



• Remembering the end of World War II and VJ Day at Geebung-Zillmere RSL are Ron Emery, Denise Fridolf, Fred Huntley and Jean Scouller.

AUSTRALIA could be a very different place if Japan did not accept the allied demand for unconditional surrender on August 14, 1945. "Thank goodness for the Americans who helped us," war widow Jean Scouller from the Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley (GZBHA) RSL Sub Branch said.

Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day also known as Victory over Japan (VJ) Day is held on the following day each year and was celebrated by members of the GZBHA sub branch at the Geebung-Zillmere RSL recently.

Forty people attended the local service that also marked the end of World War II for Australians.

At the event Mrs Scouller, dressed in a white Women's Auxiliary Air Force shirt, shared her memories; from the start of WWII to partying off the coast of Townsville with film stars.

Her involvement in the war started in Melbourne where she was trained in clerical administration and like many women Mrs Scouller was billeted at the show-ground pavilions.

"I was sleeping in the pig pavilion. We had cold showers and powdered egg for breakfast. I then went to the 3MRS hospital, that's the Medical Receiving Station in Townsville run by the RAAF (Royal Australian Air Force)."

Mrs Scouller said the hospital received casualties from Australian and American troops in the army, navy and air forces.

After one of her shifts she spoke to an American Officer who was waiting for an important call in the hospital corridors. He asked her if she was ready to fight as they would need every able-bodied person to defeat the Japanese. Mrs Scouller did not realise at the time the officer she was talking to was James Stewart the American film star.

She spoke of the battle of the Coral Sea, the loss of life and the celebration at the end of the war. "Townsville was a party. There was singing and dancing, it was a party street with the Americans still there."

GZBHA RSL Sub Branch president Ron Emery welcomed the gathering and spoke of the fall of Singapore and the bombing of Darwin. He said the Americans' decision to

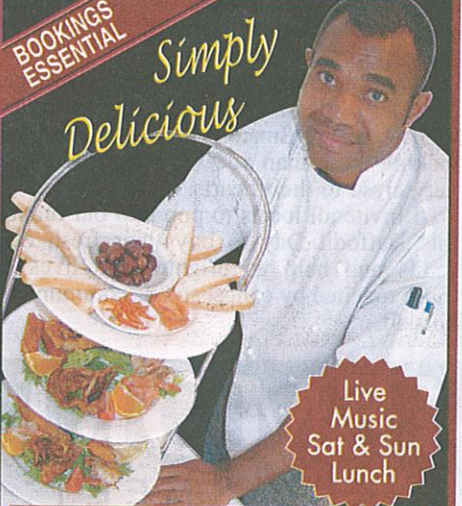
help defend Australian turf and our distance from other countries led to Australia's victory and Japan's surrender meant freedom for all but was still a sad day.

"When peace came 66 years ago it was a sad day for the families whose loved ones did not return."

To commemorate the day and those who were lost, the service concluded with members laying wreaths and poppies around a war memorial.

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