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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2022

CAROLINE SPRINGS RSL SUB-BRANCH



www.carolinespringsrsl.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OUR Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, March 20, 2022, with a good quorum in attendance. Just to reiterate, the Caroline Springs RSL is made up of volunteers and two paid employees who support the Sub-Branch with administration activities. We have four executive positions being the President and Vice President, who are service members as well as a Treasurer and Secretary who are affiliate members. The Committee has four other positions that look after Welfare, Appeals, Commemoration Events, Membership, and Social Activities.

Following the meeting, I returned as President for a further two years, with the hope that someone young and eager will be ready to take over by then. Ken Witham continues as Secretary as does Bob Matthewman as Vice President. Amy Mahoney has been re-elected treasurer and Washington Escano as Welfare coordinator. Murray Lewis returns as Appeals Officer with Bob Matthewman, while Paul Terawskyj and newcomer John Saemo complete the new committee.

It goes without saying, that the past couple of years have been extremely tough, not just for us, but the whole country. Nevertheless, everyone made a big effort to keep things going and we hit the ground running once the limitations were lifted.

From the bus operation, thanks to Theo Zan, to Bunnings BBQ's under the organisational skills of Bob Matthewman and Barry Wilson. Friday night raffles at WestWaters are made possible by Ken Freitag and the loyal collection duo Janet Davey and Ian Campbell, morning teas are planned by Kathy Stokes, and welfare visits by Washington Escano and June Fowler.

Thankfully, there is more to come with our new social events crew working on some great get-togethers.

There are many others who go beyond the call of duty to make this RSL great and some of them received awards at the AGM for their commitment. (See page 5)

Thank you to you all.

Peter Burquest



UPCOMING EVENTS

ANZAC DAY SERVICE & GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

April 25

RSL Memorial, Lake Street,
Caroline Springs

6 am (be in attendance by 5.45 am)

FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLE

Raffle will be held on Thursday,

April 14

No Raffle - Good Friday

MORNING TEA

We will be holding a morning tea for our
members on the first Tuesday of the
month.

Tuesday, April 5

Tuesday, May 3

Tuesday, June 7

Time: 10.30-12 noon

Caroline Springs RSL Office, Taylors Hill



BUNNINGS BBQS

April 2

April 10

April 30



WORLD WAR II veteran Allan Godfrey
celebrated his 99th Birthday on March 23
with a personal greeting from
Kevin Sheedy



SECRETARY'S REPORT - Ken Witham

IT is now six months since I took up the role of secretary. I have had a lot to learn and still have more knowledge to acquire. I have been supported by the committee, the office, and many of our wonderful volunteers. I would like to give you a brief rundown of the operations of your RSL over the last 12 months.

Our main income streams are back online. Friday raffles a WestWaters are going well under the direction of Ken Freitag and his able assistants Janet Davey and Ian Campbell (and a few others). Bunnings BBQs are going strong under the control of Bobby Matthewman and Barry Wilson and their terrific team of volunteers. Mt Atkinson bus service has been a great success due to the efforts of our office staff and our driver Theo Zan.

We have a strong office administration. Our past secretary David Saunders volunteers his service, knowledge, and wisdom one day a week. Kathy Stokes and Gillian Barbara are our part-time administration officers. Nothing is too hard for them. Wendy Mason volunteers several hours a week using her skills in the production of our newsletters and promotion of the RSL. Theo Zan our bus driver is doing a great job and becoming increasingly popular with the residents of Mt Atkinson.

Washington Escano, our Welfare Officer has faced great difficulty in proving a suitable level of care to our membership with the obstructions caused by the lockdown. He hopes to be able to contact more members regarding their welfare now that restrictions have eased. He has recently acquired a new volunteer willing to assist him in June Fowler.

Financially we are in good shape. Amy Mahoney has, as always, managed our accounts and financial obligations with great care and skill. As Secretary, it is my obligation to ensure our financial situation remains solid and viable.

Appeals: Last Remembrance Day we conducted a reasonably successful appeal considering the restrictions. Organising the Anzac Day appeal is currently underway under the able leadership of Murray Lewis and Bob Matthewman. Volunteers are being sought for the sale of badges and merchandise.

Our future? Currently, our membership levels have, I believe, plateaued. Any organisation must look at a strategy for continuous improvement and growth. We need to encourage our younger veterans to become involved. We need to give our existing members good reasons to remain members. To this end, we have recently encouraged the formation of a social committee. While it is still in its infancy there has been some good research and suggestions as to how to actively involve our membership in some social outings and functions. After two years it's about time we all started to get together again. We have often looked at our desire to have our own premises. Discussions with the local council over the last six months have indicated that this is unlikely to eventuate in the next few years. This won't stop your committee from pursuing this target. Options of which we are unaware may appear.

I look forward to the next 12 months. You have a strong and united committee, a competent administration, and a great volunteer base. I have had the opportunity to talk to principal members from a couple of other traditional sub-branches. They envy our financial position and membership. More importantly, they envy the fantastic volunteer ethic we have in CSRL. We have some great people among us, and I believe more will step forward. ANZAC Day approaches, we want this to be a great appeal and successful day of commemoration. Anyone wishing to be involved, please do not hesitate to contact our office or any member of the committee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



THE Annual General Meeting was held at WestWaters on March 20, 2022, in front of a good member turnout.

Peter Burquest was returned as president for a further two-year tenure, Bob Matthewman continues as vice president for the next 12 months and Amy Mahoney remains treasurer for a two-year term. Murray Lewis, Paul Terewskyj, and Washington Escano were re-elected as committee members. Ken Witham retains his position as secretary for another year as part of his two-year office while John Saemo was appointed a committee member.



The new committee:

From left to right: Murray Lewis, Bob Matthewman, Amy Mahoney, Peter Burquest, Washington Escano, Ken Witham, Paul Terewskyj. Below: Peter Burquest congratulates John Saemo on his appointment.



AWARDS

FOLLOWING the Annual General Meeting, awards were presented to Barry and Dorothy Wilson, Bob Matthewman, Amy Mahoney, Andy Marshall, David Saunders, Ken Freitag, Claire Mouser, and Bryan Ross in recognition of their service to the Caroline Springs RSL Sub-Branch. Each recipient was presented with an engraved plaque. (Note: Claire Mouser and Bryan Ross were not in attendance.)



Barry and Dorothy Wilson



Andy Marshall



Amy Mahoney



David Saunders



Bob Matthewman



Ken Freitag

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

OUR administration team has been very busy. The focus is now on planning for our ANZAC Day service and Appeal collection in April, which Kathy and Gillian have well underway. Wendy is doing a great job with the newsletter and if you have any articles of interest, please give the office a call or email admin@carolinespringsrsl.com.au.

Our new social working group has met and explored numerous social outings for our members to attend. The group has put together a social activity survey to gauge membership interest so we can start planning events.

MORNING TEA

THE first-morning tea of the year was held on Shrove Tuesday and drew a lively crowd. Everyone enjoyed pancakes with berries, maple syrup, and cream. There were a host of other goodies on offer as well, but possibly the best part of the morning was the stream of ideas exchanged between members for social activities – from creating an indoor walking group to a Pokies weekend at Mulwala. Stay tuned for more information.



Above: David Saunders' grandson Lewis enjoyed the morning too.

Thank you to all those who took the time to do the recent survey asking for interest in social outings. The results have been assessed and plans are underway for the first activity to take place in May.

The most popular activities so far are:

- The Sun Theatre Movie Day
- Winery Tour close to Melbourne
- A weekend BBQ with RSL members and families,
- Christmas in July at WestWaters
- Trots Evening at Tabcorp Park, Melton
- A Casino/Movie visit to Crown Casino

VIET NAM TRIP

A tour of Vietnam is coming up in November this year. It's to commemorate 'the 50th anniversary of the last Australian troops out of Viet Nam and is run by JCP Tours.

While there is plenty of focus on the Australian experience and Phuoc Tuy Province, the tour covers other parts of the country and includes places where the Americans and French fought.

For further information: Email: info@jcptours.com.au

<https://www.jcptours.com.au/>

To Commemorate The 50th Anniversary Of The Last Australian Troops Out Of Viet Nam

THE LAST OUT TOUR

18 DECEMBER 1972
 With only seven days' notice, the Australian Army Assistance Group (AAAGV) packed up and flew out of Viet Nam leaving behind a small Embassy Guard contingent that would be gone by March 1973. So ended Australia's ten-year involvement in the war in Vietnam.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Physiology

Entitled DVA clients may be referred for safe and clinically effective Exercise Physiology treatment by their general practitioner on a valid D904 referral form. Upon diagnosis and referral of a specific condition, DVA will pay for the clinically necessary treatments.

Gold and White cardholders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment covered by DVA's health care arrangements for all health conditions. DVA Gold and White Cards are accepted as payment upon a GP referral.

Physical activity and exercise can have immediate and long-term health benefits. Most importantly, regular activity can improve your quality of life.

All exercise programs are designed by a professional team to fit your specific needs and abilities. They tackle chronic disease, mobility, and strength, weight management, injuries, and diabetes. Staff are qualified exercise physiologists, so you are guaranteed that you are getting the highest standard of care. Telephone: [1800 VETERAN](tel:1800838372) (1800 838 372)

A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

MELTON City Council recently asked the Men's Shed to build three dog kennels. The chaps wanted to road test one for size, so Barry Wilson volunteered for the job.

To add to his achievements, Barry also modelled a tray for Anzac Day badge selling.



It was a busy week for Barry!



CELEBRATING ALMOST 60 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

THEY may look like they are joined at the hip and they probably should be given the number of friendship years they share. Janet Davey and Allan Godfrey first met in 1963 when they lived opposite each other with their young families.

In those days they were in Ball St, North Sunshine. Allan delivered milk with a horse and tray while Janet was a clothing machinist. Apart from marrying Janet's best friend Thelma, Allan also helped out as a handyman and driving instructor.

He taught Janet to drive and while her husband was recovering from a heart attack, he repaired a back fence that had collapsed. Eventually, they each moved away but reconnected through the RSL. Janet's brother James Leiper served in the Army in New Guinea during World War II and Allan was in the Light Horse, serving in Darwin, New Guinea, Philippines, Borneo, and Malaya.

Every week you will see Janet selling raffle tickets at the West-Waters' Sports Bar and this month Allan celebrated his 99th Birthday.

Congratulations to you both on a wonderful and enduring friendship. Happy 99th Birthday, Allan.



WELFARE REPORT

THE good news is that we are back to our regular Aged Care visitations.

Although it was quite a challenge to hurdle the procedures before being allowed to enter the facility. We had to perform the Rapid Antigen Test, wait 15 minutes, fill in all required documentation and wear a face shield on top of a mask.

Last week, it's as good as normal as these procedures have ceased and masks are now the only requirement.

Our new Welfare Team volunteer June Fowler has been on board and doing rounds at Watergardens Aged Care and Burnside Arcare.

It is sad to say that we have only one resident in each of these facilities to visit as some of them have moved on.

We wish all those who have experienced illness during Covid continued recovery and good health as well as those dealing with their own medical or health conditions.

We will endeavor to reach out to anyone who feels isolated and needs to be assisted in any way we can. The main thing is to get and keep them in the loop.

To do so, we also require your cooperation to communicate to the Team if you know or hear of someone who would benefit from our contact.

A big thank you to the Office Administration staff for all their continued support.

That's all for now...stay healthy...keep in touch...get moving!

Washington Escano
Welfare Team

SIZZLING SAUSAGES



THE chaps have been out in force at Bunnings Caroline Springs. If you would like to volunteer your help – even for a couple of hours, please contact the office. Thank you to all those who have, and continue to give up, their time to assist. Well done.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU



Nicole Cross
 David Culpan
 Kenneth Boot
 John Brittain
 Ian Campbell
 Dennis Downham
 Janice Eichner
 Allan Godfrey – *99*
 Callan Heaney
 Hilmar Kummerlove
 John Marino
 Daniel Marrs
 Nicholas Morcombe
 John Naidu
 Margaret Nolan
 Marita Taylor
 Judith Taylor
 John Tutuki
 Michelle Wilson
 David Younger



ROCKY ROAD – *Just in time for Easter*

- 500 g CADBURY Baking Milk Chocolate melted
- 200 g marshmallows chopped
- 1/4 cup desiccated coconut
- 110 g Turkish delight chopped
- 1/2 cup peanuts chopped
- Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and mix well.
- Use a warm knife to cut the slice into small squares

***DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP AN ANZAC
DAY CHOCOLATE BAR - \$5***



FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLE

ONCE again, the Friday night raffles at WestWaters are attracting a strong crowd with many patrons participating in the draw. On February 11, the member's prize was finally won by Peter Burquest who kindly donated back \$100, which was won by Travis Read, who then donated \$50, won by Norma Brown. The popularity of the weekly get-together continues to grow with young family members adding fun to the event. Lucky new member Nicole Cross collected the \$450 member prize on March 18, so make sure you drop by for your chance to take home a prize.



Above: The Ode



CSRL Secretary Ken Whitham's grandchildren Harper and Harley were thrilled to win their raffle prizes.



Above: Non-winners are still grinners.



Above: President Peter Burquest congratulates new member Mat Sutton on his raffle win.
Left: Norma Brown collects a lamb roast pack.

UPGRADES TO RAAF MUSEUM

THE RAAF Museum at Point Cook is being upgraded to improve visitor accessibility and to house new exhibits.

Located at Point Cook's Royal Australian Air Force base, the site will be closed to the public until June. The works will include an anti-slip ramp, handrails, and a fire system, and the Strike and Aircraft Display Hangars will be re-designed.

The addition of theatrical lighting, large-scale multimedia, and interactive touchscreens will create an immersive visitor experience.

Entry to the Museum is free. Details: <https://www.airforce.gov.au/raaf-museum>



WALK OF HONOR

MEET Justin and John from Open Spaces Maintenance for the City of Melton. They were working hard mowing and whipper snipping the Aintree Walk of Honour when a few of the RSL crew visited recently.

The chaps will be back in time for an Anzac Day spruce up.

<https://aintreewalkofhonour.com.au/>



Shrine of Remembrance: Anzac Day

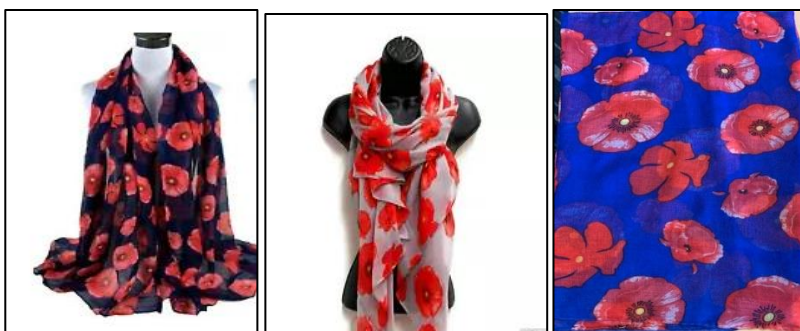
This year, Victorian veterans will be back marching to the Shrine of Remembrance along St Kilda Road. The march will be live-streamed on the Shrine website and on their social media channels, Facebook and YouTube channels. They encourage all Victorians to watch the live-stream from 5:40 am.

<https://www.shrine.org.au/anzac-day-commemoration>

GET YOUR RSL MERCHANDISE FOR ANZ DAY



Knitted Scarves: Members \$35 Non-Members \$45



Voile Poppy Scarves: Members \$15 Non-Members \$20



Polo Shirt: \$35 Members
Non-Members \$40
Golf Polo is also available

Polo Fleece Top \$35 Members
Non-Members \$40
Zip Hoodie is also available \$45

Tie \$20 Members
Non-Members \$25
Cap: \$15

RSL GOLF DAY

By David Saunders



Above Left: Theo contemplates which ball is his.

Above Right: Marcey, Barry and Elvio discuss the tree formation ahead.

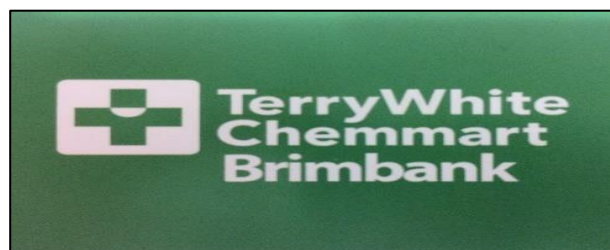


Middle: Perfect posture by Barry.



THE February golf game was held at Bacchus Marsh Darley in very hot conditions. It was decided to book buggy's, especially for our ageing veterans. The six golfers playing were Theo, Captain Elvio, Marcey, Barry, David, and Sandro. Sandro was in great form over the first 9 holes picking up 25 Stableford points, but the weather got the better of him. Nevertheless, he still managed to end up with 36 Stableford points. Marcey could only manage 12 holes as he had a commitment on the other side of the river. Our Captain got out of the wrong side of the bed, or swallowed some angry pills, as he was very frustrated with the slow play - and especially David not calling out "4" on several occasions. Once again, it was a great day on the golf course with many highs and lows. Theo was the big winner on the day with 38 points followed by Elvio on 37, Sandro and Barry on 36, and David on 30. No one managed to win the closest to the pin as none of us could even get on the green!

The next game will be at Sanctuary Lakes. Date to be advised. **Ladies Welcome.**



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Caroline Springs

