

Southport RSL Sub Branch Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 4

November 2023



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

From the President's Desk

Appeal Judgement. It gave me great pleasure when we sent out the Newsletter in August, to be able to tell you all that our case regarding our eviction from the Memorial Club, that we won and subsequently had an appeal against the outcome, had resulted in the appeal being dismissed with costs awarded against the Memorial Club.

Then came the news from our lawyers that the Memorial Club were considering launching an appeal to the High Court of Australia. There is a finite time when such an appeal can be lodged and the Memorial Club lawyers left it until the second last day before lodging their request. As it turned out, their documentation had some technical errors in it and the Registrar of the High Court requested a re-submission. Without going into detail, this request was not complied with until there was communication regarding it. Eventually the submission—a request to launch an appeal was finally submitted. As to

whether the request is granted will not be known for some time.

Our legal team had re-engaged the barrister to look at this matter and has been actively seeking to have the High Court appeal denied.

Loan Default. Shortly after putting the last newsletter to bed, I had several conversations with John Porter, the principal lawyer at the firm handling all our legal issues. He had a few things that he wanted me to know. First was his advice that the lawyer who was primarily involved in preparing our case for the “loan default” had been forced to resign due to ill health. That, as far as I was concerned, was a big blow to our case.

Secondly, Mr Porter informed me that he had acquired the services of a new lawyer who he had great confidence in being able to progress our case.

I received some emails from our new lawyer, a lady, who came across as someone who knew her job and had taken on our case with enthusiasm. I was asked to meet with her and Mr Porter and drove to Mr Porter’s house in Wavell Heights. The meeting lasted some 2½ hours and covered both the Eviction and Loan Default cases. I came away from there feeling very confident that we had a good team on the case with John Porter taking a more active role in all our cases.

We have now engaged a new junior barrister to help with the preparations for the case to go to court. We are still a long way from a court appearance and I have been informed that the

case might not get there until the middle of next year

Quarterly General Meeting. Our scheduled Quarterly General Meeting was held Sunday 20 August. The meeting took place in the top floor of the Bowls Club. Attendance was not as good as we would have liked but those that did come were very supportive of the directions the board is taking the Sub-Branch. The meeting only took forty minutes to get through all the reports and general business and was followed by some enjoyable socialising with cold drinks and a few refreshments. It is during this socialising time that a lot of good ideas are exchanged.

The Bowls Club. As you all should know, we have a License Agreement to occupy the top floor of the Southport Bowls Club and had plans to make this a permanent location for the Sub Branch by carrying out the construction of offices and an extensive refurbishment of the entire area. There were two things that had to occur before that project could progress.

First, we needed to get a new License Agreement drawn up and signed which would give us options to extend the License Agreement. There were several meetings held to try and get this new agreement drafted and signed. In each one of those meeting agreements were reached which would have resolved our length of tenure nicely but were not carried through. It got to the stage that a new document was drafted and signed by the Sub Branch to be taken to the Bowls Club board for ratification and signing. That was when the delays came and no signing of the agreement.

As of the time of this newsletter's publication, no signed License Agreement has been received. The Bowls Club board has had several meetings to discuss and ratify the agreement but for some obscure reason they have not seen fit to give us the requested new agreement.

In fact, they have sent us a letter stating they would not renew our current License Agreement when it expires in June next year. They have offered the Sub Branch an alternative in the form of us moving from the top floor and taking up two office spaces on the ground floor. They would then give us a License Agreement that would have a three-year term followed by an optional further three-years. There are two things that they, the Bowls Club, have not considered.

First, is the reason we need the top floor space. We have a considerable amount of memorabilia that is currently in storage costing us \$1,100 per month. We need the space so that we can take the memorabilia from storage and put it on display.

Second, is the fact that our current License Agreement has an end date of June 2026. This is a date they don't seem to be able to read on their copy of the agreement.

Second, we had our plans drawn up for the fit out and presented them to a certifier who would give the final check before submitting to the GCCC. That is when we struck our second and arguably most significant road block. Our certifier discovered that the floor area of the Club exceeded 500m² and as a result, did not comply with the current fire regulations—there was a need for a fire hydrant to be at the entrance to the property. All attempts on our part to resolve this problem met with a brick wall—we got nowhere with it.

In desperation I requested a meeting with Rob Molhoek MP, our local State Member and on Wednesday 20 September, that meeting took place with a commitment to investigate the matter of the fire compliance. Several days later we received an email which basically said the GCCC could not afford to install the required fire hydrant.

There are still a few paths we can take to try and resolve the issue of the fire compliance and we will carefully consider which way to go before taking any action.



**IT'S BETTER TO
GROW OLD WITH
A SENSE OF
HUMOR THAN
TO GROW OLD
WITH NO SENSE
AT ALL**

The Battle of Milne Bay

81st Anniversary

The Battle of Milne Bay (25 August – 7 September 1942), also known as Operation RE or the Battle of Rabi (ラビの戦い) by the Japanese, was a battle of the Pacific campaign of World War II. Japanese marines, known as Kaigun Tokubetsu Rikusentai (Special Naval Landing Forces), with two small tanks attacked the Allied airfields at Milne Bay that had been established on the eastern tip of New Guinea. Due to poor intelligence work, the Japanese miscalculated the size of the predominantly Australian garrison and, believing that the airfields were defended by only two or three companies, initially landed a force roughly equivalent in size to one battalion on 25 August 1942. The Allies, forewarned by intelligence from Ultra, had heavily reinforced the garrison.



Troops at Milne Bay

Despite suffering a significant setback at the outset, when part of their small invasion force had its landing craft destroyed by Royal Australian Air Force aircraft as they attempted to land on the coast behind the Australian defenders, the Japanese quickly pushed inland and began their advance towards the airfields. Heavy fighting followed as they encountered the Australian Militia troops that formed the first line of defence. These troops were steadily pushed back, but the Australians brought forward veteran Second Australian Imperial Force units that the Japanese had not expected. Allied air superiority helped tip the balance, providing close support to troops in combat and targeting Japanese logistics. Finding themselves heavily outnumbered, lacking

supplies and suffering heavy casualties, the Japanese withdrew their forces, with fighting coming to an end on 7 September 1942.

The battle is often described as the first major battle of the war in the Pacific in which Allied troops decisively defeated Japanese land forces. Although Japanese land forces had experienced local setbacks elsewhere in the Pacific earlier in the war, unlike at Milne Bay, these earlier actions had not forced them to withdraw completely and abandon their strategic objective. Nor did they have such a profound impact upon the thoughts and perceptions of the Allies towards the Japanese, and their prospects for victory. Milne Bay showed the limits of Japanese capability to expand using relatively small forces in the face of increasingly larger Allied troop concentrations and command of the air. As a result of the battle, Allied morale was boosted and Milne Bay was developed into a major Allied base, which was used to mount subsequent operations in the region.

2 Squadron in South Vietnam



**2 Squadron Canberra
South Vietnam**

During the Vietnam War, eight Royal Australian Air Force Canberras from No.2 Squadron operated under a memorandum of understanding between the RAAF and the USAF, operating from Phan Rang Air Base in central South Vietnam, attached for the duration to the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing of the United States Air Force. These aircraft would provide crucial additional strike support for US units and were requested because of the aircraft's endurance, bombing accuracy and their ability to operate below the notoriously low cloud bases which often affected this region, if required.

The first RAAF Canberra arrived at Phan Rang on 16th April 1967 having made the two-hour transit flight from its base at Butterworth in Malaysia and the eight allocated aircraft would go on to serve with distinction during a four-year period operating in support of the Vietnam War. With both RAAF air and ground crews operating at maximum efficiency, the Australian Canberras posted an impressive serviceability rate of 97%, but perhaps even more impressive than this, despite only flying 6% of the USAF 35th TFW's operational sorties during the conflict, they managed to inflict 16% of the damage inflicted.

By the time No.2 Squadron returned to Australia in 1971, they had become the final operational Canberra unit in the RAAF, but returned with a proud record of both serviceability and operational effectiveness throughout their deployment.

The Long Walk



Rick McCarthy

On Thursday 17th August, Rick McCarty started his long walk from Enoggera Barracks to Bowral in NSW to raise awareness for the plight of veterans suffering from PTSD. He reached our Sub-Branch on Saturday 19th August and parked his support vehicles in the Bowls Club carpark. That night the Rick and his team were guests of the Sub-Branch at a dinner at the Southport Yacht Club.

When I die, I want my last words to be, "I left a million dollars under the....."

Veterans' Health Week

Every year DVA sponsors a week of functions promoting the health and wellbeing of all serving and ex-serving members of the ADF. DVA stipulate the week that this event takes place each year. They also give an easily accessed grant for those organisations that hold events during the week. We have been fortunate, most years, to have the week coincide with our regular morning tea function.

This year that did not happen. We decided to bring our morning tea forward by one week so that we could qualify for the grant.

So, this year our veteran health week function took place on 11 October. Despite our attempts to advertise this change to our morning tea day, we were disappointed with the turnout.

Those that did attend found the day to be both entertaining and informative. We had a very nice spread of "healthy" food provided by the staff of the Bowls Club and there were two organisations represented who gave out excellent information on keeping health and mobile.

HMAS Tobruk Middle East Deployment

By Keith Bazley

I thought it was a timely reminder to provide this article with all the dramas over in the Middle East currently. I was part of the commissioning crew for Tobruk and was part of the crew that went to Israel.

Following the ceasefire that ended hostilities in the 1973 Arab -Israeli War the UN established a peacekeeping force in the Sinai. This force was to monitor the buffer zone between Egyptian and Israeli forces and to supervise the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai. This was between 1973-79

A Treaty of peace was eventually signed by both parties in March 1979. Peace Keepers remained until May 1981 before it was discontinued.

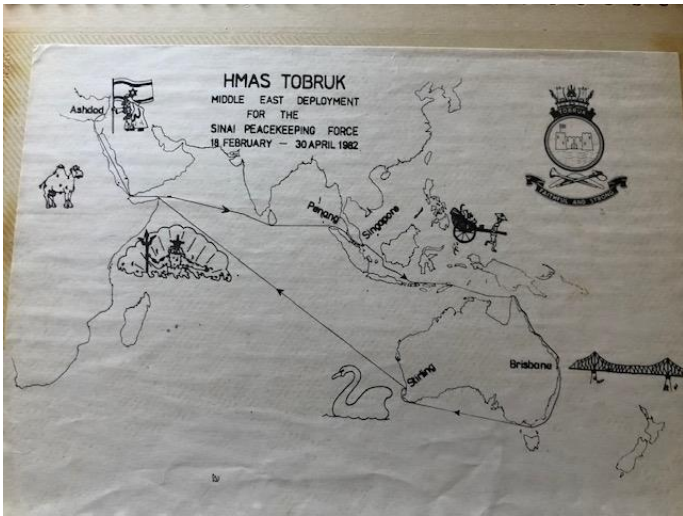
As a result, the US set up a peacekeeping organisation external to the UN. On 3 August 1981 a protocol to the Peace Treaty was signed thus establishing the Multinational Force of Observers (MFO).

Following the establishment of the MFO the Australian and NZ governments decided on the

12 Oct 1981 to provide aviation forces in support of the MFO.

The RAAF was tasked with forming the 110-strong Australian contingent with RAN members and additional Army personnel served with the Aust Force making it one of the first Tri-Service peace-keeping deployments.

The RAN's first involvement in this operation was the delivery of the initial eight UH-1H Iroquois helicopters, eight ISO containers of stores, equipment, and several MFO personnel.



An RAAF Iroquois in its United Nations livery being unloaded at Ashdod.

The Navy's heavy lift Ship HMAS Tobruk embarked the helicopters and equipment in Brisbane and sailed on the 18 February 1982 bound for the Middle East. Tobruk transited the Suez Canal and arrived at the Israeli port of Ashdod, 40 kms south of Tel Aviv, on the 19 March 1982. The unloading was completed by the 23rd and Tobruk sailed that day, returning to Australia via Malaysia and Singapore arriving

back in her home port of Brisbane on 30 April 1982.

BANKING FOR OLD PEOPLE

Shown below, is an actual letter that was sent to a bank by an 86-year-old woman. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in The Times.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month.

By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it.

I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years.

You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally answer your telephone calls and letters, --- when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person.

My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an OFFENCE under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact which I require your chosen employee to complete.

I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.

Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public figure, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets, and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, at MY convenience, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me.

I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service.

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further.

When you call me, press buttons as follows:

IMMEDIATELY AFTER DIALLING, PRESS THE STAR () BUTTON FOR ENGLISH*

- #1. To make an appointment to see me*
- #2. To query a missing payment.*
- #3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.*
- #4 To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.*
- #5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.*
- #6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.*
- #7. To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated to you at a later date to that Authorised Contact mentioned earlier.*
- #8. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 to 9*
- #9. To make a general complaint or inquiry.*

The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service.

While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous New Year?

Your Humble Client

PS. And remember: Don't make old people mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to piss us off.

Membership Renewal

Most of our members are **life subscribers** and as such, do not have to pay annual membership fees. There are still some members who choose to renew their membership each year. For these few, we ask that you use EFT to pay your fee.

BSB: 124 022

Account No.: 23303576

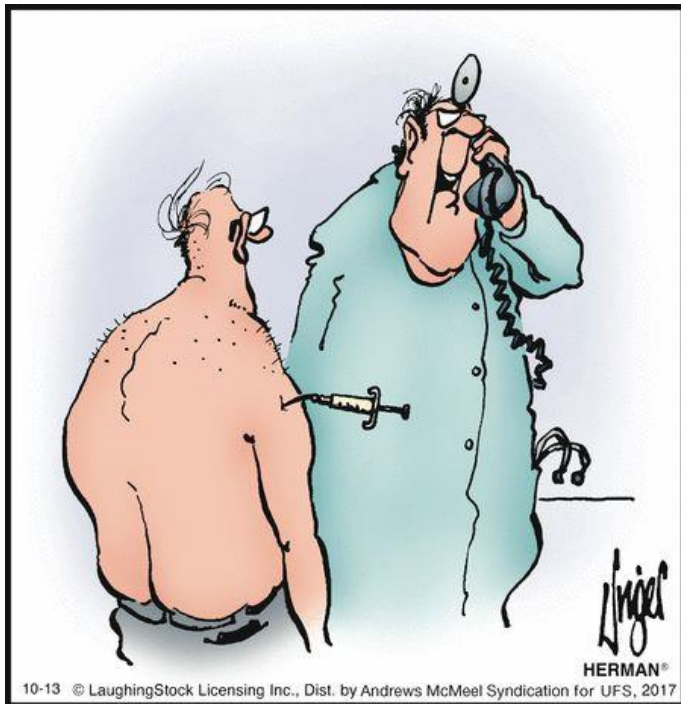
Reference: Your RSL Membership Number

Fees are due by 31 January 2024

HMAS Maryborough Visits the Gold Coast



Some months ago, we saw the first visit of a Navy ship to the Gold Coast for many years. The ship was made open to the public and thousands took the opportunity to have a guided look through the ship. One of these was my grandson, Hayden, and when I asked what he liked most about his visit, his answer was; "The Guns". The typical answer from an eleven-year-old boy.



**“I’d better go now, Snookums.
I’m with a patient.”**



**“The police towed away the car,
so I bought another one.”**

**I've reached an age where my
train of thought often leaves the
station without me.**

Visit to RAAF Base Amberley

By Ken Orr

I was lucky enough to be invited, by way of my son, to join the Australian Industry & Defence Network (AIDN) for a site visit to RAAF Base Amberley. After completing the advance security and site induction checks, Jeremy and I joined a bus load of other AIDN members eagerly anticipating a back of scenes tour.

The Senior Australian Defence Force Officer (SADFO) kindly joined us for the tour, self-dubbed the “Mayor of Amberley”, and a very convivial sort of bloke. While making our way to our first destination I started to become aware of the size of the base, it certainly is a town within itself. It took a while just to drive from the current to the original main gates!

Our first stop was the theatre at the Astra Complex, where the SADFO was joined by the Group Captain responsible for the electronic warfare group – specifically the EA-18G Growler’s – and the technical lead from Boeing, who is formerly RAAF. The SADFO firstly spoke about the history of the Base, with Amberley being Defence’s largest operational air base. Established in 1940 the base now has a compliment of 8000, with 1000 living onsite. One interesting fact for a bit of a laugh, the base boasts a 49.5m pool. Why not 50m, you may ask? Any 50m pool much be available to the public for use!



We learned more about the background of the F-111 Aardvark, which provided the RAAF with one of the world’s greatest long-range strike aircraft from December 1968 to 2010. A plane that very much still holds a dear place in the

RAAF heart at Amberley. We heard of the background of the EA-18G Growler, and its difference from the F/A-18F Super Hornet, being just the attack features, otherwise they are the same aircraft. The close relationship between the RAAF and Boeing was very obvious, and we heard of a significant technical advancement to the Growler which was Australian pioneered. An open discussion ended the session, and then a viewing of some of the historical storyboards within the Complex.

We moved on to lunch at the Combined Mess Facility, a bit fancier than in my day, but still brought back memories. For my Army and Navy colleagues – contrary to popular rumour, I can confirm that there were not white tablecloths and silver service in the mess!! I was a bit disappointed, actually...haha.

Following lunch moved on to the RAAF Base Amberley Heritage Centre, whose extensive and very interesting collection is housed over five hangars. Well worth a visit, and they are open to the public by appointment 9am – 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the third Sunday of each month. While there we dashed outside a few times to watch the Super Hornets and C-17A Globemaster's taking off and landing close by.



We finished with a visit into a controlled area for an up-close look at one of the Growlers, and to speak with two of the pilots and a maintenance crew member. No phones or smart devices allowed, all had to be left on the bus. We spent around three quarters of an hour with the Growler team and only the odd question was left unanswered due to security concerns. And yes, we do (unfortunately) now know how they go to the toilet mid-flight!



If interested, I would encourage you to visit the Heritage Centre, there is something of interest there for everyone. Overall, I was very impressed by the open welcome that we received and lengths that the SADFO and Amberley team went to in hosting us. The bonus was that it was a great father & son day out together as well.

Current Board Members

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| John Riebeling | President |
| Ken Orr | Deputy President |
| Vacant | Treasurer |
| Michael Burg | Secretary |
| Claude Palmer | Director 1 |
| Sandra Riebeling | Director 2 |
| Steve Bloxham OAM | Director 3 |
| Kevin Lloyd-Thomas | Director 4 |
| Craig Thomas | Director 5 |
| Keith Bazley | Director 6 |

Southport RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
Corner Marine Parade & Queen Street
PO Box 31
SOUTHPORT BC QLD 4215
T 0484 280 750
E secretary@southport.rslqld.net.au
W www.southport.rsl.org

Editor: John Riebeling
Contributors: Keith Bazley
 Ken Orr

Sponsors: Ms **Angie Bell MP**, Federal Member for Moncrieff (**Printing**)
 Mr **Rob Molhoek MP**, State Member for Southport (**Mail**)