

CRONULLA RSL SUB-BRANCH

INFORMATION SHEET FOR EX & SERVING ADF MEMBERS

Firstly, be aware that the **Memorial Club** and **RSL Sub-Branch** are two separate organizations? As a member of the Memorial club you are entitled to use the club and all its facilities, however, if you also join the Sub Branch you become eligible to the following programs and activities, **not available to ordinary Memorial Club members**:

ELIGIBILITY: You do not have to be a Veteran to join, but you must meet the RSL eligibility criteria, which encompass proof of having completed service or evidence that you are currently serving in **the defence forces**. We hope you can see that by joining our organization there are many advantages not available to members of the Memorial club and we look forward to seeing you at one of our informal get togethers. Just call the Sub Branch Office on any Tuesday Wednesday or Thursday between 09.30am and 2.30pm on 8582 5040 and ask to speak to Ms Irene Higley. Irene will provide you with all the information you need to get you up and running as a Sub-Branch member. Then just wait for your invitation to arrive by email (preferred) or mail, to one of our night functions, or come along to one of our Monday meetings if you have time.

SUB-BRANCH MEETINGS: Meetings are held on the first Monday of each Month at 10.45am. A Luncheon and drinks follow the meeting. There is a \$10 fee for all members to assist in offsetting costs.

NIGHT CHAPTER: If you are still serving or are no longer in the defence forces, but still in the workforce, making it inconvenient to attend the monthly meetings, we have a **Night Chapter** get together every 3 months. An informal meeting is held over drinks and finger food or a sit down meal. Mostly younger, past, and current serving members attend, but any member who is still in the workforce is welcome to come along. The Night Chapter is held Wednesday evenings from approximately 6-10pm in the Gerrale Room. At these meetings members are kept up to date on current matters within the RSL and related welfare issues but in general it's a casual get together for a few drinks and a chat. There is a strong bond of camaraderie amongst this group of mostly younger members. A \$30 fee is applicable, except for current serving members and it is by invitation only.

WELFARE: A welfare service is provided for all Sub-Branch Members who need assistance. (Contact the Sub-Branch office for the numerous services available here) We visit member's ill at home or in Nursing Homes and make sure that you are getting any assistance you are entitled to from DVA or other health organisations. More information is available on this website.

PENSIONS: Regardless of age, we have a service that may assist you in being adequately compensated for injuries or trauma you experienced whilst serving. Cronulla Sub Branch provides Pension Officers who analyse and manage your case at no cost to you as a Sub-Branch member. If you believe you may have a service related health problem or if you are not sure if a problem may have been caused by your service, then make an appointment to speak with a Pensions Officer - **all it will cost you is your time**. All interviews are strictly confidential and the Pensions Officers can advise and assist you in making an application to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. These Pensions Officers are well versed in MIRCA and CIRCA and have had

great success with many applications without resorting to Advocacy. Again more information is available on our website.

ADVOCATE REPRESENTATION: Advocate representation is available should you encounter problems with an application to the DVA for a partial/full pension or payment. We have a volunteer, senior advocate who can more than capably handle the most complex cases. We also liaise very closely with Illawarra Diggers and The Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Federation at Granville who have highly trained Advocates and in some cases are also Lawyers.

CAMARADERIE: As a member of Cronulla Sub Branch you will find we are a tightly knit group where you'll find you are able to speak with other former soldiers, sailors and Airmen who have experienced similar experiences to those of you who may have been under fire, or may have experienced another type of traumatic event. Ever think to yourself when talking to family or friends ("How could you know or understand what I went through, you had to be there.")? Well, at our Sub branch there are members who are able to communicate on the same level if you just want to get something off your chest or want to ask advice on whether to make a claim through DVA or just swap war stories over a beer. It's a place where you can catch up with others who have served their country in one of the armed forces.

Check our website for all meetings and other special event details.

www.cronullarsubbranch.com.au