



RSL

Stanthorpe Sub Branch

SERVE - REMEMBER - INSPIRE

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Women's Auxiliary

President: Veronica Ryan
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Secretary: Helen Corbett
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Office Hours

Tuesday 10am - 12noon
Friday 10am - 12noon

Drop-in Centre

Friday 10am - 12noon

Useful Links

Stanthorpe Sub Branch - Website
www.stanthorperssubbranch.org

stanthorperssubbranch.org

DECEMBER 2023

CP NEWS

PRESIDENT RAMBLINGS

The end of the year is a great time to reflect on what has been and how we can use challenges to change the future. Here at the Sub Branch, we only want to reflect on the times that bring us success.

Success comes from a proactive board and during the year our Sub Branch committee had a few changes. Our AGM in March saw a retired Navy Merchant Captain, Graeme Caesar join our board. We also welcomed Bridget Cutler who unfortunately resigned due to personal circumstances. Mid year, Terry Acreman, joined our board and became our newly formed School Liaison Officer.

Our Vice President, Glen Gibson officiated our Headstone Project Dedication (placing headstones on our unmarked WWI graves in the Stanthorpe Cemetery) in February. Together with a Sub Branch volunteer, Mark Winkler, Glen is currently working to identify more unmarked graves.

Our Drop-In Centre garden has grown and flowers have blossomed year round. In February, our Padre Rev'd Kaye Ronalds dedicated our garden to our fallen soldiers and we also incorporated this with the remembrance of our animals on War Animals Day.

All of our commemorative services have been well supported by our members and veteran community. Our ANZAC Day Dawn Service continues to grow and a new addition to our parade were two WWI jeeps that transported many of our veterans. This year, was the 50th Anniversary of the cessation of the Vietnam War. We had many district schools in attendance and again this service was well supported by the community. Remembrance Day was held both here in Weeroona Park and in Texas. Thank-you to Glen Gibson who officiated the Texas service and was attended by our Sub Branch members Les Fletcher, Jacquie Large, Ray Williams and our bugler Darren Uhlmann. It is always pleasing to see the number of Texas veterans and community members attend this service. (Pictured above - Cannoneer Brendon Steele (left) and his family on Remembrance Day. Photo courtesy of Samantha Wantling)



To assist in the promotion of these services, RSL Queensland had two initiatives for our schooling community: Postcards of Honour and Draw to Remember. Both of these initiatives were well accepted and we loved seeing the creativeness of students within our district.

In mid November, we gathered for a highly successful Christmas Function. Many new faces joined us as we laughed, chatted and mingled with fellow veterans.

To all the members and families, your board members and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2024 especially at our AGM which will be held at the Services Club on Sunday 23rd March. Let us get together and support our Sub Branch.

Cheers, Martin Corbett

RSL QUEENSLAND CHRISTMAS SPIRIT HAMPER

Since 2020, RSL Queensland staff have created Christmas Spirit Hampers and the initiative continued again this year.

When considering our recipients, we considered those members who have experienced recent illness and those who have gone over and above to volunteer their time for various Sub Branch activities.



Pictured right is Kevin Ross with Sub Branch Secretary, Paul Petter and Women's Auxiliary Member Jan Cockerell. Kevin has been unwell of late which has deterred his regular volunteering for our Friday Bingo.

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

SUB BRANCH CHRISTMAS HOURS

Over the Christmas period the Sub Branch will be closed

12noon Friday 15th December 2023
until
10am Tuesday 16th January 2024

For any emergencies, please contact Tom Page on 0434 212 485 for assistance.

Should you need to contact our Advocate, please call Martin Corbett on 0412 697 586 or email stanpension@gmail.com

NASHO NEWS

The Branch has been very quiet during the winter months so there is little to report.

With news from the RSL Sub Branch, the proposal for the upgrade to the War Memorial in Weeroona Park has commenced. It is planned that with these upgrades, our Memorial will be moved to a more visible area within one of the rose gardens.

At present, we are endeavouring to obtain names of all local personnel within the Stanthorpe District who were conscripted for National Service between the years of 1951-1959 and 1965-1972 to be placed on a plaque to honour their service and also personnel who volunteered with the CMF or Army Reserves during these periods will also be included. A list will be made available in the near future.

Remembrance Day was well attended with the Branch laying a wreath in memory of all deceased Nasho's. (Pictured right: President Mack Rees preparing to lay his wreath.)



2023 is nearly finished and on behalf of my President, I wish to thank the RSL Sub Branch and Club for their assistance over the year and wish all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. See you all in 2024.

For further information contact Des Fossey on mobile - 0488 796 627



BINGO UPDATE

We wish to thank to our volunteers and committee members who take the time to provide this service to our community every Friday morning.

Our last market bingo will take place on Friday 15th December. Over the past weeks, there have been assorted Christmas items to be won however on this last bingo session, patrons who complete a FULL CARD will win a leg of ham!

We look forward to welcoming you, your partner and friends when Bingo commences on Friday 12th January 2024.

106th SUB BRANCH AGM Sunday 23rd March 2024 at 1400

Nominations are being called for the positions of: President and Director x 2

Nominations open: Friday 16th February 2024
Nominations close: Sunday 3rd March 2024
The results will be published: Friday 8th March 2024

More details will be forwarded to all members in February 2024.

BOOK BURSARY AND TRUE LEGENDS AWARDS

The 2023 schooling year has now ended and we continued to support our district schools with our bursaries.

Book Bursary

For our district primary schools, we acknowledged a worthy Year 6 student with a novel. We also support these schools by donating a book to their school library. Congratulations and well done to all students.

This year, the book that has been awarded to Year 6 students is "Caesar the War Dog". This hero has four paws and a wagging tail! Based on the true experiences of military dogs, this is a story of loyalty, strength and the bond between man and his dog.

The donated library book is "My Grandad Marches on ANZAC Day". A little girl sits on her father's soldiers waiting to see her Grandad as he marches in the ANZAC Day parade. A moving look at ANZAC Day through the eyes of a child with the importance and significance explained in terms that children can understand.

Texas State School - **Georgianna Cleversley** (Pictured right: Georgianna receiving her award from School Liaison Officer, Terry Acreman)

Amiens State School - **Lucas Kent**

Applethorpe State School - **Rebekah Neville**

Ballandean State School - **Clancee Sewell**

Broadwater State School - **Mack Parsons**

Dalveen State School - **Fletcher Skillington**

Glen Aplin State School - **Darcy Baigent**

Greenlands State School - **Jack Beckett**

St Joseph's School (Primary) - **Tayla Sutton**

Severnlea State School - **Chloe Temple**

Stanthorpe State Primary School - **Declan Giles-Duffy**

The Summit State School - **Sienna Cavanagh-Green**

Thulimbah State School - **Levi Berryman**



True Legends

This awards program, True Legends, is a monetary award to assist students with their education costs. WWI is studied during Year 9 and students are asked to submit a research paper relating this to a fallen service person from Stanthorpe whose name appears on an honour board on one of Stanthorpe's memorials.

Our congratulations to the following students from St Joseph's School (Secondary) - First - Lillian Kendall, Second - Eden Shatte and Third - Erin O'Dea

Congratulations to Grace Roberts, Year 10 Student from St Joseph's School, who has been named as one of eight students across Queensland who are recipients of the prestigious 2024 Premier's Anzac Prize. Last year Grace was awarded first prize in our True Legends Awards. Well done!

DECEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER

LAST POST

We remember our Sub Branch Members who have passed away.

Lest We Forget

June Horn - Volunteer Librarian

REMEMBRANCE DAY

A warm morning greeted both the Stanthorpe and Texas communities as members of our Sub Branch prepared for our Remembrance Day services.

Our President Martin Corbett conducted our Stanthorpe service while Vice President Glen Gibson presented our Texas Service. Both services were well attended by locals and visitors.

Thank you to our Guest Speaker, LTCOL Jamie McDonald (Rtd) (Pictured below) who gave a magnificent address and was well received by everyone. Our Mayor, Cr Vic Pennisi addressed the service which is always an honour.



Thanks to our veterans, Sub Branch members and district schools and community groups that have supported our service. It is very much appreciated and assists in making our services what they are.

Pictured below is Veronica Ryan, President of Women's Auxiliary and Terence Nichols, Sub Branch member laying wreaths



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Greetings and salutations for all my fellow Sub Branch members as we move into the 2023 festive season. The year has motored along and really is the first full year since all the Covid 19 disruptions. Some have lingered and even become part of how we live. I thought this may be an opportune time to look back and forward on the operations of the Sub Branch. Whilst we can be on the front foot for much of our administration and governance, we are reactive for many of our veteran and community support programs and services as we need to know before we can assist. One of the regular things that has fallen away due to recent restrictions, has been the regular Drop Inn BBQ. If you would like to partake in a BBQ or want to drop in, please let us know.

We continue to SERVE our veteran family both collectively and individually by providing direct and indirect support and assistance. We also continue to SERVE our community through targeted assistance via donations and participation in joint projects.

We continue to REMEMBER the individual with commemorative services (Poppy), marking unmarked graves, the telling a veteran story by preserving and displaying memorabilia and artefacts. We continue to REMEMBER by promoting and participating in collective community Ceremonial events like ANZAC Day.

We continue to INSPIRE individuals and community members to display and live the traits of patriotism, loyalty, integrity, selflessness, and community spirit by engaging with school pupils using book prizes and bursaries, telling the story of veteran endeavour every chance we get.

We have embedded these programs and activities into our calendars and budget and given functional responsibility to directors to ensure delivery. Like all things we are always seeking ways to improve and find new ways to live the League Objects. If you can help, please let us know.

Over the last year your board has met 11 times to provide guidance, make decisions that run the Sub Branch. Among these we have set budgets, reviewed policies, made donations, supported individuals for worthy events, and managed finances to ensure we met our fiduciary obligations.

Individual directors have provided direct and indirect assistance for veterans, represented the Sub Branch in many forums, taken part in joint projects and in line with SERVE - REMEMBER - INSPIRE taken part in Commemorative, Ceremonial and other community and school events.

The Sub Branch relies on members, to at times, be proactive and take a leadership role and consider becoming a board member. Next March we have our 106th Annual General Meeting and there will be a number of director positions up for election. We will be advertising this in February, and I would ask that consider this. If you have any questions, please drop in have a brew and ask.

In talking about members, I am pleased to report that our membership has a very slight upward trend. Like all member-based associations we are only as good as our members, so if you know someone who is a veteran and not a member encourage them to join.

One of the programs that cross the three pillars of SERVE - REMEMBER - INSPIRE is our library. Over the last few years, we have been blessed with three wonderful ladies, who in a former life were librarians, who have been cataloguing our collection and putting into an online system. Sadly, June Horn passed recently. Our condolences to all that knew this wonderful person.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy festive season and a year that brings much promise.

Paul Petter

CHRISTMAS HUMOUR

*What did one Christmas tree say to another? Lighten up!
What did salt say to pepper on Christmas? Seasonings Greetings
What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!
Knock Knock! Who's there? Tree. Tree who? Tree wise men.
Where would you find a snowman dancing? At a snowball!
Why is a foot a good Christmas present? Because it makes a good stocking filler.
How do the elves clean Santa's sleigh on the day after Christmas? They use Santa-tizer*

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NEWSLETTER

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

In October, members of the Auxiliary, gathered with some widows for War Widows Day (Pictured below). A morning tea was organized and held at the Queensland College of Wine Tourism. A great morning of recalling memories, laughs shared and new friendships were formed.



Our membership is growing and our members have been enjoying our social outings and thereby supporting local businesses: The Country Club, Groove 'N Grill, Slaps, Christmas Farm, Lily's, O'Mara's and The Little Larder. As many of our members are unable to drive at night, the focus is to have day time outings. Our Christmas lunch function was held at the Brass Monkey Brewery.

Our thanks is extended to the community who support our fundraisers being our Street Stall in October and currently our Christmas raffle which will be drawn on Saturday 16th December.

Donations have been made to both LifeFlight and Salvation Army Family Store of \$1000



to each organization. (Pictured above is Cat Barker from our local Salvation Army Family Store receiving their donation)

New members are always welcome and we meet on the second Monday of each month at 11.30am at the Sub Branch Drop-In Centre. Lunch follows the meeting at 12.30pm at the RSL Services Club.

Our AGM will be held on Monday 12th February at the Sub Branch Drop-In Centre. All positions become vacant and nomination forms are available at the Sub Branch.

Positions: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Nominations close Monday 29th January 2024.

Members wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Veronica Ryan, President

The Western District Annual Congress is to be held in Toowoomba on Saturday 24th February 2024.

Nominations are being called for the following positions: District President, District 2nd Vice President and District Treasurer.

If you are interested, a copy of the Position Description and Nomination Form can be collected from the Sub Branch or alternatively, these can be emailed to you. Nominees are requested to provide a Resume with their nomination.

Please return your completed Nomination Form and Resume by close of business on Friday 2nd February 2024.

Email: admin@stanthorperslsubbranch.org or

Postal: PO Box 887, Stanthorpe Qld 4380

TS KOOKABURRA

TS Kookaburra Navy Cadet Unit had their Annual Awards Night dinner on Saturday 2nd December and it was a great night had by all. TS Kookaburra's patron Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO (Rtd) attended the night and presented a number of awards.

Cr Cynthia McDonald attended and presented the Community and Courage Awards to the cadets that have been guard party for Anzac Day Dawn Service and Remembrance Day services.

Most Deserving Cadet (by secret ballot) was awarded to **CDTLS Taneeka Kennedy** (second year running) and was presented by RSL Sub Branch director Mr Graeme Caesar.

Naval Association of Australia President Mrs Coral Donnelly, presented the NAA Award which is pride in uniform. This year we had two winners - **CDTLS Ally Elms** and **CDTLS Lara Rose**.

Vice Admiral Michael Noonan AO (Rtd) presented The Best Senior Cadet who was **CDTCPO David Nemeth**, 2nd Year cadet was won by **CDTLS Taneeka Kennedy**, 1st Year cadet was **CDTAB Liam Elms**. The award of the night was Cadet of the Year which Vice Admiral presented to **CDTLS Nathaniel Armstrong** which he was very excited about receiving by Sir; you couldn't wipe the smile off his face!

This year we presented two honour boards. The first is the Chief Petty Officer and Petty Officer board which recognize the cadets who make the rank of Petty Officer and Chief Petty Officer. I made special mention for all the older TS Kookaburra cadets that made Petty Officer and we also put on the current Petty Officer and Chief Petty Officer who is CDTCPO David Nemeth.

The second honour board is the 5 Year Service to which we placed three names to this board. First cadet is CDTPPO Mark Nemeth 2016, second cadet is CDTLS Robert Scurr who started as a TS Kookaburra cadet and then moved to TS Toowoomba who aged out last week. Our third cadet is CDTCPO David Nemeth as he ages out on the 16th January 2024.

Then we had to say goodbye to CDTCPO David Nemeth as he has been a cadet since he turned 13 years old. He had had an outstanding cadet career attending a number of camps with a memorable one being the National Camp in September 2022 at HMAS Cerberus in Melbourne. He has had numerous HMAS ships inspections, made many friends from all over the country but now he leaves us to join the Army on the 5th February 2024 as an aircraft technician which is very exciting. His fellow cadets are looking forward to hearing all of David's stories when he comes home to visit. Good luck David with your Army career.



TS Kookaburra staff, cadets and parents would like to thank the Stanthorpe RSL Sub Branch for all the support you have given the cadets. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

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