



NEWS TIME

Kilcoy RSL Sub Branch

11/1/2017

Edition 2

Jim's Story / A story of a Changi POW

Jim's Story (Part 2)

From Changi, the Japanese decided to exploit their 'Greater East Asian Co-Property Scheme' by using prisoners as slaves on many projects including Singapore, Burma-Thailand Railway, Sandakan aerodrome, Japanese Coal and salt mines and other Japan industries.

The Burma-Thailand project was one of the most outstanding. Surveyed by the British in the late 1920's and discarded as an impossible task. The Japanese completed the task in six months at a great cost to human life.

Perhaps Sandakan was the greatest tragedy where prisoners were placed on a forced march from there to Ranau. Six only survived this tragic event.

When a radio was built in Sandakan by bits and pieces smuggled into camp by prisoners working on work parties. One native told the Japanese of this the officers of the Australian and British were transferred to

Kuching. Which saved our lives as we missed the death march.

A very good friend Capt Lionel Matthews was executed because he helped in the construction of the radio.

When Australian parachutists landed in Kuching, they found a store room to have ample supplies of food, which had been denied to the prisoners who were being slowly starved to death, but supplies further proof of the bestial attitude and cruelty practiced by our captors and their complete disregard for human life.

In hindsight, I wonder if we had known more about the Japanese people, would we have been able to see more clearly, the future which was mapped out for us. The majority of this race appeared to be of lower class and mostly uneducated, but were born to a life not known to us and difficult to understand.

It would appear they look forward to a life of slavery in

Message from your President•••

Well our inaugural Kilcoy RSL Community Day has come & gone. This was an event organized by John & Steve, funded by a grant secured by John. The purpose of the day was to thank the Kilcoy community for their support as well as showcase some of our local not for profit organisations.

While the crowds may not have been large, the day was well received & both attendees and groups hope we hold it again next year. A huge thanks to those who did help on the day.

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serving their country, fighting for the Emperor in which case their culture decrees that to die in battle they become "Warrior God". We saw this goal. It is very obvious that life is the cheapest commodity to these people and this seems to be an important part of their culture, therefore we must not expect them to appreciate our way of life and freedom we enjoy, in fact I doubt the lower status of the Japanese people understand the meaning of the word "Freedom".

Conversely, the upper class of the Japanese people e.g. Samurai, Leaders in industry, Administration, government and the Emperor, appear to be highly intelligent well educated and have a fanatical belief they are destined to rule the world.

I hope you have enjoyed Jim's story he passed away in 1999 Rest in Peace Jim.

Following are dates to keep in mind for

November/December

1. Remembrance Day is on Saturday 11th November 2017 commencing at 1045hrs, followed by a BBQ Lunch. All are welcome.
2. Due to Remembrance Day being on a Saturday

our next meeting will be 18/11/17 @ 1030hrs.

3. We will be having our Christmas party on Friday 15th December all are welcome to attend, this will be our last Friday night until the 19th January 2018.

Non-Liability Health Care

Accessing mental health care through DVA is now simpler than ever for current and former members of the ADF.

Anyone who has at least one day of full service with the ADF can now access treatment for any mental health condition through DVA's Non-Liability Health Care program. (NLHC).

NLHC provides access to treatment for certain conditions under DVA arrangements, without the need to link the condition to a person's service and without needing to make a claim for compensation.

Previously, mental health care under NLHC was limited to post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, depressive disorder and alcohol and substance use disorders. The 2017-2018 Budget included a

measure to expand these arrangements to cover treatment for any mental health conditions.

This measure builds upon the 2016 changes, which expanded eligibility for mental health treatment under NLHC, and simplified the process of making an application.

Applications can be taken over the phone (133 254, or 1800 555 254 for regional callers) or by email (NLHC@dva.gov.au), or through a paper or online form available at www.dva.gov.au.

Applicants need to satisfy proof of identity requirements, and ADF service will need to be confirmed.

For further information, including links to factsheets and application forms, please visit www.dva.gov.au/nlhc.

Membership News

We are currently updating our membership records to comply with RSL Qld's electronic membership

register. It is now a requirement that all RSL members not just Service Members complete the official RSL Membership form to be processed through the Sub-Branch for on forwarding to RSL SED.

If you are a Social Member or Woman's Auxiliary Member who has not filled out the official RSL Membership Form, we ask you to do so as soon as possible and hand in to the RSL Sub-Branch for processing. The form has to be signed off by the branch to confirm your financial status as a member.

This procedure is necessary to protect the integrity of RSL Qld and its Sub Branches in relation to accurate recording of membership numbers and finances.

With the end of the year coming up soon, we wish to remind members that the annual membership fees are due before the 31st December 2017 it is still \$20. Social Members can check the date listed on the back of their membership cards or enquire with the Executive.

Thanks Beryl Robinson
Membership Officer



Some photos taken of some of our members on different occasions over the years.....

