



# BEAUMARIS RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.

Accommodated at Black Rock Sports Club  
2 Fern Street, Black Rock Victoria 3193.  
Post Office Box No. 7409, Beaumaris, VIC., 3193.  
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## AUGUST 2023 MEMBERS NEWS



Australia to honour veterans for 50th anniversary marking end of combat in Vietnam

### **Dear Member**

I am very pleased to be able to advise that we have come to final terms with RSL Victoria and Black Rock Sports Club regarding our new home. We expect the Lease and supporting documentation to be presented to the Vic Property Council and then STEX for approval during their August meeting cycles.

Your property sub-committee led by Steve Gage has been working for this moment for approaching two years and for that we are extremely appreciative and grateful. A full meeting of members will be announced as soon as the final process completes.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and we are looking forward to our annual dinner. Please book your tickets and come along.

I encourage all our Veterans to apply for the new Victorian Veterans Card using the information provided below. Not only discounted vehicle registration and public transport are on offer there is a plethora of other benefits. A presentation of this program was given at the recent State Conference by the State Government Executive Director.

We will be providing more information regarding the State Conference and endorsement of the new 5 years Strategy of the Victorian RSL over the next couple of months. Now that our Sub-Branch is in the final stages of securing our home we can now look to help the movement modernise and prepare for the future.

Enjoy the news!

## Australia's 50th anniversary marking end of combat in Vietnam

The Beaumaris Sub Branch has a number of Vietnam Veterans and will be commemorating through the Long Tan dinner (see next article below). However, the Australian government has committed \$6 million to commemorate and honour Vietnam veterans including the awarding of a [medallion](#) on the 50th anniversary marking the end of Australian involvement in Vietnam, according to Andrew Gee, Australia's minister for veterans' affairs and defence personnel. Commemorations began in January 2023—50 years after the Jan. 11, 1973, announcement that Australian combat operations in Vietnam had ended, although some soldiers remained behind to guard the embassy in Saigon until the beginning of July. A total of 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam, with 521 killed and 3,000 wounded.

Australia's commemoration will be undertaken in Canberra on the anniversary of the Long Tan Battle on 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2023. [National Commemorative Service | Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](#)

## [Australia to Honor Veterans For 50th Anniversary Marking End of Combat in Vietnam \(historynet.com\)](#)

### Special Long Tan dinner – 50th anniversary marking end of combat in Vietnam



The 2023 Long Tan Dinner will be on the evening of Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at Trevor Barker Beach Oval Club rooms starting at 6.30pm sharp.

A great night is planned with Finger Food on arrival, the famous 'Scotty' Steak for main course (contact organisers for special dietary requirements) and a desert.

Fred Smith will be our guest speaker (and singer!) Fred was the first Australian diplomat sent to work in Afghanistan's Uruzgan province in 2009, and the last to leave. But it's his second career as a folk singer and musician that captured the hearts of many when he wrote a song about the death of Australian soldier Ben Ranaudo, who was killed in July 2009.

\$70 per head. Tickets via Cheque or Electronic Funds Transfer:  
Cheque to BRSL Womens Auxiliary C/- 339A Beach Road, Black Rock 3193

Or

BSB: 083 337

ACC: 515 228 944

This will be a night to remember so please get your tickets NOW!

### **RSL Victoria August training**

If you are able to do some volunteering within the RSL community, 2 upcoming courses could be of interest to you. Marie-Claire or Angela are keen to build more links to the sub-branches through courses and events. Please consider getting in touch with them.

### **Grant Writing**

Facilitated by Non-Profit Training, this workshop will cover topics including what constitutes a good application and how to gather evidence which explains why the project or program is required and what problem it solves.

**Date:** Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 10am to 1pm  
**Location:** Online using Microsoft Teams

### **Motivational Interviewing**

Presented by Intern Psychologist Dominic He, this workshop will introduce the practice of motivational interviewing to encourage behaviour change, and how you can use it when supporting veterans and their families.

**Date:** Wednesday August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Time:** 1pm- 2.30pm  
**Location:** Online using Microsoft Teams

All the events are free for RSL Sub-Branch Members to attend.

If you have any questions and/or any suggestions for training, please contact Marie-Claire or Angela at [learning@rslvic.com.au](mailto:learning@rslvic.com.au)

### **One of our local Gyms is offering a Veteran DVA free monthly session!**



One of the keys to good health is movement and strength training. It is very pleasing to have one of our local gyms provide opportunities for our Veterans who have a DVA Card access.

[MD High Performance Gym](#) is offering a free session on the last Tuesday of each Month for DVA veterans.

Please Contact Sam who runs the gym on 1300 863 347 or email [admin@medhp.com.au](mailto:admin@medhp.com.au) for further details.

## New Victorian Veterans Card



During the State Conference it was announced the new Victorian Veterans Card has been launched via the Services Victoria mobile app. To apply for the card you will need to place the Service Victoria App on your mobile phone. We know many of our members are not tech savvy so if you would like to apply for the card please make contact us and we will be able to assist.

During COVID the Victorian Services App was used to confirm your Vaccination Status and now almost 2 million Victorians have already downloaded it.

[Get the Service Victoria app from Google Play](#)

[Get the Service Victoria app from Apple App Store](#)

### What does my digital Veterans Card get me?

Your digital Veterans Card - Victoria identifies you as a past or present Victorian ADF member. Current benefits and discounts include the below and we are told more are coming:

- \$100 off light vehicle rego
- free trailer and caravan rego
- free marine licence
- fishing licence exemption
- free public transport on Anzac and Remembrance Days
- veteran employment programs

For a list of benefits visit [Concessions for Veterans](#).

## Local Concert – Vocally Wild

**Vocally Wild Choir**  
*led by our Musical Director, Dr Bill Miles*  
**invites you to our**



*This Concert presents a variety of songs from our repertoire and features a solo performance by our superb pianist Emma Lipka.*

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**  
**at 3.00pm**

**Beamaris Community Hall**  
Beamaris Library building, 96 Reserve Road, Beamaris  
*Approx 75 minutes, followed by afternoon tea*

	<small>Tickets available via <b>TryBooking</b> or Cash at the Door (unless sold out)</small> <b>Cost: \$20.00 including afternoon tea</b> <small>\$10.00 for 6-16 year olds (under 6yo free)</small> <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CJNJO">https://www.trybooking.com/CJNJO</a>	
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You are cordially invited to Vocally Wild Choir’s “*Winter Concert*” which will be held on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September at the Beamaris Community Hall, 96 Reserve Road, Beamaris, commencing at 3.00 p.m.

Vocally Wild Choir, led by Dr. Bill Miles, are very excited to present a variety of songs from their repertoire and to showcase their new ‘Grand Piano’ which will be proudly played by Emma Lipka.

The Concert will be followed by ‘afternoon tea’ and the cost is \$20 per head (\$10 for 6 to 16 year olds and under 6, free).

Details:

Date: Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023

Venue: Beamaris Community Hall

Time: 3.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (includes afternoon tea)

Cost: \$20.00 per head (\$10 for 6 – 16 yrs, under 6 yrs, free)

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CJNJO>

(Cash at the door, unless sold out)



**RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE**  
**BEAUMARIS (Sub-Branch Victoria) WOMEN'S AUXILIARY**  
ABN Number 88265918231

**President:** Mairi McIntosh OAM - 0419 882 501    **Secretary:** Reg Black OAM - 0408 324 866  
**Treasurer:** Rhonda Corfield 0429 647 481

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023**

After a very cold and chilly winter, it's time to crawl out from hibernation and start enjoying the days ahead. The gardens are beginning to show signs of Spring and bulbs are bursting through the earth to remind us that better weather is just around the corner.

Looking back, we recall the wonderful Winter Feast that we were all able to enjoy. Good food, great music and many shaking off the winter chills with dancing and friendly chatter.

After the hectic beginning of the year with ANZAC Day, Badge Appeal, and the Winter Feast many members have taken the opportunity to catch up with interstate friends and travel, always a nice thing to do in July and we are now back to organising our annual event - The Long Tan Dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup> August.

Our dinners are a great opportunity for members to get friends and family together and enjoy something very different than our usual luncheons. Some of you may be aware of the Fred Smith story and how he has spent much of his life within the Diplomatic Service. He is also a song writer and author and has some amazing tales to tell whilst entertaining us when he expresses himself through song. Bookings are now open so please gather around your friends and book a table as we would love to have you all there to join us.

**PLEASE BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT NUMBERS CAN BE PROVIDED TO THE CATERER.**

Payments made to:  
Beaumaris Women's Auxiliary  
BSB 083 337  
Acct No 515 228 944

Please include names of those attending for seating allocation.  
For further information don't hesitate to call the numbers in the letterhead.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Just a heads up: please keep November 30<sup>th</sup> free in your diary as we have booked our annual Christmas Lunch and preparations have begun. More details to follow as arrangements are put into place.

Reg Black OAM  
Hon Secretary.  
Beaumaris Women's Auxiliary

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## **Valete**

-Michael Chapman Read, Ex Army, 1094688 DOB 06-SEP-1933

DOD 27-May-23 Service Member.

-AB James Gilchrist Spotswood, Ex RAN PM4639 DOB 14-Sep-1923

DOD 11-Jun-2023

-Jack West Stevenson, Ex RAAF, 444515 DOB 11-Jun-1924

DOD 08-Jul-2023

### **JAMES ‘JIMMY’ SPOTSWOOD: SEP 1923 – JUNE 2023**

Our much-loved James ‘Jimmy’ Spotswood, has passed away at the ripe old age of 99 years & 9 months. His aim had been to get to the Century mark in September but he ‘did a Bradman’ and left the game with an average score of 99.9.

Jim joined the Navy when he turned 18 in 1941 and served in ships and shore establishments during the War including a posting in HMAS Diamantina. Like many ex-servicemen he bought a block of land with his wife in Beaumaris during land auctions where he lived for the next 60 years.

Jim was extremely active in the Sub-Branch and helped establish the Beaumaris Football Club. He is survived by his Grand Children who provided a very moving and joyous farewell at this funeral.

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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)