

EVENT:- Recognition of The Battle of Khas Oruzgan (2nd September 2008) during Afghanistan War.

REQUEST:- 15 Year Anniversary "FREEDOM OF THE CITY march" to commemorate all veterans of the Afghanistan War.

DATE:- Saturday 2nd September 2023

HOSTS:- Eurobodalla Mayor on behalf of ESC; in co-operation with Batemans Bay RSL Sub Branch, Moruya RSL Sub Branch and Tomakin RSL Sub Branch

LOCATON:- Orient Street, Batemans Bay (exact route as performed during ANZAC Day commemorations) from the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club to the Batemans Bay Cenotaph. This will not impact negatively upon traffic in regards to any major thoroughfare, including the Princes Highway.

CO-OPERATION SOUGHT:- From NSW Police, ESC traffic control and the Eurobodalla Traffic Committee

PROPOSAL:- The Freedom of the City, in military terms, is an honour conferred by a city council upon a military unit, which grants that unit the privilege of marching into the city "with drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed". The honour is usually bestowed upon local regiments, in recognition of their dedicated service, and it is common for military units to periodically exercise their freedom by arranging a parade through the city.

About 35,000 defence personnel, officials, police and diplomats served in what was called Operation Slipper during the Afghanistan War. It is not known exactly how many veterans of this conflict actually live within the Eurobodalla or surrounding areas, as many have not joined or associated with the local RSL Sub Branches.

It is the initiative of the Moruya RSL Sub Branch to officially seek out and recognise all ex-servicemen and women, as well as others who served during this period. This proposal has initially been met with support (in principle) from certain members of the Batemans Bay and Tomakin RSL Sub-Branches. If approval is granted by ESC to conduct a local parade on this anniversary date, the combined local branches of the RSL will drive this event as a 'Freedom of the City' march.

It would be the intent to extend invitations to Afghanistan veterans far and wide, to participate in this event. This may result an influx of tourism to the Eurobodalla and a boost to local businesses during these winter months.

It is respectfully requested for members of Moruya RSL Sub Branch to make a presentation to councillors on Tuesday 25th July 2023, with the view of gaining approval for this event.

Gary Traynor

Vice President

Moruya RSL Sub-Branch

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Khaz\\_Oruzgan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Khaz_Oruzgan)

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/mar/21/afghanistan-veterans-feted-with-parades-and-ceremonies-for-soldiers-who-died>