

Clayton RSL Sub-Branch
“Communicator”

FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK (May/June 2011)



Hi all, as I sit and ponder the various activities that we have participated in over the past weeks and I look at those activities held at our Sub-Branch for our local ANZAC Day Service and the Dawn Service, as well as the selling of ANZAC Badges over the past weeks. We really have covered quiet a bit and many of those activities have needed input from volunteers. Well I am sad to say that only a few volunteers came forward to help with the various functions that were needed although I had advertised on the screens and in notices around the club for weeks prior to the ANZAC functions and not one call did I have! However; I must thank our few Auxiliary members who participated and the few other members who got involved you know who you and I thank you sincerely for your support, but indeed one member stands out again and that is John Hall, He spent many hours at the Clarinda Shopping Centre Clayton South above & beyond the call of duty selling badges and on his own he raised in excess of \$13,000 dollars. John your support does not go un-noticed and I know our President, the committee and the staff at our Sub-Branch thank you

sincerely for your effort as without it we would be negligible in the amount of money received for the "Welfare Funds" as we do have a lack of members from all categories who are not prepared to put in just a few hours. **John you are a credit to our Sub-Branch and it is a pity that more members don't take a page out your book. Gale, John's wife also supports John as his silent partner and I do know she helps at various times. WELL DONE to you both.**

However, our membership has continued to grow over the past months but the lack of volunteers to do various tasks continues to decline and that is disappointing and this should not be the case at Clayton. Our Sub-Branch has always to my knowledge and history tells me our Welfare activities have always been well supported by the members and our Welfare activities have been well recognised by other Sub-Branches as well. So where is the support from our members? Age is not the reason to walk away, you are never too old. Yes you have been doing it for numerous years and now is not the time to let us down and leave the Sub-Branch with only a handful of volunteers, we only ask for your support twice a year with "Welfare activities" and the funds received benefit the members who, are in need of our support whenever the case arises.

Let me point out that several other Sub-Branches in our district have various Sub-Committees with members as old as and/or older than our members but still get behind the selling of ANZAC Badges and Poppies. I know of one lady in her 90's and an executive officer in one of the auxiliaries who gets out and supports her local Sub-Branch when and wherever she can and there are numerous members in our Sub-Branch who could do same and help when help is required. Putting politics in our Sub-Branch ahead of Welfare matters leaves a lot to be desired in my humble opinion.

The Week beginning the 9th May is "Volunteers Week" and I have included 2 little poems for those who are dedicated and help us to help others and you are thanked dearly from us all for the time and effort you give to your fellow members.

I'll Show You A Volunteer

Poem by Foley

Show me a person who spends endless hours in training without pay,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person where a cry for help brings split-second dispatch,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who is devastated when lives are lost or maimed,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who is graciously welcomed as a next-door neighbor,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who takes ridicule more than compliments,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person whose car is garaged with the grille facing out,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who sacrifices home life, TV... even tender moments,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person visibly moved at the strains of our National Anthem,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who may be asked to give more than just dedication,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who is asked to give more... and more... and more,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

And then:-

Volunteers

Many will be shocked to find,
When the day of judgment nears,
That there's a special place in Heaven,
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there are no committee chairmen,
No yard sales or rest area coffee to serve,
No library duty or bulletin assembly,
There will be nothing to print or staple,
Not one thing to fold or mail,

Telephone lists will be outlawed.

But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And rare treats fit for a king.

You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged Volunteers
And work for all they're worth?"

**Why? All those who reaped the benefits,
And not once volunteered on Earth.**

ANZAC FUNCTIONS

Our ANZAC Day service was held at the Cenotaph and our president Ray Scott was our MC for the day. We had numerous Politicians and Defence personal in attendance. The day was capped off with a guard and Bugler from HMAS Cerberus the Service was well received by all those in attendance. Yes, we didn't have a March this year and we have had several

members upset that a March was not held. Well, yes of course; I would love to see a March as well and disappointed that it didn't happen in my Sub-Branch, but tell me where were those Service Members at our Service who could have marched not one member. In speaking with one of our very senior and well respected members at Clayton after the service, he agreed that although he said it was sad & disappointing occasion not to have a March it is time that we recognised that unfortunately our Service members are now at the age of not being able to participate in marching to the cenotaph but the members should support the local ANZAC Day service that will be ongoing into the future for our Sub-Branch and its members. The service at Memorial Park was well conducted and the Navy members were a credit to our Defence Force in the presentation of the Guard for the service. We thank them for being with us on that day.

At the completion of the service we returned to the "George Foster" room for a luncheon and socialising. The lunch supplied by our chefs Lisa & Daniel was well received and enjoyed by all. We were then surprised with entertainment for sometime, the entertainment being a preview of **a night with Frank Sinatra** that is to be held in May. In observing the members around the room it was amazing to see the smiles and enjoyment that they were having with obviously music from the 40's & 50's and beyond that was memorable occasions for those who remembered the songs and music from those by gone years,

Continuing with the ANZAC Tradition our President and I attended two nursing homes recently to present an ANZAC Service for them. Ray has been doing this now for numerous years and does a wonderful job, believe me, you as a member of Clayton would be proud to be there and part of his service when he does; the ANZAC service for these aged people and they just love it. This is all part of what we and our committee and numerous members do for our community at large.

Then on ANZAC Day itself we had our Dawn Service at the club followed by a gun fire breakfast. The numbers attending on this public holiday was excellent and appreciated

by the committee and our staff who go to a lot of trouble to make sure all is well for the day with a number of staff members starting work at around 4.00am to make sure all is in place for the benefit of the members and public who come along to enjoy our DAWN SERVICE and remember those who served at Gallipoli, past wars and other conflicts around the world.

Then, when the children returned from School holidays our President Ray Scott, myself and Gary Molloy attended the Westall Primary School where we donated and planted a "lone Pine tree" and two plaques for the students at the school. Some months ago two of the students wrote to us and asked if we could assist with a tree to help them establish a memorial garden and that, we have been able to achieve. The principal called an early assembly where Ray recited a story of the Lone Pine tree and how it came to Australia and why it was a symbol of remembrance, the children thoroughly enjoyed his presentation. We were sincerely thanked by the children the Principal and the teachers at Westall Primary School.

Now for happenings at the Sub-Branch

Recently, we had one of our snooker tables re-covered and the other table will follow in due course. As you know we have suffered the consequences of water damaged over the past weeks and from that damage we have had the Dance Floor in the George Foster Room Sanded & polished and over the coming week's new carpet will be laid also in the George Foster Room and out into the reception area. The landslide in the Western Car Park has now been cleaned up and

we will continue with some further work there as time goes by. Your committee continue to work with RSL Victoria in coming to a conclusion in the best way possible and in the interest of our members to have a satisfactory conclusion regarding the Western Car Park and we make no apology for the time it is taking but many un-foreseen factors have occurred over the period of time and unfortunately delays have occurred and these delays have been outside of the committees control. But indeed we hope to bring this matter to conclusion in the near future.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN OUR SUB-BRANCH

- **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 meets 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 bonus members draw, 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.
 - ❖ **You're Family, their children your Grandchildren & friends would be made more than welcome in the Sovereign Bistro.**

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 **Ladies Auxiliaries** the War Widows Auxiliary, Ladies Auxiliary and the Legacy Auxiliary and all of 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.

In closing; I ask for your participation in helping with our volunteer work such as Hospital visits to members who need our support or are lonely and nowadays have no local family to visit them.

