



Lest We Forget

George Town RSL Inc.,
44 Macquarie Street,
George Town
PH 63822745

Newsletter Month of May/June 2021

This Issue:

- **Max Harris Memorial Reserve & Cenotaph Updates**
- **ANZAC Day**
- **Congress**
- **Darren Chester**

SUB-BRANCH OPENING HOURS:

10-2pm Monday -Friday

Board of Management: Conversations

Macquarie Street Cenotaph

The Board of Management have been concerned about the visual appearance of the community's first Cenotaph, situated adjacent to the War Memorial Hall on Regent Square. A recent meeting was held with planning staff of the George Town Council to ensure that the area around the Cenotaph, was given just consideration as part of the Regent Square development/improvements. A significant point that had been overlooked was that the Cenotaph is linked closely with the War Memorial Hall and indeed had been listed with the Tasmanian Heritage Council for the preservation of them both. The Cenotaph contains a time capsule that had been placed in 1939 at the time of the structure's completion. The Board of Management have been concerned that, over the last couple of decades, the area around this Cenotaph had been eroded into a stark and less than appealing place to commemorate or reflect on those, who had been lost to war. The need to bring the Cenotaph and the surrounds, up to a standard that reflects the historical significance, was important for the Sub-Branch and indeed the community more broadly.

The meeting was very positive, with the group agreeing to design considerations being drafted, and shared with the RSL Sub-Branch Board of Management, for consideration and further input.

The open and positive discussions with council over both the GT Mountain Bike Trail, on the edge of Max Harris Reserve and the Cenotaph beautification has been much appreciated and helped to highlight the importance of both these areas to the George Town Community. Council have listened to concerns and the plans reflect Council's intentions and Board of Management suggestions for improvement, preservation and management of both areas. Plans can be viewed at the Sub Branch on request.

If at any time you have a suggestion or are aware of something we need to know. Please make contact through the office to anyone you feel comfortable to speak with from the Board. Alternatively, please call into the Sub Branch, there is a Board Member in attendance each day of the week.

Position	Y/ Elected	Name	Which day to catch....
President	2021	Max Griffiths	Wed
V. President (Service)	2020	Barry Sherrin	Tues
V. President (Affiliate)	2020	Audrey Evans	Wed/Alt Fri
Secretary/ Treasurer	2020/2021	Robyn Moody	Mon, Wed, Fri
Board of Management	2020	Greg Rush	DVA Advocate -Tues
Board of Management	2021	Terry Morris	Alt Friday
Board of Management	2021	James Soul	Work commitments
Board of Management	2021	Alex Dustan	Mon & Volunteer Dave Walters
Board of Management	2021	Brian Bull	Thurs

George Town Sub-Branch Membership:

We welcome new membership, Service and Affiliate, at the George Town RSL Sub-Branch. If you are an In- service, ex-service, returned service person and /or family member of anyone in the above mentioned, please consider joining the Sub Branch. Memberships forms for Service or Affiliation are available at the Sub Branch.

Events and Commemorations

ANZAC Day 2021

Thanks to the whole community for their support of commemorations on ANZAC Day and indeed prior and beyond the day itself.

The service prior to the ANZAC Day round of Football, at Blue Gum Park between George Town and Bracknell was very moving and we thank the Football community for their support of this round.



Both the Dawn Service and the Wreath Laying Service were well attended by the community. 2020 Bursary recipients, John Glover from Port Dalrymple School and Bronte Miller from Star of the sea College spoke. We thank Will Smith guest speaker, Acting Mayor Tim Harris and Kaye Ross also speakers at the services. The Dawn Service was followed by Gunfire breakfast in the hall, limited in numbers due to restrictions, but we were pleased to see the Breakfast go ahead this year. Thanks to Rotary once again for cooking and serving breakfast. Also, to Star of the Sea students Molly Evans and Karlee Wayne for helping and to many volunteers and members who took on tasks to help make the breakfast and day run smoothly. Many thanks to Jenny Timmins for the photos.



Commemorative Matters: White Crosses and Memorial Walls

As people would be aware the Sub Branch places a White Cross in Max Harris Memorial Reserve on ANZAC Day to commemorate the passing of an ex-service person from the area. We appreciate families letting our commemorative team know of these occasions. to assist with accurate White Cross placements in the year of passing.

The memorial walls at Max Harris Reserve are for families to place plaques for family members who have served. If a family member has passed in recent times, please contact the RSL about eligibility for relatives to have a commemorative plaque placed in

one of the three walls in their memory. There are War Grave terms and conditions, however our Secretary can assist with further details.

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia: Anniversary of the Launceston Sub Branch

The 40th Anniversary in their 41st year, of the VVAA, was held on Saturday 15th May. The evening started with pre dinner drinks and viewing of Memorabilia in the foyer of the dining area at the Hotel Grand Chancellor.

Commemorative medallions and floral tributes were given to Veterans and partners. With acknowledgement to the founding members of the Sub- Branch. The seeds of the Association began on ANZAC Day 1979, 42 years ago when two Vietnam Veterans had difficulty in knowing and recognising who were fellow Vietnam Veterans. With a notebook at ANZAC Day 1980 these two Veterans gathered names and contact details. A public meeting was organized, and notices appeared in the Examiner requesting Vietnam Veterans attend the inaugural meeting of the new association. These two Veterans were Mr Richard Holtsbaum and Mr Brian Harper OAM. Both elected to the first committee. (reference from VVA Launceston booklet of Association given to guests on the evening).

Lest We Forget.

Veteran Affairs and Defence: Minister Darren Chester

Darren Chester, Minister for Veteran Affairs, along with Bridgett Archer MP, called into the Sub Branch for a very informal visit. During the visit he had a good look at the Military display and was impressed with the amount of work that had be achieved here to maintain a viable Sub Branch for Veterans. Mr Chester spoke informally to the group about our aspirations for the sub-Branch and how we are connecting with the community. He encouraged connections with our younger community members. He sought some the views of those in attendance about changes that have occurred to DVA processes and some individual ideas that could be considered for improvement of some processes. Greg Rush, your DVA Advocate, spoke about some problems that were challenging for some of the clients that he is seeing regularly. The Board of Management generally felt that Mr Chester listened and took ideas that could be considered from the visit.

RSL State Congress

Congress was held on the weekend of the 15th May. This was a very positive Congress with all motions being passed that were presented. There were a couple of new Directors elected to the State Board, most relevant for our area, was Peter Williams from the RSL Launceston Sub Branch elected director for the North of the State.

SUB Branch Meetings

The next Sub-Branch meeting is **schedule for 6 PM 15th June**. We encourage members to attend meetings. These meetings allow time and opportunity for Members to speak

about matters of concern as well as suggestions and/or offering time to join our small team of volunteers to assist with work in and around the Sub-Branch.

Our thanks to Terry, Jim and John who are working on Museum protocols, data collection, repairs and framing items for display. We thank John, who is currently repairing frames for 25 Past Sub-Branch President photos, dating back to our first President Major Davies.

Once ready to hang, John will need a hand to do the job and would appreciate some help as ladder work is involved. Please call in and chat with John on Friday or give a call if you want to assist him with this task.

WELFARE

The next Bus trip is set for Sunday 6th June. This trip will be to the Historical Town of Evandale to browse the Markets and township followed by Retail therapy at Meadow Mews. Depart Sub-Branch at 9 o'clock return approx. 3pm. Please book early as limited seats.

We extend our thanks Bob Slackely, President to the Westbury RSL and staff for their friendly welcome, morning tea and tour of the Westbury RSL. Bob has indicated that the Westbury RSL plan to reciprocate with a visit in the future to our Sub-Branch.

The bus trips have been enjoyable days with memorable moments if you have the opportunity, please join one of the trips.



Fundraising



A Bunnings Sausage Sizzle was held on 23rd May. Thanks to all our Volunteers on Sunday Judy, Cooper, Pirjo, Greg, Gigi and Board members. The next is on 19th June and if you would like to help, Please give Barry Sherrin a call at the RSL 63822745 between 10 and 2pm. Barry is regularly at the Sub Branch on Tuesday, If you can give a hand to the teams at Bunnings, it would be appreciated. Many hands make light work.

BSG Bingo is going well and held each Wednesday. Doors open at 5:30-6pm eyes down at 7pm. COVID19 Restrictions are in place, with those attending signing or checking in using the Check in Tas app. The Sub-Branch is now using the Tas Health QR code. Download the App for this quick, easy to use, method for contact tracing purposes. Please remain seated during BINGO. The prizes and Jackpots are according to guidelines as well as some extra changes to win with tickets and raffles. Our sincere thanks is extended to regular volunteers, Viv, Pirjo, Gigi, Cindy and Board members who spend the night ensuring all goes well. They all do an amazing job.

Mothers' Day raffle

Thanks to everyone for their support of the Sub-Branch Mother's Day Raffle.

Congratulations to the winners - 1st Prize Lois Ralph, 2nd Prize David Reid.

History Group – New Initiative

Member, Kaye Ross, is keen to assist folk with tracking their family war history. Some will be aware of Kaye's involvement on the Committee of the Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk Association. Kaye brings to this endeavour, an enjoyment of research and working with service and ex-service people and families, to bring their story to life. Please phone and book at time to look at family history if you have an interest or have had trouble seeking information. We have a dedicated research computer and Kaye and others are available to work with individuals to assist them to trace their family war history. Kaye's idea is to work and plan with individuals to capture their stories and make a coffee table book that they can have for posterity.

Further..... Some people have been in, to seek information about family and are keen to find out if medals have been claimed. As we know there are many who have served who did not claim their medals and these details can be sought through requests to Veterans Affairs or Honours and Awards, we can help with information on the process. If replicas of medals are wanted by families, we can assist with ordering, costs and indeed framing ideas etc.

Happy Hour and Mateship



Viv, Gigi, Kaye and Robyn organise the Ladies morning tea. We encourage anyone who knows of a spouse or relative of a service person, to make contact with the office, so that we can assist them in attending Morning Tea with other Veteran family members. The next

Ladies Morning tea is scheduled for 10:30 AM, 10th June at the Sub Branch.

Next Happy Hours is Friday 28th then 11th June. The last couple of Happy Hours have been well attended and we are all enjoying the opportunity to catch up. There is finger food offered and we thank those who donate nibblies to go with a choice of beverages. You may have noticed the HH falls on off pay for some members. As the date change is

impacting on some members, we will review in time for the next calendar update. Keep an eye on the calendar for the Happy Hour dates.

Partners and guests are most welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Calendar: May/ June

May 5th	Wed	Bingo	RSL Sub Branch	6.00pm
10th	Mon	Board Meeting	RSL Sub Branch	3.15pm
12th	Wed	Bingo	RSL Sub Branch	6.00pm
13th	Thurs	Ladies Morning Tea	RSL Sub Branch	10.30am
14th	Fri	Happy Hour	RSL Sub Branch	4.00pm
15th	Sat	State Congress	Country Club	9.00am
19th	Wed	Bingo	RSL Sub Branch	6.00pm
26th	Wed	Bingo	RSL Sub Branch	6.00pm
28th	Fri	Happy Hour	RSL Sub Branch	4.00pm
Jun 2nd	Wed	Bingo	RSL Sub Branch	6.00pm
9th	Wed	Bingo	RSL Sub Branch	6.00pm
10th	Thurs	Ladies Morning Tea	RSL Sub Branch	10.30am
11th	Fri	Happy Hour	RSL Sub Branch	4.00pm
14th	Mon	Board Meeting	RSL Sub Branch	3.15pm
15th	Tues	Sub Branch Meeting	RSL Sub Branch	6.00pm
16th	Wed	Bus Trip	RSL Sub Branch	8.45am
16th	Wed	Bingo	RSL Sub Branch	6.00pm
23rd	Wed	Bingo	RSL Sub Branch	6.00pm
25th	Fri	Happy Hour	RSL Sub Branch	4.00pm
30th	Wed	Bingo	RSL Sub Branch	6.00pm