

## Clayton RSL Sub-Branch “Communicator”

FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK “ANZAC EDITION” March/April 2011)

Well hello again, I start this communication on a sad note, as many of you would be aware just prior to our AGM recently our **Vice president Keith Leake** passed away suddenly. Keith had been with our Sub-Branch for many, many years (**He was a foundation member**) a very proud member at that, he was a **life Member and a Meritorious Service Medal holder** the highest award offered by the RSL, as well as a **Hall of Fame recipient**. Yes; he had filled over the years many positions on the Committee from committee member through to President. He was always there to help and a great stalwart for new comers moving onto committee such as my self, he was always pleased to impart his knowledge. Keith was initially a CMF soldier and was called up in 1941 and discharged in 1946. (The year Clayton RSL was founded)

He was the **BINGO man** and very proud of his achievements over the years with the **Bingo sessions being held Tuesdays & Saturdays**. He was also a Life member with the Clayton football club as well as being involved with several other sporting groups in the Clayton area. **Clayton was Keith’s Life**. He will be missed by many of us and as in my case being only active with the Sub-Branch for 3 years (Although a Service member since 1981) I quickly learnt that his knowledge and history of Clayton RSL and his considered support would one day go missing and sadly this is the time. Over the past 2 years for me as Secretary when we may have had a difficult situation occurring (there has been many of those) and I was not sure how to handle it from an RSL point of view, Keith was always there with advice and if back ground was needed on various aspects of our concerns from years gone by you could always depend on Keith to come up with information to help us to get on with the job ahead. My word Keith will be missed at Clayton his funeral was held on Wednesday the 23rd March at 11.45am in the Blair Chapel at Springvale and many of our members were in attendance. A wake was held at the Sub-Branch to Honour Keith (**In the Keith Leake Sports Bar**) and many stories were told of his time with us. Our condolences are certainly with his family at this difficult time. **R.I.P Keith you were a well respected and true digger and always there for your mates. “Lest we forget”**

I have also just been informed that Ernie (Cuddles) Huggins is in the Victorian Rehabilitation Hospital 499 Springvale Road Glen Waverley in the **“Jacaranda Ward room 44”**, it is at the rear of the building (Enter from Springvale Road) and parking is plentiful there. Ernie has suffered a slight stroke but looks pretty good. Sandra & I visited him recently and he is as bright as a button and we couldn’t shut him up he could talk the leg of a Rhinoceros but is missing his Ale or two and would like to see some of his mates to talk about old times. He looks like being there until around the 6<sup>th</sup> April at the moment. Ernie is having Physio each day at around 11.30am. There is no restriction on visiting hours.

Well the AGM is now past us for 2011 and to those who took the time to attend and participate we thank you for your involvement. The nominations were from:-

**Ray Scott JP** for President, **Ron Camillo** for Vice President, **Bruce Williams** Secretary & **David Williamson** Committee Member. In addition to this as mentioned and in accordance with the By-Laws, the committee invited **Ian (Sandy) Sandford** onto the committee. And as no other nominations were received they were all dually elected.

Those members not due for re-election were our Treasurer **Aranka Illia** and Welfare Officer **Ann Coram**, making a committee of **7 members, in total**.

**To David Catchpool** who hasn't been well through out the past year has not re-nominated, he is thanked for his commitment for many years of dedicated service to the Sub-Branch.

**I think I can also speak on behalf of the new committee for 2011** in this instance, we all look forward to the coming year where many things should advance and take place in our Sub-Branch but we should clearly point out that any delays at the moment for us not moving forward quickly are due to various situations outside of our control. Gary covered this during his report to the members in attendance at the AGM.

I hope the members who were in attendance Sunday appreciated the Power point presentation made by Ray Scott JP (Our President) in informing those in attendance of the committee's actions during the past year and our plans going forward into 2012. In my case and even though I am on committee I thought his presentation was more than informative as I hope you did. Well done Ray.

Then; of course we had Ian Johnson Manager Van Frankston (DVA) who spent time in informing our veterans of there entitlements and answered numerous questions and at the completion of his presentation we enjoyed a luncheon and beverages for those members attending the AGM.

#### **Now for happenings at the club between now and the end of April:**

- **Bingo** is conducted in the **George Foster room** each **Tuesday & Saturday** and all are welcome. Come along and enjoy this day.
- Our **bluebirds Day Club** is a very active group and meet in the **George Foster** room every Thursday and they would welcome new members.
- Every Saturday night you can book in and **head down to the Jazz nights**, it is well worth coming along and hearing some great music. Our girls at reception will give you a contact number for bookings and before hand why not have dinner in the "**Sovereign Bistro**", great meals at reasonable prices are offered by Lisa.
- Friday night Members **Happy hour** continues with a **Key Draw & raffles** being run for the enjoyment of all.
- Then we have **MEMBERS night** the last Friday of the month, so come along swipe your card and participate in the special members raffle followed by the key draw. (The members key drawn currently stands at \$800 as we go to print)

- ❖ **Our Sovereign Bistro is fully functional** with a great Menu at very competitive pricing and they are enjoying good numbers attending each day & nights and if you wish to have your special private or business Function at the club contact Lisa and she will be more than pleased to assist your needs. Seniors lunches are available weekdays.

**Not forgetting of course we have several very active Sporting Sub Clubs in the Sub-Branch** they are: - Angling, Bowls, Darts, and over 55's snooker & billiards. Not forgetting of course our **Auxiliaries** the War Widows Auxiliary, Ladies Auxiliary and the Legacy Auxiliary and all our Sub clubs and auxiliaries have vacancies. If you have interest in becoming a member of any of these clubs please ask for a contact from the reception staff.

**WE NEED YOU!!! Volunteers are urgently required for selling of ANZAC Day Badges at various locations around Clayton.**  
**“Please Help” Leave your details at Reception.**

**ANZAC DAY Local Functions 2011.** Our local ANZAC Day function will take place as usual on the Sunday prior to **ANZAC Day 17<sup>th</sup> April 2011** and we ask all our service, affiliate, social and community members to support this day. **You your family & friends are welcome and invited to attend.**

- ❖ **Our Local March.** Due to the age of many of our Ex Service members as well as the lack of members participating in the march over the past years it has been decided not to have a march this year.
- ❖ **Local ANZAC DAY Service.** Will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April in the usual manner and held at the Memorial Gardens at the Clayton Hall in Clayton Road. The service this year **will begin at 12.00 am** and then on completion we will return to the club for socialising and a luncheon. We will have in attendance a Catafalque party and guest speaker from **HMAS Cerberus** again this year.

**The functions will also be advertised on the club screens and notices boards during the coming weeks.**

- ❖ **ANZAC DAY Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2011 (Easter Monday)** we will as usual conduct a **Dawn Service followed by a gun fire breakfast** with the usual gold coin donation.
- ❖ The club at the completion of the breakfast will close and re-open at 1.00pm when during the afternoon we will conduct two up in the **“George Foster Room”** and **all members, family & friends are welcome to come along.** (NOTE:-the dawn Service last year was very well attended. Let's do the same this year)
- ❖ **TWO-UP** yes as mentioned above it is happening again as in the past and will commence from 2.00pm onwards. Come along and have a fun afternoon with George, Bring your family & friends. All proceeds will go to Welfare.

**This is also the time & place when you can meet with your past serving UNIT Buddies and swap some real stories and remember days gone by and the TWO-UP games held in many of the Units.**

**In closing, let me remind you; as I said in the last newsletter** things have been tough at the club over the past year or two and numerous changes have occurred and **we make no apology for that** as it is in the interest of the Sub-Branch and its members in general that changes etc, needed to occur for without many of the changes we may have not survived into 2012 and beyond and it has been for good reason with **considered Strategic business decisions and planning from committee and management and in line with corporate governance** that these changes and/or cut backs that have occurred was to make sure that our **Sub-Branch survives heading into 2012** and beyond for the benefit of our members. You will have heard at the AGM the future for our Sub-Branch is well advanced and when completed in the coming years it will be the state of the art. We are in better shape than some of our other fellow Sub-Branches especially with the assets that have been accumulated by the Sub-Branch and its members over many years. You will have heard that numerous RSL's have or are in the process of amalgamating and even some have closed but indeed we are here and surviving due to the dedication of the hard working committee and our management team.

Well, on that note I look forward to catching up in the club as well as seeing you all at **ANZAC Day functions**. By the way I am available and at the club on most Tuesdays from **11.00 am to 2.30 pm approx** or **Thursdays between 11.00am and 1.00pm approx**, other times by appointment. **(But will be on leave from 28<sup>th</sup> March to the 7<sup>th</sup> April Inclusive)** Well; by for now look forward to seeing you around the club.

Regards to all

*Bruce*

Bruce Williams

Sub-Branch Secretary

**NOTE:** This news letter can be found on the web site and copies around the club and in the members bar. [www.claytonrsl.com.au](http://www.claytonrsl.com.au)