



Special Interest Articles

- President's Address
- New web site Format
- Online Event Calendar
- Remember In November Event

The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

A message from the President

Welcome to our revitalised website and newsletter. The new look is a real example of the work being done by the service and citizen auxiliary members to reinvigorate the sub-branch. We have embarked on a campaign to work closely with the Magnetic Island community to support our veterans, ex-service members and young people.

We will continue to make sure that the sacrifice of Australians in conflicts is appropriately commemorated; our first foray under the new executive committee is this Remembrance Day on Friday 11 November 2011 (auspiciously 11-11-11).

We have worked closely with the

Friday night market stall holders to restore Friday night at the RSL grounds as a popular family evening out. We have started fortnightly games nights on Thursday evenings to provide some more family entertainment on the Island. Our kitchen is under new management and by all counts the tucker on Fridays and Sundays are hitting the mark.

We are trying to raise our profile and venturing into social media; we are on FaceBook, so please follow us you'll find out "what's on" at the Memorial Hall. This on-line news will provide a link to a lot of useful information for veterans and ex-service members – for example links to news from DVA and ESO's.

In closing I'd like to reinforce that the sub-branch is a not-for-profit organisation. We are not an RSL "club"; we don't have pokies or social members to help fill the coffers. We rely on the generosity and patronage of our Magnetic Island community and our visitors.

Your support is valued and in fact cherished; through it we can raise the funds we need to support our community.

Thank you.

David

Website being given a bit of spit and a polish

"A special note of thanks to Peter Safe."

You might have noticed by now that the website has undergone quite a few changes; and it will undergo a lot more as time progresses.

A special note of thanks to Peter Safe for having established the infrastructure for the RSL website and all the effort he has put in to developing and maintaining it – Thank you Peter!

The new webmaster can be contacted via the administration office or via the website itself.

Comments can be submitted by using the comment boxes or by simply dropping us a letter. Snail mail STILL works!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.



Online RSL site Events Calendar

A new feature on the MI RSL website is the Events calendar.

Any updates made to it are immediately available on line, and it can be administered from anywhere!

It is anticipated that it will soon be updated with all our hall bookings as well.

Once this is fully implemented, anybody who wishes to make a

booking will be able to look for an open spot on the RSL calendar and then simply email or phone the admin office with their request, or simply use the online Contact Form that appears immediately below the calendar.

A useful feature of the calendar is that it provides the option of the viewer to print it directly to a printer at home!

It offers three printing options: a weekly; monthly or agenda style print-out.

Enjoy!!!

"Online Events Calendar now available from MI RSL website"



New Gallery Layout

The picture galleries have had a bit of a make-over as well.

We have arranged the pictures we do have in a thumbnail layout with an option to view the photographs individually or as a slide show.

We do have a request, though, there is a bit of a

gap in the information such as names, times and dates for previously submitted photos and their context.

Please feel free to let us know what information you might have and we will update the photo sets with such information.

If you have any old

photographs you would like to share with the community, please contact us; we can scan and restore the scans to mint condition and then publish them online.

“Free family Community Concert.”

Remember in November

You are invited to join the RSL Remember In November Free Community Family Concert, featuring the 1 RAR Band.

Come along, bring a blanket, a well stocked picnic basket and enjoy two hours worth of wonderful music in the

park.

Where?

The Thuringowa Sound Shell in the Dan Gleeson Gardens, Thuringowa

When?

Saturday 5th November 2011, 5.30pm – 7.30pm

RSL Remember In November
Free Community
Family Concert

Featuring
The 1 RAR Band

Thuringowa Sound Shell
Dan Gleeson Gardens
Thuringowa

Saturday 5th November 2011

5.30pm - 7.30pm



Remember In November

WWII ammunition to be rendered safe

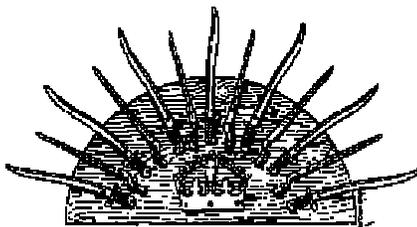
WWII ammunition to be rendered safe in PNG on joint mission.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, announced that more than 150 personnel from the Australian Defence Force, New Zealand Defence

Force and Papua New Guinea Defence Force will begin Operation RENDER SAFE, an explosives ordnance disposal activity aimed at unexploded World War Two ammunition in Papua New Guinea.

The ADF's enduring

peace-time mission, Operation RENDER SAFE 2011, will be conducted over the period 18 October – 4 November in Rabaul, PNG, and will involve the identification, assessment and rendering safe of unexploded ordnance.



“Graham Perrett urges all veterans to connect with their mates during Veterans’ Health Week.”

Veterans Urged To Strengthen Mental Health

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Warren Snowdon, joined Member for Moreton, Graham Perrett in urging all veterans to connect with their mates and consider their mental wellness during Veterans’ Health Week.

Monday, 24 October, kicks off Veterans’ Health Week which runs until Sunday 30 October 2011 and this year focuses on building on the strength of

the veteran community—mental wellness.

Mr. Snowdon met with veterans today at the Sunnybank RSL in Queensland and took the time to talk to them about the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

“Enjoying a healthy lifestyle is important for every Australian, but for many members of the veteran community, war

and conflict can have long lasting effects, so it is important they receive support to live a healthy and happy life.”

113 New Projects To Honour War Veterans

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, announced 113 new projects that will receive funding to honour Australian servicemen and women.

Mr Snowdon said Saluting Their Service grants worth \$257,853 will go towards projects which commemorate our wartime history and honour those who have served and who continue to serve Australia in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

Saluting Their Service grants provide several rounds of funding each year to help communities

build and maintain memorials, capture the wartime history of their towns and preserve memorabilia for future generations.

Since 2008, more than \$7 million has been provided to over 1800 commemorative projects.

Mr Snowdon encouraged community and ex-service organisations to apply for funding to support significant anniversaries of wartime events.

"Commemorative projects play a major role in educating all Australians both young and old, about our wartime heritage," he said.

"Saluting Their Service helps fund special events commemorating significant wartime anniversaries. This year it has assisted with funding for the 70th Anniversaries of Australian service in Greece and Crete during the Second World War and the 70th Anniversary of the commencement of the Siege of Tobruk.

"These projects ensure the contribution of our servicemen and women is remembered and their sacrifice is never forgotten."

"Saluting Their Service grants provide several rounds of funding each year."



NEW ANZAC CENTENARY ADVISORY BOARD ANNOUNCED

Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on the Centenary of Anzac, Warren Snowdon announced the appointment of the Anzac Centenary Advisory Board.

The high-quality board includes journalist and author, Peter FitzSimons, and business and community leader, Kathryn Greiner.

16 highly capable and professional Australians, along with 4 ex-officio members, have been selected to join Chair, Air

Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC AFC (Ret'd) on the Board.

The Board will progress the work of the National Commission on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary, which handed its recommendations to the Government earlier this year.

"We have established the Board to provide high-level, strategic advice to the Government." Mr Snowdon has asked the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table to support

the activities of the Board by actively contributing to the development of the Anzac Centenary Program.

Secretary Ian Campbell PSM will be one of 4 ex-officio members on the Board.

"The Board will progress the work of the National Commission on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary."



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HISTORIC WWII SPITFIRE ARRIVES IN AUSTRALIA

The Minister for Veterans Affairs, Warren Snowdon, has welcomed the arrival of an historic WWII Spitfire aircraft found in northern France in November 2010 to the RAAF Museum at Point Cook, for extensive conservation treatment.

The Spitfire aircraft was flown by Flight Lieutenant

Henry 'Lacy' Smith from Sydney, NSW, when it was shot down by anti-aircraft fire on 11 June 1944.

"The Spitfire MJ789 crashed into the River Orne, near Caen, in northern France, where it was recovered almost 70 years later," Mr. Snowdon

said.

"The wreckage of the aircraft will now undergo extensive conservation before being placed on display at the RAAF Museum at Point Cook, Victoria next year."

INDIGENOUS WAR SERVICE

NEW EXHIBITION TOUR
SHOWCASES
INDIGENOUS WAR
SERVICE

The stories of Indigenous men and women who have served Australia from the Boer War through to Afghanistan will be shared in a new travelling exhibition launched today by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon.

In Mildura, Mr. Snowdon

said the highly-acclaimed Shrine of Remembrance Indigenous Australians at war: from the Boer War to the present exhibition will help increase Australians' understanding of the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have played in our wartime history.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have served in all major wars, conflicts and peace operations since the Boer

War and a number have received medals and commendations for acts of bravery.

Our first Online Newsletter

Well, there you have it! All done and dusted!

It has been a great pleasure to bring you our online newsletter via the Magnetic Island RSL Sub Branch website.

All newsletters will be published online, saving costs and as well as making it widely accessible.

Newsletter will be published as PDF documents.

This allows anybody to read the newsletter online OR download it, or access past editions, whenever they wish.

Once downloaded, the document can be e-mailed and/or printed and shared with others.

To read the newsletter online, you will need to have

Adobe Reader installed on the computer that is being used to do so.

The Adobe Reader program can be easily found and downloaded by searching for "Adobe Reader" in your favourite internet browser.

We have included a link to the Adobe download site on the RSL website as well.

The challenge is now on for all to contribute interesting and relevant articles to the newsletter.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Townsville makes history books

By Alyce Maschio

On July 15, the Townsville RSL Sub Branch officially launched a book detailing nearly 90 years of history in the local community.

Taking more than 10 years to compile, A History of the Returned and Services League Townsville Sub Branch 1917-2000 was meticulously prepared by local author and professional historian, Dr Dorothy M. Gibson-Wilde, with her husband Mr Bruce C. Gibson-Wilde co-authoring the book.

Commissioned by the RSL to put the book together Dr Gibson-Wilde had to trawl through the National Archives, the Australian War Museum records and countless newspapers as a result of three fires destroying all the Sub Branches documents in 1966. In 1917, the first meeting of the Townsville Sub Branch took place, and by 1919 it had grown to a membership base of 500. However, during the Great Depression the Sub Branch numbers dwindled to 78. By 1933 it had recovered, partly thanks to the Women's Auxiliary, which was able to raise much needed funds in tough times.

Mr John Carey, RSL National President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Ret'd), Townsville RSL Sub Branch President Mr Rod McLeod AM with the authors Mr Bruce C Gibson-Wilde and Dr Dorothy M Gibson-Wilde

According to Townsville RSL Sub Branch President, Mr Rod McLeod AM the book covers all the military history within the region, from WWI to the year 2000, ending with the Somalian conflict.

"Our military history is a well documented and interesting read especially considering the early conflict between those who served and those who opposed those who served. This book also documents our change in attitude over the years to wars and conflicts," Mr McLeod said.

National President of the RSL, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Ret'd) made his first official trip to Townsville to launch the book.

A History of the Returned and Services League Townsville Sub Branch 1917-2000 is available for purchase from Townsville RSL for \$20, with all proceeds going to welfare and advocacy services.



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