



AUSTRALIAN - AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Gold Coast Queensland Division Inc

News Letter

Issue E13 May 2009

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President's Message

It's hard to believe it is almost the end of the financial year! Where does the time go??

Hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather. We have had some spectacular days!!

We have had our monthly Happy Hour drinks at the Southport Yacht Club as per members requests. Some have been well attended and other not well attended at all. We will continue with holding these events on the last Thursday of each month and see how they go. Please join us for friendship and perhaps a meal following the drinks. The yacht club has expanded dramatically and offers a fabulous venue.

Our Australia Day celebrations at the Botanical Gardens in Ashmore were well attended and everyone had a marvellous time. The gardens are beautiful and provide many locations for a function, however they do close the gates at 7PM.

Don't forget that the association has recently purchase a mobile phone, 0429499739. Someone on the committee will always be at the end of the phone to answer your queries. This phone should stay with the group for many years to come, so no phone number changes. Hurrah!!!

The March Dinner at the Italian Club was well attended again. The clubs seem to be very popular venues for our Friday nite dinners. We had about 27 people attend. A great turnout!!

Coral Sea (Race Day and Commemoration Service) was a very successful weekend. In addition the US 7th Fleet Band put on a wonderful Mother's Day concert at Broadbeach Mall in the afternoon. The band and singers were outstanding. They even had a few very young 'groupies' who had a chance to play with the band. A job well done by the band!!! They are an asset to the US and the Navy!

We are still trying to organise something for the 25th Anniversary of the AAA on the Gold Coast for the 4th of July. The actual anniversary is on the 10th of July. It is difficult to decide what to do because of the current economic climate and low attendance at functions. We would appreciate some feedback as to your interests for the function.

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Next month, on June 5th we will have a Friday night dinner at the German Club. This is booked and everyone to pay for their own choices off the menu. Hope to see you there.

Regards,

Georgia

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Next Happy Hour (Meet & Greet)

Well folks, as I mentioned in President's Message we have decided to go back to the Southport Yacht Club for a fourth Thursday of the month drinks nights for members, guests and any potential new members. This has been requested by a number of members and Howard Campbell and Keith Shackley, members of the club have kindly agreed to be our hosts for these evenings. So 28th May will be our next drinks nite this year. Please check our calendar for the rest of the dates. Hope to see everyone there at 5:30 PM!!

Our First Business Luncheon

On 18th February we held our first business Luncheon with Edgard Kagan, Senior Economic Advisor at the US Embassy in Canberra as our guest speaker. We had about 20 people attend the luncheon at the Commerce Club in Surfers Paradise.

Edgard was a very interesting speaker and we appreciate him coming up to the Gold Coast to provide us with an entertaining and informative talk.

If you are interested in any future talks please let us know by ringing the association on 0429499739.

Town Hall Meeting

On 22 February we had our first Town Hall Meeting ever on the Gold Coast. US Consul General Judith Fergin came to provide information to Americans living on the Gold Coast.

Unfortunately we only had 8 people attend the Town Hall, again held at the Commerce Club in Surfers Paradise.

Judith was able to give an update on the election and other topics of interest to the group.

Consulate Visit

On 15 April we were able to get the services of Chris Kjelland from the US Consulate in Sydney to answer any questions and deal with issues regarding citizenship, visas and other topics of that nature. Again this is the first time we have ever had a person from the Consulate who specialised in these issues. The visa people generally go to Brisbane but not the coast.

Hopefully we can continue this service to Americans and visitors to America in the future. We had about 10 people with Consulate issues attend the service.

Coral Sea Race Day

This year we again had the US Consul General attend the Coral Sea Race Day with her husband Greg. They both truly enjoyed their day of 'work' at the Races. Also attending the day was the US Naval Attache from Canberra, Captain Bill Dooris.

Judith presented a beautiful silver bowl to the winner of the race. The jockey was even wearing stars and stripes!!

We had a crowd of just under 50 people attend the day. Unfortunately we need about 80 people to attend so in the future we may only hold the event every other year or not at all. The cost to the Association is far more than we can carry.

If you have any ideas please contact one of the committee members.

67th Coral Sea Commemoration Service

This year Billie Jo again organised a fantastic commemoration service. The three veterans were in attendance. We had a beautiful sunny day to celebrate the battle and those who gave their lives during the encounter.

Following the service we again provided coffee, tea, sandwiches and cakes at the RSL for those attending the service.

We also had the US Consul General, Judith Fergin and her husband Greg, Captain Bill Dooris, US Naval Attache, Canberra, the cadets from TSS, Southport and Benowa High School Orchestra who played with the US 7th Fleet Band as well.

A big thank you to Billie Jo for organising such a special service.

Lots more activities have been included in the calendar and we are still working on additional activities. Please mark everything in your diary. Details of all of the activities are elsewhere in the newsletter. Anything you would particularly like to do?? Let us know.

Calendar



- January
 - 26 Australia Day at Rosser Park
- February
 - 10 Committee Meeting
 - 18 Edgard Kagan Luncheon
 - 22 Town Hall Meeting
 - 26 Members Happy Hour
Southport Yacht Club
- March
 - 10 Committee Meeting
 - 13 Dinner Show TBA
 - 26 Members Happy Hour
Southport Yacht Club
- April
 - 14 Committee Meeting
 - 15 Chris Kjelland from Consulate
 - 23 Members Happy Hour
Southport Yacht Club
- May
 - 9 Coral Sea Race Day
 - 10 Coral Sea Commemoration Service, Surfers Paradise
 - 12 Committee Meeting
 - 21 Members Happy Hour
Southport Yacht Club
- June
 - 5 Friday Night Dinner—German Club
 - 9 Committee Meeting
 - 25 Members Happy Hour
Southport Yacht Club

- July
 - 4 Dinner to celebrate the 25th Anniversary AAAGCD Northcliffe Surf Club
 - 14 Committee Meeting
 - 30 AGM meeting
Southport Surf Life Saving Club
- August
 - 11 Committee Meeting
 - 27 Members Happy Hour
Southport Yacht Club
- September
 - 11 Friday Night Dinner—TBA
 - 15 Committee Meeting
 - 24 Members Happy Hour
Southport Yacht Club
- October
 - 10 Function—Dukes Brewery
 - 13 Committee Meeting
 - 22 Members Happy Hour
Southport Yacht Club
- November
 - 10 Committee Meeting
 - 27 Thanksgiving Dinner
Colonial Golf Club
- December
 - 8 Committee Meeting
 - 13 Members Christmas Function

That's all for now!!

A Word about RSVP's and No-Shows

Our committees work extremely hard organizing and holding events in an attempt to bring our members quality get-togethers which appeal to the large demographic spread of the membership. We have been having more and more trouble getting RSVPs in a timely manner which, in some cases, forces us to cancel events.

We would implore all members to be cognizant of the work involved and the fact that these events are only successful if we have correct counts and payment by the deadlines given.

And, PLEASE, if something comes up and you can't make an event, PLEASE ring to cancel. However sometimes we cannot return your money depending on when you cancel.

We want to continue to bring you many options but can only do that if we get the cooperation needed from the members.

We REALLY appreciate your understanding!

Annual AGM

This year our AGM will be held on Thursday 30th July at the Southport Surf Life Saving Club on MacArthur Pde, Main Beach at 6PM. Drinks and Nibbles will be served following the meeting.

Included with this newsletter are a few forms. Firstly is the nomination form for the committee and also your renewal form.

Your president will not be running for the president's office again due to work commitments so we are looking for a new president and other committee members. If you are interested in any roles on the committee please nominate.

I will stay on the committee as the immediate past president. Stand up and be a working part of our great not for profit organisation.

Your Committee

President	<i>Georgia Cook</i>	55944774
Vice President	<i>Howard Campbell</i>	55798618
Secretary	<i>Faye Stephenson</i>	55798080
Treasurer		
Committee	<i>Keith Shackley</i>	55907452
Public Relations	Billie Jo McCann	55809558
Committee	<i>Margo Gates</i>	0408154613
Committee	Phil Smith	55787429
Committee	Jacqui Clarke	55727400

Our Treasurer Di Mersnich has reluctantly resigned for personal reasons so we have a vacancy if any one is interested in joining the committee until our AGM in July. If you are interested please contact someone on the committee to volunteer your services.

WEB SITE Updates NEWS _ NEWS _NEWS

We are please to announce that we have attained the services of Mark McLean from Melbourne to manage and update our web site. Mark has just finished year 12 and is a computer whiz. Mark is on a small retainer for 12 months.

Thanks Mark for your assistance!!

25th Anniversary of AAA Gold Coast

We have book the Northcliffe Surf Life Saving Club on the corner of Garfield Terrace and Thornton, Surfers Paradise for this special event. The club has a wonderful international chef and he has put together a spectacular menu for the event. Come along and bring as many previous members as you can find to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

A 3 course meal consisting of an alternate drop of soup of the day or trio of dips for entre, flat grilled barramundi or Sirloin steak for main and lemon lime citrus tart or passion fruit cheesecake for dessert plus tea or coffee for an amazing \$42.50 for members or \$50.00 for guests.

If you know a lot about the earlier club we would appreciate you telling us a bit about the members, activities etc.

A booking slip is included in this newsletter.

Hope to see everyone there!!

American Foods

Are you looking for specialty American foods generally not available in Australia. USA Foods is importing American goodies and ships all over Australia. They have been in business for over 10 years and offer their goods at reasonable prices.

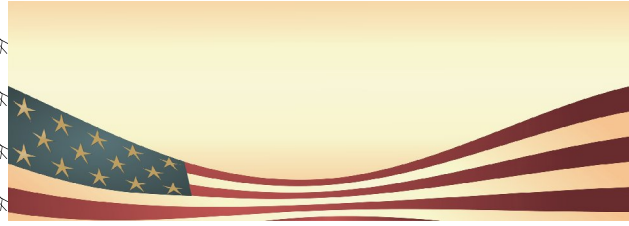
You can find them at www.usafoods.com.au or they can be contacted on 03-9576-5655.

Contact Jeanette Bertino if you are interested in anything.



Suppliers of Medical & Surgical Equipment

- T E N S, MUSCLE STIM and Accessories
- GYMNIC FITBALLS
- ORTHOTICS
- PODIATRY SUPPLIES
- WOUND CARE
- SURGERY & PRACTICE FURNITURE
- PATIENT SCALES



The following people have birthdays in April, May and June. We will celebrate with members on a monthly basis for the rest of the year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

- 12 Billie Jo McCann
- 24 Andrea McCarley
- 30 Tony Hancock

May

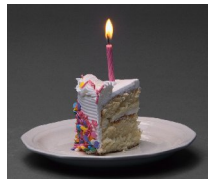
- 8 Rob Morison
- 21 John de Teliga
- 21 Di Mersnich
- 29 Steven Ciobo

June

- 3 Nancy Allen
- 5 Denise Cutajar

jar

- 10 Richard Robinson
- 18 Odette Czachor



A big Happy Birthday from all of the members!!

If you haven't sent in your birthday details please do so.

Travel Information:

Australia and U.S.

When travelling abroad don't forget to check the www.dfat.gov.au or the Department of States website at: <http://travel.state.gov> for the latest Travel Warnings, Public Announcements, Consular Information Sheets for every country, the most recent Avian Influenza Fact Sheet, and more. This website is updated regularly, so be sure to visit it before each trip.

Welcome to New Members....



Nancy Allen
Timothy Cutajar
Noel Milner

Americans in Queensland.

According to the 2006 Australian Census information there are 12,200 Americans living in Queensland. In addition to the above persons born in America another 5,761 Australians have both parents who were born in the US, 3,217 with fathers only and 1,467 with mothers only born in America. All of these people live in this fine state. Approximately 5000 Americans live on the Gold Coast. Where are they all???

Our newsletter is printed monthly with the assistance of the office of

Steven Ciobo, MP Member for Moncreiff.

Member Service & Skills Directory

These are some of the members who are offering skills and services. If you would like to be on this free list, please let us know as we want this section to grow.

Waste Water Treatment

Rocaz P/L — Ozzi Kleen Agents — John Czachor
5530 3955 / 0412 144 842

English Tutor

T.E.S.O.L, E.S.L. – Valerie Mann
5535-2328

Surgical & Medical Equipment

Medeleq Pty Ltd – Denise Cutajar
5596-2422
www.medeleg.com.au



Body Corporate Management

Ace Body Corporate Management

Georgia Cook—5594 5100

www.acebodycorp.com.au



Hospitality in the Home Programme

Have you thought of being a host to our sailors when their ships are in port? This can be a very rewarding experience and many long term friendships are made. If you can accommodate 2, as they work on the "Buddy System" please register your details with us for possible upcoming visits.

Best Wishes



A little birdie has told me that the following people have been a bit 'under the weather' and we would like to wish them a speedy recovery.

Faye Stephenson	GET
Brian Wilson	WELL
Rob Morison	SOON!!

If you know of someone who has been ill please let us know so that we can wish them well.



4th of July 25th Anniversary Dinner

To: Australian American Association
P O Box 1334
Robina, DC, QLD 4226

Please make cheques payable to
Australian American Association
Gold Coast Division

I/We wish to attend the 3 course 4th of July Dinner at the Northcliffe Surf Life Saving Club, Saturday 4th July at 6:30PM. Enclosed is my cheque for \$_____ being for ___members and ___ guests. Or deposit you money into NAB 084917 Acct 527232696.

Names:

Please Print: _____

Members \$42.50

Contact Phone _____

Guests \$50.00

AGM

To: Australian American Assn
P O Box 1334
Robina DC QLD 4226

Please make cheques payable to:
Australian American Association
Gold Coast Division, Inc

I/We wish to attend our AGM at the Southport Yacht Club, 30 July 2009 at 6PM. You can phone us on 0429499739 to let us know numbers for catering.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

Names: Print _____

Contact phone number: _____

AGM

To: Australian American Assn
P O Box 1334
Robina DC QLD 4226

Please make cheques payable to:
Australian American Association
Gold Coast Division, Inc

I/We wish to attend the June Friday night Dinner at the German Club, 5th June 2009 at 6:30PM. Please le us know numbers. You can phone us on 0429499739 or 55944774

Members: _____ Non Members: _____

Names: Print _____

Contact phone number: _____



CONSULAR NEWS

OUTREACH

We anticipate that we will be able to visit Brisbane in early 2008. If you would like to be added to the list for the next consular visit to Queensland, please send an email to Queenslandacs@state.gov, including your name, contact details and the type of service you are applying for. If you have previously sent an email requesting to be placed on this list, you do not need to send an additional request.

Note: We will only be accepting U.S. passport applications and applications for Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. No other consular services will be available

DID YOU KNOW....?

Photocopies as well as the original documents have to be submitted with all applications for passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, Social Security Numbers and federal benefits. We can photocopy the documents for you; however, this service incurs a fee of \$1.30 per page.

TRAVEL HINTS

Before you travel abroad, make sure you have the latest information available on your destination. Visit the Department of State's website at <http://travel.state.gov> for current Travel Warnings and Public Announcements, Consular Information Sheets for every country, the most recent Avian Influenza Fact Sheet, and more. This website is updated regularly, so be sure to visit it before each trip.

USEFUL WEBSITES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

* Domestic Violence (24 hours): 1-800-65-6463 (toll free)

* Rape Counseling: A rape counseling service has recently started operating in Sydney. The service can be found at www.nswrapecrisis.com.au or can be contacted at 1-800-424-017.

* For information on Australian visas: contact the Australian Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs (DIMIA) at www.immi.gov.au.

* To obtain Australian birth/death/marriage certificates for all Australian states, visit www.bdm.nsw.gov.au.

* For questions concerning U.S. customs rules and regulations, check out the U.S. Customs website at www.cbp.gov. For information about taking your pet to the U.S., please consult the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website at www.aphis.usda.gov.

* Social Security Administration: For the latest in social security information, go to www.ssa.gov for news and announcements.

* Veterans Administration: Obtain up-to-date information about entitlements to VA benefits at www.va.gov. For VA Education Benefits, go to www.gibill.va.gov.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Employment vacancies at the Consulate are posted on the Embassy website at <http://usembassy-australia.state.gov>. Scroll to the end of the home page and click on "Employment Opportunities".

ENTRY TO THE CONSULATE

All visitors to the Consulate General in Sydney should take an elevator from the MLC Centre Lobby on Level 8 to our reception area at Level 10. After security screening, visitors will be directed to Level 59 for consular services. Please ensure you have your appointment letter and appropriate photo identification with you.

Note: Aerosols and electronic devices are not permitted at the U.S. Consulate General in Sydney.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

The employees of the American Citizen Services Unit are pleased to serve you. Our public hours are 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Monday to Friday, except U.S. and New South Wales holidays and the first Wednesday of each month. In order to allow sufficient time to complete security procedures for entering the Consulate, please plan to arrive 30 minutes early. If you are applying for a passport, complete your application prior to arrival to save time. Application forms and instructions are available on our website at <http://sydney.usconsulate.gov>.