

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

The events, meetings, and services I have attended in the last month are as follows:

1. Monday 1 June, chair a Team's meeting of the RSLQ Audit & Risk Committee.
2. Tuesday 2 June, participate in a Team's special meeting of the RSLQ Board.
3. Tuesday 2 June, participate in a Team's RUOK meeting of RSLQ Directors.
4. Tuesday 2 June, travel to Rockhampton to attend the funeral of Emu Park RSL member, John Caswell.
5. Travel to Rockhampton to attend and conduct an RSL Poppy Service at the funeral of a Springsure RSL member, Arthur Hamilton, on Thursday 4 June.
6. Friday 5 June, chair a Team's meeting of the PFH District Executive.
7. Tuesday 9 June, participate in a Team's RUOK meeting of RSLQ Directors.
8. Thursday 11 June, participate in a Team's RUOK meeting of RSLQ Directors.
9. Travel to Mackay to attend the funeral of Seaforth RSL member and RSL Life Member, Bert Benson, on Friday 12 June.
10. Travel to Rockhampton to attend and conduct an RSL Poppy Service at the funeral of Emu Park RSL member and World War 2 veteran, Arthur Coutts, on Saturday 13 June.
11. Tuesday 16 June, participate in a Team's RUOK meeting of RSLQ Directors.
12. Wednesday 17 June, participate a Team's meeting of RSLQ District Presidents.
13. Thursday 18 June, participate in a Team's meeting of RSLQ Board.
14. Travel to Mackay to work in the District Office on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 June.
15. While in Mackay, meet with the new President of the Mackay Sub-Branch, Ken Higgins.
16. Wednesday 24 June, participate in Team's meeting regarding OSR changes to RSLQ constitution.
17. Thursday 25 June, participate in a Team's RUOK meeting of RSLQ Directors.
18. Monday 29 June, chair a special Team's meeting of the RSLQ Audit & Risk Committee.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics June 2020

Voluntary Hours	147.5
Kilometers Travelled	1699
Nights Away From Home	2

Vale - Arthur Charles Coutts

Sadly, 100 year old World War 2 veteran and Emu Park RSL member, Arthur Coutts, passed away on 8 June 2020.

Arthur was a good friend and in terms of his wishes, I had the honor and privilege of conducting an RSL Poppy Service at his funeral on Saturday 13 June.

I got to know Arthur around 11 years ago when I was President of the Emu Park Sub-Branch and regularly visited him at home for morning tea. I took him to a number of ceremonial services I attended in conjunction with my District duties in the Rockhampton area.

See newspaper article on Arthur at end of this newsletter.

Vale – Albert William Benson

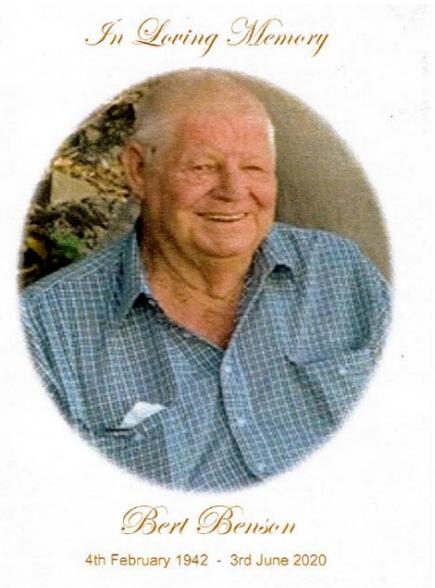
Sadly, Seaforth Sub-Branch lost one of its founding members, Bert Benson, during June and along with a number of Mackay District veterans I attended his funeral on Friday 12 June.

Bert was President of the Seaforth Sub-Branch for 20 years and in 2013 he was awarded Life Membership of the RSL. He served in the Citizen Military Forces for 15 years.

Bert was a stalwart of the Seaforth community and it was fitting to see the Seaforth Rural Fire trucks driving around the block at the funeral service paying their respects to him.

A lot of us would have met Bert at District Council meetings as he was the Sub-Branches delegate for many years.

I thank District Deputy President, John Edwards, for conducting an RSL Poppy Service at the funeral.



COVID-19 Virus

Since my last newsletter, the District Office reopened on Monday 15 June. RSLQ is in the process of planning a return to ANZAC House in Brisbane but this will probably occur on a staggered basis at first due to the continued enforcement of social distancing requirements.

The Stage 3 lifting of restrictions are due to take effect from 10 July and this should result in our lives getting back to some semblance of normality. I hope that the spike in infections occurring in Victoria at the moment will not delay this planned process.

I hope that you have been able to cope with the social isolation restrictions placed on us by Governments over the last 4 months.

I reiterate that the RSL and its members are not immune from adhering to these public health directions during the staged lifting of the restrictions and I urge you to desist from any activity that would put anyone at risk, especially any of our members who are in the older age bracket of the population and are vulnerable to the severe health complications that the virus can cause and result in death.

RSL Queensland and District will continue to communicate with the Sub-Branches and the membership regarding Government pronouncements.

Please let us know if you need help in coping with this situation.

Sub-Branch AGMs

As reported in recent newsletters, most of the District's Sub-Branches have been able to conduct their AGMs before Government restrictions forced the cancellation of some meetings.

It is now evident that those Sub-Branches that have had to postpone their AGMs will not be able to reschedule the meetings until after the 30 June cut-off date set out in constitutions. Now that the Prime Minister has announced a 3 Stage lifting of the public health restrictions, these Sub-Branches need to devise a plan to hold their AGM after 10 July when Stage 3 of the lifting of restrictions comes into effect.

Please note that a blanket extension has been given by the Queensland Office of Fair Trading which will allow Sub-Branches to hold the meeting in the 6 months after the 30 June.

PFH District AGM

As you are aware, the District Executive took the decision to postpone the District AGM which was to be held in Yeppoon on 27/28 March due to the escalation of the restrictions relating to the coronavirus public health emergency.

The District Executive has decided to hold the AGM at Marian on Saturday 18 July in conjunction with the scheduled District Council meeting. Given that the current social distancing restrictions will still be in place at that time, we have had to change the venue from Finch Hatton Sub-Branch. The meeting will be held in the Marian Hall where there is an abundance of space to allow us to conform to the social distancing restrictions.

Please note the following changes in relation to the AGM:

1. Only Sub-Branch delegates and District Executive members are invited to the meeting. We have had to restrict numbers so we can meet the social distancing restrictions.
2. There will be no Annual Dinner in conjunction with the AGM. Given social distancing restrictions, it would have been near impossible to hire a venue and meet the social distancing restrictions.

2020 District Budget

As you would be aware, the 2020 District Budget was to be presented to the March postponed AGM.

The District Executive has general control and management of the administration of the affairs of the District under section 25.1 of the District constitution and the Executive has continued to run the District in the meantime.

I previously gave an undertaking that we would continue to pay the operating accounts of the District as they fall due but would not authorize the payment of funds that are not operational eg donations and capital expenditure proposed in the budget.

The 2020 budget will be presented to the AGM at Marian on Saturday 18 July for approval.

2020 State AGM/ Congress

The State AGM scheduled to be held in Brisbane on the week-end 27/28 June and postponed until Sunday 6 September has now been rescheduled to Tuesday 24 November due to the on-going COVID-19 restrictions.

Given the present uncertain environment, the current estimations of the duration of the public health restrictions, and the availability of air transport, it will be difficult to run a face to face AGM for over 200 participants and the RSLQ Board has decided to conduct the AGM by technology.

The State RSL constitution stipulates that a technology meeting can be called with the permission of the Sub-Branch members. However, this permission must be given by all Sub-Branches (100%).

RSL State is required under its constitution to hold the AGM by 31 December. In the coming months, RSL Queensland intends to go to the Sub-Branches and seek permission to hold a technology AGM meeting

via a circular resolution. RSLQ has also decided that such a technology meeting would only consider the basic governance documentation (audited financial accounts, acceptance of previous minutes etc) for acceptance and any other matters such as the new draft constitution would be deferred until 2021 when a face to face meeting can be held.

Given the problems that have arisen due to the COVID-19 emergency, I am confident that all the Sub-Branches in the District would support the holding of a technology AGM meeting.

Charitable Institution Registration Changes Under Qld Taxation Administration Act 2001

Sub-Branches

Sub-Branches would have received an email recently from the District Secretary attaching correspondence from RSL Queensland regarding the above.

The correspondence advised that the Office of State Revenue had recently changed the requirements for how charities and Not-for Profit organisations register as a charitable institution under the Taxation Administration Act 2001 (Qld) (**TAA**). An organisation must be registered as a charitable institution under the TAA to receive concessions and exemptions from the Queensland Government.

To continue to receive these concessions and exemptions for land tax, payroll tax, transfer duty, and insurance duty after 9 November 2020, Sub-Branches will need to make changes to their constitution.

Sub-Branches need to assess whether they will be affected by this change. If you are affected and have not already done so, then please contact the District Secretary as directed in the RSL Queensland correspondence.

In my view, nearly all the Sub-Branches in the District will not be affected by the changes and the required constitutional changes can be delayed until the new RSL Queensland constitution is approved and as a consequence the District and Sub-Branch constitutions are up dated.

RSL Queensland

RSL Queensland is also affected by these changes and stands to lose an estimated \$5 million each year in revenue if the required changes are not made to the RSL Queensland constitution by 9 November.

To negate this loss of income, the RSLQ Board has decided to ask Sub-Branches to vote on a circular resolution to approve the required constitutional changes to the existing 2015 constitution during July/August.

Under the existing constitution all Sub-Branches will need to approve the circular resolution or the resolution will fail.

I emphasise that this constitutional change to the 2015 RSL Queensland constitution is an administrative change only that will allow RSL Queensland to continue to access Queensland Tax concessions outlined earlier. Please do not confuse this matter with the approval of a new constitution which has been delayed until the 2021 State AGM in June next year.

You would have recently received correspondence about this matter from RSL Queensland explaining the need for the circular resolution and outlining that the vote needs to be taken by Sub-Branch delegates at a District Council meeting before the 17 August 2020.

The next District Council meeting is at Marian on Saturday 18 July and Sub-Branch delegates will be asked to vote on the circular resolution. It is important that delegates are made aware of this and come prepared for the vote on the resolution on behalf of their Sub-Branch.

If Sub-Branches do not have a delegate attending the District Council meeting, then I will contact the President of the Sub-Branch to arrange for the delegate to vote on the circular resolution.

Given the amount of revenue that RSL Queensland stands to lose if the changes to the constitution are not made, I am confident that all the Sub-Branches in the District would support the circular resolution.

Australian Bushfires Crisis

As reported in the last two newsletters, the bushfire crisis faced by communities across Australia over the summer months caused devastation across many communities, especially in the southern states.

In response to this, RSL Queensland donated \$100,000 to support veterans in bushfire affected regions throughout Australia. The funds were administered and distributed by RSL National.

The District Executive had included a donation of \$20,000 in the 2020 Budget for approval at the District AGM on 28 March 2020 and it was the intention of the District Executive to ask RSL National to administer and distribute these funds to veterans in need as well.

However, given the likely affect the coronavirus will have on our District, the District Executive has decided that the funds will now be held to provide financial assistance to our Sub-Branches adversely affected by the coronavirus crisis.

District Council and Executive Meetings

There has been no District Council meeting since the last one in November 2019.

Executive meetings were held on Saturday 8 February, Friday 28 February and by skype on Friday 17 April and Friday 5 June. The District AGM and Council meeting set for 28 March had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

2020 District Council Meeting Dates

The District Executive decided to cancel the meeting scheduled for Gracemere Sub-Branch on Saturday 16 May.

18 July	Marian Sub-Branch
19 September	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub-Branch
21 November	Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub-Branch (Mackay)

2020 AGM – Nominations for District Executive Positions

A nomination for each of the Vice-President and Treasurer positions has been received from incumbent Executive Members, Phil Luzzi and Dawn Salisbury, and their positions will be confirmed when the District AGM is held.

2019 Audited Financial Accounts

The Audit of the 2019 Financial Accounts has been completed by the auditor and reviewed by the District Executive.

The Audited Accounts have been signed off by the District Executive and will be presented at the AGM at Marian on Saturday 18 July.

75th Anniversary of the End of World War 2 in 2020

It was decided that funding would be provided in 2020 Budget and made available to Sub-Branches for the commemoration of the event.

The District Executive has included \$20,000 in the 2020 Budget for approval at the AGM when it is held in July.

However, this commemorative event may also be affected by the public health emergency.

State Board Meeting

A meeting was held via Teams on Thursday 18 June 2020.

Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025

2020 Business Plan

As resources have been diverted to respond to the coronavirus public health emergency and given the expected down turn in the Australian economy, delays to programs planned in Horizon 1 of the 2020 Business Plan and reductions in revenue budget targets were expected.

Management is in the process of conducting a complete review of the Horizon 1 time lines and the reforecasting the 2020 Budget which will be presented to the July Board meeting.

Highlights of the 2020 Business Plan were as follows:

1. Lotteries sales were expected to grow from \$130 million in 2019 to over \$150 million, strengthening sustainability.
2. A contingency fund was set aside to fund emergent initiatives identified in the 2025 Strategy.
3. There was to be three major strategic projects in 2020:
 - Reimagining membership.
 - Reinvigorating our brands.
 - Piloting a service hub.

2020 is a year to:

- Re-instate our relevance to the entire veteran community.

- Grow our influence across various stakeholders and governments.
- Strengthen sustainability in the future.

At this point, it is expected that there will be a minimal effect on our plans and revenue growth.

Investment Strategy/Establishment of Investment Sub-Committee

The RSLQ CFO is presently working with the Audit & Risk Committee in setting up a skills based Investment Sub-Committee.

The Investment Sub-Committee will provide direction and guidance to the Board and Management of RSLQ in the investment of cash and reserves which are surplus to operating requirements, RSL Art Union property prize portfolio purchases, and other business investment opportunities.

RSLQ presently has a large cash reserve figure which will be prudently invested to supplement the revenue stream of the Art Union activities.

At the May Board meeting, the Board approved the Investment Committee's Terms of Reference and an Investment Policy.

The recruitment of appropriately skilled committee members is now in train. An opportunity will be given to RSL members with the necessary skills to apply for positions on the Investment Committee.

2020 Membership Renewals

Due to problems caused to the Sub-Branches by the coronavirus health emergency, the RSLQ Board has decided to extend the membership renewal cut-off date beyond 28 February. No alternative cut-off date has been set at this stage but a date will be set once there is more clarity in relation to the lifting of the public health restrictions.

New State Constitution

The Committee drafted a new constitution using the 2015 constitution as a base.

The draft of the new 2020 constitution was posted on the RSLQ website in early December 2019 and feedback and comments were sought from members up until the 21 February 2020.

A revised draft document has now been completed based on the feedback provided and this draft is now posted on the website.

Given the COVID-19 health restrictions the Board has decided that the new draft constitution will not be presented to members until a face to face AGM in 2021.

This will give more time for further consultations with the membership.

RSL Queensland 2019 Audited Financial Accounts

The accounts have now been signed off by the Board and will be tabled at the AGM in November.

ANZAC Day - Light Up The Dawn Campaign

The campaign was highly successful throughout Australia and consideration is being given to whether a campaign on a lesser basis could not be held in future years.

It has been stressed that if such a campaign was run next year it would need to be run in conjunction with publicizing the ANZAC Day events and not detract from the Dawn Service.

On Going Matters and Reminders

District Website/Facebook

Website address is www.rslpfdistrict.org.au

Sub-branches are encouraged to keep providing details of events, photographs, etc to Vice President, Phil Luzzi, or District Secretary, Lynette Phillips, for placing on the district website and facebook page.

Dental & Allied Health Program

The Dental Health Program has been incorporated into the new Dental & Allied Health Program which commenced on 1 January 2020.

So far this year, 36 applications have been approved at a cost of \$13,969.97: Dental \$6,922.00, Hearing \$2,933.29, and Optical \$4,114.23.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2020.

So far this year, there have been 9 new alarms issued and 5 renewed at a cost of \$3,780.

Sub-Branch Presidents are reminded to keep an eye out for members who would benefit from the program.

District PAWS Coordinator

The District PAWS Coordinator will be liaising with Veteran Services at State regarding the running of further General Welfare courses during the year.

Donations to Mates4Mates

The District Executive has considered providing a further donation to Mates4Mates in 2020. \$5,000 has been provided for in the 2020 District Budget to be presented at the AGM on Saturday 18 July.

Sub-branches are encouraged to consider donating funds to Mates4Mates if they are in a position to do so.

District Secretary, Lynette, has the relevant paper work that needs to be completed and sent with your donation.

Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF)

The District Executive has considered providing a further donation to GMRF in 2020 and \$5,000 has been provided for in the 2020 District Budget to be presented to the AGM on Saturday 18 July.

RSL Queensland has donated considerable funds to GMRF over recent years to enable the completion of the Vietnam Veterans PTSD study. Further, State is currently funding a study into the transition of servicemen and women from the services to civilian life.

Sub-branches are encouraged to consider donating to GMRF if they are in a position to do so as it would be worthy welfare spending.

District Charitable Objects Fund

A further \$100,000 of funds has been allocated to the District for 2020.

The guidelines and application form have been sent to all sub-branches. Please note that applications are limited to a maximum amount of \$10,000 and applications cannot be retrospective.

All applications need to be on the application form and be in accordance with the guidelines. Sub-branches need to ensure they familiarize themselves with this documentation before an application is made.

Sub-branches are encouraged to come up with worthy projects and apply for funding. You need to sell your proposal in the application.

So far this year, 1 application has been approved at a cost of \$ 2,274.80.

Sub-Branch Support Program

Funding is available in 2020 through this program for those sub-branches in financial need.

So far this year, no applications have been received.

Please refer to program policy and guidelines. An application needs to be made on application form.

Sub-Branches that are adversely affected by the coronavirus emergency and are in need of emergency funds to run their Sub-Branches need to consider seeking assistance through this program. Please give me a call to discuss you Sub-Branches' circumstances.

2020 Cadet Funding

State Branch has provided funding of \$ 27,399 for 2020.

The District Secretary put out an advice early in the year to Sub-Branches calling for applications by a date in late June so the District Executive can assess applications at meeting on Saturday 4 July and make recommendations to the District Council at meeting on Saturday 18 July.

However, due to the coronavirus emergency the closing date for applications will be extended to August so that Sub-Branches have more time to liaise with the cadet units.

Emergency Welfare

A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated for Emergency Welfare funding during 2020.

So far this year, \$3,125.08 has been spent on 4 veterans.

It is hoped that the Stage 3 lifting of public health restrictions will go ahead on 10 July and the Premier also opens up the State borders. Districts and Sub-Branches have now been given the all clear by State Branch to reopen and Sub-Branches should be putting plans in place to hold meetings and commence fundraising activities. However, when doing so, please be aware that social distancing restrictions have

not been eased and these restrictions need to be abided by when activities take place and Sub-Branch premises are to be used. It seems likely that our lives will remain restricted somewhat and some operating barriers will remain for Sub-Branches and members for some time to come given the challenges facing Australia at this time.

I ask Sub-Branch Presidents and their Executive members to continue to be on the lookout for veterans and RSL members who are doing it tough as a result of this current public health emergency. I know that this is a challenge given that a large number of our members are in the age group vulnerable to the severe health complications that can be caused by the virus.

The District and State are in a position to provide financial resources if funds are needed.

Keep up the good work and remember that your District is here to help in any way we can.

Kindest regards

Barry Vains OAM

District President

The Last Post

Member ID	First Name	Surname	Date of Birth	Deceased Dat...	Owner	Last Financial...
1015280	Roy	Semple	6/09/1924	28/06/2020	Yeppoon Sub Branch I...	SMLIFE
1518296	Arthur	Coutts	17/11/1919	8/06/2020	Emu Park Sub Branch I...	SMLIFE
1007192	Albert	Benson	4/02/1942	3/06/2020	Seaforth Sub Branch I...	SMLIFE
1570462	Colin	Bull	5/01/1939	2/06/2020	Yeppoon Sub Branch I...	SMLIFE

Tributes for World War 2 Veteran



Arthur reflected on his past last year with handwritten letters from war times and memorabilia collected after the war.

THE MORNING BULLETIN

TRISH BOWMAN

11th Jun 2020 7:00 AM

AFTER celebrating his 100th birthday last year, World War 2 veteran Arthur Charles Coutts, took the milestone in his usual relaxed stride, sadly it is the last birthday he will celebrate after passing away last week.

In an interview last year Arthur said there was no great secrets to his longevity, it was always a case of just getting on with it, do what you have to do and just keep going.

The Emu Park RSL member since 1990 was born in Rupanyup in Victoria on November 17, 1919.

Arthur enlisted in the Australian Army on July 2, 1940 and was discharged on December 4, 1945 with the rank of Sergeant.



Arthur struck a fine picture in his service uniform

Pioneer-Fitzroy-Highlands RSL District President Barry Vains OAM represented the RSL at a special Memorial Service for the much-loved veteran.

Mr Vains said on behalf of the League, particularly the president of the Emu Park RSL, Darryl Dwyer and his members, he wants to express to the Coutts' family and friends, their deepest sympathy with the passing of Arthur, and to thank them for inviting the RSL to take a small part in Arthur's service.

"It was an honour and privilege for me to conduct a Poppy Service as Arthur was a dear friend," Mr Vains said.

"We first met about 11 years ago when I became the president of the Emu Park RSL Sub-Branch.

"I regularly visited him at his home to have morning tea and a chat. I took Arthur along to many commemorative services I attended around Rockhampton in relation to my district president's role within the RSL.

"I particularly remember a service we went to at Canal Creek and I have a photo of him proudly sitting between a Brigadier-General and a Major-General. I will miss him immensely.

"Arthur first joined the RSL in 1946 at Buchan in Victoria and he transferred to the Nowa Nowa Sub-Branch in 1947. He joined the Emu Park Sub-Branch in 1990 after he and his wife, Gwen, came to live in Queensland in 1975."

Mr Vains said Arthur was one of Australia's World War II generation who were brought up in the 1920s and 1930s.

"They had a tough upbringing. Many of their mothers had lost their husbands in the First World War and they assumed the physical and financial burden of bringing their sons and daughters up in a single parent family," he said.

"These families had to face the hardship of the Great Depression. Then, when World War II broke out in 1939, and like their fathers and uncles in World War I, they enlisted in their thousands to fight for their country.

"By then, the word Anzac was so embedded in our national memory that the men of the 2nd AIF were seen as heirs to an established Anzac tradition and would be judged by the values which their fathers had manifested.

"As a result, they came to value things like decency, honesty, integrity, generosity, doing the right thing, and being men of their word where a handshake was their bond."



Arthur Coutts at the Canal Creek service proudly sitting between a Brigadier- General and a Major-General.

From 1926-1938, Arthur was raised and worked on his parents' wheat farm in Wimmera Victoria until he enlisted in the army.

Life on the farm was not always easy, the family saw their fair share of hard times and it was a life that would set the base for his love of all things mechanical that he would enjoy throughout his years.

On enlisting in the armed services, he was posted to the 6th Training Battalion at Mt Martha and it would mark the beginning of a whirlwind five-and-a-half years.

After training, Arthur was then transferred to the 2/2 Army Field Workshop Unit at Williamstown.

As part of the 6th Division AIF, the unit sailed from Melbourne on the 'New Holland' on September 15, 1940, it would mark the beginning of a tumultuous time in the veteran's life.

Arthur's unit arrived in Egypt on October 12, 1940 via Colombo and the Suez Canal.

Still on the move, in 1941, the unit followed the 6th Division into North Africa via the north coast as far as Benghazi when they were called back Alexandria to go to Greece, following in the 6th Division's footsteps.

On the way back, the unit was ordered to call into Tobruk and hand their gear over to the 6th Recovery Unit but by the time the unit made it back to Alexandria, they had missed the boat to Greece and the unit went to Palestine and Syria in the Middle East.

The unit was attached to the Free French who were fighting the Vichy French at the time.

As a result of the Japanese entering the war in December 1941, the unit left Egypt and sailed for Ceylon on March 12, 1942 and spent around three months in Colombo.

After an exhausting two years, the unit returned to Melbourne on August 12, 1942 and after some leave, were posted to Port Moresby in New Guinea arriving on December 8, 1942 for another busy two-year stint, before being posted out on June 15, 1944.

On May 13, 1945, the unit arrived in Morotai where they would remain for the next six months.

The news everyone was waiting for arrived and with the end of the war, the unit returned home to their loved ones on November 15, 1945.

After discharge from the services, he went to work for a trucking company and just 12 months later, he married the love of his life Gwen, his boss's daughter, the couple went on to run a general store together at Nowra.

The happy couple went on to have five children, Yvonne (deceased), Cheryl, Peter, Janet, and John (deceased).

They moved several times with Arthur being employed to drive trucks carrying timber logs and poles for over 26 years before pulling up stumps and moving to Yeppoon in 1975 where the couple ran Coutts general store, now known as Beachside 66.

Arthur had never seen water but quickly became engrossed in the coastal way of life, learning to sail, fishing and cycling.

He retired in 1980 and had land at Taranganba where they had intended to live, as it turned out fate had other ideas.

Arthur and Gwen had some shells they wanted identified, they went to a home in Ocean Parade, Cooe Bay to visit a knowledgeable local with an immense shell collection.

They loved the location so much they asked about a home next door that was for sale.

The man mentioned that his home was also for sale if they were interested.

Gwen walked upstairs and the decision was made immediately when she said, "This will do."

The couple enjoyed a wonderful 59 years together before Gwen passed away in 2005.

POSTINGS & ATTACHMENTS

Recruit Reception Depot – July 2, 1940.

6 Training Battalion – July 10, 1940.

2/2 Australian Army Field Workshop – August 23, 1940.

6 Australian Division Ordnance Workshop – September 15, 1942.

2/121 Australian Brigade Workshop – July 12, 1943.

OPERATIONAL SERVICE

Middle East – September 15, 1940 to March 12, 1942.

Ceylon – March 13, 1942 to August 7, 1942

New Guinea – December 8, 1942 to June 18, 1944

Morotai – May 4, 1945 to November 15, 1945