



THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT L. WESTON
HON. TRES. R ANDERSON
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**NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH
INCORPORATED**

PANANIA RSL SUB-BRANCH
28 CHILDS STREET
PANANIA NSW 2213
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"The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance"

It gives me great pleasure to provide this report as President of the Panania RSL Sub-Branch.

First and foremost, I wish to thank all those members who continually provide their time and energy to the Sub-Branch efforts over the preceding year. Their willingness to pitch in and ensure our events, commemorations and services and general day to day business, occurs to an exceptional level is appreciated and inspiring.

The past year has been, for many and all, an interesting one to say the least. Starting with Fires, then flood and to complete the trilogy a pandemic. The Sub-Branch was able to continue its work through these times and sadly we had to cancel the April 2020 monthly meeting, possibly the first time this has occurred, due to the restrictions however, managed to have 10 members join in an online video conference for the May meeting. Normality kind of returned for the June meeting and we have been meeting in person since that time.

Our services and commemorations over the year have been few, ANZAC Sunday and our dawn services were unfortunately cancelled. Myself and Joe Kaplun did attend the Panania cenotaph at 0430 on ANZAC day and laid wreaths and stood silent in memory of our fallen and serving counterparts. Many members took part in the driveways at dawn to commemorate the day. We did gather around 50 people on November 11 2020 for Remembrance Day to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War two in particular. Many Sub-Branch members also attended the club for the 75 Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific day on the 15 August.

We have been working on raising the awareness of the Sub-Branch through the implementation of the digital signage in the Diggers club lounge area replacing the hospital board and a rotating display of various division, battalion and other plaques that have been stored in the office for sometime and now can be seen by patron, as well as a regularly updated notification of upcoming events and meetings. The Sub-Branch executive and committee will continue these efforts in ensuring those who attend the Diggers Club are aware that it is first and at its core a Returned Services club and that the Sub-Branch is there to provide a service.

Over the year some long service executive and committee members have for various reasons ceased to provide their dedicated services to the Sub-Branch;

Mick Floyd, who served as Honorary Secretary for a number of years, moved to Orange to be closer to his family

John Watts, our trusted and hardworking Honorary Treasurer, resigned from his position to concentrate on his health and spend more time enjoying life at a slower pace.

A Sub-Branch stalwart, Garry Murray has also resigned his position on the executive

We sincerely thank those above for their contributions, services, camaraderie and work in keeping our Sub-Branch active and driven to its core purpose

We welcome to our executive Rodger Anderson, who has assumed the daunting dual role of Secretary/Treasurer for our Sub-Branch and in the short time he has been with us, Rodger has implemented process changes, and clean ups as well as the afore mentioned creation of the digital display contents. Welcome Rodger and we look forward to your continued efforts

Our financial position, while restricted, remains reasonably stable against the lower interest rates and limited income. We have recently commenced a re-alignment of our working bank balance and will shortly be re investing our capital fund into a new bank where we have been assured the interest rate for our money will provide a little nudge upwards to our income. This work has taken some time due to paperwork issues however will provide that slight uptick on our available fund to carry out our work and keep the Sub-Branch going

Through the year we have unfortunately lost valued and close friends, as is the nature of time on us all, we remember them and thank them for their service and friendship.

Our membership is steady and over the past year we have attracted a number of new members who are, thankfully, keen to be active and contribute to our efforts, welcome to those new members and thank you for your support and contributions. We also thank those long-time members who have begun attending meetings on a regular basis and contributing to the betterment of our work

Our meetings are at 1900 on the second Monday of every month and I encourage you all to attend and take part in our planning and informational time there.

Many thanks to our Executive and committee who continue to support myself and the Sub-Branch as a whole. The collaborative nature in which we work helps drive the outcomes we are so keen to provide. The executive, comprising of, Michael Floyd, Joe Kaplun, Garry Murray and John Watts and now with the changes, Rodger, their work is greatly appreciated and thanked.

The year ahead shows signs of similar challenges to the year past and I ask that all members continue to volunteer their time to assist us in providing support to our members, their families and those that deserve our respect and support.

In closing, I again thank all for the support and work over the past twelve months and am sure this will continue onwards over the coming year. We endeavour to meet our commitment to helping those in need and support those as often and as much as we are able. One of the goals once again this year is to continue increasing our visibility in the community to raise awareness that we are here to help all serving and ex serving person from all conflicts and services areas. Please help us get the word out.

And ever appreciative thanks to the President & board of directors Panania Diggers and with special thanks especially to Ian Lowndes CEO for his continued ongoing support of the Sub branch.

I thank you in services.

Leo Weston

PRESIDENT

Panania RSL Sub-Branch

March 2021