



BEAUMARIS RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.

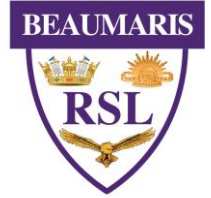
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FEBRUARY 2024 MEMBERS NEWS



Jane Lapa (centre front Row) pictured during the Sub-Branch Farewell BBQ 10th of January 2024

Dear Member

The summer has certainly been one of extremes weather wise, but the Sub-Branch continues to settle at our new home. There is something very comforting in knowing every Wednesday the Ode will be recited, refreshing drinks available, lovely grazing platters served and of course wonderful friendly people there to meet.

2024 is a big year with our renovations being undertaken and more and more previous members re-joining. Please continue to come down on Wednesdays and see what it is all about and consider making your Sub-Branch into a mid-week ritual.

It was a mixture of sadness and happiness to farewell our Membership Officer Jane Lapa to chasing her dreams of heading back into a front line posting in the Royal Australian Navy as Chief Petty Officer at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia. This is a 1 year stint and Jane has graciously committed to continuing her role. Please enjoy her first correspondence.

Our website is now up and running and we desperately need you to click on so Dr Google ensures we are on the top of their search engines. See the story below for details. We have our AGM coming up and nominations for committee. Succession is very important and making a start through the general positions available a terrific pathway.

The Sub-Branch is humming with excitement on the reintroduction of our members draw. All the details are below but as they say you gotta be there to win!

Enjoy the news!

Our roving Chief



My time in the West.

Oh the weather, it has been a very hot start to the year. Mid to high 30's most days. But where I live at HMAS Stirling – Garden Island WA, is a bit cooler than Perth, year low 30's. Lucky me. I am settling in well and learning the job as I go.

My accommodation is a little small but quite comfortable. There is lots of storage space, small fridge, desk area, king single bed, small balcony (with a wonderful view) and an ensuite.

The block is old style reddy/orange built maybe early 70's. It has 16 rooms, 8 on the bottom and 8 on the first level. My room is on the first level hence the view. There are bigger rooms on offer but the views are not as nice or no view at all (car parks and asphalt). The block has its own laundry with 2 washing machines and 2 dryers. Iron and ironing board were provided in the room. Meals are provided in the mess about a 3-minute walk. Which is good, as it makes me get out of the room.



The island is joined by a bridge to the mainland, and it takes 4 minutes by car to CROSS. Bringing plants and animals onto the island is prohibited.

Garden Island is also a national park, being a haven for birds and the rare tammar wallaby. It is also known to have carpet pythons and tiger snakes. So far, I have only seen a python, and yes, my heart was racing. The island is home to King skinks, which are much the same as blue tongues but longer and black. There is also a little penguin colony. I haven't seen the penguins yet.

Below is a Tamer (small looking Wallaby) I saw, a King Skink and a python on my walk!

Hope to see you all soon. Jane Lapa, Chief Petty Officer Royal Australian Navy.

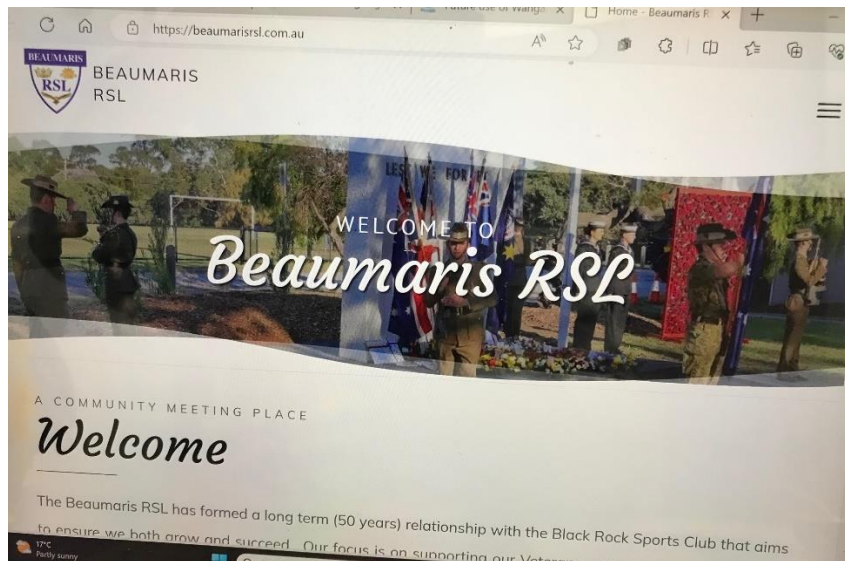


Building Refurbishment Project



Our project remains on track to begin works in July completing in time for Remembrance Day. The key milestones over the summer have been fittings, fixtures and colours approved and the detailed drawings nearing completion. The next key milestone is going out to Tender.

Communications update



We have now completed our communications project with the launch of our brand-new web site. Please click on the link below to have a look and increase the traffic to the site. We want the site to be the first to come up on a google search. This means clicks!!

Now the site is built we are looking for a volunteer to assist with its upkeep. We expect this to only take an hour or two a week and does not need any experience.

Facebook

Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch

Instagram

beaumarisrsl

Website

www.beaumarisrsl.com.au

If you have an hour or 2 a week and want to **get involved** assisting with managing our website it would be a fabulous contribution. No experience necessary. Please send Gina, our Secretary an email to beaumarisrsl@gmail.com

Volunteers

Bayside's Volunteer Expo is on Monday 20 May 3:00pm – 6:00pm at Brighton Town Hall!

The Expo is aimed at anyone interested in volunteering, but isn't sure where to start. Your sub-branch will have a table at the expo. There will also be educational facilities with volunteerism in the curriculum including the Duke of Edinburgh and the Compass Program. Organisations interested in corporate volunteering, local residents and those outside the municipality interested in volunteering in Bayside are welcome to apply.

2024 Annual General Meeting Wednesday 17th of April 2024 7pm

It is that time of year for electing the executive positions made vacant. Our Sub-Branch has the below two out of the 4 executive positions up for re-election as we have a split 2-year tenure system to ensure continuity. There are vacancies on the general committee and it would be very encouraging if we could fill these.

-President: Shayne Benedict
-Secretary: Gina Scott

The other 4 current committee members are Stephen Gage, Jane Lapa, Clarke Martin, and Andy Coogan
Our Vice President Douglas OAM, and Treasurer Timothy Holden are half way through their 2-year terms.

The role of Welfare Officer currently held by Peter Corfield and Appeals Officer held by Carolyn Strong are non-elected positions but appointed by the new committee on the night.

We will also be using the meeting to seek approval of several 10B rule and By-law changes that were ratified at the State Conference.

Nominations must be made in writing by 27th of March 2024 to our Secretary Gina Scott beumarisrsl@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our President on the above contact details or any member of the committee on duty during Wednesday night Stand To's.

Vice President's Report – A very special Regional Meeting

History was made on Monday 05-February-24 when the first RSL Region 4 Meeting for 2024, was held at Beaumaris RSL HQ, 8 Fern Street, Black Rock.

What is Region 4, I hear you ask? It is a gathering of Delegates from RSL Sub-Branched from as far South as Seaford, extending to St Kilda in the North. It is held on the first Monday of every second month, starting in February and finishing in December each year.

Beaumaris RSL Delegates are our Vice President, John Douglas, and Paul Maple. Paul will be well known to most of our members as a very keen member of our Appeals Team, who loves selling both ANZAC and Remembrance Merchandise around our Bayside Selling Points. He is also a Volunteer at the Shrine of Remembrance each Tuesday, where he conducts guided tours of Recruit Classes from Navy, Army, and Air Force. If you visit on a Tuesday, you may even find Paul showing you around.

Some Sub-Branches find it difficult to get someone to attend these meetings from time to time, as most are gainfully employed during the day. We are all very different. Some have Poker Machines and a few of us do not. It is always interesting to hear how some have certain problems and others don't. I am not sure if we ever did host a Region 4 Meeting at the "House on the Hill" or not, but I do know that we have been relying on the Hospitality of Seaford, Long Beach, Mentone, Highett, Hampton, Bentleigh, Cheltenham/Moorabbin, Caulfield, and St Kilda Sub Branches for at least 10 years.

It was indeed, a great honour and a privilege that at last we were able to host the above kindred Sub Branches at our Beaumaris RSL HQ. at 8 Fern Street, Black Rock. Immediate Past President Clarke Martin conducted a site tour and a presentation of our new website and refurbishment plans. Our two marvellous "Dinner Ladies," Rhonda Corfield and Kathy Anstey, put on a most sumptuous Brunch that was served both during and on completion of the meeting.

They both arrived on site early and took over the Galley. Everything was made on site, by hand. (no tools used!). BZ to you both.

Our STEX (State Executive) Representative was John Beslee, who drove up from Traralgon and our own Timothy Holden visited us before dashing off to another meeting further afield.

All in all, it was a tremendous milestone and I'm kicking myself for not taking any photos!!

Members Draw and Jackpot Returns

Just a little history. This photo was taken at the last meat raffle of the Beaumaris RSL before closure in June 2015



From left to right: Noelene Muller, Terry Cahill, Rhonda Corfield, Reg Black and Shirley Bare of the Women Auxiliary 2015

From L to R – Rhonda Corfield and Reg Black (adjudicators), Inaugural winner Andy Coogan, and button pressor Roscoe

After nearly 9 years, on Wednesday 14th February 2024 the Beaumaris RSL Women's Auxiliary once again initiated the Members Draw with an initial prize pool of \$100. Congratulations to Andy Coogan who was our first winner of this new initiative. Happy Valentine's Day.

The members Draw will revert to \$100 on Wednesday 21st and if not won will increase by \$50 each week till claimed by the attending member.

Hope to see you

ANZAC Appeal 2024

The merchandise is being ordered, rosters getting organised, ANZAC Trays for the local Schools, Council and other locations being prepared. Yes, it is Appeal time! The RSL highlight across Victoria is to seeing volunteers out and about. Beaumaris hits above its weight in raising much needed funds for Veterans across our state.

The key factor is the fun and enjoyment our Appeals Coordinator Carolyn Strong and Rhonda Corfield create during our appeals season. Please do not hesitate to contact them Carolyn on 0411 119 241 email carolynstrong58@hotmail.com or Rhonda Corfield 0429 647 481 to get involved early!

ANZAC March and Service- Sunday 21st April 2024 – The Stories behind the legend

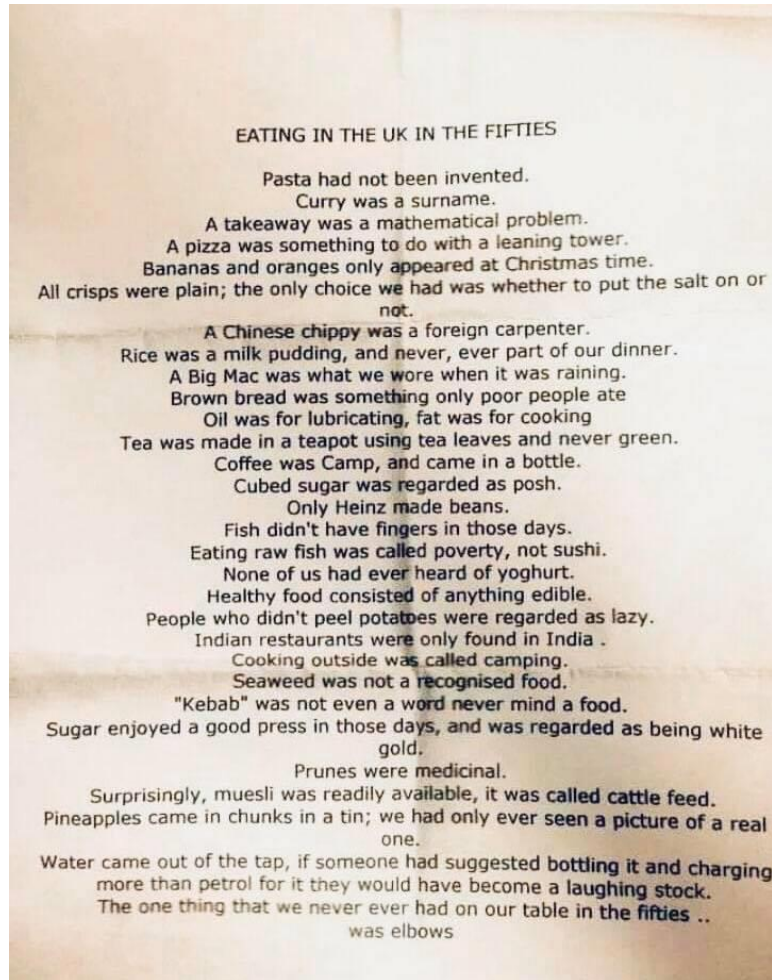
ABMUSN John Mc Corkelle was our Bugler one ANZAC Service at **Beaumaris RSL** He is married to one of the RAN's finest, LSMUSN Vocalist Stephanie McCorkelle. John has recently commissioned as SBLT. And was back with RAN Band Melbourne playing in the Sound Waves Concert late last year.



Since John Douglas started organising the BRSL ANZAC Commemorations in the year 2000, we have had a RAN Bugler each year except APR2020 when Covid shut us down. Two or 3 times, it has been touch and go, but on those occasions, we have been lucky enough to get a Reservist Musician. John McCorkelle was having a break from the Hobart Band and was up working as a fettler on the Puffing Billy Railway when JD collared him!

ENGLISH IS HARD

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.



Profile (Excerpted from the Order of Australia Association February Newsletter)



Making a difference to the experiences of our Veterans' Terry Black OAM and Regula (Reg) Black OAM

I Terry Black OAM was a young man who had no idea of what the future would bring when I joined AMP in 1965 as a callow youth aged 16. After a few years I was required to register

for National Service and “won” the ballot. After Army recruit training I was allocated to the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME). Conscription was a lifechanging event, ultimately involving 12-months active service in Vietnam. On discharge,

I returned to AMP and spent 40 years in various roles, mainly involved with the superannuation and financial planning sector. I am a Life Member of the AMP Advisers Association, having been involved as Secretary and President and a 15-year sub-committee role involving regular meetings in Sydney negotiating with AMP management. I met Reg shortly after my discharge and we married in 1972, two years after my return from Vietnam and two weeks after Reg Black OAM graduated from Teachers’ College.

Reg’s passion for education led to further studies at Melbourne University where she obtained her Bachelor of Education degree then a Post-Graduate Diploma in Special Education whilst working full time in mainstream education. Reg’s Special Education career continued until 2006 when she retired due to work-related injuries. Subsequent spinal surgeries caused nerve damage in her legs and a dropped foot. I too retired early due to health issues, since resolved.

During our working careers we were both active volunteers on various committees and with other organisations, and achieved great satisfaction in those roles. I had been asked by one of my superannuation clients whether she had enough capital to retire. During my fact finding, it emerged that she had been married to an older WW2 veteran who had since died. His history suggested that we should apply for a War Widow’s pension from DVA, which was granted 8 days after lodgement. This single event made me realise the power of advocacy. As a direct result of this experience, I joined Legacy and remain active.

Our involvement in the RSL (since 1970) became our social network and soon became much more. I was coerced into a committee role as Secretary and spent 10 years negotiating with State branch to ensure the viability of our Sub-Branch. I was also on an RSL State Sub-Committee for many years and mentored other RSL’s experiencing trading or committee difficulties.

Prior to each ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, schools in our area were invited to the RSL to meet Veterans, to learn about the veterans’ experiences and life during and after their service and learning about Australia’s commitment to world peace and lessons learned. I and a few others represented Vietnam during these sessions. Reg was also asked to sell raffle tickets on a Friday night, the ubiquitous meat raffle.

On one of these evenings, she was asked to assist with the taking of minutes at a Women’s’ Auxiliary meeting - her first introduction to the work of the Auxiliary and she was very quickly voted in as Secretary. Reg organises many fundraising events, from Opera on the Hill and other RSL days, raising much needed funds for veterans. She also organises an annual Christmas lunch and a mid-year lunch for the local community, raising further funds for Veterans and their families. Through this work she was named RSL Club Person of the Year in 2010. She was awarded Life membership of the National RSL Women’s Auxiliary in 2019.

I undertake the organisation of the annual Long Tan dinners, sourcing guest speakers and am MC on the evening. Funds from these evenings are donated to various organisations including ward 17 at Austin Health, where many veterans are in great need of medical and

psychological support. I remain active with Legacy (supported by Reg) and ultimately had 60 legacy widows under my care – although their numbers are diminishing - providing them with support to claim pensions and assistance through DVA, to enable them to live independently.

I became a JP in 1999, as this helped facilitate the paperwork necessary for their claims and was available to other Legatees for this purpose. Together, we delivered Christmas gifts to these widows each year ensuring that they were aware of services Legacy provides. As we've gotten older, I now send a Christmas letter to each. We are also involved in the Anzac Day badge appeal and the Poppy appeal and with the community Commemorations conducted locally on ANZAC and Remembrance days.

Reg and her sister-in law, Donna, have made all the wreaths laid by local organisations for the past 18 years and coordinated the afternoon teas for attendees after the services. Reg is also committed to the Family Life charity and works as a volunteer in their Op Shop distribution warehouse two days a week and assists with their monthly Saturday sale.

We have worked side by side complimenting each other and we feel we have a mutual purpose in contributing towards and making a difference in our community through awareness and care. We often reflect on how a society like ours would function without the many millions of volunteer hours contributed across the country.

On Australia Day 2018, I was awarded an OAM for my contribution to Veterans and their families. In 2021 Reg was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday list for her contribution to the Veteran community. These awards made us quite proud and we are active participants in Order of Australia Association VIC Branch events.

The OAA VIC Branch thanks Terry and Reg for looking after Ralph Butcher OAM when he attends lunches with them. Ralph is 105.

Member News

Marty Grogan is a long-time member of our Sub-Branch and until recently held the position as one of the longest serving members of the Royal Australian Navy. As he is a very intelligent sailor, he chose to remain in the lower deck but reached one of the highest Ranks as Warrant Officer.

Another very intelligent sailor and some would argue even more so is his son. RADM Darren Greville Grogan, CSC, RAN who is currently serving as 2IC to the United States Navy Pacific Fleet reporting to Admiral Samuel Paparo USN.

This is just one story of what the USN is currently up to in our region.

US Pacific Fleet to stand up second unmanned surface vessel squadron this year

By [JUSTIN KATZ](#) on February 14, 2024 at 5:45 PM



The unmanned surface vessel Ranger transits underneath the Sydney Harbor bridge as part of a scheduled port visit during Integrated Battle Problem (IBP) 23.2, Oct 24, 2023. (U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Pierson Hawkins)
WEST 2024 —

The head of US Pacific Fleet today said his command plans to establish its second operational unmanned surface vessel squadron in May, though he kept tight-lipped about what “exquisite capabilities” might be available to the unit.

“This is a uniform capability that we’ll be able to own, operate... [and] can be employed within particular spaces,” Adm. Samuel Paparo told an audience here at West 2024 in San Diego. A “principal element within warfare is the element of operational security. So, our most exquisite capabilities, if I am doing my job, you won’t [know] about it.”

Paparo also said that in March his fleet would conduct Integrated Battle Problem 24.1. IBP has been a series of naval experimentation events, initiated by former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday and conducted annually.

The standing up of another unmanned surface vessel squadron in US Pacific Fleet is latest move by the larger Navy to boost the presence of unmanned vessels throughout the fleet. Paparo noted previous IBPs have seen unmanned vessels log thousands of miles at sea over a period of several months.

Paparo also said that IBP is meant to complement rather than compete with other unmanned efforts taking place at [US 5th Fleet](#) in the Arabian Gulf, home of Task Force 59, or US 4th Fleet in South America, where Navy leadership [formally introduced](#) a cadre of unmanned vessel experts to the command’s staff last year.

Separately, on Tuesday, Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Karsten Heckl told reporters his service would soon test a new unmanned drone designed to stealthily carry two Naval Strike Missiles to Marines ashore without attracting attention.

Heckl did not name the company that produces the drone, except to call them a “mom and pop” shop. He did say the vessels were exceedingly difficult to track because of the minimal wake the vessels produce while gliding through the water.

The Marines expect to test the new drone this month as part of Army-led Project Convergence events.



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

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWSLETTER February 2024

Welcome to 2024 and what an incredible two months we have experienced. Our weather has ensured that we have not put away our winter woollies with the freezing conditions in January and the immediate transition to heatwave conditions followed by our sprint towards the heaters again on the following day.

Combined with this, we have been subjected once again, to the fires, droughts, and flooding rains. We have certainly been challenged and hopefully we will enjoy the summer season with plenty of sunshine and cool breezes.

The Beaumaris RSL Women's Auxiliary has been very busy up to date. We catered for the Region 4 RSL meeting at the BRSL HQ and have had some very positive feedback from the attendees. I would like to thank members who have given their time to purchase and make sandwiches and cakes for this meeting. Once again without your efforts we could not achieve what we do.

Since the middle of January, the raffle has been our ongoing task involving purchasing local vouchers from supporting businesses, buying prizes and the menial task of counting and stapling raffle tickets for the Wednesday draw, to ensure the smooth running of the raffle on the night.

We rely on a small group of Volunteers to do these tasks and would appreciate any help to maintain the current raffle into the future.

WEEKLY RAFFLE

Since the introduction of our weekly raffle on 25th of October at the Club we have been able to support local businesses which have generously supported us with our annual functions. We purchase vouchers from these businesses and the prizes have been very well received by members. We continue to acknowledge these wonderful local businesses and thank them for their support.

The success of the raffle has now given the Auxiliary funds to introduce a fortnightly Member's draw. Our first draw was conducted on February 14th and Andy Coogan was our Valentine Sweetheart, winning the \$100 pool. Congratulations, Andy. I hope you and Cathy celebrated the day with a special dinner in one of our local cafes.

The member's draw is open to all members of the Beaumaris RSL and will be drawn every fortnight after Stand To. You must be present to collect your winnings, otherwise the draw jackpots by \$50 for the following draw. As they say in the classics "You have to be in it to win it"

Upcoming events to add to your diaryANZAC Badge Appeal.

Arrangements are already being made and badges ordered but the entire success of this appeal rests on the support of volunteers who are willing to give a few hours of their time to sell badges. The more volunteers we have the less pressure is placed on those who put up their hands each year to man tables. Please support those who support you and raise a hand to take on a few hours during the 2 weeks prior to ANZAC Day. Rhonda would welcome hearing from you. Her details are on the letterhead.

ANZAC DAY service is conducted on the Sunday prior to ANZAC day and each year the Auxiliary provides the afternoon tea. This year the date is Sunday April 21st

If you are available to assist with the catering, please contact one of the Committee members whose names and details appear at the head of this newsletter.

MID YEAR FEAST Luncheon Thursday, June 27th

Our June Mid-Year Feast is being organised in conjunction with Legacy this year. World War 2 Veteran Ralph Butcher was one of the driving forces to create a Legacy Widows group in Beaumaris and was their first president 40 years ago. Beaumaris Legacy continues today and will Celebrate their 40th anniversary. And what better way to do this than to be with members of Legacy, members of the Beaumaris RSL, family, friends and members of the community. We invite you all to come along, share in Scotty's winter roast and celebrate this amazing milestone with us. The Women's Auxiliary will be hosting this event and hope to fill the room with fun and laughter.

LONG TAN DINNER Thursday 15th AugustCHRISTMAS BREAKUP Luncheon Thursday 27th November

Our AGM will be held at the Clubrooms at 1.30pm on WEDNESDAY MARCH 21st

The Auxiliary welcomes new members and if you would like to become involved with our vibrant group, please don't hesitate to contact us. We promise that we will welcome you with a great big cheer....

We also welcome Cathy Coogan and Cathy Wilson who have joined us. Thank you and we look forward to catching up at our first meeting this Wednesday at Fern Street at 1.00pm

Our Welfare Officer round up

Our two remaining WW11 Veterans are in reasonable health, Ted Morecroft and Ralph Butcher.

Unfortunately, it appears neither will be participating in our ANZAC Service and March this year.

However, if any Veteran or The Widow of a Veteran would like any assistance to participate, please contact Peter Corfield (0417 351 493). This includes transport in a Vintage Car from Beaumaris Concourse to The Community Centre.

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

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

Clare Bowditch headlining Beaumaris - Live and Local

Please come and visit our stand at this year's music festival in Beaumaris we are expecting a great afternoon!!

Renowned singer-songwriter Clare Bowditch is playing at Bayside City Council's Live and Local event at Balcombe Park, Beaumaris on Sunday 17 March.

One of Australia's top performers, Bowditch has won the coveted ARIA Award for Best Female and the Rolling Stone Woman of the Year Award for her contribution to Australian culture.

She has toured and performed at every festival, venue and truck-stop Australia has to offer and played with the likes of Leonard Cohen, Paul Kelly, Missy Higgins, Gotye and John Butler, to name just a few.

Born in Sandringham and still residing in the Bayside area, Clare will be rocking out at this year's Live and Local event from 3pm to 4pm.



Clare Bowditch

Bowditch will be joined at Live and Local by children's performers The Mik Maks, local up and coming indie-rock band Keeper, melodic singer Kezra and modern soul & blues stars CJ Commerford & The Supertones.

Live and Local is part of Bayside's Autumn Fest 2024, with the event starting at 11am and concluding at 4pm. Live and Local is a free event with activities for the whole family.

Mark your calendars and join us for a joyous celebration of music, community, and fun-filled activities at Balcombe Park on Sunday 17 March.

Live and Local set times

11:15am to 11:45am – The Mik Maks

12:00pm to 12:45pm – Keeper

1:00pm to 1:45pm – Kezra

2:00pm to 2:45pm – CJ Commerford & The Supertones

3:00 to 3:45pm – Clare Bowditch

Autumn Fest 2024

Back for another year of feasting and fun, Autumn Fest kicks off across Bayside from March 3 with an exciting array of events.

- Kids Day Out 3 March, 10am-3pm, Basterfield Park, Hampton East
- Live and Local 17 March, 11am-4pm, Balcombe Park, Beaumaris
- Easter Eggstravaganza 24 March, 10-3pm, Landcox Park, Brighton East

[More on Autumn Fest 2024](#)