



# BEAUMARIS RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.

Accommodated at Black Rock Sports Club  
2 Fern Street, Black Rock Victoria 3193.  
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Telephone: 0418 318 862 Email: beaumarisrsl@gmail.com

## July 2022 MEMBERS NEWS



Ralph Butcher celebrates 104 years and Ted Morecroft 100.

### Dear Member

The winter has been very cold to date and with a second wave of COVID coming through we are certainly keeping an eye on all our members particular those in the later years. One of the many benefits of being an RSL member is care. Over the past few years I have been very pleased in deed to see our membership services link to our welfare activities and increase in volunteers helping provide welfare services such as dropping of small gifts and undertaking welfare checks to our members just like Ralph and Ted.

Our long-term accommodation project continues to progress and a number of important milestones have been achieved. This includes formally presenting our documentation to the Victorian Branch Trustees and Board. As final legal process is complete and we expect a decision very soon.

Our events keep rolling out with the Mid-Winter Feast in July being very well attended and enjoyed by all. We now can look forward to the Long Tan dinner on August 18<sup>th</sup> which is one our first evening occasions in quite some time. The dinner will be a wonderful night and I encourage you to organise a few friends and come along. It is also very good to see members dropping in for our Wednesday Stand To's and the 6.30pm Ode.

Enjoy the news!

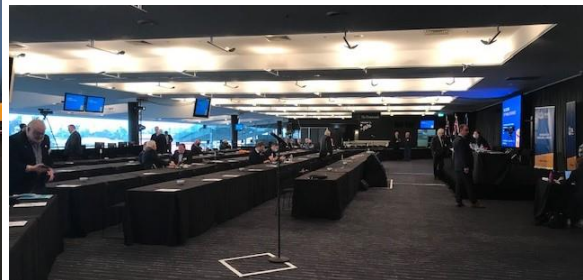
## Ordinary Members' Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

A very good turn out on a very cold winters night. The main item on the agenda was the State Conference Remits (4) and rules (3) which Terry Black stepped the attendees through before voting on each item. As part of the RSL Victorian rules each Sub-Branch must elect delegates for the State Conference. John Douglas OAM and Clarke Martin have been elected as our delegates and represented the members decisions on the conference floor.

This part of the RSL Constitution gives Sub-Branches a democratic process within their membership to consider matters important to them. Any member can suggest a Remit to the committee which can then be heard at an Ordinary Meeting for members to discuss and vote on and if carried will be sent to the State Executive for inclusion in the conference agenda and voted on through the conference delegates.

Recently this feature of the work of Sub-Branches was highlighted by the State Executive and it is very pleasing to see it at work across the State. If you have an interest in Veteran Affairs and the current reforms of the RSL movement the Sub-Branch would be very keen to hear from you.

## State Conference 2022



State Treasurer Timothy Holden, CEO Sue Catermole, State President, Robert Webster OAM, Conference Floor

For the first time in nearly 3 years the conference was undertaken face to face and the delegates present certainly were abuzz to be back. The day started with the President undertaking the traditional customs and his address which included the introduction of the new CEO Sue Catermole who also provided a presentation. This included her experience (former CEO of St Vincent de Paul and many years in the welfare sector) her observations in her first 10 days and the key short and long term objectives.

Clearly a female non-service head executive of the Victorian RSL is a strong signal that the Board is embracing the changes needed for the organisation. In this light it was very pleasing to have 'Reform Group' representatives providing an update from a sub-committee that had been formed by the Board rather than launching remits from the floor. Interestingly all the voted remits at the conference 'Carried' and 'Lost' aligned to Beaumaris's Member's Instructions.

One of the key messages from the CEO was to expect a new level of Sub-Branch engagement on needed changes. It is hoped we can have Sue attend an event at Fern Street over the next few months.

**Long Tan Dinner 18<sup>th</sup> of August (see Flyer for details)**

The Long-Term Accommodation project has taken 1000's of volunteer hours of the committee, It is the most important task of the Sub-Branch outside of welfare, commemoration and Appeals. It has meant other events have had to wait for needed volunteers to take on the organisation. After 8 years and the current stage of rebuilding the Sub-Branch, we are absolutely delighted to announce our most important annual event is back. We thank Reg and Terry Black through our Women's Auxiliary for taking this on so close to the Winter Feast and encourage all members to support it strongly.



**Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch community**

**LONG TAN DINNER**

Join us for this community event. Everyone is welcome

**Thursday 18th August 2022**  
6:30pm for 7pm Dinner

**Sandy by the Bay**  
Sandringham Oval Clubrooms,  
Trevor Barker Beach Oval Beach Rd, Sandringham

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**\$60 PER HEAD**  
Net proceeds to be directed to veterans' welfare.

Finger food on arrival, main course and dessert.  
Main course will be steak. Please advise in advance if you prefer a chicken or vegetarian option

**BOOK EARLY TO SECURE YOUR TICKET OR BOOK A TABLE. BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL, WITH PAYMENT AT TIME OF BOOKING.**

**Bank transfer**  
BRSI Women's Auxiliary  
BSB: 083 337  
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 515 228 944  
Please ensure that your Bank transfer clearly includes your name/s.

**Cheque**  
BRSI Women's Auxiliary  
C/- 339A Beach Rd  
BLACK ROCK 3193

For further information contact  
Terry Black: 0418 324 866  
Mairi McIntosh: 0419 882 501  
Reg Black: 0408 324 866

**Speaker**  
**John Silvester**  
Sly of the Underworld



## 100!! Edward Morecoft; WW11 Veteran and long term Life Member of Beaumaris RSL



Born in Wedderburn, Victoria on July 7 1922, Edward, known as Ted, was working for a wholesale jeweller when he decided to enlist in the Army, in December 1941.

Ted also had two brothers in the RAAF, William and Donald. Their father Frederick, and his two brothers Arthur and Thomas, had all served in the AIF during WW1. Frederick was a motor transport driver during 1916-19. Sadly, he passed away in August 1940, as a result of his War Service.

Ted commenced his Army service undergoing signals training in Bendigo; he was already proficient in Morse code, as he had learnt this skill from his Uncle, who had a Post Office. He was initially posted to AHQ Signals in Ringwood in January 1942. Whilst posted in Ringwood, he underwent additional training on an Operators (Signals) course in Caulfield, before returning to AHQ in June 1942.

In July he was transferred to the Advanced Land HQ Signals., based at the University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane. He served there until early 1943, when he was posted to New Guinea, with the Headquarters, Heavy Wireless Group as a wireless operator from March 1943 to September 1944. He recalled they were frequently under Japanese mortar attacks, due to the enemy's attempts to knock out the large communication towers. Ted was very proficient in Morse code and he can still read it today.

After returning from New Guinea, Ted served in other signals units in Victoria, promoted to sergeant in June 1945, before being discharged in April 1946.

After the war, Ted returned to his pre-war employer, Benjamin & Co, Jewellers, he worked for them for 48 years in total. Ted married Mary in 1946, they had four children, but sadly his wife passed away in her 40's. He remarried to Jean in 1967.



Ted enjoyed playing baseball and cricket, in his younger life, lawn bowls and golf later in life; he was still playing golf in his 90's, with the Beaumaris RSL Golf Club TARGA.

Ted was very active at the Beaumaris RSL and his Friday Night Meat Raffle is still remembered to this day, along with his fellow mates, Bert Matthews and Freddie Alway they would oversee proceedings with much enjoyment and gusto.

These days, he leads a much quieter life, and he and Jean look after themselves. Ted has no magic answers to how to live a long life other than having a good diet, working hard and keeping active.

Happy Birthday Ted!

## Our Vice President's encounter with Vietnam Veteran Victoria Cross Medal Recipient



John Douglas OAM with Keith Payne VC AM and his wife Flo at the Shrine of Remembrance 2018

As part of remembering all those that served in the Vietnam war leading up to our Long Tan Dinner our Vice President sent through an image of the Keith Payne VC AM of the two of them at a 2018 National Service event at the Shrine.

Below is Keith's Wikipedia page:

Payne served with his unit in the [Korean War](#) from April 1952 to March 1953.<sup>[1]</sup> He married Florence Plaw, a member of the [Women's Royal Australian Army Corps](#), in December 1954, and was promoted to [corporal](#) the following year. Payne served in [Malaya](#) with this unit and in 1965, now a [sergeant](#), he joined the 5th Battalion. In June 1965, by now a warrant officer class II, Payne was a fieldcraft instructor on the staff of the [Officer Training Unit, Scheyville](#), established to commission national servicemen.

In February 1967 he was posted to [Papua New Guinea](#), where he served with the 2nd Battalion, [Pacific Islands Regiment](#). He remained there until March 1968 when he returned to Brisbane. On 24 February 1969 he was posted to the [Australian Army Training Team Vietnam](#) (AATTV).<sup>[1]</sup>

In May 1969 Payne was commanding the 212th Company of the [1st Mobile Strike Force Battalion](#), when it was attacked by a strong [People's Army of Vietnam](#) force near [Ben Het Camp](#). The company was isolated and, surrounded on three sides, its Vietnamese troops began to fall back. At this point [shrapnel](#) from a [grenade](#) burst and struck Payne, lodging in his skull, arms and hands; under heavy fire, Payne covered the withdrawal before organising his troops into a defensive perimeter.



Disregarding his own serious wounds, he then returned to the battlefield and spent a further three hours, frequently under fire, searching for any remaining members of his unit. Payne located about 40 of his men, most of them wounded; he assisted some of the wounded himself and organised assistance for others, before leading the party back to base through an area now dominated by enemy forces.<sup>[1]</sup>

Payne's actions that night earned him the [Victoria Cross](#) (VC), which was [gazetted](#) on 19 September 1969.<sup>[2]</sup> He was evacuated to Brisbane in September suffering from an illness, receiving a warm reception at the airport before entering hospital. In January 1970 Payne was posted to the [Royal Military College, Duntroon](#) as an instructor.<sup>[1]</sup>

Payne received his VC from Queen [Elizabeth II](#) aboard the [Royal Yacht Britannia](#) in Brisbane on 13 April 1970. He was made a freeman of the city and of the shire in which his hometown was located. A park in Stafford, Brisbane, (where Payne lived) was also named after him. He also received the [Distinguished Service Cross](#) and the [Silver Star](#) from the United States of America. The [Republic of Vietnam](#) awarded Payne the [Vietnam Gallantry Cross](#) with Bronze Star.<sup>[3]</sup>

Payne was later posted to the [42nd Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment](#).<sup>[4]</sup> He retired from the Australian Army in 1975, but saw further action as a captain with the Army of the Sultan of Oman against communist forces in the [Dhofar War](#) in 1975 and 1976.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **Later life**

Payne joined the [Legion of Frontiersmen](#) in 1975 and holds the rank of an Honorary Chief Commissioner.<sup>[3]</sup> After returning to Australia, he became active in the veteran community, particularly in counselling sufferers of [post-traumatic stress disorder](#).

Payne and his wife raised five sons and live in [Mackay](#), Queensland. He was awarded the [Medal of the Order of Australia](#) (OAM) for his service to the veteran community in 2006,<sup>[4]</sup> while Flo Payne was recognised with an OAM for her service to the community, particularly through surf lifesaving and veteran's families, in 2011.<sup>[5]</sup>

Payne was interviewed for the 2006 television [docudrama Victoria Cross Heroes](#), which also included archive footage and dramatisations of his actions.<sup>[6]</sup>

In September 2012 Payne became a Patron of the [Victoria Cross Trust](#).<sup>[7]</sup> The mental health ward at [Greenslopes Private Hospital](#) in Brisbane is named the Keith Payne Unit (KPU), in his honour.<sup>[8]</sup>

Payne was advanced to a [Member of the Order of Australia](#) in June 2015. The award recognised his "significant service to veterans and their families as an ambassador, patron and as an advocate for veterans' health and welfare."<sup>[9]</sup>

Payne is a patron of [Australians for Constitutional Monarchy](#).<sup>[10]</sup>

## Call for volunteers for this year Poppy Appeal

*“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.”*

**~Winston Churchill**



104 year old Ralph Butcher volunteering at the Beaumaris Concours Stall April 2022

If you have never taken a seat at one of our stalls during the Poppy Appeal in November now is the time to place your name down and give it a go. Our volunteers always report the experience is very positive chatting to the passer-by's and often listening to the amazing Navy, Army and Airforce stories of their families' members.

We normally have stalls at the Beaumaris Concourse, Black Rock Village, Sandringham and Seaview shops. Our stalls not only raise funds but they provide a comfort to the community that the Sub-Branch is active in looking after our Veterans. Please contact Carolyn Strong our appeals coordinator on 0411 119 241 email [carolynstrong\\_58@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynstrong_58@hotmail.com) . The shifts are normally 2-3 hours and even doing one is a tremendous help.





## 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:** Hilary Ferguson - 0407 926 234

What an incredible world we live in!

Early Thursday, Melbourne blanketed by a dense fog and crisp frost underfoot with our coldest day this year whilst Europe and the UK suffered the highest temperatures recorded. Fires and deaths as a result of the extreme temperatures were recorded. How can we doubt the impact of climate change when we experience such dramatic weather conditions?

The Auxiliary has been busy in the past few months. We celebrated the first meeting with a very lively lunch at Flavours in the Concourse. Christopher was our perfect host and ensured we were all looked after and treated us like royalty. Lunch was paid for by the Auxiliary as a thank you to members who have worked so hard behind the scenes and by also contacting isolated members, sending cards and many phone calls to ensure that no one was forgotten or felt alone. We especially thank Beth Carruthers, our dedicated Welfare Officer who has diligently kept us informed of members who are unwell or celebrating special events and birthdays. With this knowledge we have been able to ensure that supplies and deliveries could be made whenever needed. Rhonda Corfield has ensured that members have been personally contacted and is often dropping in ready-made meals and picking up medications. We thank her on your behalf for her generosity and care.

On July 21<sup>st</sup> we held our Midwinter Feast at Sandy by the Bay. What a wonderful event! Wendy Stapleton was an absolute hit and entertained us with her tales of Dusty Springfield and sang many of the old-time favourites.

I take an excerpt from the Black Rock Sports Club Bulletin about Wendy:

*“Wendy Anne-Marie Stapleton is an Australian pop/rock singer songwriter, musical theatre performer and television actor and presenter. Stapleton has performed as a backing singer, session musician and a solo artist; she fronted various Melbourne based groups including Wendy Stapleton Band and Wendy Stapleton and the Rockets which had a top 30 hit single with “Play the Game” in 1983*

And Wendy certainly lived up to her reputation as 90 attendees to the lunch would agree.



We appreciate the attendance of Bayside Legacy, Beaumaris and Hampton Women's Auxiliaries, Heathland Day Club Members, RSL members, friends and Brad Roswell MP who fills a table at each of our events and heavily supports the purchase of our raffle tickets.

We are now busy with assisting the Sub Branch in organising the return of the Long Tan Dinner after a hiatus of some 8 years and are thrilled to announce that we have "Sly of the Underworld" as our guest speaker. Our dinner is on Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup> which is the actual anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

John Silvester was inducted into the Australian Journalism Hall of Fame in 2018. He is the **senior crime reporter for The Age and appears on 3AW as crime commentator Sly of the Underworld**. John Silvester has given evidence in Royal Commissions on crime and corruption.

This will be an exceptional evening and we encourage members and friends to organise a table and be a part of this commemorative dinner. A flyer with all the details is attached.

Please note that there will not be a meeting in August. Our next meeting of the Women's Auxiliary will be held at Black Rock Sports Club on September 21 at 1.30 pm followed by afternoon tea in the Club Rooms.

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

Regards,

Reg Black OAM  
Hon Secretary.

### **Major Milestone Birthdays**

On top of Ted's 100<sup>th</sup> and Ralph's 104<sup>th</sup> our long-term member John Moller, OAM, RFD, (Ret'd) celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2022. Happy Birthday to them all!

### **Wednesday evening Stand To's**

Over the past 4 months a steady stream of members has dropped into to share a drink and attended the very short commemoration held at 6.30pm sharp. A few points of interest and upcoming events are noted before the Ode is recited. We thank those that have encouraged small gatherings of their friends such as book clubs, community group committee meetings and catch ups. Our Wednesday nights are a perfect place for such gatherings as the room is warm and there is plenty of space to have a few tables separated from bar.

The attendance is steadily growing and we hope by spring to begin to offer some meals but in the mean time feel free to bring a plate of nibblies for your group.

The Bar is open from 5pm by the lovely Lauren who keeps that Carlton keg cold and has a terrific selection of wines and soft drinks.

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)