



RSL

Gympie Sub Branch

GYMPIE RSL Newsletter

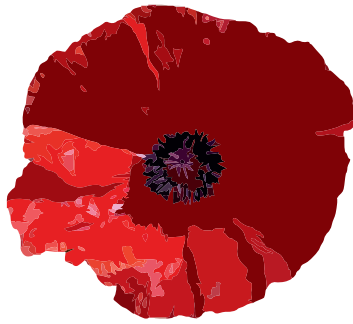
October 2026



Three members of the Royal Australian Regiment on patrol in the town of Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, August 16 2008.

Gympie Veteran Centre
39 Monkland Street
07 5483 7707

Gympie RSL Club
217 Mary Street, Gympie 4570
07 5482 1018



VALE

Roger Harding
June 18, 1936
September 03, 2026

We Will Remember Them

Lest We Forget

Key October Commemorative Dates

3 October: Vietnam Forces Welcome Home Parade anniversary (Sydney, 1987)

11 October: 25th Anniversary of Australian Service in Afghanistan (2001–2021) National Service

19 October: War Widows' Day (recognising the contributions and personal sacrifices of war widows and widowers)

23 October: Second Battle of Alamein anniversary (1942)

24 October: United Nations Day / Commemoration Day for the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO)

31 October: Charge of Beersheba anniversary (1917)

On Sunday, 11 October 2026, the Department of Veterans' Affairs will host a national service at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to mark the 25th anniversary of Australian service in Afghanistan.

COMMEMORATION

25 YEARS SINCE
AUSTRALIA'S
INVOLVEMENT IN THE
AFGHANISTAN WAR

MEMORIAL PARK, GYMPIE

11 OCTOBER 2026

10AM

LEST WE FORGET



Letter from the President

ADEL AMIN

*President of the Board of Directors,
Gympie RSL*



Dear Members,

Following my resignation as President, effective 17 September 2026, this final report provides an opportunity to reflect on my time in the role and acknowledge the many people who have contributed to the work of the Gympie RSL during my tenure.

I first stepped into the presidency in mid-2024, following the resignation of the previous President, and was subsequently elected by members to continue in the role at the 2025 AGM. I have been grateful for the confidence members placed in me and for the opportunity to serve an organisation with such an important history and purpose. For me, the presidency was never simply about holding a position. I believed it was important to be present, approachable and available to members, veterans, staff and volunteers.

The role carried significant responsibilities, and I sought to approach them with care, integrity and a genuine commitment to the Gympie RSL and the people it serves.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my time as President has been supporting the work of the Veterans Service Centre. The range of welfare, health and social programs provided for veterans and their families is a vital part of our organisation. Seeing people come together, build friendships, find support and enjoy new experiences has reinforced for me the importance of connection and community.

I have also valued the opportunity to represent the Gympie RSL within the wider community through commemorative services, community events, meetings and other engagements. These experiences have provided the opportunity to meet many people and have deepened my appreciation of the relationships that help sustain our organisation.

The Club's commercial success is an important part of our ability to fulfil our purpose. I have always understood that the strength of the Club must help support veteran welfare and enable the RSL to contribute positively to the broader community.

I am grateful for the support of my fellow Board members, staff, volunteers and members, and for the many people who have contributed to the work of the Gympie RSL during my tenure. Leadership brings both rewarding experiences and challenges, and I have valued the opportunity to learn from both.

I would like to acknowledge Robyn Murtagh, our Board Secretary, who has also recently resigned as a Board Member. I want to thank Robyn personally for the support she has given me throughout my time as President. Robyn has been a steady and dependable presence. Her knowledge of the organisation, attention to detail and commitment to her responsibilities as Board Secretary have been invaluable. I have particularly appreciated her practical approach, willingness to assist and care in ensuring that matters are properly documented and followed through.

Much of Robyn's work has taken place behind the scenes, but it has made an important contribution to the effective functioning of the Board. Beyond her formal responsibilities, I have also valued her friendship, good humour and the sense of continuity she has brought to the organisation.

Robyn, thank you for your dedication, patience and support. It has been a privilege to work alongside you, and I am sincerely grateful for the contribution you have made to the Gympie RSL.

I would also like to acknowledge Gerard Irving, who has recently resigned from his position as Treasurer. Gerard has fulfilled this role with great competence, diligence and integrity, bringing a high level of financial knowledge and attention to detail to the position. His contribution to the Board has been greatly valued, and I thank him for his commitment, support and the professionalism he has consistently demonstrated during his time as Treasurer.

I leave the presidency with appreciation for the friendships formed, experiences shared and opportunity to have played a part in the continuing work of the Gympie RSL.

I thank members for their confidence and support, and acknowledge the dedication of those who continue to give their time and energy to our organisation. The work of supporting veterans, their families and the wider community remains as important as ever.

As I move into the next chapter, I wish the Gympie RSL every success for the future. I hope it continues to build on its strengths, uphold its proud traditions and remain a welcoming and supportive place for veterans, members and the wider community.

It has been a privilege to serve.

Lest we forget.

Adel Amin

*To our Members
celebrating a new decade in
September:*

Derek A	80
Luke A	60
Janine B	70
Thomas B	70
Dave C	60
Ronald H	40
Athol L	80
Neville R	80
John S	80
Robert W	70

*Our best wishes to you all, and
to all members celebrating
birthdays this month!*

In this, swansong editorial, the impersonal, 'the author' and 'the writer' will be dispensed with.

I shall tell you a couple of stories based on the experiences of my biological father and my maternal uncle during and after the 2nd Battle of El Alamein in 1942, one of the Australian military commemorations in October, though they served in the British Army.

My uncle joined the Mounted Yeomenry at the outbreak of WWII and encouraged his friend, who would eventually be my father, to do the same.

They each found themselves tank commanders in North Africa during the 2nd Battle of El Alamein and further fighting.

I don't know what was happening to my father but uncle V's tank received a direct hit from a German 88mm antitank gun during the battle. His driver was killed but the tank was still mobile so he sat in the dead driver's lap and reversed the tank at speed intending to save both the other crewmembers, who had, in fact also been killed though he didn't know it till he arrived at the rear, and the tank.

Both my father and uncle were wounded after the 2nd Battle of El Alamein, on 23rd November in fierce fighting at Sidi Rezegh aerodrome. My uncle was shot in the shoulder. In 2006, someone from the Library of South Australia interviewed both my aunt and uncle about their life stories, and this is a transcript of what my uncle said about it then --

"When I was in the ambulance, one time they stopped, a load of wounded were there, and they were calling out names and I heard 'Channer'. So I called out from the ambulance and said 'Phil, is that you?' and he said 'Yes'. I said 'Well get in this ambulance. So he came in. He had a wounded leg. He'd been commanding a tank and they'd been somewhere or other, I don't remember where now, and they'd woken up in the morning and there was a shell lying just alongside them, a German shell, and he said, 'Oh, jolly good thing that wasn't a high explosive, good thing it was an armour-piercing wasn't it, otherwise it would have gone off' and he threw it away -- bang! -- it had been a high-explosive and he got shrapnel in the legs."

A postscript. My father's injuries rendered him unfit for further active duty. He was transferred to the Survey Corps, which allowed him to use his skills as an architect and continue contributing. He died in 1983. My uncle instead, recovered from his wound and returned to active service eventually being awarded the Military Medal for his actions during another battle. He died a couple of years ago aged 102.

As mentioned at the beginning of this editorial, this is my last contribution.

It has been an honour and privilege to work for you over these last several years. By doing so and with the help of Katie, till she left the Veteran Centre and Elay I have kept this 81 year old brain chugging along, learning how to use the computer and Canva to produce the newsletter. The research has been good fun and my connection with contributors has been a wonderful experience.

Thank you for indulging me by reading my contributions in their various forms. I hope you enjoyed them.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks and gratitude go to all those who have helped me - you know who you are. Special thanks go to Elay and David with whom I have had the delightful pleasure of closely collaborating during the few months since the Newsletters for the Veteran Centre and the Club were combined.

I wish everyone all things good, now and always.

Dion

GYMPIE VETERAN CENTRE

VETERANS' Health Week 2026 SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

19

MONDAY

POTTERY WORKSHOP WITH LOCAL VETERAN PRUE MCLEOD

Where: PesArt & Ceramics

When: Bus departs Veteran Centre at 9:30am. 2-hour session

OCTOBER

20

TUESDAY

COFFEE AND CHAT

Where: Rendezvous Café

When: From 10am

OCTOBER

21

WEDNESDAY

OPEN ARMS INFORMATION SESSION WITH A CLINICIAN

Where: Veterans Centre Hall

When: From 10am

MORNING
TEA
INCLUDED

OCTOBER

22

THURSDAY

AUSTRALIA ZOO DAY TRIP

Where: Australia Zoo

When: Bus departs Veteran Centre at 8:45am.

Returning at approximately 2:45pm

OCTOBER

23

FRIDAY

BINGO AND BILL & SONJA'S SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Where: Veterans Centre

When: From 10am

LOTS OF
PRIZES TO
BE WON

OCTOBER

25

SUNDAY

NOOSA RIVER WALK

Where: Meet at the Yacht Club

When: From 8:30am

FAMILY
AND PETS
WELCOME



39 Monkland Street, Gympie
(07) 5483 7707



RSL
Gympie Sub Branch

MELBOURNE CUP

Luncheon



Plus...

RAFFLES &
SWEEPS ON
THE DAY

TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

STARTS 11AM | ENDS 3PM

TICKETS \$75 PER PERSON

2-COURSE
ALTERNATE DROP

BUBBLES
ON ARRIVAL

LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT

FASHIONS ON
THE FIELD

LUCKY DOOR
PRIZES

SEE OUR FRIENDLY RECEPTION TEAM TO BOOK



RSL
Gympie Sub Branch

Conditions apply. 18+ Event only



GYMPIE BOULDER LOUNGE

15 CARTWRIGHT ROAD,
GYMPIE

FREE

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

FROM
10AM

WHETHER YOU'RE A FIRST TIMER OR PRO
CLIMBER, CHASING FITNESS, ADVENTURE,
OR JUST A GOOD TIME WITH FRIENDS,
BOULDERLOUNGE IS FOR EVERYONE!

Veterans, Partners, War Widows and Legacy welcome
to attend. T&C's Apply.

Approximately 2 hours but participants may stay longer
if they wish with no additional charge.



RSL
Gympie Sub Branch



Legacy has recently partnered with National RSL to work together towards a common goal of providing ongoing welfare and support to veterans and their families.

Gympie Legacy Contact Group now works in conjunction with the Gympie RSL Sub-Branch in facilitating these services. Since our formation in 1923, Legacy has offered these services to our veteran community through volunteers known as Legatees. As we move forward in our endeavour, we would like to extend an invitation to volunteer which will allow us to continue this service.

Please feel free to enquire at the Gympie Veteran Centre.

Providing support, empowering families

If you're a family member of a deceased or incapacitated veteran, Legacy is here for you. Discover eligibility, available benefits & services tailored to your needs.

Who Legacy helps

Family members who have lost a veteran (with operational service), specifically:

- Widows and widowers
- Dependent children up to age 18
- Young people aged 18–25 in tertiary study or an apprenticeship
- Dependent children & adults with a disability
- Partners & dependent children of veterans with a DVA-recognised service-related wound, illness or injury (operational service not required)

**Scan
Me!**



Benefits of Legacy Services

Advocacy

Experienced advocate team to support with DVA advice, compensation & claims.

Companionship & social connection

Connect with other Legacy families for support & shared experiences.

Social programs

Join social activities, events & groups that build connection & support.

Education grants

Support for children with education, nutrition, uniforms, fees & extracurricular activities.

Emergency financial relief

Short-term financial support for urgent needs, with referrals to financial counselling or advice.

To Join, reach out via our helpline on 1800 Legacy. Our compassionate team is ready to guide you through the process.

For more information contact Legacy Brisbane

Helpline: 1800 Legacy

Email: admin@legacybrisbane.org.au
legacy.com.au

Artwork at the Veteran Centre

Soon after the publication of this edition of the Newsletter, artwork of various types will be hung in the Veteran Centre.

The reason for doing this is threefold. It is hoped that the works will contribute to make the Centre a more welcoming and aesthetically pleasing environment for visitors. That it will render the workplace pleasant and comfortable for the staff. That the items on the walls will acclimatise the acoustics in the building.

Some of the works will be readily identifiable since they will have either been seen in the old Centre or they are memorabilia of a military nature though, hopefully, chosen so as not to be disturbing.

There will be other works which will not have been seen before since they were made specifically for the Centre and may not be readily recognisable or understood.

It is to this latter group that a few lines will be dedicated, in the hope that, when the works are viewed, they will have more meaning. This then, is a 'didactic' to accompany the permanent exhibition.

Before renovations on the new Veteran Centre were completed, thought was given to how the spaces would be decorated. Dion Channer offered to contribute works to this end.

He has been making paper by hand, and binding books, for the last 48 years as both an artisan and artist.

He began his paper adventure while living in a tiny fishing village called Duino in north east Italy which is about 30 km from Trieste where he taught English.

The activity quickly became the 'tail that wags the dog' and Dion continues to make paper in various forms and for different purposes, in his home paper mill.

He has exhibited his work, both in paperart and book form, in a number of galleries in countries such as Italy, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Japan, India and Australia both as a solo exhibitor or in collaboration with other artists. Books made by Dion were bought by both the National Library in Canberra and the State Library of SA.

Among the various pieces of equipment connected to papermaking that Dion has 'carted around the world', is a vacuum table that measures 2.5 m x 1.25 m that essentially allows for the production of sheets that size or smaller or, with planning and organization, larger.

All paper is made from cellulose fibre, a material derived from plants and Dion uses a wide range of these fibres to make paper.

The artwork on display is made from cellulose obtained from sources such as mulberry bark, both the inner and the outer, cotton linters, cotton rag including blue jeans, banana leaves and storks, hemp, corn plants, hessian and the list goes on.

The colours are either the natural colour of the fibres or obtained from pigments, dyes and already printed rag and paint.

The panels are made by pouring the fibres onto a porous cloth on the table and then, when considered finished, the piece is covered with another cloth, plastic sheeting and subjected to a vacuum.

The works thus produced are robust and some have been hanging in various private and public locations for years. One of the beauties of paper however, is that it can be recycled and, indeed some of the present works have been created using fibres from previous pieces that Dion chose to remake.

The items have been donated to the Veteran Centre and an undertaking has been given to replace works from time to time as requested.

May all the art give you pleasure.



***Gympie RSL veterans are invited to join us
for a visit to SMEAC at Landsborough!***

Wednesday, 21 October 2026

SMEAC provides veterans with an opportunity to catch up with mates, enjoy a relaxed setting, and connect in a supportive environment.

Services include access to medical and allied health professionals, a fully equipped gym, Remembrance Walk and memorial areas.

Interested in attending?

Please contact the Veterans Support Centre (VSC) on 07 5483 7707 to confirm your attendance.

We look forward to sharing a great day with our veterans!

09:00: Depart Gympie
RSL Club, Nash Street
Reception
13:30: Depart SMEAC
15:00: Return to
Gympie RSL Club



BOOTS ON THE GROUND IN AFGHANISTAN RAFFLE

In recognition of the 25th Anniversary of Australia's involvement in Afghanistan, Gympie Veteran Centre is proud to offer the opportunity for you to win one of a limited edition (300) box set of whisky and port with an engraved and imaged glass to commemorate this event.



Tickets will be available from Nash Street Reception from **10th September till 10th October.**

\$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5

The raffle will be drawn at **6.50pm on Saturday 10th October** at the Club.

Our nurses assess, treat, and provide advice for non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses.

- Available for adults & children (2+ years)
- Free for Medicare & non-Medicare patients
- Open 10:00am – 6:00pm, Monday–Saturday
- Closed on Public Holidays

Patients are seen in order or prioritised by urgency.

We can help with:

- Fevers, coughs & colds
- Earaches & sore throats
- Infections & rashes
- Minor eye issues
- Cuts & burns
- Minor head injuries
- Strains & sprains
- Gastroenteritis
- Urinary tract infections
- Women's health concerns
- Emergency contraception



RIFLEMEN'S LUNCH

All Corps and services are welcome!

1st Friday of every month at
Mooloolaba SLSC.

Gympie RSL Sub Branch's Veteran Centre provides a free bus for this event each month.

Please RSVP by text message to
Wuzzy (0437 552 965)

SOCIAL DANCING ON SATURDAY EVENINGS

Long Flat Hall, Gympie
7:30pm • \$10 Entry

BYO Supper
Every 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturday of the month
0461 289 752



Treatment programs and workshops
Open Arms offers free group programs for serving and ex-serving members and their families to support them in living their best life.

Call 1800 011 046 to speak with an Open Arms staff member for help finding the right program. Programs include both face-to-face and online group options.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs also funds flexible training programs to support the veteran community in mental health and suicide prevention. Learn more and enrol at Protect – Mental Health First Aid Australia.

www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/programs-workshops

PROVERBS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

1. A stitch in time saves ...
2. Every cloud has a silver ...
3. Don't judge a book by its ...
4. Rome wasn't built in a ...
5. It takes a whole village to raise a ...
6. No matter how far you go on the wrong track ...
7. A chain is only as strong as its weakest ...
8. The pen is mightier than the ...
9. Turn your face to the sun and the shadows will fall ...
10. If you can talk, you can ...

1. Nine. 2. Lining. 3. Cover. 4. Day. 5. Child. 6. Turn back. 7. Link. 8. Sword. 9. Behind you. 10. Sing.

JEFF WINTERBURN

**VETERAN
CENTRE**

Chaplain



Jeff is a Veteran and
Non-Denominational
Chaplain available to the
Veterans of the Gympie
RSL.

JEFF

0437 678 981

Cleaning Service for Veterans

Services include:

- Domestic & Household Cleaning
- Individual Support
- Transportation

**Contact
Giverny:**

0435 951 208



Happy2helpcleaning@hotmail.com

ADAPTIVE BODIES



EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY

OUR PRACTITIONERS ARE READY TO HELP YOU
ON YOUR JOURNEY TO BETTER HEALTH

- CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT
- MUSCULOSKELETAL
CONDITIONS/INJURY PREVENTION
- WORK RELATED INJURY
REHABILITATION
- SURGICAL REHABILITATION
- CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT

0412 842 635



admin@adaptivebodiesalliedhealth.com

GympieHearing

At Gympie Hearing, our mission is to change lives by opening up a world of sound, communication and connection. As the only independent audiologist in Gympie, we provide personalised, comprehensive hearing care tailored to your needs. With over 15 years of experience, we offer professional, comfortable service in a welcoming, supportive environment.

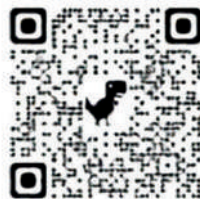
From thorough hearing assessments to advanced hearing aids and ongoing support, our goal is to make your journey pleasant, effective and stress-free, putting your hearing health first every step of the way.



Lynda Reid

2/31 Wickham Street,
Gympie QLD 4570
07 5211 1877

www.gympiehearing.com.au
admin@gympiehearing.com.au



A Look Back: Evolution of the Club

The Gympie RSL Club has moved through several homes over the decades, each rebuild bigger and better than the one before it. The present Mary Street site dates back to 1946 when members raised around 2,000 pounds to buy the block and began turning it into a home for the club. A foundation stone went down on November 20, 1948.

In May 1958, the Gympie Times covered the opening of the new R.S.S.A.I.L.A. Memorial Hall, calling it a "grand achievement"; one built almost entirely by local firms and tradespeople, from the head contractors down to the plumbers & electricians.

By the time of its next big upgrade, a \$30,000 facelift, the club had grown into a solidly established venue, with three championship snooker tables and a membership keen for modern comforts. RSL club president Dr Neville Wilmer and his wife Joyce hosted around 160 guests for the reopening, which brought a new cold room, a revamped bar, a television lounge and new carpet.

The biggest change came in 1994, when a \$13 million redevelopment delivered the Mary Street complex members know today, officially opened on June 10. The new club came with 30 poker machines, two full-size snooker tables, disabled access, and a dedicated function room for weddings and events. Diners got their own home too, in the newly opened Lucky Strike Bar and Bistro, now Dolly's, which marked the occasion with a 634-kilogram grand champion bullock from that year's Gympie Show.

Do you have memories, photos or stories from Gympie RSL's past? We'd love to hear from you, get in touch at news@gympiersl.com.au



Live Entertainment

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE
UPCOMING ACTS

OCTOBER 2ND | 7:30PM TIL LATE

SIMON MEOLA

OCTOBER 9th| 7:30PM TIL LATE

JORDY

OCTOBER 16TH | 7:30PM TIL LATE

OPEN MIC NIGHT

OCTOBER 23RD| 7:30PM TIL LATE

SELEEN MCALISTER

OCTOBER 30TH| 7:30PM TIL LATE

KYMZSONGZ

OCTOBER 15TH| 10AM TIL 1PM

MICHAEL GANT

OCTOBER 3RD | 7:30PM TIL LATE

PUBLIC NUISANCE

OCTOBER 10TH| 7:30PM TIL LATE

ACOUSTIC OVERDRIVE

OCTOBER 17TH | 7:30PM TIL LATE

JUNCTION ROAD

OCTOBER 24TH | 7:30PM TIL LATE

INSUFFICIENT FUNDS

OCTOBER 31ST| 7:30PM TIL LATE

SUNSET NOVA
HALLOWEEN PARTY

– **MORNING MELODIES**

Artists & Time subject to change

GYMPIE CINEMA

FAMILY MOVIE DAY

SUNDAY
4TH
OCTOBER
11AM

GYMPIE CINEMA
82 MONKLAND
ST,
GYMPIE



MOVIE
TIME



INCLUDES
MOVIE TICKET,
MEDIUM
DRINK &
POPCORN

JOIN US THESE SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS FOR A FAMILY DAY AT
THE MOVIES

VETERANS, PARTNERS, WAR WIDOWS AND LEGACY
WELCOME TO ATTEND. T&C'S APPLY



RSL
Gympie Sub Branch



Living with ongoing pain can be exhausting - physically and emotionally.

You are not alone.

scramblertherapeutics.com.au
0437 501 371
info@scramblertherapeutics.com.au

At Scrambler Therapeutics, we are proud to support veterans living with persistent and neuropathic pain.

Scrambler Therapy is a non-invasive, drug-free neuromodulation treatment developed in Italy. It delivers gentle electrical signals through small skin electrodes placed near the painful area. These signals aim to help retrain the nervous system and reduce the brain's perception of pain.



LOCATED IN
NOOSAVILLE, QLD

**DEBORAH GRAY |
NURSE PRACTITIONER**

6+ years
experience in
Scrambler Therapy



SCRAMBLER
THERAPEUTICS

Survey



We'd love to hear from you!

Simply scan the QR code below using your smartphone or tablet to access the online survey. Your feedback will help us understand what you enjoy, what you'd like to see more of, and how we can continue to improve future editions of the newsletter.

Need help scanning the QR code?

Using your phone, open the camera and point it at the QR code. Hold your device steady for a few seconds until a notification appears on your screen. Tap the link or QR code notification that appears. The survey can be found at the bottom of the page.

If you're having trouble, try moving your device slightly closer or further away and make sure the QR code is clearly visible.

A Fond Farewell to Dion Channer

As Dion Channer steps away from his work on the Gympie RSL Newsletter, we take the opportunity to recognise and thank him for the years of care and dedication he has given as a volunteer. For a considerable time Dion took on the responsibility of producing the newsletter, devoting countless hours to bringing each edition together for the RSL community.

Dion brought a wealth of life experience to his work. His editorials reflected his many interests and experiences, from military service and teaching to travel, papermaking and history. His writing was thoughtful, curious and humorous, and always unmistakably his own.

Whether researching stories, writing editorials, gathering contributions, preparing content or working with others on each edition, Dion was always focused on producing something worthwhile for its readers. He brought not only experience to the work, but also great care and attention to what went into every issue.

Having had the privilege of working closely with Dion on the newsletter, I have been especially fortunate to learn from someone with such knowledge, patience and experience. More than that, it has been a genuine pleasure to work alongside Dion, and his presence will be greatly missed.

Dion, thank you for the enormous amount of time and effort you have given to the newsletter, and for the knowledge, stories and laughter you have shared along the way. Your contribution to the Gympie RSL community has been greatly appreciated, and we wish you the very best.

-The Gympie RSL Team

