



# **BEAUMARIS RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.**

Accommodated at Black Rock Sports Club  
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## **APRIL 2023 MEMBERS NEWS**



Peter Corfield addresses the members during questions at 2023 AGM

### **Dear Member**

ANZAC Day is around the corner and your RSL is ramping up as always to raise much needed funds, commemorate those that have fallen and undertake our duties to conduct the Annual General Meeting. It has been some time since our last newsletter in December but it certainly has not been idle.

Our key focus has been to complete the necessary tasks to obtain our lease. I'm very pleased to report that the Black Rock Sport Club committee has requested only minor amendments to the State RSL legal response returned in late February. We are on track for the final document to be presented to State RSL Patriotic Trustees at their meeting next month.

We had a very enjoyable and productive AGM on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March as reported in this newsletter including getting organised to celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday! I am also very pleased to welcome Andy Coogan on to the committee.

During the meeting many non-committee members were mentioned for all the voluntary work they do each year in the various tasks we undertake. I thank them all. A great example is a newer member Paul Maple taking on the deputy delegate to the regional meeting. He accompanies or acts for John Douglas ensuring we are represented. This example of volunteerism demonstrates how our Sub-Branch will remain sustainable and relative into the future.

There is much to read (and do) leading up to ANZAC day and I very much hope you can get involved in one of the many events.

Enjoy the news!

## Vice President Recognised as 2023 Bayside Senior Citizen of the year.

For many this award was a long time coming considering John's exceptional service to the community over decades. His service to the Sub Branch particularly the ANZAC and Remembrance Day commemorations is well known. His work as a volunteer with one of the Council's Nature Reserve Friends groups is less known.



John Douglas OAM, Vice President Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch receiving his award from Mayor Cr Hanna El Moullem

His efforts with many others in the community over years campaigning to clean up the Dunlop lead acid battery manufacturing plant site in George St, Sandringham demonstrates his conviction to social justice. His subsequent volunteering contributions to the established Nature Reserve adjoining the site with the Friends Group through working bees, attending meetings and advocating for resources is another example of his local community work.



Merindah Park clean up 2013

John's role at the RSL undertaking a wide variety of operational tasks and his presence at every Stand-To on a Wednesday evening at the club is the greatest contribution. Teaching others about protocol and how it can benefit and be enjoyed by the next generations is an outcome for which we are all grateful.

*"Volunteering should be fun, but you can also achieve all kinds of things"*

*John Douglas 2023*

## **ANZAC Day March and Service Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

Please spread the work amongst family and friends for this year's March and Service. Every year we have new marchers who commemorate family members who served by wearing their medals on the day. Don't forget to pop into the Beaumaris Bowls club on completion.

**ASSEMBLY 2:15PM**

**Beaumaris Concourse Green, Reserve Road,  
Beaumaris**

**FALL IN 2:30PM**

**STEP OFF 2:45PM**

**SERVICE 3:00PM**

**BEAUMARIS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
FORECOURT and CENOTAPH  
96 Reserve Road, Beaumaris**

### **2023 ANZAC Appeal. A great way to connect!!!**

The stalls will be operating in our shopping centres, trays installed in local schools and clubs and no doubt a few mornings at a railway station or 2.

Volunteers at our stalls have pleasingly increased over the last couple of years. All you need to do is contact Carolyn Strong our appeals coordinator on 0411 119 241 email [carolynstrong\\_58@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynstrong_58@hotmail.com) or Rhonda Corfield 0429 647 481, if you want to have a go.

It is a lot of fun and great way to both meet new people and assist Veterans.

### **Live Music Festival Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of April from 12pm to 6pm**

This year our Appeal will have a unique stall within the inaugural Beaumaris Music Festival to be held at Balcombe Park (Opposite the Secondary College).



An afternoon of live music with great local performers, kids drumming workshop, face painting, lawn games, food trucks and more is on offer. Come and visit our stand and catch up with some friends.

**The main Act will be coming on around 4pm**



### **New member Sean Miller**

For many years the Beaumaris Sub-Branch invites members of the community and their family who we hear have joined the services to attend our Stand To on Wednesday nights for a short recognition and wishes of good luck. Our latest recruit was so impressed with the invitation he joined the Sub Branch!



Sean Miller receiving his RSL membership badge from Roscoe at 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 Stand To

Sean has joined the Army Reserve, is completing his training and continues to work the bar at the club. He now joins his older brother who is sailor in Royal Australian Navy in uniform keeping the Miller family ties to the Armed Forces.

Well Done Sean!

### **2023 AGM**

The meeting was held on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 directly after our 'Stand To' and a lovely BBQ dinner cooked by Michael Lapa and presented by his lovely wife Jane and Gina Scott, our Secretary. The meeting was well attended with lots of good questions and discussion including reminding the committee 2023 marks the Sub-Branch 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday (see below for further details)

The committee members below re-nominated and as there were no other nominations an election was not needed and the positions filled.

- Vice President: John Douglas OAM
- Treasurer: Timothy Holden
- 4 committee members: Stephen Gage, Jane Lapa, Clarke Martin and Andy Coogan

Our President Shayne Benedict, and Secretary Gina Scott are half way through their 2-year terms. Our Welfare Officer Peter Corfield and Appeals Officer Carolyn Strong were both reappointed.



LtoR Jane Lapa, John Douglas OAM, Shane Benedict, Gina Scott, Steve Gage, Clarke Martin

A key discussion point on the night was how the proposed RSL room at the BRSC will be incorporated into the building and how will the separate clubs work. Steve Gage, our property officer, described the discussions and planning both committees have been undertaking since 2020 and in particular, the last 12 months. The room will be able to be used exclusively by the RSL when needed but the key principal is for it to be utilized as much as possible. The Architects appointed to the design are working towards well set out floor plans with ability to be used for functions and private meetings. The display of memorabilia, open, light and beautiful surroundings where comfort to members is the shared goal by both clubs.

### **Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch turns 70!!**

A suitable occasion will be held later in the year to mark this significant milestone. In the mean time here is the account of the establishment of our Sub-Branch.

In 1952, a group of returned servicemen decided that a Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. should be formed in this area. The inaugural meeting was held at Tramway Parade, Beaumaris. It was unanimously decided that a Beaumaris Sub-branch be formed as of the 1st of January 1953.

The first General Meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1953. By then there were 70 financial members. Major General "Ollie" Philips was elected as the first President and the next meeting was held in an ex-army hut situated in Dalgety Road. There, it was decided to purchase the farm house situated at 103-107 Dalgety Rd and included the property backing these blocks, this properly belonged to the Box Family market gardeners.

In 1955 it was decided to negotiate the purchase of the 'Front House' a very large house situated on the heights overlooking Rickett's Point. It was built by Captain Ricketts during the time the Bunurong first nations people lived in the area. The property at this time was owned by Major Shaw, an ex R.F.C. pilot of the 1914- 18 war. He agreed to sell, however, the Committee first had to ask a number of his tenants to vacate.

Whilst they were endeavouring to get the last tenant to leave, the property at Balcombe Road was placed on the market. The Shaw family again were very sympathetic and agreed to let the Sub-branch out of the agreement as long as the loss of rent was reimbursed. This condition was readily agreed to. The Dalgetly Road property was sold and after settling up with the Shaw family there was very little left to negotiate the purchase of the present Sub-branch and Club site. However, the T&G Mutual life Assurance Company came to the rescue and for a small deposit and the taking out of life policies on a number of members, the purchase was able to go ahead.

The property purchased consisted only of a drive, the house and the back entrance. Later at the public auction of the remaining blocks of the estate, a member, the late Brian Stegley had the foresight to attend and on the Sub-branch's behalf successfully bid for the front. All he had in his pocket was the sum of three shillings and sixpence, which was accepted as a deposit.



The property originally was the holiday home of Toorak businessman, Langford-Jack and was built in 1927. It stood on the highest hill in Beaumaris more than 300 metres above sea level and was set in 4 hectares of parklands, facing Balcombe Road, bounded by Haydens Road and sweeping down towards the sea.

In 1937 it was sold to James Picken, who lived there with his family for some years. The house and property was sold in 1942 to the Legacy Club, and operated as a holiday home for Legacy children. During the war it was given the name "Blamey House" in honour of Field Marshall Sir Thomas Blamey.

In 1955, the Sub-Branch purchased the property from Legacy which included 7.2 hectares of beautiful landscaped gardens, the long drive winding from the pillars at the entrance, bearing the street number 489. It was sold in 2015.



### **Long Term Accommodation Project**

The leasing legal documentation is in the final stages of completion. To ensure no time is wasted and the approval process goes well, a meeting with the Chair of the Victorian RSL Property Trustees, Vice President Des Callaghan, OAM, BJ, JP, the CEO Sue Cattermole Officers and members of the Beaumaris RSL committee has been arranged to ensure all the conditions of our proposed 40-year lease with the Black Rock Sports Club are understood and agreed.

It has taken longer than expected to get to this stage but in hindsight a 40 year Lease was always going to need all the I's dotted and T's crossed through a robust legal examination.

### **Beaumaris RSL members attend HMAS Cerberus Open Day**



John Robers and Rosscoe Brimmer at the 12 pounder Naval Field Gun Sun23Mar23 on the Quarterdeck HMAS CERBERUS

The Navy certainly did not have the fire power of the Airforce during the previous weekend Avalon Air Show but they had tradition in full swing across the day. The Beaumaris RSL has a strong Naval connection and many jumped at the opportunity to get back to the Navy Recruit School where it all starts for sailors. Chief Petty Officer Jane Lapa, our Membership Officer did a great job organising the trip which was greatly enjoyed by all. There is no doubt HMAS Cerberus is one of the most beautiful establishments of our Services and they went all out to welcome their local Victorian community.

Visiting the local RSL at the end of a long day was welcomed by the touring party before the trip home.

## State RSL Foresight and Strategic Planning

Our immediate past President Clarke Martin has been our representative for this very important process. The appointed facilitator Paul Higgins, Futurist had quite a job to bring such a wide variety of RSL representatives together and seek where there may be agreement on both the challenges facing the RSL movement and possible solutions.

Clarke reported the process has been very intensive but productive and the CEO should be congratulated on the effort to consult broadly and seek feedback. An outcomes paper is expected to be distributed to Presidents within a month or two. It should be no surprise to any member who has been keeping up to date with the State RSL since the new CEO was appointed that changes are required. This type of process is incredibly important to achieve smooth transitions. Clarke will continue to represent our Sub-Branch and provide updates.

“Strategy is a pattern in a stream of decisions” —Henry Mintzberg

## Beaumaris Sharks – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ANZAC Game with on Ground Ceremony

**BANKSIA RESERVE: V ST. BEDES/MENTONE from 2pm**

**ANZAC BLOCKBUSTER**  
**Beaumaris FC V's St Bedes Mentone**  
60th Anniversary Anzac Luncheon  
April 22nd

**BEAUMARIS FOOTBALL CLUB**  
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS  
1963–2023

**St Bedes Mentone**

**Date: Saturday 22nd April**  
**Time: 11:30am**  
**Cost: \$50**  
*Drinks at bar prices*  
**Seniors Game Starts @ 2.15pm Oak St**

To secure your booking please transfer the funds to the following Bendigo Bank account:  
BSB: 633000 Account No: 159338227  
(please ensure your name is placed in the reference field and indicate the number of tickets purchased eg: A Smith x 4)  
**Alternatively** contact Ron Nicholson  
Phone: 0416 133 655  
Email: ron@fullhousegroup.com.au

**In Association with the RSL**  
**ANZAC DAY**  
*Left We Forget*

**Last Post Ceremony on Banksia Reserve @ 2:00pm**

A joint luncheon with the Beaumaris RSL to celebrate the special bond with the club has been organised. The Sharks were formed by members of the RSL including Peter Eldred, Ted ‘E.J.’ King, Frank Reade, Mike Kelly, Norm Bear, Albert Farhood, Bert Lockhart, George Druce, Ron White, Jim Kirkby, Frank Sherrard, Frank Murphy, Bill Carmody and Phil Nicholson. Peter Lee & Jim Spotswood are other founders and are both approaching their 100<sup>th</sup> Birthdays.

Rear Admiral John Lord is the guest speaker. Many members of the RSL have connections with the Football Club. The luncheon is almost sold out but if you miss out please feel free to come along to the match and enjoy a drink up in the club house on conclusion.



## **VALE**

Jeanette Rawlinson was a very active member of the community and was well known for rolling up her sleeves to get jobs done. Her role on the Board of the Sandy Beach Centre is a great example of her contribution.

Jeanette was married to Air Commodore Michael Rawlinson (Ret'd) who was a former member of the Beaumaris RSL who was invited to be the 2019 Reviewing Officer and gave a rousing Commemorative Address, at the Annual Beaumaris RSL Community ANZAC Commemorative March. We give our condolences to Michael and family.

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I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and if you ever want a chat or have an idea, please do not hesitate to call me or any of the team.

Shayne Benedict, President .Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch  
0418 318 862

Please contact Jane Lapa our membership officer with any enquiries.  
Phone 0415 935 513 or email [jane.lapa@icloud.com](mailto:jane.lapa@icloud.com)

If you have any feedback or an item you would like to include in the newsletter, please email it through to [beaumarisrsl@gmail.com](mailto:beaumarisrsl@gmail.com)