



BEAUMARIS RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.

Accommodated at Black Rock Sports Club
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December 2022 MEMBERS NEWS



Beaumaris Secondary College Students Wreath Laying Party Remembrance Day 2022

Dear Member

I am pleased we are almost over the line with the numerous tasks we have been working on for many years. We have now received from the State Branch legal firm the draft lease documentation. Our Property Officer, Steve Gage has put a great deal of time consulting with the BRSC, Anzac House and Lawyers painstakingly finalising the details. It has been months of work and one of the last steps before we can sign off.

Our key objectives have been to have long-term accommodation, financial certainty and strong healthy relationships with BRSC and Anzac house which are all on track.

We have also continued to provide welfare services to our Veterans and families, contributed heavily to both the Poppy and ANZAC Appeals and undertook our annual commemorations.

Our Women's Auxiliary led by President Rohnda Corfield has been as busy as ever during the year supporting our Appeals Officer Carolyn Strong and providing the communications, wreaths and tremendous luncheon on Remembrance Day, not to mention the undertaking of the annual Christmas Lunch! Reading the report is an absolute highlight.

Our Vice President, John Douglas, OAM once again put a great deal of effort in the recent Remembrance Day which was strongly supported by the local community. I encourage you to read John's report including the recent regional four meeting.

John Douglas, Kathy and Andy Coughlan represented our Sub-Branch at the opening of the Tim Fischer RSL Welfare HUB in Wodonga. Our Patriotic funds contributed significantly to this outcome along with the Frankston Hub and we were very proud to be recognised during the opening speeches. These Hubs are key part of the State RSL Welfare Strategy and are make a huge difference to lives of Veterans from the 20 years of conflict in the Middle East.

2023 is going to be a very special year for the Sub-Branch. With a new home and increased capability to not only serve our veteran community but also increase our membership and volunteers.

Merry Christmas to all and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Enjoy the news!

Remembrance Day 2022

Another wonderful occasion conducted at our cenotaph at the Beaumaris Community and memorial centre. The key note speaker from year 10 at Beaumaris Secondary School provided his own view of WW1. It was a very moving speech from such a young person and provided all of us with very clear evidence our next generation is being well informed of our history.



Reverend Pugh provided the formal prayers and the wreath laying by dignitaries, schools, veterans and their families was significant. Thank you to the Womens Auxiliary for organising wreaths, books and of course the lavish morning tea on completion.

Opening of the Tim Fischer RSL Veterans and Families Hub Wodonga



John Douglas OAM, Judy Fischer, widow of Hon Tim Fischer, AC. MP

Vice President John Douglas did us proud officially representing the Beaumaris RSL at the official opening on Tuesday 6th December of the Veterans and Families Hub Wodonga. What an impressive facility it is.

Its function is to support returned and current serving personnel in a welcoming and helpful environment. With many private meeting rooms staffed by trained personnel it will undoubtedly attract many of the thousand's ex-service men and women in the localized area who served during the Middle East Conflicts.

The Centre is named after the late Hon Tim Fischer AC, MP. His widow Judy and some family members attended. She thought Tim would have felt embarrassed by this tribute but his family were more than proud to accept it in his name.



Tim and Judy Fischer daughters with Kathy and Andy Coogan and JD

The opening ceremony commenced with a stirring performance from the young students of Albury Scots College pipe band. They were excellent and performed admirably in the heat.

Due to the temperature and the fact that many people were sitting in the sun, the speeches were thankfully cut short as many had no hats.

Beaumaris RSL were thanked specifically by Dr. Robert Webster OAM – Vic. State President for our direct contribution which helped make this project possible. We can feel proud and assured that the support we've given is well placed and won't be forgotten.

After the ceremony we visited Wodonga RSL and later after dinner, the magnificent Albury War Memorial which overlooks the town. The remembrances there so highlight what Australians have done in the quest for peace.

John was accompanied to Wodonga by Cath & Andy Coogan.

Andy Coogan

Beaumaris RSL members attend Rainbow Beach and Albury War Memorials



Andy Coogan Inspects honour plaques Albury War Memorial 6th December 2022

Inspecting the Albury War Memorial on the top of the hill overlooking the City is something we should all do. Many of us have looked at this from ground level from trains, cars and on foot in the city, but never been up to the Memorial itself before. When we visited it was fully lit and backed up with a full moon, we were all most impressed with this beautifully maintained Memorial. We spent a good hour studying the many bronze plaques with names from the Boer War, WWI and right up to the present. The immaculately presented rose gardens and trimmed hedges demonstrated to us the commitment of this town to the commemoration of all those locals who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Rainbow Beach RSL (Qld) Long Tan Memorial, Shane Douglas, President Beaumaris RSL & Greg Wood

Our President who spends time at Rainbow Beach each year at the time of the Vietnam War Long Tan Battle Anniversary has established a strong relationship with the local Sub-Branch. These local memorials through the RSL movement are being curated and upgraded. If your ever up in the region please make sure you stop into the Sub Branch and say hello!

Long Term Accommodation Project

Back in August during our Wednesday 24th Stand To we were privileged to host a visit by six of our State RSL Executive members. President Rob Webster, OAM, accompanied by Honorary Treasurer Timothy Holden, Senior Vice President Des Callaghan, OAM, BJ, JP, Vice President Terry Makings, AM, Sam Demeo, Legal Officer and Executive Member David Martin, OAM, attended.

The visit was arranged during a meeting the previous month with the new CEO Sue Cattermole (who provided her apologies) and the attendees to finalise the high level conditions of our proposed 40 year lease with the Black Rock Sports Club. The visitors received a formal presentation regarding our plans and a walk through of the site.

The group then joined our impressive gathering of members for our Stand To at 1830. The feedback from the visit has been one of unanimous support of our plans to drive a partnership with the BRSC and undertake a significant refurbishment. Three members of the group stayed on for a further 3 hours and enjoyed our company under even more relaxed conditions.

Further developing our relationship BRSC undertook a refurbishment of their large equipment shed creating more space and reorganisation of the various tenanted clubs. We now have exclusive access to our locked storage room and have been able to relocate all items that are not on display inside the club. This assists greatly with our Appeals work, the curation of our large memorabilia collection and equipment for our Wednesday meals.

Sub-Branch Veterans Report – Peter Corfield



WW11 Veteran Jack Stephenson shares with our Welfare Officer Peter Corfield Remembrance Day

A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All Veterans' and their Families, in particular to our WW11 & Korean War Veterans'. Also to our serving members and their families of the Australian Defence Force.

Ralph Butcher (WW11, Army); Ralph has recently relocated to RSL Vasey, Downes Ave, Brighton, at 104 yrs old he is still 'tracking' remarkably well. Ralph attended the Women's Aux Christmas Lunch on December 8; he was delighted to catch up with friends. Unfortunately Ralph is still waiting for a telephone connection into his room; consequently communicating with Ralph is difficult. RSL Vasey also has in place strict COVID regulations.

John Moller (Korea & Vietnam, Navy); John & Trish also attended the Women's Aux Christmas Luncheon. John & Trish still live independently in their Beaumaris Villa. John isn't quite as mobile as he used to be, but still 'sharp as a tack'.

Ted Morecroft (WW11, Army); Ted & Jean also attended the Christmas Luncheon. They are hoping to spend Christmas with their Daughter in Country Victoria. Ted & Jean also still live independently in their Beaumaris Villa.

Jack Stephenson (WW11, Army); Jack also still lives independently in his Beaumaris Home of over 60 years! His daughter lives close by and no doubt they will spend Christmas Day together.

Jim Spotswood (WW11, Navy); Jim will be spending Christmas in Cheltenham Manor; they have very strict COVID regulations. I think it would be easier gaining entry into Fort Knox! Jim is looking forward to celebrating his 100th Birthday in 2023; last week he also mentioned that he is entering his 62nd year as a Beaumaris RSL Member, quite an achievement. A lovely 4 minute video piece was recorded with his family in 2020 by the Qld Maritime Museum.

[Memories of HMAS Diamantina 1945 | Able Seaman Jim Spotswood - YouTube](#)

2022 Poppy Appeal Report-Carolyn Strong



Bill Gleadell & Joy Tate manning the stall Beaumaris Concourse

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who sat tirelessly selling badges and chatting to the locals all with smiles on their faces making our appeal so successful. We are still unable to give you a final tally but we are well North of \$15,000.

A big shout out to Rhonda Corfield for organising all of the wonderful volunteers who manned our sites-I.G.A. at the concourse, Seaview shops, Coles in Sandringham, and Bunnings in Mentone and Moorabbin. The on-going work with all the local schools and our relationship with Nick Johnson Real Estate was tireless. Well done Rhonda!

Saluting their Service – Commonwealth Grant.

Our Sub-Branch made an application in February this year, to restore our collection of outdoor memorabilia that is currently displayed in the grounds of the Mentone RSL. We were thrilled with hearing the news we were successful and now have an amount of \$10,000 in the bank.

We have been in communication with President of the Mentone RSL, Laurie Baldwin to plan the transport and refurbishment of our two Field Pieces.

Beaumaris RSL Firearms Collection

The State President wrote to all Sub-Branches to remind us all of Bylaw 15 regarding the mustering of our Firearms collection. Our catalogued photo system of timed and dated photos has been sent to Rob Ferguson, the State Branch Firearms Officer.

I am unaware of the location of, or existence of, the Beaumaris RSL Copy. I am sure one exists somewhere.



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

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year”.....and we have been busy!

We are very proud to announce that we were able to make a significant donation to “The Path Of The Horse”, a program providing psychotherapy for those in need. It also provides a pro-bono service for veterans. Many from Ward 17 access this program and accommodation is provided for the veteran and their family for short term stays at no cost to them. Most veterans have had positive outcomes and some return to the facility in Trentham to assist voluntarily. Legacy also supports this program by referring (usually young) people and meeting the cost of those referrals.

Our donation was made up of the proceeds from the Long Tan Dinner and donations made to the Auxiliary in Lieu of flowers, upon the death of Roy McIntosh. The Auxiliary rounded up the total to \$3000. This was a really satisfying contribution to make and we hope to continue to make donations of this nature in the future.

The Women’s Auxiliary supported the Sub-Branch in their Poppy Appeal and we sincerely thank Rhonda Corfield and Caroline Strong who, despite both having holidays during the appeal, managed to ensure that the rosters were filled, that each of the collecting stations were constantly monitored and supplies replenished as needed. They did an incredible job and they were instrumental in the Sub-Branch raising in excess of \$23,000 to support Veterans and their families. Congratulations on a job well done.

We also coordinated provided the refreshments for the Remembrance Day Service. The Senior Citizens Club was filled with attendees to the Service which was once again organised by our wonderful Convenor John Douglas OAM. We are extremely proud of the way these services are conducted and the community really appreciates the well-choreographed events. We also thank Mairi McIntosh OAM for her continued hard work in creating the multi-page program each ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. This is a huge task taking many days to perfect and improve on the previous year. The numbers of attendees increases each year due to the professionalism of the service. Keep up the great work in promoting the work of Beaumaris RSL.



Members of Hampton Legacy with Heather Spooner and Peter McKittrick. The Hard working Beauie girls who are always ready to put up their hands and support any function or RSL badge Appeals-Oh, and Rosco

We celebrated the beginning of Christmas festivities with our annual Christmas Luncheon at Sandy By The Bay. This was our largest gathering to date with 90 attendees, including two of our WW2 Veterans, Ralph Butcher OAM and Ted Morecroft who was accompanied by his wife Jean. We also had our representative of the Korean conflict John Moller and his wife Trish.

Members of Bayside, Hampton and Beaumaris Legacy attended. Brad Rowswell also booked a table. We thank him for his continued support. The Heathland Day Club, Beaumaris Women's Auxiliary, and members of the wider RSL community also attended.



We were delighted that, when we advertised our event, the bookings flowed and within 2 weeks we had already reached our expected numbers and from there the numbers exceeded our expectations.

What a great event! We thank all the local businesses who supported our fundraising event. Their generosity ensured that we had many raffle prizes and many happy winners to add to the celebrations. We were entertained by the Choir of Fun who entertained us with

traditional and modern versions of old time favourite Christmas carols. Attendees were bopping along to the music.

We also thank Scotty and Luke for ensuring that we were all well fed and made the luncheon run smoothly.



Choir of fun lead by Jenny Ellison, RSL members, Brad Rowswell's table and loads of Christmas fare to be had.

Hilary Ferguson, our Treasurer, having been denied the opportunity to visit her family in Ireland in the past 2 years, due to the pandemic, has returned to Ireland permanently to be with her sons and grandchildren. We wish her well and know that Belfast will be a better place for having Hilary as their new resident.

Hilary took on the role of treasurer in 2011. She has diligently kept our books accurate and up to date ensuring our financials were audited at the end of each year. Hilary has been a very active member of our Auxiliary and truly interested in each and every member. Her commitment and dedication will be missed but she has left our books in the capable hands of Rhonda Corfield who has accepted the challenge. Large boots to fill but Rhonda has already proven to be a very worthy successor.

Our next meeting will be held at the Sports Club on February 15th at 1.30.

Until then take care, be kind to yourselves and don't hesitate to call the executive if you are in need of support or assistance. We are here.

Regards,

Reg Black OAM

Hon Secretary.
Beaumaris Women's Auxiliary
20th December 2022

Birthdays

We send all our best wishes to our members who celebrate birthdays in August and September.

DECEMBER				
2	REG	BLACK	OAM	
4	DAVID	WICKS		
6	JOHN	BUCKERIDGE		Army
9	SUSANNE	BEAZLEY		
12	JOHN	DOUGLAS	OAM	Navy
14	NEIL	MCNULTY		
14	ANDREA	MCCOY		
21	PATRICIA	GREGORY		
23	BABARA	LEATHEREN		
24	ERROL	DRIVER		Army
26	JOHN	MANKS		Army
27	MARK	MURRAY		Air Force
27	MURRAY	THOMPSON	OAM	
28	CHRIS	SUTTON		
JANUARY				
1	NOELENE	MULLER		
2	MARGARET	BROMLEY		
2	JUDY	ALEXANDER		
3	JOHN	GREEN		
5	SAM	O'CONNOR		
5	JAMES	LAPA		
6	SHIRLEY	BARE	OAM	
6	ROSEMARY	COOKE		
12	PETER	ALGIE		Air Force
15	JOHN	ROBERTS		
16	KEVIN	MCDONNELL		
19	MARGARET	MILLIKEN		
27	SHELLEY	HALL		
29	ROBERT	CUTHBERTSON		
29	MICHAEL	LAPA		Navy
30	MAUREEN	MAGEE		
30	PAUL	GORI		

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 .Beumaris 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

If you have any feedback or an item you would like to include in the newsletter, please email it through to beumarisrsl@gmail.com