

Southport RSL Sub Branch Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 3

September 2021



REMINDER
General Meeting
Sunday 19th September
10.30am
Bring your Partner

From the President's Desk

2021 AGM. It was very pleasing to have such a good turnout for our AGM on Sunday 13th June. The venue we were able to use was most appropriate for the occasion—the stage end of the Bowls Club bistro. The meeting went very smoothly and the questions asked and answered were interesting and informative.

There was one item that I should mention here and that is the winge I had regarding the lack of support that the Board gets from our members. There were three vacant positions as a result of our system of three-year terms for directors. Despite nomination forms being sent to all our members that have email addresses, there were only two people who put in a nomination. As a result, the position of Secretary was filled unopposed and one of the Director positions was filled unopposed. This meant that there were two vacant positions—one caused by the resignation of a Director some months ago, and the other for a rotational position. I immediately

spoke with one of our members and filled the three-year position.

Shortly after the meeting an email was sent out asking for expressions of interest in filling the one-year casual vacancy.

At the Board meeting held on the 14th July the four applications that had been received were presented and a decision was made to ask Warren Hulyer to fill the position of Director #3 until the 2022 AGM when that position is due for rotation.

Legal Issues It has been my practice to try and keep you, our members, as fully informed about the two legal actions that are currently before the courts. In the March issue of the Newsletter, I reported that when I attended the District Court in Brisbane for a hearing regarding our eviction, the Judge did not proceed with the case. However, the Judge did make a number of directions, one of which was a requirement for the two parties to undertake a mediation by the end of July. All attempts by our legal team to achieve the mediation by the stipulated date were met with excuses by the opposition.

The mediation was eventually set down for the 9th August and, in fact, actually took place on that day. The session lasted some six hours without coming to a solution. The Memorial Club has been adamant that there are no longer any rooms for the Sub-Branch to have an office in the building and that every square metre of the building is required in order to make money. A number of possible solutions were presented to them which were turned down. Likewise, a

proposal made by them was rejected by our legal team.

Despite the considerable efforts of the mediator, the gulf that exists between the two sides could not be lessened. At the end of the day our Barrister said "Looks like we're going to court". The day following the mediation saw a flurry of phone calls and emails trying to work out possible new strategies to continue the case.

Korean Veterans' Day. On Tuesday the 27th July 2021, I was able to attend the Korean Veterans' Day ceremony at the Korean War Memorial in Cascade Gardens. The day was perfect without a cloud in the sky and just a gentle breeze blowing. There was a great gathering of people commemorating the 68th anniversary of the signing of the armistice. I think the numbers that were there reflected on the fact that last year's ceremony had to be cancelled due to the covid pandemic.

Vietnam Veterans' Day. There were a number of Gold Coast District RSL's that conducted a ceremony for Vietnam Veterans' Day on the 18th August, some for the very first time. One of these was the ceremony held by the Burleigh Heads Sub-Branch and my wife Sandra and I were asked to represent the GC District President at the ceremony as he was going to the ceremony being held at the Currumbin RSL.



It was a grey, overcast day, but the predicted showers did not eventuate. The ceremony not only commemorated the Vietnam Veterans, but all the conflicts from the Pacific region. There were a number of wreath layers that were from local, state and federal politics. Following the ceremony, invited guests were treated to a nice lunch at the Burleigh Heads Bowls Club.

An ANZAC Poem contribution by Ken Orr

25 April 2015

By an unknown Kiwi poet

They came from field and factory,
from desk and fishing fleet,
From shearing shed and foundry,
from hill and plain and street.

Kin of the old sea rovers,
sons of that stubborn strain,
That swallowed all invasions,
Saxon and Norse and Dane.

Men of the far young countries,
new-won by their fathers' toil,
Taut from an endless striving,
sons of the sea and the soil.

Little they knew of warfare,
their lesson was all to learn,
These men of the Golden Wattle,
these lads of the Silver Fern.

The hush of a chill spring morning,
the race to the ragged beach,
The hail of the searing shrapnel,
and the big shells' angry screech.

Up and up to the ridges,
through the bullet-belching brush,
To the hell of a fire-girt dawning
and the flame-edged Turkish rush.

The soft Levantine breezes
steal o'er the storied spot.

The flanks of Achi Baba,
the red-stained Daisy Plot.

The gullies east of Anzac,
the slopes of Sari Bair,

Are silent now;

yet ever we honour those who're there.

Their names shall live forever,
in the Halls of Memory,

They gave their lives as ransom,
that we who live be free.

They bought us peace and freedom,
nor grudged the utmost price,
God grant that we prove worthy
of their great sacrifice.

Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked.

So remember..Don't Sing!

History of the Naval Police (or Protecting the Senior Service) Part 1 of 4

By Peter Boyes OAM



As our illustrious President pointed out, this year is the 100th anniversary of the formation of the RAAF. In order to provide some balance for his inevitable 'love fest' for the RAAF, I offer this history of the Naval Police with whom I was

proud to have served over 20 years.

This history was originally written by Commander Peter Mangan RAN. CMDR Mangan served in the Naval Police since 1971 when he joined as a Constable in the then called Naval Dockyard Police. He rose through the ranks to officer rank and was the last officer to achieve the rank of Superintendent Naval Police. I have edited this brief history from CMDR Mangan's paper.



The rank structure of the Naval Police during my service ranged from Constable to Chief Superintendent. Here is a photograph of a rank board that was displayed at Naval Police HQ at Garden Island 1986. Whereas RAN ratings and officers wear gold rank insignia, Naval Police wore silver. The Police badge was a simple round silver badge with silver gilding with a St James Crown with the words Naval Police encircling an Admiralty Anchor, silver on navy blue. It was styled similarly to the NSW Police badge in use at that time.

Introduction

The formation of the Naval Police occurred on the 1st July 1913, when the Royal Naval establishments in the Sydney area were handed over to the Royal Australian Navy.

The branch was at that time known as the Naval Dockyard Police. It had been established to relieve the Royal Marine Light Infantry members who had carried out the guarding and policing duties at Garden Island, Spectacle Island and the Royal Edward Victualling Yard since 1867. Since the Commonwealth Government had acquired the Cockatoo Island Dockyard from the NSW Government on 31st January 1913, it was also decided to have Naval Dockyard Police take over from the six civilian Special Constables who had been employed by the NSW Public Works Department.

Although it had been decided, as early as 18th May 1911, to form a 'Special Police Force' of the Permanent Naval Forces to relieve the Royal Marines, it was not until 8th May 1913 that the Minister for Defence, Senator PEARCE, approved the formation of the 'Naval Police Force' with a complement of forty members.

That's all from me for now. Look after yourself and those you love.

Yours Aye,

Peter Boyes OAM.

Please note:

All photographs provided in this article were obtained from public and open-sourced photographs from DoD, Military and Naval Police websites.

**For every problem
there is a solution that is
simple, neat, and Wrong!**

PTSD and Migraines my recent journey (Part 1 of 2) *by Peter Boyes OAM*

I have been suffering chronic migraines and PTSD for many years and have been fortunate to receive a medical procedure that may help both my migraines and PTSD. After speaking with our Sub Branch's First Lady and fellow Director, Sandy Riebeling, at a Quarterly Meeting, it was suggested that an article may offer some insight and new avenues of possible treatment for veterans suffering similar conditions as me. I must stress that this article is simply a narrative of my experiences. The procedures undertaken were particular for my condition alone. Every individual's medical issues vary that may require different procedures. Whether the procedure works for me or not is absolutely no guarantee that it is the 'silver bullet' for everyone. Due to the size of this article, it is necessary to split it into 2 separate pieces in order that our Editor may fit it into a newsletter.

A quick background before I get into this article. I served in the RAN, Naval Police and Ready Reserve for 24 years. During my service, I was unfortunate enough to find myself in several life-threatening and confronting situations that culminated in body counts. I am unsure whether any singular event was the cause of my PTSD or simply a culmination of events that ultimately broke the camel's back, in this case, my brain.

After discharge, I was diagnosed by a DVA psychiatrist with the usual combination of PTSD, anxiety, depression, alcoholism and so on and on and on... However, it was also determined that I was suffering ongoing severe and debilitating migraines that would continue for months without relief. A myriad of specialists gave them names such as 'Horton's Syndrome', cluster headaches, hemicrania continua and the standard chronic migraine. It was never definitely correlated that the PTSD and migraines were connected. It was thought they simply happened around the same time. Regardless, I have been suffering from both life changing conditions since 1992.

In around 2006, I was sent to a Pain Specialist in Toowoomba who recommended a neural stimulator implanted into my sub-occipital

(back of skull) and supra-orbital (running across top of eyebrows) that may offer relief. So I went for it, I literally had nothing to lose in my opinion. This involved a battery being implanted into my left chest and wires up and into my left neck, branching off up my left ear and around to the base of my skull. The stimulators were then operated remotely to pulse and stimulate the muscles to offset the pain. Trust me when I say, it was a significantly painful procedure and I felt like a skewered chook. But, after some weeks of healing, the doctor turned it on and it actually worked.

In order for the wires to run to my head, the surgeon needed to put in a coiled loop to allow for head movement. This involved securing the coiled wire to a muscle above my left collar bone. Within a few weeks, these wires started rubbing and wearing through the skin resulting in a major infection. With a swollen neck the size of a football the doctor ordered emergency surgery to remove the whole device and wiring. Again, more pain.

That's all from me for now. Look after yourself and those you love.

Yours Aye,

Peter Boyes OAM.

Please note:

All photographs provided in this article were obtained from public and open-sourced photographs.



9 Squadron RAAF

Contribution by John Riebeling



On 10th August 1967 two 9 Squadron RAAF UH-1B 'Hueys' were assigned to provide 'insertion' of an SAS long range reconnaissance patrol approximately fifteen minutes from the squadron's base at Nui Dat. Soon after delivery at the landing zone (LZ) the patrol commander radioed for an immediate retrieval. The small squad had come under intense gunfire from a large force of North Vietnamese Army troops.

The helicopters were vectored to a nearby clearing in order to perform a 'hot' extraction, i.e. under enemy fire. Upon arrival the lead helicopter advised that the situation was worsening. Arriving in the second RAAF helicopter, P/O Mick Haxell, P/O Byrnes, LAC McCreadie and LAC Malcolm agreed to perform the retrieval. The crew successfully rescued the troops while Haxell also had to contend with very difficult flying conditions and the subsequently heavily loaded helicopter, all while under automatic weapon fire from the enemy. For his combat actions and other flying duties with 9 Squadron he would be awarded the DFC and later command the unit.

Veterans' Support Centre (VSC)

Our move to the Bowls Club has not meant our support for Veterans has changed. Our VSC staff are co-located with our secretary's office. Although our Advocates are not in the office every day, they often continue their work at home. It is therefore prudent to contact the secretary to make an appointment.

Advocates Needed

Phone: 0407 481 695

114 Mobile Control and Reporting Unit 114MCRU

Contribution by John Riebeling



No. 114 Mobile Control and Reporting Unit was formed as No. 14 (Mobile) Fighter Sector Headquarters at Camden, New South Wales, on 23 May 1943, under the command of Wing Commander Gordon Steege. The following month it deployed to Goodenough Island in New Guinea as part of No. 71 (Fighter) Wing, and became operational on 27 June. It controlled two radar stations, No. 401 of the US Army Signal Corps and No. 305 of the RAAF. On 8 August it moved to Kiriwinan, under the aegis of No. 73 (Fighter) Wing. Steege relinquished command on 1 October to take charge of No. 73 Wing.

No. 114 MCRU deployed to Malaya in 1958, becoming operational at RAAF Base Butterworth on 19 August. It took over responsibility for aerial surveillance and ground-controlled interception from the Royal Air Force's No. 487 Signals Unit on 1 December. From Butterworth, No. 114 MCRU directed the Sabre fighters of Nos. 3 and 77 Squadrons and the Canberra bombers of No. 2 Squadron in the last years of the Malayan Emergency. It also sent controllers on attachment to Ubon Air Base in Thailand, where No. 79 Squadron was based from 1962. On 3 September 1964, the unit went on to a 24-hour operational footing to support the Sidewinder-armed Sabres of Nos. 3 and 77 Squadrons during the *Konfrontasi* between Indonesia and Malaysia, though no combat ensued. *Konfrontasi* having been declared over in August 1966, No. 114 MCRU transferred its responsibilities to RAF Western Hill on 22 September, and disbanded at Butterworth on 31 October.

No. 114 MCRU was presented with a Squadron Standard on 23 May 1990, becoming the only non-flying unit in the Air Force to receive such an honour. The standard displays battle honours for the Pacific (1943–45), New Britain (1943), New Guinea (1943–44) and Borneo (1945).

Hot Rain

by Claude Palmer

1st Australian Task Force, Nui Dat, Vietnam, circa July 1969. US 155 mm Artillery firing 45kg High Explosive shells during heavy rainfall over the 106 Field Workshop RAEME, but explosions directly over Vehicle Platoon.



US Army 155mm Howitzer

Officer Commanding at desk on phone to check with Task Force HQ when Craftsman appears at his door holding a pair of pliers gripping a smoking piece of shrapnel, which was unceremoniously deposited on OC's desk, with words to effect: *'One thing to be shot at by the VC, but I'm bugged if I'll cop this from the Yanks!'* By then, Task Force HQ had answered phone, got message *'Stop 155 mm Fire Mission-premature detonations'*, which request was promptly actioned. The density of the rainwater was detonating the projectile fuses!

Reminded by our colleague Craig Thomas' even worse July experience with fabrication steel scrap falling from high rise construction in Surfers' Paradise!

First professional soccer player vaccinated



DVA Booklet

We have recently obtained a quantity of the DVA booklet entitled "Planning Ahead". This booklet gives a comprehensive guide to us older members in preparing for the inevitable. We strongly recommend that all members obtain a copy of this publication.



Planning Ahead

A GUIDE TO PUTTING YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER
PREPARING FOR AND COPING WITH BEREAVEMENT



This booklet is downloadable from DVA. The download comes in the form of a "Kit" which has additional documents.



Engaging the Children and Grandchildren of Our Members

Advancing Veterans Families Youth Leadership Opportunities - Our Sub-Branch and Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport

As a Sub-Branch director, Kevin Lloyd-Thomas has the responsibility for the RSL Queensland Schools' Education Programs, and coordination of presentations to chosen schools in regard to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

Kevin is also a director of the Broadwater Southport Rotary Club and has responsibility for Youth Services.

Many of our members know the Sub-Branch and this Rotary Club have a very close and substantial working relationship, most particularly in regard to the Kokoda Beach Classic, normally held in September each year, but sadly because of COVID, now cancelled for the second year in a row.

Our sub-branch provides physical support on the day, as well as providing sponsorship which is very much appreciated.

On an annual basis, Rotary runs a number of youth development programs. The Broadwater Southport Club sponsors young men and women into these programs, and Kevin, with the support of his Club, is keen to determine how we, as a Sub-Branch, could bring these opportunities to the children and grandchildren of members of the Sub-Branch.

To illustrate the kinds of programs on offer, the most recent was the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment, RYPEN, a three-day live-in program focussed on developing and honing leadership skills and building relationships. Kevin's club sponsored three young female year 11 & 12 students to the program at no cost to the participants, at \$400 per student.

In January, 2022, there are two programs available:

Rotary Youth Transition Seminar

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

The National Youth Science Forum is another project where the Rotary club sponsors an entrant at \$1,900 each.

These young people are the leaders of tomorrow, and the children of veterans, in particular, have

family experience which makes them ideal candidates to be those very leaders.

We are keen to determine the level of interest of Sub-Branch members to have their children or grandchildren be given the opportunity to participate in these programs.

To this end, if, as a Sub-Branch member, you want to know more about these programs, please email secretary@southport.rslqld.net.au, attention Kevin Lloyd-Thomas. Please provide an email address and phone contact details in the body of the email so Kevin can contact you directly.

Kevin will then provide you with details of the Rotary programs and links to the Rotary website.

He is also exploring potential fundraising activities to enable even more students to be sponsored onto these programs.

Veterans' Morning Teas

All members, their carers, partners and volunteers are welcome to come to our Veterans' Morning Teas. They are held at the Southport Bowls Club every third Wednesday of the month, commencing at 10:00 am. Put these dates on your calendar:

15 September
20 October

17 November
15 December

Poppy Service



Although it is not a pleasant thing to talk about, I would like to remind all of our readers, especially those that are looking after our aging and frail veterans, that when the time comes, the Sub-Branch offers a service that goes a long way to honouring the service that he or she has given to our country by putting on the uniform of our Defence Forces.

Please contact the Sub-Branch office for any further information

Sabah Borneo by Warren Hulyer part 1



The Borneo/Indonesian Confrontation, was a turning point for National Service in Australia. Not a lot of media covered it, as Vietnam was hotting up with conscripts being deployed, despite the government of the day, saying “NO CONSCRIPTS TO VIETNAM”.

However, that is all water under the bridge now. At the time, Borneo rolled on with Australian Troops rotating through a window of six-to-nine-month service, mostly RAE, as they needed tradesman to build more accommodation, for the forward camps, water points with purification units running, power generator and helipads and in some cases, assault boats.



Arriving in Borneo

Whilst these activities were going on in forward camps accessed by only walking or helicopters, the swamp dozers and heavy machinery was about 20 Km to our rear. Local wildlife was everywhere, from Spider Monkeys to snakes & Orangutans.

The Orangutans were a pest as they would come into our camp of a night and get into our rubbish bins and scare the daylights out of our medic, who slept in the RAP on his own. As we

were not allowed to shoot them, we decided to throw rocks at them to scare them off. That worked at first, but when the rocks came back faster than we could throw them, we thought it best to stop that deterrent.



Troop Train to Tenom

Borneo was an excellent experience for most of us until we were told that the Confrontation was over and that part of the agreement was that all foreign troops be out of Sabah within 48 hours.

Current Board Members

- John Riebeling – **President**
- Ken Orr – **Deputy President**
- Michael Burg – **Treasurer**
- Rodney Tagg – **Secretary**
- Claude Palmer – **Director #1 & Advocate**
- Sandra Riebeling – **Director #2**
- Warren Hulyer – **Director #3**
- Kevin Lloyd-Thomas – **Director #4**
- Peter Boyes OAM – **Director #5**

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