



NEWSLETTER No. 1
March 2019

Morphett Vale RSL Newsletter



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FOUNDED 26TH APRIL 1926

PO BOX 239, MORPHETT VALE, S.A., 5162
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From The President's Desk

We have had our Christmas Break and everyone seemed to have a good time.

Jarrad and I had a holiday to the Philippine Islands and Vietnam. We had a great time and spent way too much money enjoying ourselves. The fly in the ointment (so to speak) was the devastating loss of our great friend and comrade, Frank Owen.

Coincidentally Frank and Dierdre were due to fly out to Queensland for a 2 week holiday on the 21st December, the same day as Jarrad and I were booked to fly out to our overseas holiday. Unfortunately we could not postpone our departure and we were away for Frank's funeral. I will not rehash all the wonderful things that have been said about Frank's Service career and his ongoing service to the RSL at National, State and Sub Branch levels. He was larger than life on so many levels and will be missed by all of us. As I said in my last report, Frank and Dierdre are the role models of how we should aspire to be in our service to the RSL and our broader community, selfless, tireless and truly dedicated.

Although we remember Frank and his amazing contribution to our Sub Branch over the many years, in many roles including many years as President, we should remember that Frank was one part of an amazing Duo. With his wife, Dierdre, they made a most formidable and dedicated team. Although Dierdre has suffered quite a major loss in her life, she has decided to get back on the horse and carry on with her duties in the Sub Branch and at State Headquarters. We should be very proud and appreciative of the fine work that Dierdre has done and continues to do for the RSL.

So now we say our final farewell to Frank, "Your duty is done, stand down. You will long be remembered and missed. Rest in Peace". Vale Frank Owen.

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In this issue:

Page 1
Presidents Desk

Page 3
Eulogy

Page 5
Women's Auxiliary

Page 6
Rob Winter

Page 7
Committee



48552 Frank James Owen OAM
15th December 1938 – 21 December 2018



Cpl Frank James Owen
Vietnam 1969



President Frank James Owen OAM
Sub-Branch Annual Dinner 2011

Frank Owen, quite suddenly and unexpectedly, passed away in his sleep on Friday 21 December 2018. It came as a great shock to all who knew him. Frank celebrated his 80th birthday on Saturday 15 December 2018 and, as I am told, enjoyed himself very well.

Frank was, for many years, the backbone of the RSL Morphett Vale and District Sub-Branch. It is fair to say that without his guidance and astute leadership that our Sub-Branch would not be in the great position that it is today. Frank's knowledge of all things RSL was, in my opinion, second to none and he was more than willing to share this knowledge when his opinion was sought and I did this on many occasions in my early years as Secretary. He was my friend, my respected mentor and a wonderful man just to have a chat and spend time with.

Nothing seemed to be too much trouble for Frank. He was always one of the first to put his hand up to help with all manner of Sub-Branch projects even if he did not whole-heartedly agree with them at times such was his commitment to the Sub-Branch. There are too many projects over the years to mention but we all know of the many hours that he spent in ensuring that our Sub-Branch was up amongst the best in the State. Since my move to Encounter Bay I will be forever grateful for all of the things that he did for me that I could not do because of the tyranny of distance on my part. If I needed something to be done at the Sub-Branch I only had to ring Frank and he would say "I'm on to it" and I knew it would be done.

I am extremely grateful to have known, and worked with, Frank. Every time I left the Sub-Branch to drive home to Encounter Bay he would warn me to "look out for the kangaroos" as we shook hands. In recent times Dierdre has kept up this tradition and, for this, I am grateful.

At Frank's funeral on Thursday 3 January 2019 there were a number of people who said some very meaningful words about Frank and how he had impacted on their lives. With his consent I have included below the eulogy presented at Frank's funeral by his long time mate, and former President of the RSL (SA Branch), Mr Jock Statton, AM.

**Gordon Curtis,
Honorary Secretary.**



EULOGY PRESENTED BY MR JOCK STATTON, AM.

“When asked by Frank’s Family to do a eulogy on behalf of the Returned and Services League (SA Branch) I accepted with honour. I thought I had a good knowledge of Frank’s involvement - that was until I started to collate it.

I have known Frank since around 1980, this was after Frank became a Member of the Morphett Vale and District Sub-Branch. Frank joined the Morphett Vale Sub-Branch in August 1986 and was elected as Honorary Secretary in the same year, holding the position until 1991. In 1992 Frank was elected Sub-Branch President, the position he served in until 1995.

Frank gave himself a self-imposed three year exile from serving on the Morphett Vale Sub-Branch Committee. During this period Frank was a member of the Willunga Sub-Branch. This was a hard period for Frank. He enjoyed the friendship of the Willunga Members, but I believe Frank was hurt by the situation at Morphett Vale, and his reason for stepping down. Not that he would ever say so.

After the three year break Frank was re-elected President of Morphett Vale Sub-Branch, a position he held until 2017. I believe the three year break gave Frank the opportunity to re-evaluate his continuing work within the RSL and as an outcome of this period Frank’s input to the RSL, State and National, was invaluable.

In 1994 Frank was elected as State Councillor for the Alexandra Group a position he held for many years. For those who don’t know, Alexandra Group consists of Morphett Vale, Port Noarlunga/Christies Beach, McLaren Vale, Willunga, Goolwa, Port Elliott, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla. Mt Compass, which is now closed, was also part of the District. This group has been acknowledged at the Wat Veterans Home, Myrtle Bank, for the thousands of dollars raised for the Home, with the naming of Alexandra Park at the entrance to the Home.

Frank has represented the RSL in various forums, visiting primary and high schools, explaining the importance of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. These schools could be anywhere between Rosewater and Woodville to McLaren Vale. This also included many Youth and Community Groups. If I ever needed someone to cover a group or a school I knew I could always rely on Frank as a backup.

One of the groups Frank enjoyed addressing were students at the Migration Museum. When they had displays at the museum on war or conflict, Frank and I would be invited by Rosa and Staff to talk to the Students. If the subject, the effect on families whilst serving overseas came up, which quite often it did, Frank occasionally could get quite emotional, a side of Frank a lot of people may not have seen.

Frank was committed to ensuring the Youth of today have an understanding of ANZAC and Remembrance Days. Frank’s involvement in the “The Youth Vigil in the South” in which Frank was on the planning and inception Committee from 2003 until his passing. Frank co-ordinated the Service for the Youth on the ANZAC Eve Service.

The future residents of the South may not know Frank Owen OAM although one of his legacies will be there in plain view. The City of Onkaparinga Memorial Garden and War Memorial. Frank was a member of the Onkaparinga City Council Planning Committee establishing the City’s Memorial Gardens. Frank was awarded the Australia Day Council Medallion in 2003 for his involvement in this project. This memorial holds the largest attended ANZAC Eve Service in the State.

From 1986 to 2012 Frank organised the planning and execution of ANZAC and Remembrance Day Services. In 2012 Gordon Curtis, the Secretary of the Morphett Vale RSL Sub-Branch, accepted the responsibility of these important commemorations.



Frank enjoyed trips visiting Sub-Branches and catching up with old acquaintances from previous trips or Sub-Branch Conferences. His wealth of knowledge on constitutional and Sub-Branch procedure were appreciated by all. Occasionally Frank would counsel me on my interpretation of the rules.

Frank had a long and strong association with the RSL, since his return from Vietnam in 1970, the Streaky Bay Sub-Branch welcomed him home as a member.

Some of the highlights of Frank's RSL service are:

2001 awarded the Australian Centenary Medal.

2003 Life Membership RSL for Service to Veterans.

2005 Onkaparinga City Council Citizen of the Year.

2007 awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to Veterans.

2009 accompanied the then Governor of South Australia Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC on the Premier's ANZAC Spirit School prize for students to the Western Front. Frank had the honour on behalf of all Australian Veterans to place a wreath at the Villers-Bretonneux Dawn Service.

RSL Representative on the Judging Committee of Students and Teachers for the Premier's ANZAC Spirit School prize and addressing students and families before and after their tour.

Organising RSL ANZAC Day sports medals, advising on the naming for soccer, lacrosse, Australian Rules Football and netball in the southern area.

Supported the Banka Straits Memorial Service.

State Branch Committee appointments included Honours and Awards, Membership, Constitutional, Appeals, Sub-Branch Conference Agenda and State Branch Tribunal.

RSL Representative, Combined Mess, CCOESO.

I don't know of a more dedicated person for Veterans in the RSL environment than Frank. Frank was known to voice his concerns on subjects which affected Veterans and RSL SA, this included the RSL Qld Art Union selling raffle tickets in South Australia around ANZAC Day as well as any organisation which tried to take advantage of days which are and have been recognised traditionally and historically as days to raise funds for RSL Welfare. Frank's support is evidence with a request, in lieu of flowers, for a donation to RSL welfare.

I may have missed some other important aspects of Frank's involvement in the RSL and I apologise to those involved. Frank's involvement in the Morphett Vale Sub-Branch and Onkaparinga Council has been enormous and recognised in awards.

Frank will be greatly missed by the Members of CCOOC, the Consolidated Council of Old Codgers. The group met regularly to discuss the problems of the RSL and the world. The group may solve a few problems and create many more, especially after sharing a red or two.

I doubt if Frank would have achieved all his volunteer work in the RSL, and other organisations, without the support of Dierdre and Family. On behalf of all we sincerely thank you for sharing Frank.

I believe some of the extracts I have taken from a few on the RSL Facebook page, and personal messages acknowledging Frank, will speak for most attending today.

So touched by his kindness and generosity, Rest In Peace you beautiful sweet soul, we were blessed to have known you, even for such a short time.

He was never afraid to voice his opinion whether he would put noses out of joint or not.



We often disagreed on Veteran matters and a few times he voted against my motions or ideas but would always come to me with his reasons and engage in debate.

If Frank prefaced a statement with “in my opinion” then the reality was that this was going to be the final statement on whatever was being discussed.

Frank will be sadly missed within the veteran community - a wonderful advocate & tireless worker for all veterans.

Rest in peace Frank, and thank you for your long and dedicated service to the RSL family.

Such sad news and really devastating to hear the loss of such a wonderful man.

Frank, an honour to know you.

RIP Frank. It was an absolute pleasure to know you.

A true gentleman and wonderful person.

And simply RIP.

REST IN PEACE MATE.”

LEST WE FORGET

WOMEN’S AUXILIARY

Welcome all to 2019, and all that it may bring.

Firstly, 2018 ended on a very sad note with the sudden passing of our Treasurer Dierdre Owens darling husband Frank. He was a stalwart of the sub-branch, and a friend to many, we all miss him.

In January we had our first Schnitzel fundraiser at the Crown Hotel which raised \$160 for the sub-branch.

The next one will be held on the 11th of March.

On the 12th of March our Auxiliary Annual dinner will be held at the Crown Hotel. I am sure we will once again have an enjoyable evening.

We have tentative plans for a jewellery evening, inviting ladies from other RSL’s and a cake stall later in the

year. Both things will include all ladies from our sub-branch. I will keep you informed of dates when they are confirmed.

News is scant at this time of year but I am sure as the time passes this will change.

Ros Day

President

Womens Auxiliary

Volunteers Acknowledged

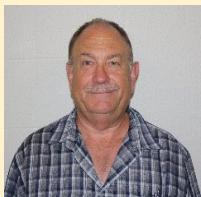
Community Volunteers in the southern suburbs were recently presented with acknowledgement certificates by Federal Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth. Rob Winter was nominated by Morphett Vale RSL for his outstanding contribution to the community, in particular in designing and producing a Digital Honour Board to display photos and details of the military service of residents and family members. His work with Lions was also mentioned.



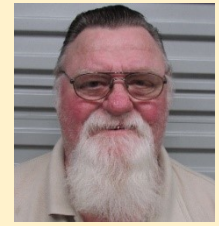
My daughter went to a Mexican fast food and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.



Frank Owen OAM
Deceased
21 Dec 18



Mark Wheaton
Vice-President



Lance Reeves OAM



Kane Hall

RSL, MORPHETT VALE & DISTRICT SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE 2019

Back Row: Rob Winter (from 15 Jan 19), Ken Treloar (Treasurer), Dave Oakley (Vice-President), Hugh Mortimer and Jarrad Kay.

Front Row: Dierdre Owen, OAM, Ron Payne (President), Gordon Curtis (Secretary) and Jim Bowles.

When my wife and I arrived at a car dealership to pick up our car after a service, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'its open!' His reply, 'I know. I already did that side.'



DIARY DATES 2019

March

Tuesday 5 7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Tuesday 19 7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

April

Tuesday 2 7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Tuesday 16 7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting
Friday 19 **Good Friday** (Sub-Branch closed)
Sunday 21 2.30pm **ANZAC Sunday Commemorative Service** (Clubrooms)
Wednesday 24 8.15pm **ANZAC Youth Vigil in the South** (Memorial Gardens Service)
Thursday 25 6.00am **ANZAC Day Dawn Service** (Memorial Gardens)

May

Tuesday 7 7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Friday 10 Mothers/Grandmothers Day Dinner
Tuesday 21 7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

June

Tuesday 4 7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Saturday 15 **7.00pm Sub-Branch Quiz Night**
Tuesday 18 7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

July

Tuesday 2 7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Tuesday 16 7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

August

Tuesday 6 7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary general Meetings
Tuesday 20 7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting
Saturday 24 **6.00pm Sub-Branch Annual Dinner**
Friday 30 Father's Day Dinner

September

Tuesday 3 7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Tuesday 17 7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

October

Tuesday 1 7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Tuesday 15 7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

November

Sunday 3 11.00am Sub-Branch/Auxiliary general Meetings
Monday 11 10.40am **Remembrance Day Service** (Memorial Gardens)
Tuesday 19 7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

December

Tuesday 3 7.00pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General & **Annual General Meetings**
Friday 13 6.00pm **Christmas Break-up**
Tuesday 17 7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

The Sub-Branch will not be open on Good Friday (19 April 19), Christmas Day 2019 or New Year's Day 2020



A blind man went into the department store and suddenly began swinging his dog around and around above his head.

The superintendent rushed over and, ducking each time the dog passed overhead, asked: "Sir, can I help you?"

"No, I'm just looking around"

The irate customer called the newspaper office, loudly demanding to know where her Sunday edition was.

"Ma'am", said the Receptionist, "Today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until Sunday".

There was a long pause at the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition. "I'll bet that's why no one was in church today too."

A Census official was assisting a farmer's wife to fill in her forms. "How many children have you got?", he asked.

"Six" she replied. "Three sets of twins."

"How very extraordinary," said the census man. "Twins every time."

"Oh no," she said with a blush. "Not every time. Hundreds of times, nothing."

A nursery school pupil told his teacher he'd found a cat, but it was dead.

'How do you know that the cat was dead?' she asked her pupil.

'Because I pissed in its ear and it didn't move,' answered the child innocently.

'You did WHAT?' the teacher exclaimed in surprise.

'You know,' explained the boy, 'I leaned over and went 'Pssst' and it didn't move'

It was that time, during the Sunday morning service, for the children's sermon.

All the children were invited to come forward.

One little girl was wearing a particularly pretty dress and, as she sat down, the minister leaned over and said, 'That is a

very pretty dress. Is it your Easter Dress?'

The little girl replied, directly into the minister's clip-on microphone, 'Yes, and my Mum says it's a bitch to iron.'



SUB-BRANCH SUPPORTERS

Horndale Distillery & Wine Cellars, 41-45 Fraser Avenue, HAPPY VALLEY, SA 5159.
Phone – 8387 0033. Email – oldhorndale@hotmail.com. Also on Facebook.



Horndale Distillery and Wine Cellars have also been long-standing supporters of our Sub-Branch. The business was first established in 1896 with the current owners, the Albrecht Family, purchasing the business in 1984. Horndale has a fine selection of red, white, sparkling and fortified wines and with many MEDAL WINNERS in their stable you will find the right wine for that special occasion. Come in and speak to the wine maker, Phil Albrecht, taste a few and ask his advice. RSL Members, upon production of their membership card, will receive a special discount.

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SUB-BRANCH SUPPORTERS

There are a number of businesses in our area that provide on-going support to our Sub-Branch and have done so over a long period of time. We are grateful for this support and would urge our members in return to support these local businesses.


Allbiz Supplies Pty Ltd – 125 O’Sullivan Beach Road, Lonsdale, SA 5160. Phone – 8326 2899. Email – stat@allbizsupplies.biz.

 <p>Allbiz Supplies Pty Ltd 08 8326 2899 125 O’Sullivan Beach Rd, Lonsdale SA 5160 stat@allbizsupplies.biz</p>	<p>Allbiz have been one of our long-standing supporters providing our stationery and printing needs. The staff at Allbiz, headed by Di Bellamy, are always friendly and most helpful. The next time that you require anything in the way of stationery, printing, or even office furniture, then call in and see Di and her team. You won’t be sorry.</p>
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Buds and Blooms – Shop 5, 17-23 Main South Road, REYNELLA, SA 5161. Phone – 8326 3664. Email - budsandblooms@interfloraflorist.com.au.

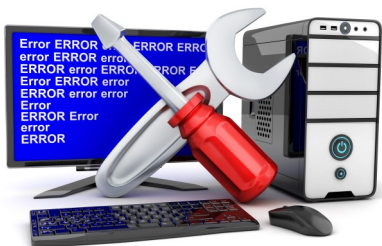
	<p>Buds and Blooms, a family owned and award winning florist, has been established for 23 years. For a good many years now they have supplied all of the Sub-Branch wreaths for the ANZAC Dawn Service and Remembrance Day Service as well as other floral arrangements as required. Pop in to Buds and Blooms and speak to the friendly staff the next time you require a bouquet or other floral arrangement.</p>
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Morphett Vale Butcher – Shop 2, 206 Main South Road, MORPHETT VALE, SA 5162. Phone – 8382 3159.

	<p>Morphett Vale Butcher is a family owned business which has been operating since 2011. For 75 years it operated under only two owners. In 2011 Chris and Amy purchased the shop which has since been revamped and now sells a larger variety of products. Morphett Vale Butcher supplies the meat trays for our raffles at generously discounted prices. Do yourself a favour and pay them a visit.</p>
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Sub-Branch Newsletter

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