



NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (SA BRANCH)



THE NORTHERN CENTRAL AREA BURBLE

NORTHERN CENTRAL AREA SUB BRANCH NEWS LETTER

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PATRONS: SENATOR CORY BERNARDI – COUNCILLOR MRS. CAROL MARTIN

PRESIDENT: MALCOLM KRUSS: - 8250 9743 SECRETARY: - Mrs. HEATHER SIMMS: - 8264 6641

TREASURER: KEITH FITZGERALD: - 8265 1171 PADRE: - REVEREND NORM CARTER: - 8368-1869

JUNE – JULY - AUGUST 2017

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings members, well the last three months have gone along reasonably well so to speak, attendances have been average at our meetings, considering we have all just gone through the winter months trying to keep warm and wondering just how much our electricity bill will when it comes in or the gas bill, at the monthly meetings quite a number of suggestions have been put forward of what we want or would like for next year, some very good ideas have been tabled and hopefully we as a sub branch will be able to go along with them, my main concern is although we have 33 paid up members on the books, we still get the same few members that support our meetings, outings or a visitation to too a place of interest. Back in June it was decided one again to approach 'Angel Flight' regarding if it would be possible to have a representation from their organization to come along to a meeting and, again give us a talk on just how they operate, it was a good response from them, a speaker will be coming along for the October meeting (22nd), secretary has since receive a memo form Angel Flight advising that, the guest speaker will be Mr. Bob Korotcoff (Earth Angel), so members please avail yourselves and come along to the October meeting, it was also moved by Keith Fitzgerald and seconded Wally Smith that we donated \$200 to this worthy cause (carried). November 26th guest speaker for that meeting will be Shaun Carter from SA Ambulance who is a Paramedic, two very interesting speakers, again avail your selves and attend the meetings.

Back in July I put forward a suggestion that we should have a second patron for our sub branch, this was discussed at length, and agreed upon for the secretary write too Mrs Carol Martin, Port Adelaide/Enfield Councillor offering her the position of Patron, after numerous e-mails, phone calls and letters, I'm glad to report that Carol has accepted the position of Patron along with Senator Cory Bernardi, thank you Carol. At the last council meeting, HQ a discussion was held regarding social members being allowed into the National Servicemen's association, all sub branches were approached regarding this matter and I'm glad to report that the idea was vetoed and that there would be no social members admitted to the association, yes I know most of us are getting a little thin on the top and a bit of grey hair is very prominent, but let's march on as proud Nasho's and keep it that way while we can.

Saturday 30th September AFL Grand Final Day the RSL bar will be open for the game and finger food will be available at mere cost of \$7 per person.

After many years of absence, the Melbourne Cup Luncheon is returning to the Enfield RSL 2nd November 017, cost \$20 per person for a two course meal, including numerous sweeps, games, best Melbourne Cup hat

(male or female), tickets are available from the RSL. Make up a party and come along and enjoy the day, guaranteed to be a lot cheaper than going to the local hotel.

Remembrance Day Saturday 11th November and the lead up to that day, firstly because of the disruption of the state RSL being placed into voluntary receivership, poppies and other items that we have sold for Remembrance Day could be in very short demand, but luckily the RSL is up and back trading and I have managed, thanks to Graham Sargent to get hold poppies for the Remembrance Wall, Enfield General Cemetery, the placing of the poppies will be either **Tuesday or Wednesday**, you will be advised at the next meeting, commencing **1.30pm** Selling of poppies will again be at the North Park shopping centre, Thursday and Friday again as of last year we will combine with the Enfield RSL, volunteers will be needed for both days, even if you can only spare an hour or two of your time it would be appreciated, please let any of the committee if you are able to help. Remembrance Day 11th November, assemble 10.30am Enfield RSL, this year being it held on the Saturday, the service could be held at the front of the hall in front of the Memorial to the Fallen, you will be advised as soon as I find out.

Sick and Infirm, Nick Gogilis is now in a nursing home due to his ill health, it is sad it has come to this; Nick was a member that rarely missed a meeting even having to catch three busses just to come along to a meeting. Raelene Cabot is progressing reasonably well with her treatment considering that both her and Trevor are fighting the dreaded Influenza/Flu that seems to be in South Australia at the moment and the good news is that, John 'Feets' Rathman is well and truly on the mend and hopefully be able to attend a meeting in the near future.

Birthday Greetings have been sent to the following members -: **June**, William Cahill, Neville Pollitt, **July**, Keith Fitzgerald 80th, Dennis Newberry 80th, **August**, Jock Whitehead, Richard Dixon, **September**, Harry Gregory 80th.

Sunday 10th September, again a number of us Nasho's and partners made the trek out to Para District Sub Branch for their Chanter Lunch, very well organised and plenty of banter amongst the two branches when it came to raffle time, we did manage to take away four prizes, I'm sure (with tongue in cheek) that they are recycling their raffle tickets, still this time we did not have the full complement of members that go out there for their functions, well done Para District Sub Branch, during the course of the luncheon their Patron, Tony Zappia spoke briefly on Bills – Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Legislation Amendment (Defence Force) Bill 2016 – Second Reading and with his permission I would like to quote part of that speech, On the 14 August, the Minister for Veteran Affairs made a ministerial statement in the House about veterans and their families, I noted some of the statistics from that statement, and I want to quote some. Firstly, there are 58,000 men and women in the ADF, and, in 2016-017, 5,200 left the service, of which about 1,400 separated involuntarily. The average serving time is eight and a half years. There are 320,000 veterans in Australia, of whom 165,800 are DVA clients. Between 2001 and 2015, there were 325 certified deaths of ADF members, with 51 percent of those amongst ex-service members. At least 45,000 veterans live with mental health service-related disability, and more two thirds of them have post – traumatic stress disorder. All of those figures give rise to several questions, Firstly how do these statistics compare with statistics of other comparable countries? Why are suicides rates and mental health problems so high amongst veterans? Why are 1,400 serving ADF personal personnel discharged involuntarily each year? Unquote.

Malcolm Kruss
President

