



RSL
Murgon Sub Branch

FROM THE TRENCHES

Issue 8, December 2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2023 has been an extremely busy one for the Sub Branch. As the Community becomes more aware of the existence of the Drop-In Centre and the role we play in supporting our veterans and their families, the need for Advocacy support has also increased significantly. This also encompasses the need for transport support to specialist appointments in Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. This support is provided through the many hours provided by our volunteers to whom we owe a huge thank you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Auxiliary for their amazing support with fundraising and functions.

Without the continued support of our members, we would not be able to provide the services for our veterans, their families, and the community. You should all be extremely proud of what has been achieved in 2023. Now we need to enjoy the festive season with our families and friends, as we prepare for the challenges that we will face in the coming year.

On behalf of the Board and myself, I would like to wish you and your extended families a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2024.

Kevin Gill

DROP-IN CENTRE

We now see the Centre being used by a number of local organizations for their meetings. It is pleasing to see the building being utilized with these meetings and events, as this was the purpose for building the Centre.

ANNUAL DINNER

This year's Annual Dinner was held in the 'Diggers Room' at the Murgon Services Club with members enjoying a wonderful evening. Llew O'Brien MP was guest speaker during which he presented the Sub Branch with certificates for a number of grant funds which we were lucky enough to receive throughout the year.



SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024

Are now due and payable by 31/12/23
Service Members \$20
Social Members \$10, Auxiliary \$5



SUB BRANCH AGM 2024

10am Saturday 3rd February 2024
Drop-In Centre, 44 Stephens St W.
The Auxiliary AGM will commencing at 1pm.
Please contact the Secretary if you are interested in applying for any of the positions as noted in the minutes of the December meeting.

AGM

CITIZEN'S AUXILIARY

Our Citizen Auxiliary has worked tirelessly throughout the year to provide exceptional support with the manning of the Anzac Day & Remembrance Day stalls, Club raffles, cake stalls and catering for the many events we have held at the Drop-In Centre. The craft days are proving to be very popular with members of the community always welcome.



DVA VETERANS HEALTH WEEK

Rifle Range Shoot

This year we held a rifle shoot at Wondai Rifle Range as part of Veterans Health Week. Members enjoyed trying range shooting for the first time with comments that it was a lot different to using rifles during their service. The day was well supervised, and members enjoyed a bbq lunch too. We are planning to hold more of these days in 2024.



Other events this year included a Community Golf Day and BBQ in the park. Although attendance was well down on previous years, participants were enthusiastic and enjoyed the days out. In 2024 we plan to run similar events if possible. Please let us know if you are interested in a particular event being run.

VIETNAM VETERANS HONOURED

Commemorative Medallion & Certificate

To acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, DVA produced a Commemorative Medallion and Certificate of Commemoration. We were able to arrange for these to be presented to our Vietnam Veterans by Llew O'Brien MP.



Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation

Many of our Vietnam Veterans were also entitled to apply for the recently released Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation. Some were presented on Vietnam Veterans Day.



CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

In 2022 Certificates of Appreciation were made available under the Australian Government's Saluting Their Service Commemorative Program. They are a way of expressing the nation's gratitude to those who served:

You can apply for a certificate if you are a:

- veteran who served in the wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations for which certificates are available
- family member on behalf of a deceased eligible person

Many of our members have already been presented with their certificate. If you or a family member would like assistance in applying, please contact the Sub Branch.



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

This year saw us hold our first Vietnam Veterans Day service at our Veterans Memorial Park with a lunch afterwards at the Centre.

ANGUS HOUSE

Angus House is a wonderful facility close to transport and hospitals with basic rooms only \$20 per night, dinner and breakfast included.



It also has off street secure parking. Please consider using it if you have medical appointments in Brisbane. Address: 53-55 Bayliss St Toowong Ph: 07 3870 8743

WELFARE & ADVOCACY

A busy year has now almost been completed and a variety of changes have occurred throughout this time. I personally say thank you to all the fellow volunteers who have provided support and back up throughout the year and wish you all the best for the Christmas/New Year break and look forward to your ongoing support in 2024.

Rose Heath is now our dedicated Transport Supervisor, and all Bookings or Transport enquiries should only be through her. I have now assumed the role of Castra Liaison Officer from Rose and any enquiries regarding either the Independent Living Units or full-time care should now be directed to me. I thank Rose for her contribution of time and dedication to this role over the past number of years. I am now qualified as a level 1 Advocate and have commenced the program for Level 2 of which once qualified will be of great benefit to the sub-branch.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Mr. Grahame 'Blackie' Blackwell OAM, my fellow Advocate for his support and assistance. We enjoyed a variety of activities such as Twilight Bowls, Golf, Rifle shooting, fishing and walking activities, all of which have been very well catered for with food and refreshments. In the new year we are looking forward to commencing Bingo and hopefully this will be a good fund raiser for the Sub-Branch.

I express my well wishes to all the Sub-branch members and their families over the holiday season, hoping it is both safe and happy and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Merry Christmas and cheers to all
David Piggott,
Compensation & Wellbeing Advocate

Date Claimers

- Craft 2nd Thursday and 4th Thursday.
- Community Lunch – 14 March 2024
- Annual Dinner – 9 November 2024 – Dusty Hill Vineyard



Merry Christmas

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

The Drop-In Centre will close at 3pm on Friday 15th December, re-opening at 9am on Monday 8th January 2024

Transport Bookings
Rose Heath
Tel: 0467 849 149

