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President's Report

This is the final report for this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and families a very safe and merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

We have been making progress throughout this year on improvements to the hall and surrounds. This will continue well into next year. Hopefully the floor will be treated during the holiday break and come back bright and refreshed.

Thank you to all the Board and Committee members for their input throughout the year. The RSL could not function without your input and efforts.

To all the volunteers; a very hearty thank you for all the hours you have put into the various tasks during the year.

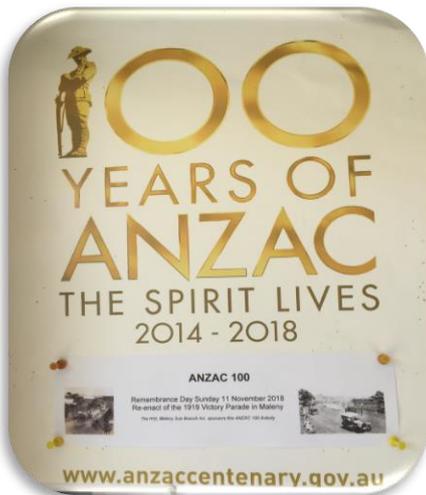
We will be back at work in mid-January with a fresh outlook on the way forward for 2018.

In conclusion, thanks one and all for your efforts and I look forward to working with you all in 2018.

Stay safe and sober.

Clarke Alexander

Snapshots of 2017



The Diggers Bar and Dining

**Last Night for Bar & Dining
this year will be
Friday 15th Dec 2017.**

**Reopening on
Friday 19th Jan 2018**



Another book from the RSL Maleny Library:

In the Fog. The story of one man's war, by Jacqui Murray.

'In The Fog. The story of one man's war 'is just that – the story of one Australian soldier, Jack Bourke, woven into a description and analysis of the events which took place leading up to and during World War II. To provide the background for Jack's story, the author sourced information from the National Archives and newspaper reports of the day, together with personal recollections from some of Jack's friends.

Before the War, Jack had been the Sacristan at St Stephen's Catholic Cathedral, Brisbane. In this position of privilege and trust, Jack was fortunate to have accommodation, food and a job during the Great Depression. In 1940, Jack enlisted but his diary indicates that his attitude towards the Army, discipline and authority was poor. Jack left Australia aboard the refitted "Queen Mary", bound for England. Jack's diary indicates that, despite being converted for war time duties, the ship still showed signs of elegance. His diary also shows a disparity

between the reality of war time life and what was reported in The Courier Mail.

Jack made the most of any leave available during his sojourn in England, with regular reports in his diary of having met young women who were happy to accompany an Australian soldier to the cinema or have a drink at the local pub. He tells of air raids and bombings as well as the day by day incidents: "Slept in. Neal & Curley brought me something to eat. I went on hut orderly... sweep the hut out & clean up. A good job if you don't like working. Played poker most of day, we were paid today. Norm & Massey blotto most of day. I must try & get to London tomorrow night to see Ethel W..."

From England, Jack sailed to Palestine and Egypt, arriving the day the siege of Tobruk began. During his army career, he returned to Brisbane, then headed for Cairns and onto Milne Bay, continuing to record in his diary his daily activities as well as his impressions of how the events of the war were being managed.

This is an interesting, easy-to-read, short book (162 pages). Of interest is Jack's personal story which could be the story of many Australian Diggers

during World War II – periods of activity followed by periods of boredom, varying health issues, desperate to receive news from home, meeting new people and making life-long friendships, frustration as well as finding personal strengths not hitherto called upon.

Jon Clarke

It is free to borrow a book from the RSL Maleny Sub Branch Library. Just write it up in the Borrowing Book. Have a look and see what book has your interest the next time you are in the Hall! The Library is in the Glass Cabinet on the Bunya Street Entrance of the Hall.

Leaving the ADF and need help/ideas transitioning? Go to the website below for help.

<http://www.defence.gov.au/D/CO/Transition/Default.asp>

You can directly open the website by right clicking on the above website with your mouse and then click on 'open hyperlink'.



PARKLAKES II
AVENUE OF HONOUR
BLI BLI



This is a lovely, informative and pleasant walk around the **Parklakes II** "Avenue of Honour."



Alongside the footpath are numerous plaques in honour of the Australian Service Men and Women.



Sadly, we pass along the news that our lovely



Alison died. She suffered a severe stroke on 27 Nov morning and died without

recovering consciousness. Alison was recently awarded Life Membership of the Naval Association.

Alison Laura ARMSTRONG (nee FRANCIS), WR Tel WR505 who joined the WRANS in 1942, and served till 1945 in HMAS Harman, Magnetic and Rushcutter was one of Mrs Mac's girls. She was a Life Member and former State President of War Widows and was awarded an OAM for her work with that organisation.

Alison's funeral was held at Pinnaroo Cemetery at Albany Creek on Wednesday 6 December 2017.

* * * * *

Short time afterwards it was a terrible shock to the whole community of Maleny, to learn of Margaret's passing.



Margaret McCamley

Woods was a bright and colourful lady and there was "a colourful Celebration of her life" at Gregson & Weight at Buderim on Wednesday 13th December 2017.

Margaret served with the Australian Army Reserves between 1987 and 1989 in North Queensland.

The RSL Maleny Sub Branch Board and Members send their condolences to both Alison's and Margaret's families.

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Monthly



Club Acoustic is at the RSL Hall on the **first (1st) Thursday** of the month starting at 6pm, February through to June and then September through to December.

There is an amazing mix of seasoned and sometimes world class performers, as well as players who might be getting up for the first time!



December 2017



RSL Maleny Sub Branch Inc. OFFICE (07) 5435 2672 - 1 Bunya Street, Maleny Q 4552

6/2017

Cheers



Some Highlights from the RSL Maleny Sub Branch Christmas Party 2017



**The RSL Maleny
Sub Branch wish
all the members
and the
community a very
Merry Christmas
and a safe and
Happy New Year.**

