

Presidents Report – Panania RSL Sub Branch

2015 ANZAC CENTENARY

Sub Branch has had a very busy year, preparing for the Centenary celebrations of the landing at Gallipoli. This will be one of the biggest and best celebrated functions of this Centenary.

I am extremely proud of our heritage, especially of those who gave their lives so we can enjoy the privileged life we lead today.

The ANZAC Sunday Service will be held on Sunday, 19th April leaving the Club's carpark at 2.30pm, marching to the Cenotaph at Panania then returning to the Club for refreshments.

I am seeking the support of our members and the community to attend the Dawn Service commencing at 4.30am on Saturday, 25th April at Panania Cenotaph. Afterwards members are invited to the Diggers Club for breakfast. The Club will be providing live entertainment in the Centenary Room, with the Club being closed from 8.00am until 10.00am. The remainder of the day will see more live entertainment all day outside, bringing the entertainment inside during the evening.

I would now like to thank Guy Hallgath and his staff for the contribution towards the commemorative events and for their ongoing support. The Club has worked tirelessly to ensure that this commemoration is a success and receives the regard it deserves.

The Club will be giving away over 500 items of 100 year memorabilia including shirts, coffee mugs, two-up sets, pens, key rings, medallions, and other assorted gifts which will be given to our members.

The Clubs Bistro, Georges on Kelso will also be contributing to the commemoration, making available Australiana inspired meals for the week leading up to ANZAC Day.

It is an honour to announce that the Club has renamed the Sunset Lounge to the Centenary Room. To commemorate the 100 year landing at Gallipoli, the Club has purchased a picture depicting the Gallipoli landing, entitled "The Spirit – Gallipoli Landing 1915". I would once again like to thank Guy Hallgath for his dedication and efforts in naming the room and acquiring this painting. A small ceremony will be held on Anzac Day unveiling the painting and officially renaming the room, after the 11.00am recital of the Ode.

The Sub Branch will be attending Nursing Homes, Pre Schools and local Schools in the area contributing to their ANZAC Services.

I would like to thank the Women's Auxiliary and the ladies from the retired Bowling Club for all their help and support on ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Day. Without them, it would not be so successful.

This year saw the resignation of Graham Bellamy from the Sub Branch, who I would like to express my appreciation for his contribution and support over many years.

Negotiations are still underway with RSL Headquarters for us to obtain a piece of 1st World War Artillery as we can have it displayed at the front of our Club. Hopefully this will occur prior to ANZAC Day.

To all the families and friends of members who passed away in 2014 on behalf of the Sub Branch, we share our condolences with you and are very sorry for your loss.

This year, I attended 34 Funerals, 43 Hospital Visits and 12 Home Visits.

I would like to thank William Clark for his assistance in attending funerals and also to John Watts and William Clark for carrying out funeral duties in my absence.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new members who have joined in 2014. We value your membership and patronage and hope you will enjoy our fine Club and the excellent facilities it has to offer.

Garry Murray OAM JP

President/Welfare Officer