



CLUB NEWSLETTER

August & September 2009
Edition 44



Greensborough RSL



9435 1884

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111 Main St Greensborough Vic 3088

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Debortoli Special Offer, Brick Pavers
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2009 Office Bearers

President Lee Webb	Pensions Lee Webb
Vice President Dal Crocker	Alan Hicks
Secretary William Telfer	Barry Ripper
Treasurer Allan Guy	Stephen Karsai
Committee Kevin Mundy	Memorabilia Kevin Mundy
Terry Evans	Welfare Jill Passeri
Russell Topp	Duncan Phillips
Alan Hicks	Appeals Michael Fowler

Pension Office Hours

10.00am - 2.00pm
Monday - **Allan Hicks**
Tuesday - **Lee Webb**
Wednesday - **Steve Karsai**
Thursday - **Barry Ripper**
Appointments made via
Club Reception on
9435 1884

Vale

Our thoughts are with the families
of the following members who
have sadly passed away



Mr Ronald Batty - Mr William Boag
Mr Stanley Elmore - Mr Francis Martin - Mr Ray Nash

LEST WE FORGET

RSL Membership & Privileges Card

Congratulations to all Service and Affiliate members. You are automatically eligible for the exciting new RSL Ambassador Card.

This card entitles you to access savings across Australia and New Zealand. The Ambassador card provides savings at some 1650 restaurants, hotels, cinemas and attractions. Visit the Ambassador Card website at www.rslvic.com.au to see all discounts and benefits available. Alternatively if you do not have access to a computer, please call into our Reception area and the reception staff will assist you with a copy of the benefits brochure. If you are a Social Member and wish to have an Ambassador Card please call Reception and they will assist you with the qualification of an Affiliate Membership and the issue of the Ambassador Card. There are no extra charges with the change of Membership category, so don't delay and you too can enjoy the discounts available.



Message from CEO Greensborough RSL

"The Car Park"

Get Ready!!!! Yes, it is going to start. I have just been informed by our architect that yes everything is go and the builder will be on-site on the 20th July 2009. So, I can only pre-warn everyone again and apologize we will not have a great deal of our car park for the next three (3) months. In saying that all you guys would be experts at this now and you never let us down by not coming during the big renovation so hopefully you all just find a place to park or just keep on coming. They tell me that the first week onsite they will ready the side car park for the pre-cast walls and then on or about the 1st August we should see them delivered and up. The building process should be about 3 months, so by the end of October we should have our new double story car park.

Kind regards, Barry Thompson,
CEO Greensborough RSL



Upcoming Entertainment

FREE BONUS CD OFFER !



Brian CANHAM

Live

Pseudo Echo unplugged !

Pre book your ticket now, and receive a RARE acoustic / unplugged CD featuring hits like "Listening" "A Beat For You" "Don't Go" and more...ABSOLUTELY FREE

Wednesday 19th August

Dinner & Show \$57 per head

Morning Melodies

15th July Marcie Rae

18 November Brendan Scott

\$9.90

includes morning tea

Doors open at 10.15am / Showtime 10.45am

Why not stay for lunch?

Seniors Days

5th August Max Bleach

2nd September Ian Castles

7th October Frank Amarossi

1st Wednesday of every month

FREE Lunchtime Entertainment

12 noon onwards - Seniors Meals Available

FATHERS DAY SPECIAL



Every DAD will receive a FREE pot of beer and will also go into the draw for a BBQ Hamper Pack

BOOKINGS PREFERRED

Offer Valid Sunday 6th September 09

FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE

Christmas Functions
Booking Available Now

Ph: 9435 1884

Christmas Day and New Years Eve Bookings Open 1st Oct

BAPTISM OF FIRE

Following is a story of Able Seaman W.G.V. WILLIAMS (Royal Australian Navy Reserve) and Captain R.C.A. POCKLEY (A.M.C) at the capture of the German Wireless Station at Bita Paka, near Rabaul (Papua New Guinea) in September 1914.

I present this because it is topical at this time and hopefully gets published before ANZAC Day. Also I would like to thank John Wilkins for supplying the information.

It all began after the outbreak of World War 1 with Germany in 1914 when the British Government invited Australian assistance, especially in respect of German colonial possessions in the Pacific.

Within a week, reservists were being called up in the various States, volunteers recruited for both the AIF (20,000 troops to be available for Imperial Defence for the duration) and a special Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) for a period of 6 months for operations against the German territories in the Pacific.

The AN&MEF comprised recruits from S.A., QLD., VIC and NSW. The Victorian contingent was mainly naval; the NSW mainly Army.

The combined force was progressively brought together at Sydney and initially trained. They left Sydney on HMAS "Berrima" (Berrima was converted from the P&O liner as a troopship) on 19th August for Palm Island near Townsville where they underwent further training.

Meanwhile the RAN units, after completing other tasks, progressively joined the exercise. By early September "Berrima" had been joined by the cruisers "Australia", "Sydney", "Encounter" and "Melbourne" and the destroyers "Warrego" and "Yarra" at a rendezvous off Rossel Island at the South East tip of New Guinea.

On 11th September a party from "Berrima" landed at Kabukaul.

The prime objective was the wireless station, under construction and development at Bita Paka on the Gazelle Peninsula of New Britain - 8 kilometres inland from Kabukaul and 50 kilometres South East of Rabaul.

At the outbreak of war, the Australian defence planners believed the station to be at Rabaul but later intelligence reports indicated that it was on the high ground inland from Kabukaul where dense jungle and crude roads and tracks made it ideal for ambush and sniper fire.

Orders from Berlin were that the station had to be defended "at all costs". Thus the inexperienced landing party, as it advanced, had to ascertain the station's precise location, the route to be taken, its tactical approach and whether reinforcements were needed from HMAS "Berrima".

This exercise was the key to an overall operation to seize and occupy all German territories in the Pacific and to destroy their wireless stations which made up an effective communications network in the region.

Both WILLIAMS and POCKLEY were members of the advance party that landed at Kabukaul to push on through dense jungle to locate and - if possible - seize the wireless station at Bita Paka. They proceeded some kilometres inland when they encountered resistance from German and native troops.

It was then decided to send for reinforcements before the final assault on the station. WILLIAMS was sent on ahead to reconnoitre the situation when he was shot through the stomach and mortally wounded. His companion stoker Kember, carried WILLIAMS back nearly a kilometre to where Captain POCKLEY was able to treat him.

Fear was held that Kember and another sailor – who were to carry WILLIAMS back to “Berrima” could not get back safely along the road back to Kabukual. POCKLEY therefore removed his Red Cross brassard and tied it to Kember’s Hat so as to ensure immunity from enemy fire. In so doing he exposed himself as a combatant and soon afterwards POCKLEY himself was mortally wounded.

On the afternoon of 11th September 1914, WILLIAMS and POCKLEY died on board “Berrima” and a few days later were buried side-by-side at Bita Paka. Their graves are still there.

Able Seaman B. WILLIAMS and Captain POCKLEY of the Army Medical Corps both died of wounds on board HMAS “Berrima” on the same day- POCKLEY sometime after WILLIAMS.

WILLIAMS was the first Australian and first RAN fatality since Australia had become a sovereign nation. He was also the first Allied fatality on German territory in World War 1. POCKLEY was the first Australian Army fatality.

The combined operation during which the German wireless station at Bita Paka, near Rabaul, was captured in effect as “the baptism of fire” of the Australian armed forces.

It was a major strategic victory for the Allied forces because it destroyed the nerve centre of German communications in the Pacific and Indian Ocean area where powerful German naval units were stationed. These included the cruisers “Scharnhorst”, “Gneisenau”, “Emden”, “Leipzig” and “Nurnberg” as well as the light cruisers “Cormoran” and “Geier”.

The First and the Last: Able Seaman WILLIAMS was born in Northcote and before enlisting lived at 36 Beavers Road.

Since 30th November 1911, he had worked at the Melbourne City Council, Electricity Supply Depot in Spencer Street. On 14th September 1914 after hearing the report of his being killed in action WILLIAMS’ colleagues at the MCCES stopped work for five minutes as a mark of respect.

Brian POCKLEY lived in Sydney and has an outstanding record at Shore Public School both as a scholar and an all round athlete. According to his Headmaster *“He was as near to my ideal of a schoolboy as any boy in my experience. He won high honours for the school and himself. As a prefect he helped me more than he was aware of by his loyalty, respect for duty and by charm of manner”*.

He had not long graduated in Medicine at Sydney University before he enlisted in the Army Medical Corps.

In the official war history, POCKLEY’s action in giving up his brassard is described as *“protecting another man’s life at the price of his own”*. This was all the more significant because it occurred in the very first battle in which the Australian Army was involved and so afforded a noble foundation for those who were to serve after him.

After serving with the AN&MEF many enlisted in the RAN and AIF and saw service overseas. One such person was Bill Gothard of Alphington who was an Able Seaman in the Bita Paka operation and later served with the AIF in France. Bill died in 1992 aged 98 years. Before then he was the last living survivor from the Bita Paka incident.

It is remarkable that two Northcote boys were the first and the last of the AN&MEF at Bita Paka to die. LEST WE FORGET.

There are many great stories out there just waiting to be told – do you have a story to tell? If so send them direct to me at the Greensborough RSL.

Kevin Mundy
Memorabilia Officer

Members Competition Entries

August

6 x Fathers Day Packs

Simply record your name and Member number below and place into the entry box located in the Gaming Room. Terms and Conditions will be on display. 6 Prizes to be Won Drawn at 10.00am September 1st.

Name: _____

Member No: _____

Valid 1st August 09 to 31st August 09

Sept

6 Spring into SPRING packs

Simply record your name and Member number below and place into the entry box located in the Gaming Room. Terms and Conditions will be on display. 6 packs to be Won Drawn at 10.00am October 1st.

Name: _____

Member No: _____

Valid 1st September 09 to 30th September 09



Operation Christmas Child

It seems ridiculous to be thinking about Christmas in August but if we don't many children in countries all over the world will miss out on Christmas.

Last year Greensborough RSL decided to participate in "Operation Christmas Child" organized by Samaritans Purse. We asked our members whether they could support us with the project and your response was overwhelming. The donations flowed in for many weeks and we were in a position to send off some 85 boxes to brighten the Christmas of so many children.

Again we would love to support this great organization and are again asking you to be involved as well. All donations will be gratefully accepted at reception and as last year we will organize the boxes, the packing and the cost involved in the postage. If you are in any doubt about the pleasure these boxes bring to the children please watch the short video on website www.samaritanspurse.org.au

To all of those who donated so generously last year (there were too many to name individually) THANK YOU !! and we hope to have your support again and many others who can see their way to make a small or large donation. Christmas is a time for giving.

Great Gift Ideas



May Include:

SOMETHING TO LOVE

Teddy bear, doll, soft toy, etc.

SOMETHING FOR SCHOOL

Exercise book ,pencil case, pens, pencils, colouring pencils, sharpener, eraser, chalk, etc.

SOMETHING TO WEAR

T-shirt, shorts, underwear, cap beanie, sandals, thongs, etc.

SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH

Tennis ball, cars, skipping rope, marbles, musical instrument, yo-yo, slinky, finger puppets, wind up torch, etc. (No battery operated items)

SOMETHING FOR PERSONAL HYGIENE

Soap and face washer, toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, hair-clips, scrunchies, etc. (No toothpaste)

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Carry bag, sunglasses, bangles, necklaces, craft kits, stickers.

May Not Include

ITEMS THAT LEAK OR MELT
(these can spoil boxes)

Including toothpaste*, shampoo, bubbles, plasticine/playdough, batteries

ANY FOOD OR LOLLIES

Of any kind (due to shipping regulations) including medicines and vitamins.

ANY USED OR DAMAGED ITEMS

(Due to custom regulations) including clothing and toys.

ANY BREAKABLE ITEMS

Including glass, porcelain, mirrors.

ANY ITEM THAT CAN SCARE or HARM A CHILD

Including knives, war-related toys, guns.

ANY GAMBLING RELATED ITEMS

Including play money, playing cards, dominoes.

ANYTHING OF A RELIGIOUS, RACIAL OR POLITICAL NATURE

Competition Winners

May Birthday Winner

Sean Pavis

June Birthday Winner

Janine Bryant

May Newsletter Winner

50,000 loyalty Points

Coral Emmett

Marg Van Poeteren

June Newsletter Winner

5 Gold Class double vouchers

M Hodgson

Gary Watson

C Emmett

Peter Oaten

Geraldine Conroy

May Tatts Magazine winner

Alma Brown

Doug Watson

George Crawford

Kathleen Fraser

Margaret Jose

Roy Nocker

Matthew Schuck

June Tatts Magazine winner

Lorraine Baker

Dorothy Wallace

Heather Dickson

Frank Price

Chris Maskey

Freda Gray

Congratulations

Bottle Shop

Available to RSL Members Only
While Stocks Last
Available to Take-Away Only



\$11.00

A Six Pack

Cascade Premium
Light Ice
Sterling Light

Light Beer



\$13.00

A Six Pack

Victoria Bitter
Carlton Cold
Carlton Black Ale
Carlton Draught,
Melbourne Bitter
Boags Draught
& Fosters



Heavy Beer

GOLF CLUB

Keilor (Playing Stableford)

A Grade - Jason Weston
B Grade - Bill Jackson
Ladies - Anne Thwaites

Morack

A Grade - Brendon Prouse
B Grade - David Read
Ladies - Karen Briggs

Yarrambat (Playing Stableford)

A Grade - Howard Thomsett
B Grade - Charlie Stevenson
Ladies - Lynn Tacon

Whittlesea

A Grade - Howard Thomsett
B Grade - Bill Jackson
Ladies - Anne Thwaites

Ringwood

A Grade - Jamie Weston
B Grade - John Thwaites
Ladies - Deidre Lobb

Upcoming games

9/8/09 Goonawarra
30/8/09 Tirhatuan Lakes
20/9/09 Sunshine
20/10/09 Craigieburn

PRESIDENTS GOLF DAY

October is our annual presidents golf day. If you are a member of the RSL you are eligible to play this competition but numbers are limited. Keep your eye on the golf notice board for playing list.

Donations

- Royal District Nursing Service
- Childrens' Protection Society
- Sids for Kids
- Variety Club of Victoria
- Kangaroo Ground Pre School
- 1st Greenhills Scout Group

Thank you

Social Club

All Greensborough RSL Members automatically belong to our Social Club

See board in Members area
for all Social Club events

Thursday Raffle

Great prizes to be won.
Drawn approx. 7.00pm
every Thursday evening.
Tickets \$2.00 each.
Draw held in the Members
and Long Tan Bars



Saturday Brekky Raffle

5 Trays per week. 50c per ticket
Drawn 2.30pm each Saturday
with tickets available for
purchase all week.

Mug of the Week

Drawn Wednesday at 6pm
\$2 entry, 100 numbers,
win 12
schooners for a week.

KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Envelopes out 1/9/09
Applications close 12/10/09
\$10 per child Aged
up and including 10 years
old. See notice board
for details...



Fathers Day Raffle

On display 1/8/09
Drawn 3/9/09
\$2 per ticket

See display
in Members
Bar



Brownlow Competition

Entries out 1/9/09
Close 18/9/09
\$2 per entry
Entry forms in
Members Bar

Advertising

MITRE 10

Danaher's Timber & Hardware

Use your discount card to receive a 5% discount off your purchase and a further 5% is donated back to the Club

Application forms for your discount card available by ringing the Club direct on 9435 1884 or contacting Danaher's Mitre 10 directly

464 Lower Heidelberg Rd Heidelberg Vic 3084
Only available for use at the above store

Rebel Sport MVP Program



Use your discount card to receive a 5% discount off your purchase and a further percentage of our members combined sales are donated to the Club

Simply ask staff at Rebel Sports Greensborough for a discount card attached to the Greensborough RSL

Only available for use at the Greensborough store

Mens Shed NOW OPEN

10am - 2pm

Monday & Wednesday
Glenauburn Rd Lower Plenty

MULTISCREEN OUR IN-HOUSE ADVERTISING SYSTEM

Available to members only.
Limited conditions apply.



GREENSBOROUGH RSL

COURTESY BUS SERVICE

HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday to Wednesday:
11.00am - 10.00pm
Thursday & Friday:
11.00am - Midnight
Saturday: 5.00pm - Midnight

Bus departs RSL on the hour.
For all Bus collections phone
the Club on 94351884

RSL Annual Remembrance Service
Springvale War Cemetery

Please be advised that the 25th State RSL Annual Remembrance Service will be conducted at Springvale War Cemetery, situated in the grounds of the Springvale Botanical Cemetery on Sunday 8th November 2009 commencing at 2.30 pm. The service is expected to conclude at 4.00 pm.

The service commemorates those relatives and friends who paid the supreme sacrifice.

The speaker for the 2009 service will be Major General Paul Stevens, AO (ret.).

Medals and decorations should be worn.

Please reserve Sunday 8th November 2009 in your diary.

Individual Paver



\$50

Double Paver



\$100

\$150

Business Paver



Corporate Paver



\$1000

**Last Chance to
Secure a tribute paver
on Greensborough RSL
Commemorative Wall
Please see reception to
express your interest.**



PEPPER JACK

BATTLE

OF THE STEAKS

Weekly Prizes to be Won!

1 August - 27 September 09

In Bardia Bistro *You Be The Judge...*

LAST CHANCE!!!

Don't Let This Go By

Grab a Pack Before We Run Out...



Winter Warmer

Receive 2 bottles of
De Bortoli Sacred Hill
for \$10.00

Offer valid until 31/07/09

DE BORTOLI WINES
debortoli.com.au

COME IN FOR A CHAT At Greensborough RSL

Learn how to use modern technology to stay in touch with your family and friends!

Join us at a workshop where you will learn how to:

understand how technology can work for you

use mobile phones and send 'SMS' text messages and photos

set up and check your email (incl. sending and receiving photos)

search the internet and use online chatrooms to keep in touch



Bookings Essential

Telstra™ CONNECTED SENIORS®



Introduction to the Internet:

Class 1 - Friday 4 August

Class 2 - Friday 11 September

10am-12 noon or 1.30pm-3.30pm

Introduction to Mobile Phones:

Class 1 - Friday 21 August

Class 2 - Friday 28 August

10am-12 noon or 1.30pm-3.30pm

Angels explained by our Children

I know the names of two angels – Hark and Harold
(Gregory 5 years)

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has something else to do.
(Mitchell 7 years)

My guardian angel helps me with my maths, but he's not much good at science.
(Henry 8 years)

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows !!!
(Jack 6 years)

Angels talk all the way while they're flying up to Heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you died.
(Daniel 9 years)

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter.
(Jared 8 years)

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys don't go for it.
(Antonio 9 years)

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love they shoot arrows at them.
(Sarah 7 years)

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. When he lets out his breath there's a tornado somewhere.
(Reagan 10 years)

