



## Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch

Temporarily located at Beaumaris Sports Club  
68 Oak Street Beaumaris VIC 3193

July 2018

### MEMBERS NEWS

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters of the Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch  
(A message from our Vice President John Douglas)

This is an update on the situation with our Sub Branch.

As at WED18JUL18, we have 217 Financial Members and 180 Lapsed Members.

The Lapsed Members, fall into several categories:

1. Those who, for some reason, when we ceased trading at “The House on the Hill” on SAT27JUN15, thought that the Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch Inc. ceased to exist. This was never the case and at the time, we worked very hard to encourage our members to renew their membership by offering heavily discounted membership subscriptions; one year @\$25-00 or three years @\$60-00. This was taken up by some, but when our office closed and our professional staff left us, we relied on Joanne working as a volunteer, one day a week at the Hampton RSL. This came to an end when she commenced her new full-time position elsewhere. Some approached the Membership Department at State Branch and unfortunately, were told all kinds of misinformation, from “they no longer exist”, or “why not transfer to another Sub Branch”.
2. Some were treated quite well by State Branch and had their membership renewed according to their wishes.
3. Those who elected to or were invited to transfer to other neighboring Sub Branches.
4. Those who did nothing at all and simply just did not renew their membership of the League.

As most will be aware, in OCT last year, the State Branch gave our Sub Branch six months to elect a new Sub Branch Committee, sell the land on the corner of Bay Road and Reserve Road and to submit a Short-Term Plan. On completion of this period, we were to submit our long-term plan. This was duly submitted in May and we are currently waiting for it to proceed through various committees.

Since January this year, we have been a most welcome ‘lodger unit’ at the brand-new Beaumaris Sports Club at Banksia Reserve.

Each Wednesday evening, we conduct our traditional “Stand To” at 1830 in the Main Bar and Dining Room. All those present, both RSL members and Beaumaris Sports Club members, participate in our short ceremony and we have received many favourable comments from non RSL members.

We no longer have any paid staff at this point in time and rely entirely on our most dedicated Committee and Volunteers to conduct all our Sub Branch affairs, such as: Membership, Business, Finance, Planning, Secretarial, Fund Raising, Women’s Auxiliary, Parade and Ceremonial etc.

Many of these people are still in the workforce, in one way or another and are most dedicated to the smooth running of our Sub Branch in addition to their other day to day activities.

Our Sub Branch does not have Poker Machines and does not entertain the idea of having them in the future.

We are not actively chasing up “lapsed members” until our long-term plans are fully approved by State Branch and “set in concrete”. We feel that we need to have definite and ongoing benefits to offer our membership, before setting about really building up our numbers. We do, however, appreciate the support of those who have either renewed or rejoined, of their own volition.

While we are currently operating under our short-term plan, members of the BRSL are issued with a BSC Membership Card and are welcome to use all the Bar and Dining Room facilities, each day of the week, at discounted prices.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Except when absolutely necessary, such as when we have to mail out ANZAC Badges, Remembrance Poppies, Election Papers etc., we intend to regularly communicate with our members, both financial and lapsed, other friends and supporters, by EMAIL.

We fully appreciate that not everyone has this facility, so it is our intention to ascertain whether any such member has a friend or relative who would be happy to receive emails on a member’s behalf and pass them on. Failing this we will find another way of keeping our member in contact.

### **FUNCTION ROOM**

The BRSL were the very first to use the Function Room. In February, we had a Club Dinner and it was fully booked out.

### **DINING ROOM**

On the first RSL night in January, 87 people booked tables for dinner. The Writer, was one who failed to book and was part of the “overflow”, he dined in the Bar at a Bar Table, with other people in the same predicament!

### **WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**

With 217 Members and a steady but small number of lapsed members, who are reactivating themselves, it would be most gratifying to see more “RSL types” attending on Wednesday evenings. Even on these cold winter evenings, the club is comfortably heated and is a great place for a few drinks, or dinner with your old friends.

We intend to restore some of our traditional activities such as our popular weekly “Super Draw” and Beer and Wine Raffles etc. but we need more attending to make this viable.

If every member could turn up even one Wednesday evening a month, it would give us quite a good kick start!

### **CAR PARKING**

The Car Park is now complete and operating. It is close to the building, is well lit and has two Disabled positions, next to the access ramp. There is plenty of room. Those who wish, can also park in Cromb Street, that runs along the southern boundary, between Tramway Parade and Oak Street.

We very much look forward to welcoming all our members, old and new or young and old, at the Beaumaris Sports Club.

If anyone has any suggestions or complaints, please don’t hesitate contact our Committee.

We would love to hear from you.

John Douglas

Vice President

Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch

## **State Conference Report**

Our President Clarke Martin attended this year's conference for the first time which was held at the Caulfield Race Course starting at 9am sharp on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. Delegates from all the sub-branches turned out in force and the venue was very well populated. A trade display including age care, Government Departments, health and employment was well attended. Guest speakers included Ministers and Shadow's from Federal & State, Dept Veteran Affairs Secretary, Claims Tribunal, Honors Tribunal and others. The annual awards were a key part of the proceedings.

## **State Conference Report-**

### **Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission - Briefing**

Prue Monument Assistant Commissioner from the ACNC provided a presentation. The ACNC began operations in 2012 and are the national regulator for charities to streamline compliance burdens. RSL has 530 registered charities and we were told we can't shy away from some difficult conversations. RSL is a very important institution. ACNC wants to restore trust and faith in the RSL across Australia. They take an education approach to regulation through engagement and cooperation but will not shy away from serious failures.

ACNC entered into a compliance agreement with State RSL (this is second agreement) which is a voluntary agreement regarding 'serious failures'. RSL Victoria disclosed these failures and sought restitution. The agreement deals with 3 key themes.

- Financial Management practices
- Honorariums
- Committee member and board member capability

ACNC reported there are 1200 entities with RSL in the name registered across Australia. ACNC will be reaching out to every sub-branch and undertaking a small number of audits across the nation. Commissioner asked all sub-branches to undertake the 5 below actions:

1. Understand the sub-branch constitution. Is it fit for purpose? Are the charitable components fit for purpose?

2. Has the sub-branch strong financial controls in place including the flow of funds between accounts. Proper delegations in place. (Funds in registered charities can be used for to pay for the costs of administration but they must be justified and the reasoning documented).

3. Ensure the training of committee members who are responsible for the charity are properly trained and understand their responsibilities. (Governance Institute, Institute of Company Directors, ACNC Courses where training is provided)

4. Identify and manage conflicts of interest (use of the RSL manual is very good start).

5. Review any honorariums, gifts or payments to committee members. This is an extremely high risk area.

The assistant commissioner concluded her address calling on all Sub-Branch committee members to fully understand all decisions by reading all papers and asking questions.

## **State Conference Report –**

### **President's Address, Dr. Robert Webster, OAM**

The address started with a brief of the media reports from the day before media cycle. Last year's disclosure of the partial gifting of a vehicle to the former State President Major General David McLaughlin has been investigated. There was a delay of 5 months disclosing this financial arrangement. This was a serious breach due to not fully understanding RSL funds no matter where they come from are charitable. So the President emphasised that all funds whether from commercial or fundraising from RSL operations are deemed as charitable. The former president as repaid funds regarding the car and no actions were needed to be taken.

The President reinforced that the Victorian Branch has voluntarily and immediately informed the ACNC when it became aware of any non-compliance. The relationship with the ACNC is constructive and the State RSL is not under an enforceable undertaking it is voluntary.

Lastly the President repeated the ACNC caution regarding Honorariums that they must be reviewed and actioned in compliance with the ATO. It was noted that honorariums are allowed at Sub-Branch level but there are strict compliance conditions.

## **State Conference Report –**

### **Elections**

Mike Annett announced the results of the RSL State executive election and explained tenure is now going to be staggered to ensure there is consistency on the board:

President, Rob Webster 2 years

Senior VP, Lee Webb 1 year

VP Des Callahan 1 year

Treasurer John Frances Cullin, 2 years

### **Representatives**

Metro: Dale Crocker, Marucs Fielding, Freiarcoa?

Country: David Martin, Paul McMahan, Ian Golding

## **State Conference Report –**

### **Minister of Veteran Affairs**

Dept of VA is going through a transformation process to improve the IT systems etc. A key message was to improve the transition of ADF members who have left under difficult circumstances (injury, discipline, a bad experience). Vast majority leave under good circumstances. Mental Health of Veterans was discussed. Minister urged employers not to think all ex ADF personnel have PTSD! VA is getting better dealing with Mental Health issues.

The conference finished with a number of awards presented to members.

*On the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 the National President of the RSL Robert Dick has resigned over what the media is reporting 'Governance Issues'. Clearly there is a great deal of work the RSL movement needs to undertake.*

## **Inspection of BRSL Property at State RSL Storage Facility**

John Douglas and Clarke Martin conducted an inspection of our property on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2018.

Below are our observations:

- Our property is being well looked after (Anthony the caretaker care's)
- The space needed was smaller than a standard home garage
- A temporary static display of some items would be feasible at the BSC
- It appears around half the space is for financial archives
- We share around about half the space with other groups

Below is what we have in there and the approximate size. Our collection of weapons are stored in the armoury at Box Hill RSL which we also intend to visit (see below invitation).

6 pallet boxes 1.2m x 1.2m

2 pallets with plastic tubs 1 metre high

1 pallet of brass objects 500mm high

Binnacle from Steam Tug James Patterson 1.2m high

Weary Dunlop electronic statue Pallett 1metre high by 1metre diameter

SS Edina Ships Wheel 1.5m x 1.5m

SS Edina Bow Boards 2.5m x 400mm

Display Cabinet 1m x 1m x 2.2m

Banister from SS Shannon 5m



John Douglas inspecting property at storage. Large pallet boxes in foreground.

## **Box Hill RSL Armoury Inspection and lunch Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2018**

All interested members are invited to come along to the Box Hill RSL to inspect the Beaumaris RSL weapons that are stored there. Please RSVP by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of August and if there are enough numbers we will arrange a bus. We will leave Beaumaris Sports Club at 10am and arrive back at 3pm.

Please email [beaumarisrsl@gmail.com](mailto:beaumarisrsl@gmail.com) if you would like to attend or call John Douglas on 0417 386 408 or Clarke on 0412 259 631.

### **Beaumaris Sports Club Activities and Communications**

As noted above as a Beaumaris RSL Member you are entitled access the BSC any time you wish. As the club has progressed during its first year of operations there are more and more activities being offered to the associated clubs.

Over the next few weeks our members who have provided an email will begin to receive BSC communications on what is coming up at the BSC and of course every Wednesday is the Beaumaris RSL night!

We will also begin to send a weekly email to all members containing news from the Victorian State Branch and provide a broadcast email to alert members of any Vale's.

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I hope you have enjoyed the newsletter and please do not hesitate to call me if you need.

Clarke Martin

President

Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch

0412 259 631

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)

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