

# AUGUST 2023

## NEWSLETTER

### VALES

Alan Wright  
Kerry Dachs

### Lest we Forget

### A TRIBUTE FOR OUR VETERANS

The RSL Stanthorpe Sub Branch can arrange for our civil funeral celebrant to deliver a memorial, cremation or burial service for any returned service personnel, for no charge.

Our celebrant is a veteran who is qualified to host and officiate at funeral services. As well as conducting the funeral itself, the celebrant can work with your funeral director in planning the order of service, music, writing the eulogy and creating a meaningful service for the person who has died.

If requested, we can include the RSL Poppy Service in the ceremony, including representatives of the RSL delivering the deceased's service record, reciting "The Ode" and playing of "The Last Post" and "The Rouse". The Poppy Service also includes the provision and distribution of replica red poppies for coffin placement and remembrance. Our team can assist with the display of the Australian, Naval or Air Force flags, the display of service medals/ribbons, photos and any memorabilia.

Our RSL Funeral Service ensures those who have served are honoured, respected and remembered. It is a special recognition and acknowledgement of their service and sacrifice to our country.

For more information or to make an appointment, email Stanthorpe Sub Branch Director, Graeme Caesar - [graeme.caesar@stanthorpersubbranch.org](mailto:graeme.caesar@stanthorpersubbranch.org) or by calling 07 4681 4213.

## SAVE THE DATE

### WAR WIDOWS DAY

On 19th October 2021, Australian War Widows Queensland (AWWQ) held their annual Jessie Vasey Day at Parliament House in Brisbane. Mrs Vasey, started the first Queensland branch of the War Widows Guild in Toowoomba in 1947. It was at this event that our Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk and Minister Fentiman announced that from 19th October 2022, Queensland will annually celebrate War Widows Day.

War Widows Day acknowledges the sacrifice of widows from **all conflicts** whose loved ones gave their lives for their country.

If you are a widow and would like to attend or know of a veteran widow, we invite you to our morning tea:

Date: Thursday, 19th October  
Where: Queensland College of Wine Tourism,  
22 Caves Road, Stanthorpe  
Time: 9.30am  
RSVP: Veronica Ryan 0407 626 301 or  
Connie at the Sub Branch on 07 4681 0047

Pictured - Members from our Women's Auxiliary who hosted 2022 War Widows Day with local widows. It was a great morning with laughter and new friendships made.



### WOMEN'S AUXILIARY STREET STALL

Our Women's Auxiliary are busy organising their upcoming street stall. If you would like to contribute to the stall by donating any hand made craft items, potted plants, home baking or if would like to assist at the stall, please contact Veronica Ryan on 0407 626 301 or Connie at the Sub Branch.

Date: Thursday, 26th October  
Where: Outside Luxury Home Living (near KHub)  
Time: 9.30am - 2.00pm

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Over 65 members enjoyed our Christmas luncheon last year and we would love to see more members this year! Mark this date and keep an eye out for your formal invitation which will be forwarded in early October.

Date: Sunday, 12th November, 2023  
Where: Stanthorpe RSL Services Club, 46 Marsh Street, Stanthorpe  
Time: 12noon for 12.30pm

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, this marks the moment the guns fell silent on the Western Front after the bloodshed of World War I. This year we will be hosting Remembrance Day Services in both Stanthorpe and Texas.

Date: Saturday, 11th November  
Time: 10.45am  
Location: Stanthorpe - War Memorial in Weeroona Park, Marsh Street  
Texas - Cenotaph, Avon Street

### VALE LT-COL HARRY SMITH SG MC (Ret'd)

Vietnam War hero, Lt-Col Harry Smith SG MC (Ret'd) passed away on Sunday 20th August, aged 90yrs, 2 days after commemorations for the battle he fought in.

Lt-Col Smith was awarded the Star of Gallantry for leadership and command and the Military Cross for leadership and gallantry whilst in command of Delta Company, 6 RAR during the battle of Long Tan on 18th August, 1966.

Vastly outnumbered by North Vietnamese regular army units, D-Company fought for four hours in monsoon rain in the Long Tan rubber plantation before finally defeating the enemy. 18 Australians died in the battle, many of them young National Servicemen who were conscripted into the army. To this day Lt-Colonel Smith's men credit him for their survival in what has become the iconic Australian engagement of the Vietnam War.

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# NEWSLETTER

**TS KOOKABURRA**

**Story from  
Cadet Taneeka Kennedy**

I was recently fortunate to be chosen to be part of an 8 day Young Mariners voyage on a 100-foot tall ship with South Passage. Thank you to the Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch who was a generous sponsor of my voyage.

On our voyage from Townsville to Mackay, we passed through the Whitsunday Islands. A truly incredible event as we observed three to four pods of whales, each containing about four whales. We also noticed some turtles, jellyfish and dolphins.

We sailed to Magnetic Island, an island very close to Townsville. There we jumped off the side of the ship and went swimming to enjoy the warm Townsville weather. From Magnetic Island we sailed to Cape Cleveland and on day three we sailed to Cape Upstart. Day four saw us sailing into Airlie Beach. We continued sailing for the remaining three days through the Whitsundays to our final destination, Mackay.

We took a dingy to shore at a couple of the islands and went swimming and snorkeling at the beaches where we saw lots of old washed up coral and shells.

I was fortunate to have a go at steering the ship from the helm, both during the day and at night, which was a lot of fun. We were taught to steer from the compass bearings.



Chef Hugh cooked us amazing food and was always up for a song and a laugh. When the weather was inclement, we spent time playing musical instruments and singing.

Overall, it was a voyage full of new experiences, new friendships and life long memories that I'm extremely grateful I was given the opportunity to experience.

Thank you Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch again for your generosity.

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## TS KOOKABURRA

TS Kookaburra's Annual Inspection was on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 23 at our depot, Red Bridge Court in Stanthorpe.

We were honoured to have former Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO (Ret'd), SDRC Mayor Vic Pennisi, SDRC Councillor Cythnia McDonald, Mr James Lister MP, Mr Martin Corbett RSL Sub Branch President, and Mrs Coral Donnelly Stanthorpe Branch NAA President along with families and friends of the cadets. Our reviewing officer was LCDR ANC Dylon Mackay along with LEUT ANC Chloe Hutton and LEUT ANC Christine Blundston.

Our cadets did a great job at their inspection with a great ceremonial parade and looked amazing in their winter ceremonial uniforms to which I believe we marked highly in this section of our inspection. Our cadets also performed the activity "Rescue at Sea" across the parade ground. All those who attended enjoyed watching the cadets do this activity. Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO (Ret'd) promoted 2 cadets from Able Seaman to Leading Seaman, which they were surprised with this promotion.

As Commanding Officer of TS Kookaburra, I am super proud of all my cadets and their exception effort for our inspection. We are looking forward to hearing our results in the next coming months.

Over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> August, TS Kookaburra was invited to attend the Oakey Open Day held at the Oakey Army depot. Cadets were allowed to walk around the base, enjoy flying simulator activities and view helicopters that were on show (unfortunately all helicopters were grounded due to the recent accident). I personally enjoyed the Military Dog Show; those dogs are amazing! On Sunday we attended the Tri Service games between Navy (TS Toowoomba & TS Kookaburra), Air Force and Army cadets. It was a great day with all cadets participating in points based activities. Last year, being our first event, we won the wooden spoon. This year, I am happy to report TS Kookaburra came third! There were only 20 points between second and third. To say the cadets were so happy and excited is an understatement!



Once again, the staff of TS Kookaburra were so proud of the cadets as their teamwork was amazing. Thank you to the RSL Sub Branch for allowing us to use their Kia to transport our cadets to Oakey. It is greatly appreciated.

Katrina Nemeth, LEUT ANC  
Commanding Officer, TS Kookaburra Navy Cadet Unit

## CONGRATULATIONS

Recently, former TS Kookaburra Cadet, Jack Bell has successfully enlisted with the Australian Army. We know Jack will do us proud.

## SUB BRANCH LIBRARY UPDATE

It has been a while since we last updated our members on our library progress. Our Library Ladies (pictured left to right - Kay, Shirley and June) have been diligently working to catalogue and input book title data into a centralized library system. Recently we had a donation of 50 books which takes our current library stock to over 450 items not including magazines and other resources.

If you have any military books that you would like to donate to the Sub Branch, feel free to drop them off on either Tuesday or Friday.

