publishers of the Magnetic Island RSL Sub Branch advise that the information contained in this publication comprises general statements and does not warrant or represent the accuracy, currency and completeness of any information or material

in this publication. The reader is advised and needs to be aware that such information may be incomplete or unable to be used in any specific situation. No action shall be made in reliance on that information without seeking prior expert professional

advice. To the extent permitted by law, the Magnetic Island RSL Sub Branch (including its employees and consultants) excludes all liability to any person for any consequences, including but not limited to all losses, damages, costs, expenses and