RSL
Gympie Sub Branch

GYMPIE RSL SUB-BRANCH Newsletter

September 2026



Gympie Veteran Centre
39 Monkland St (Cnr River Rd)

07 5483 7707
9:00am - 3:00pm

Gympie RSL Club
217 Mary St
07 5482 1018

Sunday - Thursday: 10:00am - 11:00pm
Friday & Saturday: 10:00am - Midnight



VALE

William Cousins

Leon Williams

We Will Remember Them

Lest We Forget

Photograph on Front Cover

Lieutenant General Cheryl Pearce AO CSC



Lieutenant General Cheryl Ann Pearce AO CSC is a senior officer in the Australian Army and a former deputy commissioner in the Australian Border Force. She graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police in 1985.

She has commanded the Defence Police Training Centre (2003), 1st Military Police Battalion (2006–08), Task Group Afghanistan (2016) and Australian Defence Force Academy (2017–18). Pearce has served on operations in East Timor and Afghanistan, and was Force Commander, United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus from January 2019 to January 2021.

Pearce retired from full-time service in the army following her return from Cyprus and was appointed Deputy Commissioner Ports and Enforcement in the Australian Border Force in August 2021. She returned to the army in June 2023, on being appointed Deputy Chief of Army. She has been seconded to the United Nations since January 2024, serving as Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations.

Letter from the **President**



ADEL AMIN
President of the Board of Directors,
Gympie RSL Sub Branch

For many veterans and their families, asking for help is one of the hardest steps. While Australia has an extensive network of professional services supporting mental health, financial hardship and social wellbeing, those services can only help when people are connected to them.

That connection rarely begins in a clinical setting. More often, it starts with a conversation over a cup of coffee, a friendly phone call or someone simply noticing that something isn't quite right. This is where Wellbeing Support Officers play such an important role.

These dedicated volunteers are often the first point of contact for veterans who may be reluctant to seek assistance. They offer reassurance, practical guidance and, most importantly, an understanding of military culture and the unique challenges that can accompany life after service. Through empathy and lived experience, they build trust that formal services alone cannot always establish.

Wellbeing Support Officers are not counsellors or psychologists. Their role is to listen, identify when additional support is needed and connect veterans with the professional services best equipped to help.

Our Gympie Veteran Service Centre has both volunteer Wellbeing Support Officers and a number of employed staff who fulfil this role. Mentoring of volunteers and training and ongoing development, strengthen one of the most effective community-based support networks available to Australia's veteran community. For many veterans, that trusted relationship becomes the first step towards recovery, wellbeing and renewed connection.

Connection, however, extends beyond individual support. It is also about ensuring the broader community understands the RSL's purpose and the important work it undertakes.

For an RSL hospitality venue, marketing is not simply about increasing patronage. It is about communicating purpose, strengthening community relationships and ensuring the long-term sustainability of services provided to veterans and their families.

Commercial success is essential. Revenue generated through dining, entertainment, functions, gaming and memberships provides the financial foundation that enables an RSL to maintain its facilities, invest in its people and fund welfare programs, advocacy, commemorative services and community initiatives. Diversified income also strengthens the organisation's resilience, allowing it to continue supporting veterans despite changing economic conditions.

Yet the greatest value of marketing lies beyond financial outcomes.

Every newsletter, social media post, advertisement and community campaign is an opportunity to tell the RSL's story. Many people remain unaware that supporting their local RSL directly contributes to veteran welfare, remembrance activities and programs that improve the lives of serving and former Defence personnel and their families. Effective communication bridges that gap, transforming customers into informed supporters of a much larger mission.

Marketing also strengthens community engagement by highlighting volunteer contributions, commemorative events, local partnerships and veteran support initiatives. This visibility builds trust, reinforces the RSL's reputation and demonstrates that it is far more than a hospitality venue, it is a community organisation founded on service, remembrance and support.

Equally important is ensuring the RSL remains relevant to future generations. Thoughtful communication helps younger Australians recognise that today's veterans include those who have served in more recent conflicts and peacekeeping operations, and that the need for connection, advocacy and support continues long after military service ends.

Ultimately, the RSL does not market itself simply to increase turnover. It communicates its purpose to sustain its mission. Every meal purchased, membership renewed and event attended contributes to supporting those who have served Australia. By combining compassionate veteran support with meaningful community engagement, the RSL ensures its values of service, mateship and remembrance continue to make a lasting difference for generations to come.

As we move forward together, I encourage every member to remain engaged with our Sub-Branch, support one another, and take pride in the important work we continue to do for veterans and their families. Thank you for your ongoing commitment, your friendship, and your unwavering support. Together, we honour the service of those who have served, while ensuring our organisation remains strong, relevant, and ready to meet the needs of future generations.

Take Care,

Lest we forget.

Adel Amin

To our Members
celebrating a new decade in
September:

Brian C 90
Gavin J 80
Ryan C 30

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

Herbert the Horse Returns!

Our cheeky little mate Herbert has returned to the Gympie RSL… but, true to form, he's already disappeared and is hiding somewhere in the Club!

If you spot Herbert, take him to either Reception area and fill out your details to go into the draw to WIN 2 VIP tickets to the Gympie RSL Crystal Vase Race Day on Saturday, 19 September!



editorial

Dion Channer

As each day dawns with yet more examples of appalling human behaviour that tears at the heart of any reasonable person, it is such a relief that one is able to recount a sweet tale.
Paradoxically, the story is born in the horror of war.

It all begins with tiny black seeds that are planted in furrows. Eventually, as is the nature of such things, the plants contained in the seeds seek the light of day and grow till their cycle requires them to produce the means of perpetuating themselves.

The way they do this is to produce flowers that eventually die and leave pods which harden and open thereby exposing the next generation in the form of tiny black seeds contained in white balls of fibre. The whole are called bolls. It is cotton - Gossypium hirsutum (upland cotton).
These bolls are harvested and in a process known as 'ginning' the seeds are separated from the fibres.

By-products of this process include but are not limited to fibre used to make cotton cloth, fibres used to make high quality paper and fibre, which when mixed with two forms of acid, is known as gun cotton. The seeds thus denuded are either crushed to extract cotton seed oil or replanted.
The story involves the first two uses of the fibre and the paradox is represented by the description of the last noted fibre.

The fibres from the first 'cut' are spun, may be dyed, are woven and eventually made into a myriad of articles from clothing to bags to .... and the list goes on. In the process of making clothing, for example, off-cuts are produced. Some very talented people collect these and by artfully cutting them into shapes and sewing them together they form 'sheets' which have a filling added and are then backed with another, usually whole, sheet. The final work becomes what we know as 'quilts' and the individuals who make them are celebrated as quilt artists.

High quality paper is made from the second cut of fibres. It goes to mills which specialised in its use. This is not 'rag' paper because it has not been cloth but is virgin fibre known as cotton linters. The writer has been making paper by hand and binding books for 48 years and frequently uses linters as a raw material either alone or mixed with other types of fibres such as hemp.

Finally, there is gun cotton which, simply put, is used in munitions and as rocket propellant among other applications.

Now the story combines these three elements but in a slightly different order.

The use of cotton as an explosive harks back to the horrors of war!
The use of cotton as cloth that eventually becomes a quilt now has a very special significance because there is a brilliant group of people who make quilts under the banner of 'Quilts of Valour Australia Inc'. This is a not-for-profit organisation which is registered as a charity. In its own words, **"Quilts of Valour Australia Inc. has awarded quilts to Defence personnel touched by their service and the immediate families of fallen soldiers since the beginning of 2012".**

Their web address is: **quiltsofvalour.com.au**

Finally the denouement of the story.
The author was given the enormous honour of being awarded a quilt by Quilts of Valour Australia Inc. through the Qympie representative, Mr Ivan Frisk at a private ceremony at the Veteran Centre on 12th August.
The lady who made the quilt that the author was awarded began this artwork in 2014 and, to date, has made 150 of these gorgeous pieces.
A hand bound book made from handmade paper, part of the material of which is cotton linters, was sent to her as a mark of gratitude, respect and recognition.



Live Entertainment

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE UPCOMING ACTS

SEPTEMBER 4TH
NO LIVE MUSIC

SEPTEMBER 5TH - 7:30PM TIL LATE
SWEATY PALMS

SEPTEMBER 11TH - 7:30PM TIL LATE
BUZZ KARAOKE

SEPTEMBER 12TH - 7:30PM TIL LATE
SUNSET NOVA

SEPTEMBER 18TH | 7:30PM TIL LATE
OPEN MIC NIGHT
(HOSTED BY SUNSET NOVA)

SEPTEMBER 19TH | 7:30PM TIL LATE
TENNESSEE LIGHTS
(RACES AFTERPARTY)

SEPTEMBER 25TH | 7:30PM TIL LATE
SELEEN MCALISTER

SEPTEMBER 26TH |7:30PM TIL LATE
THE LOWDOWN

Artists & Time subject to change

Morning Melodies

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

$20

2 COURSE LUNCH

includes main and dessert!

INCLUDES $5 WORTH OF RAFFLE TICKETS!

Bookings essential

GYMPIE RSL

www.gympiersl.com.au

VETERANS BOXING SESSIONS

WHEN

MONDAY – FRIDAY

5PM – 8PM

WHERE

SAVAGE BOXING GYM

13 RIVER ROAD, GYMPIE

COST

$5 PER SESSION

VETERANS ONLY

COMMENCING

WEDNESDAY

2 SEPTEMBER 2026

CALL GYMPIE RSL RECEPTION TO BOOK - (07) 5482 1018

BE ACTIVE • BUILD FITNESS • LEARN NEW SKILLS • CONNECT


RAINBOW
BEACH
Day Trip
$10PP
STROLL THROUGH RAINBOW BEACH TOWN CENTRE BEFORE ENJOYING LUNCH AT RAINBOW BEACH SURF CLUB
WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER
BUS DEPARTS FROM VETERAN SERVICES CENTRE AT 9:00AM.
Veterans, Partners, War Widows & Legacy welcome to attend.
T&C's Apply. Veterans to pay for their own food and beverages.

RSL
Gympie Sub Branch

SEA LIFE Mooloolaba

$10 PP

ENJOY A COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

BUS DEPARTS FROM VETERAN SERVICES CENTRE AT 8:00AM.

Veterans, Partners, War Widows & Legacy welcome to attend.
T&C's Apply.
Veterans to pay for their own beverages.

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.

All funds raised will go to veterans' welfare activities.

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

smeac INC.
Veterans Helping Veterans

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.

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

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!


Fortune
FIESTA
EACH WEEK 6X MEMBERS WILL WIN UP TO
$500 CASH
DRAWS EVERY SUNDAY FROM 2PM
ENTER WITH EVERY $10 GAMING PLAY OR $5 SPEND ON
FOOD & BEVERAGE FROM 10AM ON TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER
Terms & conditions apply. Gamble responsibly.
GYMPIE RSL

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

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLENTRY WITH PALM UNIT CITATION

The Department of Defence, through its Directorate of Honours and Awards, has advised that the number of Australian military units approved to accept and wear the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation has been expanded.

Previously, only a limited number of Australian units across the three services were authorised to wear the citation, which was awarded by the former Government of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) to military units that distinguished themselves in battle.

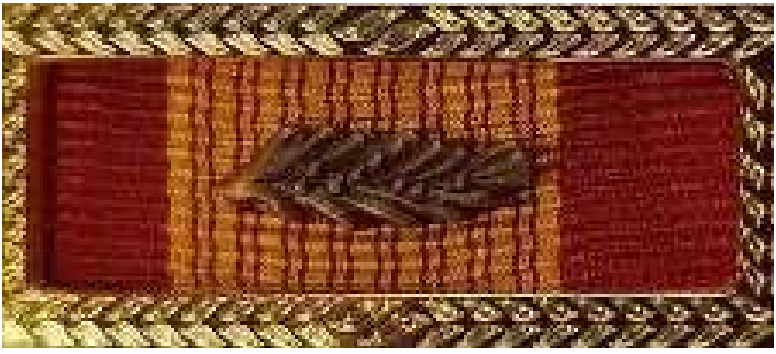
All Australian military units under the operational control of the United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam (USMACV) are now eligible for the citation emblem.

Please note that approval to wear the citation does not give a person the authority to wear the RoV Cross of Gallentry (medal) which is an individual decoration awarded in recognition of individual acts of gallantry.

For further information and eligibility requirements, veterans of the Vietnam war are invited to visit the Veteran Centre.

Eligible individuals and family members of Vietnam veterans who may be eligible can submit an application.

https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/foreign-awards/republic-vietnam-cross-gallantry-palm-unit-citation







VETERANS 8-WEEK SURF THERAPY PROGRAM

FEMALE VETERANS 8-WEEK SURF THERAPY PROGRAM

A free, 8-week program for Veterans (current or former serving), designed to support your mental health and wellbeing. Combining group therapy with the therapeutic benefits of the ocean.

- WEEKLY ON THURSDAY, STARTING 30 JULY
- NOOSA, QLD
- 6:30AM–8:30AM
- CURRENT & FORMER SERVING VETERANS

- WEEKLY ON FRIDAY, STARTING 31 JULY
- CALOUNDRA, QLD
- 6:30AM–8:30AM
- FEMALE CURRENT & FORMER SERVING VETERANS

Register Via:

https://bit.ly/WOWExpression

OUR PROGRAMS ARE FREE!

ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED, AND ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

PROUDLY FUNDED BY:

RSL Queensland

NURSE-LED WALK-IN CLINIC

FREE – No appointment needed

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

"From personal experience, this is an excellent service" -Dion Channer

Sunshine Coast Health | Queensland Government

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

OPEN ARMS
Veterans & Families Counselling

GROUP PROGRAMS

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

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

HOW MANY WORDS ARE SPELT INCORRECTLY?

1. **Accomodation**
2. **Bisciut**
3. **Grandparent**
4. **Grandfarther**
5. **Situation**
6. **Siezure**
7. **Placeboe**
8. **Venezlluela**
9. **Zoology**
10. **Correction**
11. **Bookeeper**
12. **Veterens**

If you enjoy these puzzles and the monthly newsletter, kindly give us a ring, on a Wednesday, so that we are printing articles that you enjoy. Thank you.

Cleaning Service for Veterans

Services include:

- Domestic & Household Cleaning
- Individual Support
- Transportation

Contact Giverny:

0435 951 208

HAPPY to HELP
CLEANING SERVICES

Happy2helpcleaning@hotmail.com

GYMPIE RSL
CRYSTAL VASE
RACES AFTERPARTY



TENNESSEE LIGHTS

LIVE & LOUD

RHYTHM BAR

7:30PM TIL LATE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH

Spring

HEALTH & WELLBEING PROGRAM

TAI CHI

Mondays from 9am

Open to RSL members and veterans

CHOIR

Tuesdays from 5:30pm

Open to the community, veterans and members

FIT TOGETHER

Wednesdays from 1pm

Open to veterans, partners and carers

GLENWOOD SWIM & GYM

Sunday-Friday (closed Saturday) 6am-6:30pm

Open to veterans, partners and carers

CHAIR EXERCISE

Thursdays from 12pm

Open to veterans, partners and carers

PILATES

Fridays from 12pm

Open to veterans, partners and carers

BOXING

Commencing Wednesday 2 September 2026

Monday to Friday from 5pm–8pm

Open to veterans only

SPLASH AEROBICS

Fridays from 2pm

Open to veterans, partners and carers

DOUBLE THE FUN

Kids Bingo





THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2026
DOORS OPEN 9.00AM, EYES DOWN AT 9.30AM
ATRIUM BISTRO

KIDS UNDER 3

$10 PER CHILD

FREE

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

BOOK ONLINE* OR AT RECEPTION

TONNES OF FUN, AND PRIZES TO BE WON.

GYMPIE RSL

*Online booking fees apply.
All children must be accompanied by their parent/legal guardian at all times.
Non-alcoholic event.

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

Gympie aquatic recreation centre

OPEN TO VETERANS, THEIR PARTNERS/ CARERS & FRIENDS

SPLASH Aerobics

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 2:00PM TO 3:00PM

Gympie Aquatic Recreation Centre
Tozer Park Road, Gympie

GET FIT AND HAVE FUN AT OUR LOW-IMPACT WORKOUT SESSIONS!



MUST SHOW DVA CARD OR RSL MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR ENTRY

For more information, call 5483 7707
or email reception@gympiersla.com.au

www.gympiersl.com.au/welfare

RSL Gympie Sub Branch

Health Providers working with DVA Clients

Donna Griffin

Occupational Therapist

Private OT - Gympie
Ph: 0419 777 891
OT_Donna@aadconsulting.com.au
130 Benson Rd, Araluen, 4570
Usual work days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday



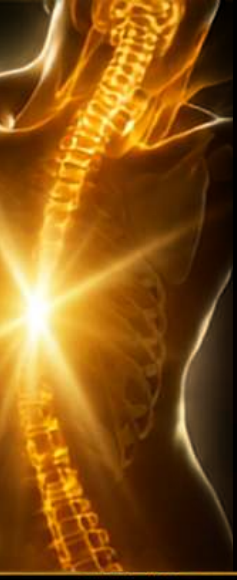
SUNSHINE DERMATOLOGY

DR GARY HOLMES
DERMATOLOGIST

Sunshine Dermatology is the oldest Dermatology practice on the Sunshine Coast. Dr Holmes continues to provide a complete Dermatology service to all **existing and new DVA Gold Card holders and DVA White Card holders (covered for skin).**

To see the specialist, you must first have a valid referral from your GP.

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
8AM - 3PM
07 5444 8588
sunshinedermatology@gmail.com



ENERGYCHIRO

RELIEVE & REVITALISE

If you're a veteran living with back pain, neck pain, stiffness, headaches, or reduced mobility, **ENERGYCHIRO** gets real results. With 30 years of experience as a chiropractor, Dr John Moore is DVA accredited.

As a special welcome, Dr John Moore is offering all veterans and their immediate family members a **FREE** initial consultation and full chiropractic and energy medicine treatment.

No referral is required. If further treatments are required, **DVA gold and DVA white card holders** can receive further free treatments with a GP referral.



Former Navy Reserve Diving Officer, Dr John Moore BEd.BHSc.MChiro. (Master of Chiropractic)

Visit **ENERGYCHIRO** at:

Gympie Clinic: 82 River Road, Gympie
Maroochydore Clinic: Kon-Tiki Building, Tower 1, Level 5, Suite 507, 55 Plaza Parade, Maroochydore

Call
0490 051 055

Book your **FREE**, no obligation full treatment today.

VELAN HEALTH
WHERE EVERY VOICE COUNTS

Supporting Those Who Served

At Velan Health, we're proud to support Australia's veterans by providing compassionate, professional nursing care in the comfort of your own home.

If you hold a DVA Gold Card, you may be eligible for fully funded in-home nursing and support services. Even if you don't currently need assistance, registering with Velan Health means we'll stay in touch with regular wellbeing check-ins, so if your health changes or you're discharged from hospital, we can arrange care quickly without unnecessary delays.

1300 585 220

www.velanhealth.com.au

contactus@velanhealth.com.au

RSL
Gympie Sub Branch

GENERAL MEETING OF GYMPIE RSL SUB BRANCH INC

DATE: 20th September 2026
TIME: 8:30am registration for 9:00am start
VENUE: Rhythm Bar Gympie RSL, 217 Mary Street, Gympie QLD 4570 (First Floor, Mary Street Entrance)

Regards,

Craig Coleman
Secretary

Gympie Sub Branch
Phone: 07 5482 1018
217 Mary Street, Gympie QLD 4570
Email: secretary@gympiersla.com.au

rslqld.org

Let's talk about tomorrow

A community event focused on future planning, guidance, and support to help you make confident decisions.



Join us to learn about:

- Completing your Enduring Power of Attorney
- Creating an Advance Health Directive
- Preparing a Statement of Choices
- Understanding your options and making confident decisions about future care
- A Justice of the Peace will be-in attendance should you wish to complete your documents on the day.

Free

10am–12pm,
22nd September 2026
Community Health,
20 Alfred Street, Gympie
Onsite parking available

Registration is required.
Phone Gympie Community Health on **5489 8690** to confirm your attendance.

Complimentary tea and coffee will be provided.

Sunshine Coast Health | Queensland Government

lifehouse
PREGNANCY HELP • GYMPIE

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY RAFFLES SUPPORTING LIFEHOUSE GYMPIE

This September, every ticket you purchase in the Gympie RSL Community Raffles helps support local families in need.

100% of raffle proceeds throughout September will go to Lifehouse Gympie, a local community organisation providing free, confidential and practical support to women, men and families experiencing pregnancy, parenting and baby-related challenges.

Lifehouse provides support including counselling, practical assistance, parenting programs, baby and maternity essentials, and connections to other local services.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Join us for our Community Raffles every Friday & Saturday night, grab your tickets and help support an important local organisation.
Together, we can help Lifehouse continue supporting Gympie families when they need it most.

A Look Back: The Founding of Gympie RSL

Gympie RSL's history stretches back over a century, to 1919, when the Sub Branch was chartered by local men returning home from the First World War. Gympie at the time was still mainly a mining town, built on the gold rush that had put it on the map fifty years earlier, and it was into that close-knit community that a group of returned servicemen set up an organisation with a clear aim: to look after one another, and to look after the families of those who didn't make it back.

Like most RSLs around the country, Gympie's beginnings were humble. Early sub-branches typically operated out of little more than a room with a bar and a few chairs, run by volunteers, with whatever modest income they made going straight back into supporting members.

The Sub Branch's beginnings in 1919 owe a great deal to one man: George Thomas (Major retired). He was a foundation member of the Returned Soldiers' League in Queensland, having attended the meeting at which the organisation had its birth during his convalescence in Brisbane in September 1915, several years before he helped get the Gympie Sub Branch itself off the ground.

Thomas went on to serve the Gympie Sub Branch in a variety of roles over the following decades: as a former president, as treasurer for 32 years, and as trustee for 39 years.

Between 1924 and 1958, he marshalled every single Anzac Day procession held in Gympie a 34-year run.

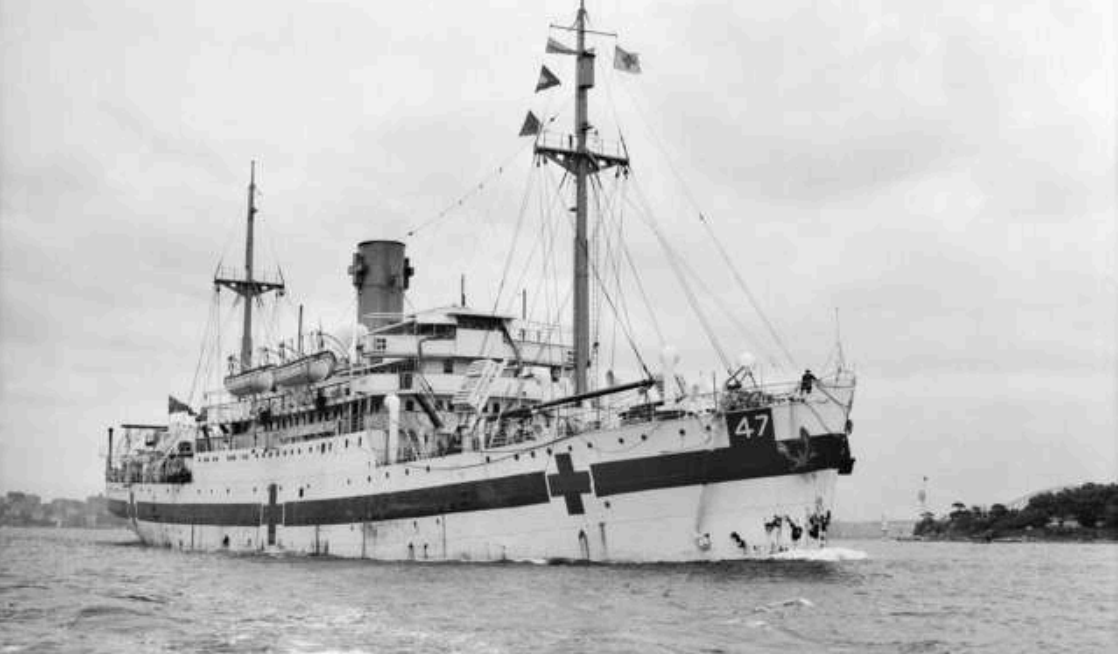
Before the Club found its current home on Mary Street, the Sub Branch operated out of the Returned Soldiers Hall on Reef Street, where Drakes stands today. The hall itself had a busy life even before it became "Soldiers Hall," having been used for all manner of community occasions, including balls, as one of the biggest halls in town aside from the pavilion at the school grounds.



G. THOMAS

For most of their history, the Sub Branch and the Club operated as related but separate entities. That changed in the years just before Covid, when the two amalgamated into a single organisation.

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



On 12 May 1943, the AHS Centaur left Sydney bound for Port Moresby in the Territory of Papua. It was collecting casualties from the Buna and Gona beachhead battles.

On board the Centaur were:
75 crew members of the Allied Merchant Navy and 64 medical staff, including 12 nurses of the Australian Army Nursing Service, 149 men of the 2/12th Field Ambulance, with 44 attached personnel heading for a tour in New Guinea.

In the pre-dawn hours of 14 May, off the coast of Queensland, explosions woke the crew and passengers. A torpedo from a Japanese submarine had hit the Centaur. The ship sank so quickly that the crew did not have a chance to send an SOS signal. Of the 332 people who left from Sydney, only 64 survived, clinging to rafts and debris. Sister Ellen Savage was the only nurse to survive. Sister Savage concealed her own injuries and treated the wounded. She also kept up morale with a focus on keeping spirits high for the survivors, and later recieved the George Medal for her bravery.



Australian soldiers on the Kokoda Trail, Papua New Guinea

Australian Peacekeeping



Australian peacekeeping deployments since 1945.



Australian soldiers in a M-113 armoured personnel carrier during a peacekeeping deployment to East Timor in 2002.

Australian involvement in international peacekeeping began in 1947 when a small contingent, consisting of just four officers; 2 Army, 1 Navy and 1 Air Force, were deployed to the Dutch East Indies (present-day Indonesia) in September of that year, being deployed as military observers under the auspices of the United Nations Good Offices Commission, during the Indonesian National Revolution. A total of 45 Australians were eventually deployed as part of this commitment, which ended in 1951.

After that first operation, Australia's involvement in peacekeeping expanded slowly. Between 1950 and 1989, these commitments, while numerous remained small-scale, consisting of the deployment of small numbers of troops in support roles. In 1989, this changed when Australia committed a sizeable engineer force to Namibia; after this, throughout the 1990s Australia made further contributions to peacekeeping operations in various places around the world including the Middle East, Cambodia, Somalia and Rwanda, and in many cases, for example in Somalia where an infantry battalion group was deployed, these deployments have consisted of sizeable numbers of combat troops.

Between 1994 and 2003, military observers were sent to Bougainville as part of a peace monitoring mission, firstly as the South Pacific Peacekeeping Force and then the Truce and Peace Monitoring Groups. In 1999, Australia's involvement in peacekeeping reached a new level when it took the lead in deploying a force that peaked at around 6,000 personnel, to East Timor (now Timor-Leste) during its transition to independence, before handing over to a UN-led mission in 2000. Further Australia commitments to Timor-Leste followed during the next decade in response to periods of unrest.

Between 2003 and 2013, a total of 7,270 Australian personnel rotated through the Solomon Islands as part of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands. The early years of the 21st century also saw the deployment of thousands of personnel to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan in warfighting roles. In addition, smaller scale commitments were made to missions in Africa, including to places like Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Darfur.

Girls Day Out

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

Maleny District / Cheese Tour

DEPARTS FROM VETERANS SERVICES CENTRE AT 8:15AM
RETURNS TO VETERANS SERVICES CENTRE AT 3.00PM

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Survey

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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.

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