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TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

COACH DAY TRIP TO BOWRAVILLE

Coach leaves Forster Bowling Club at 7.30am.
Includes morning tea at Gloucester, entry and visits to Frank Partridge VC Military Museum and Bowraville Folk Museum.
Lunch at Bowraville Ex-Services Club, at your own expense.
Members - $46, non-members - $56
This trip is at very short notice so if you would like to join us on what will be a great day, please contact Kim Dwyer ASAP to book your place. Payment at time of booking will be necessary, thank you.

WELCOME TO “51-72”

Hello everyone, isn’t it great to see that we are still attracting new members, fantastic, and I’d like to welcome those new members to our Sub-Branch, with a wish that you feel welcomed and at home. If you haven’t already done so, please have a look at what is going on with our social calendar. I warmly invite you to join us on our bus trips or other social events, I guarantee that you will be welcomed with open arms.

We have squeezed in an extra bus trip, at the beginning of September, so I am sorry that there is not much notice for this one. So check out the details on this page and the back page and see me at the meeting to book your place, it will be a great day, with lots to see and do.

Cheers,
Kim Dwyer

REPORTS

PRESIDENT - It’s very cold in the mornings at present but boy the days are really great with temperatures so high a jumper is not needed, what a great place we live in.

Our Sub-Branch is humming along as we like it and thanks to a great social committee who have organised things to do. Our membership is remaining steady but if you know of a prospective new member, please tell us or bring them along to one of our meetings.

Those who joined us on the free coach trip to Sydney for the very last Reserve Forces Day on 1st July can tell you that the early start was worth it. The coach from Tuncurry Tours, driven by Mal Prewitt, was A1 and we also enjoyed a great lunch at the North Ryde RSL club. Also the quiz that Kim arranged on the coach whilst coming home was a lot of fun.

24th July was the date for our annual Ten Pin Bowling Championship and although smaller numbers attended this year, everyone said “boy it was lot of fun”, (just ask Tony Beales who managed to fall over on one attempt to bowl faster that anyone else and then got up laughing). Up till then he was scoring very well but his twisted ankle put him off he said, so he sadly did not gain a place in the final washup. Better luck next year Tony. Carol Muir was the Ladies Scratch Champion, and Kevin Dwyer took out the Men’s Scratch Championship. A big thank you must go to Paul and Leone Fitzgerald for the purchase of prizes, scoring and overall organisation again this year.

The next important event is Vietnam Veterans Day on 18th August, please put this in your diary and do your best to attend.

Happy Parade, Keith McNeil

SECRETARY - OK, so this job must get easier as time passes, right? I have notified the Sydney office of the changes in our committee for this coming year and the mail from them is starting to roll in. A big thank you must go to Marlene Meyer for her very good work as my assistant, she takes the minutes from each meeting in shorthand and then types them up so that I can present a true and accurate report from the previous meetings.

Membership moves up and down each year but we seem to gravitate around the same number of members each year. This does not mean that we should slacken off on our membership drive, we must keep on telling the Forster locals that, as a Sub-Branch, we are alive and well. I have been informed the Toukley Sub-Branch may fold shortly, and this must not happen to our group.

Cheers, Gloria McNeil
VALE “Bob” Moran (father of our Padre Daryll Moran) 10 September 1939 - 10 July 2018 Aged 86

It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of “Bob” Moran, the father of our padre, Daryll Moran. His funeral was held on Tuesday 24 July at Tuncurry.

Henry Earl Moran (“Bob”), was well known in the local community and members of our Sub-Branch who attended functions at Daryll’s church often saw him there helping out.

We send our deepest condolences to Bob’s wife Betty, Daryll and Kerrie and their family, and Daryll’s sister, Nerida, her husband George and their family, we are thinking of you all at this very sad time.

May Bob rest in Peace.

RESERVE FORCES DAY - SUNDAY 1st JULY - Today was to be the very last Reserve Forces Day commemoration in Sydney, so we had decided to take a coach trip down and participate. There were only 21 of us, so we had plenty of room in the coach. Although it was an early 5am start, the bus was warm and everyone was cheerful.

We had a morning tea stop and another rest stop, and arrived at the War Memorial in Hyde Park right on 9.30am, ready for what we had been told was a 10am start. We secured great seats, at the foot of the War Memorial steps, just below where the dignitaries were to be seated, looking out onto the Pool of Remembrance.

The day was very warm, bright and sunny, the spectacle was wonderful and the numbers present were impressive.

There were Light Horse, Mounted Police and Standard parades, before all the Reserve Forces units, including our Nashos, made their march past.

It was a wonderful day, colourful and ceremonious. It is sad that this was the very last Reserve Forces Day commemoration to be held in Sydney.

TEN PIN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP - TUESDAY 24th JULY - We had 20 for lunch and just 14 participating in the bowling today but, despite the small numbers, it was once again a great fun day for all those who attended. The winners on the day were: Ladies Handicap Winner - Leone Fitzgerald; Ladies Scratch Winner and winner of Ladies Perpetual Trophy - Carol Muir; Men’s Handicap Winner - Keith McNeil; Men’s Scratch Winner and winner of Men’s Perpetual Trophy - Kevin Dwyer. We also had a fun “booby prize”, presented to Paul Fitzgerald for very under par bowling. Glad to say that Paul accepted this prize in the fun spirit in which it was given.

Congratulations to our runners up and winners and thank you and well done to all the participants today, it was great fun.

Odds spots

- Turtles and honey bees are both deaf.
- The Statue of Liberty’s index finger is 2.5 metres long.
- You are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than a spider.
- The catfish has more than 27,000 taste buds.
- Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland because he doesn’t wear pants.
- The first known contraceptive was crocodile dung, used by the Egyptians in 2000 BC.
- It is estimated that at any one time 0.7% of the world’s population are drunk.
- Boanthropy is a disease in which a person thinks they are an ox.
Terrie Ross was working in the maternity ward of the Goulburn hospital when she met a woman who would change her life forever.

A local girl, Mrs Ross did her general nurse training in her hometown, before heading to Sydney where she trained as a midwife. She had come back to Goulburn for a month "that had turned into a year" and at age 23 she wasn't sure if this was what she wanted to do. Terrie Ross was one of the first four army nurses to be deployed to Vietnam.

"I worked with a darling old nurse called Nora Marmont," she says. "I knew she'd worked on a hospital train in Japan during the Korean War, but I knew that when she came home she had to look after her brother's children – he'd lost his leg – and then her parents as they aged, and she worked night shift, every shift.

"One day Marmie said to me, 'Young Terrie, you have to leave, if you don't you'll end up here with five babies and you'll have been nowhere and seen nothing.' 'Go join the army,' she said. And so I did."

It was May 1965 and Lieutenant Terrie Ross headed off to join the staff of the No.2 Military Hospital at Ingleburn, just outside Sydney.

In Vietnam, things were just starting to get interesting. The US had committed 200,000 troops to the conflict, the Australian government was just about to deploy the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. The first National Service conscription ballot had just been drawn.

By August 1966, after the Battle of Long Tan, one of Australia's heaviest actions of the war, the need for expanded medical facilities became obvious.

With just a few weeks to prepare, and sworn to secrecy, Terrie Ross became one of the first four army nurses to be deployed to Vietnam, deployed to the 8th Field Ambulance unit in Vung Tau.

Now 74 and living in Jerrabomberra with Mick, her husband of 44 years, who she met when they were both serving in Vietnam, deployed to the 8th Field Ambulance, Vung Tau.

"I knew she was the enemy but I thought, if I was in the same boat, I'd want someone to do the same for me," Mrs Ross says.

She remembers one patient, Platoon Sergeant Alexander "Jock" Sutherland who'd been hit by direct rocket fire during the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha. Six Australians had been killed and another 20 wounded. She was on duty in the intensive care unit when Jock was wheeled in after several hours of emergency surgery.

"He was so sick," she says, "I was trying to keep him comfortable and get him off to sleep, but he was worried he would never wake up if he did. But he said he would go to sleep if I stayed with him.

"I did have a date that night," she laughs, remembering it now. "But I said, 'You're on,' and I sat with him for hours and when he woke up he knew he'd be OK."

Years later Mrs Ross was working in the radiography department at the Woden Hospital, Canberra, and a woman, Mindy, came in. She was Jock's wife. When Mrs Ross told her that Jock had written her a letter, telling her about his trip home, and thanking her for caring for him, Mindy was surprised, saying she had never seen him put pen to paper. Mrs Ross gave Mindy a copy of the letter and the two women have remained in touch ever since.

**VC HONOUR ROLL**

**Sergeant Percy Clyde STATTON**

40th Australian Infantry Battalion, A.I.F.,
12 August 1918, near Proyart, France.

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in action when in command of a platoon which reached its objective, the remainder of the battalion being held up by heavy machine-gun fire.

He skilfully engaged two machine-gun posts with Lewis gun fire, enabling the remainder of his battalion to advance. The battalion on his left had been brought to a standstill by heavy enemy machine-gun fire, and the first of our assaulting detachments to reach the machine-gun posts were put out of action in taking the first gun.

Armed with only a revolver, in broad daylight, Sergeant Statton at once rushed four enemy machine-gun posts in succession, disposing of two of them and killing five of the enemy. The remaining two retired and were wiped out by Lewis gun fire.

Later in the evening, under heavy machine-gun fire, he went out again and brought in two badly wounded men.

Sergeant Statton set a magnificent example of quick decision and the success of the attacking troops was largely due to his determined gallantry.

**LEST WE FORGET**
OUR YEAR’S PROGRAM OF EVENTS:
From time to time, EXTRA dates for special events, or outings such as bus trips, will be included in this program, marked with a **, so watch for any changes. Unless otherwise advertised, our meetings are held on the second Friday of the month (not Dec.), in the AUDITORIUM, FORSTER BOWLING CLUB, STRAND ST, FORSTER, commencing 10.00 am. Street parking at front of Club, and a carpark at rear of Club, accessed from Cross Street.

**AUGUST 10 - General meeting followed by BBQ lunch.
**SEPTEMBER 10 - Merchant Navy Day.
SEPTEMBER 14 - General meeting and morning tea.
**SEPTEMBER 17-23 - Annual camp-out - See or contact President Keith, or Vice President Eric for details.

NOVEMBER 1 - Committee meeting 2pm.

NOVEMBER 9 - General meeting and morning tea.

NOVEMBER 11 - Remembrance Day. Assemble at Tuncurry memorial at 10.30 am, full uniform and medals.

AUGUST 10 - Vietnam Veteran’s Day. Service begins at 2pm at Memorial, Little Street, Foster. Full uniform and medals.

**SEPTEMBER 4 - Coach day trip to Bowraville.
Coach leaves Forster Bowling Club at 7.30am. Includes morning tea, entry and visits to Frank Partridge VC Military Museum and Bowraville Folk Museum. Lunch at Bowraville Ex-Services Club, at your own expense.
Members - $46, non-members $56
This trip has been organised at very short notice, the result of a positive response from members at the last meeting, when asked if you would like another bus trip before November. So here it is. If you would like to join us on what will be a great day, please contact Kim Dwyer ASAP to book your place. Payment at time of booking will be necessary, thank you.

**SEPTEMBER 18 - Coach day trip to Bowraville.

OCTOBER 12 - General meeting followed by BBQ lunch.

**SEPTEMBER 14 - General meeting and morning tea.

OCTOBER 12 - General meeting followed by BBQ lunch.

**SEPTEMBER 17-23 - Annual camp-out - See or contact President Keith, or Vice President Eric for details.

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