



BEAUMARIS RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.

Accommodated at Black Rock Sports Club
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JUNE 2023 MEMBERS NEWS



Ralph Butcher turning 105 in June, on duty at the Beaumaris Concourse ANZAC Appeal Street Stall

Dear Member

It has been a couple of months since our AGM and your committee has been very busy in their allocated portfolios. It was an honour to formally welcome Andy Coogan to the committee, and we all know how dedicated Andy has been over the years assisting BRSL and look forward to having Andy at the table.

I am pleased we are almost over the line with the numerous tasks we have been working on for many years. Our Sub-Branch has made so much progress in our key objectives of long-term accommodation and financial certainty not to mention the strong relationships we have built with BRSC and ANZAC House.

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.

John Douglas once again put a great deal of effort in the recent ANZAC Day service which was strongly supported by the local community and schools. We certainly received some publicity in the national papers as detailed below.

Rhonda and Carolyn did a sterling job mobilising and motivating our volunteers for this year's ANZAC Appeal. We will be holding an event at the club to celebrate and recognise our volunteers.

I thank all the members who reach out to me with ideas and suggestions for the new club. My mantra is that until the lease is formally signed off by all parties, we really cannot make a start. I can assure you all that as soon as that document is completed, we will commence a strong membership drive focusing on lost members who have joined other local clubs, and new members in our area. We will be bringing all our members up to date with regular project updates and providing opportunities to feed information into all the opportunities the new club will provide us. The refurbishment and extension will provide a safe and welcoming place for our members and I look forward to this happening soon.

Our Women's Auxiliary has been as busy as ever during the year. They have assisted John greatly with the ANZAC Service and put on a very nice afternoon tea on completion which our members greatly appreciated. Please book in to the Winter Feast in June and or the Long Tan Dinner in August.

We are still in need of establishing our on-line presence if you know anyone who could assist us please get in touch with myself.

Enjoy the news!

2023 ANZAC Appeal



Raising more than \$30,000 and having the most volunteers yet is just a couple of the outcomes of this year's appeal. With the hard-working team led by Carolyn and Rhonda the merchandise was sorted, put into the trays and delivered all over our region. The Street Stalls and our stand at Bunnings are always the highlight. The enjoyment of all involved and sense of achievement is such a wonderful part of our appeals. Of course, all the money raised goes to Veteran Welfare both locally and across Victoria.

We will be doing it all again for the Poppy Appeal so please if you haven't already expressed an interest, please get in touch Carolyn Strong our appeals coordinator on 0411 119 241 email carolynstrong58@hotmail.com or Rhonda Corfield 0429 647 481, if you want to have a go..

It is a lot of fun and great way to both meet new people and assist Veterans.

Beaumaris RSL hits the headlines!

Awkward Scenes as Tim Wilson Insists on Anointing King Charles



The Coronation of King Charles has been marred by controversy after the former member for Goldstein, Tim Wilson, insisted on pouring the holy oil on the Coronation Spoon and using it to anoint the King. Officials claimed that the Archbishop of Canterbury had been assigned the sacred role, however Mr Wilson says he was unaware of any such arrangements and was merely helping out on behalf of those present.

Ex-MP's wrath wrangle stirs regrets in RSL

Beaumaris Community Correspondent

It's Victoria says a wrangling dispute involving former Liberal MP Tim Wilson and a stand-in for the King... [The article continues with details of the controversy surrounding the coronation ceremony and Wilson's actions.]

Extract from The Age newspaper Page 3 25th of April 2023

It came as quite a shock to see our Annual ANZAC March and Service being reported in the National News. Some say all publicity is good publicity but we will leave that to the experts. From our Sub-Branch point of view, we were disappointed the incident took place but we are pleased that the coverage reminded readers of ANZAC Day commemorations.

ANZAC Day March and Service Sunday 23rd April 2023



From our cancelled March and Service in 2020 and modified march in 2021/2022 it was an extremely great relief to be able to undertake the 2023 effort without restriction.

We had close to 1000 attendees this year which by some accounts is our largest turnout in over 40 years. This expression of local interest is a testament to the efforts by our volunteers to get the word out and provide a highly professional and enjoyable local occasion.

The day has evolved over the years under the leadership of our Vice President, John de C. Douglas OAM who is well known for his listening skills and ability to make adjustments where the opportunity arises.



The Army contingent from Charlie Company, 5/6th RVR at Labuan Barracks in Royal Avenue, were back on the job again this year and executed their role with perfection. This year they were given Orders to lead the March and provide the Catafalque Party. A Warrant Officer Class 2 was in charge of the March directing his command up Reserve Road and past the Saluting Base. Watching a huge parade marching briskly towards a fence certainly provided an onlooker with the tantalising thought of calamity. This sense of anxiety was relieved when the WO2 brought the parade to a halt and successfully dismissed the marchers with the command Fall Out.

It was very fitting our World War 2 100+ year old Veteran was transported by a 100+ year old Rolls Royce which was followed up by a convoy of volunteer drivers using a range of vintage cars.

St Leonards College Band led by Band Master Mark Ford, a former Naval Musician and a Director of several Municipal Bands did a marvellous job syncing in with the Choir, Vocally Wild. Stirring renditions of both the New Zealand and Australian Anthems and a selection of poignant and patriotic musical pieces were performed throughout the service.

We all know the Wreath Laying component became the story but our Service Personnel, volunteers and our marching Veterans are the real stars and it is very humbling to see them all supported.

Yours aye, John John de C. Douglas

Audie Murphy's Wife – A story of Dedication and Forgiveness

Before we get to Audie Murphy's wife, some background on her husband. He was born in rural Farmersville, Texas, and was only 46 years old when he died in a plane crash in the Virginia Mts. He was bothered by PTSD after he came back from War II, and it affected him all his life.

Few young people know who Audie Murphy was or how big a war hero he really was. He was born into a poor sharecropper family in rural Texas. He started picking cotton in the 5th grade. His father abandoned them, and his mother died when he was 16. A year later he tried to join the service but was rejected due to his diminutive size. He succeeded later at 17, illegally.

Two or three service medals would make most soldiers proud, but to have earned as many as he did with most being combat decorations is truly unbelievable.

List of Decorations for Audie Murphy

Medal of Honour

Distinguished Service Cross

Silver Star (with oak leaf cluster)

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star (with oak leaf cluster and Valour Device)

Purple Heart (with two oak leaf clusters)

U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal

U.S. Army Good Conduct Medal

Presidential Unit Citation (with First Oak Leaf Cluster)

American Campaign Medal

European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (with One Silver Star,

Four Bronze Service Stars (representing nine Campaigns) and one Bronze Arrowhead (representing assault landing at Sicily and Southern France)

World War II Victory Medal

Army of Occupation Medal (with Germany Clasp)

Armed Forces Reserve Medal

French Fourrage in Colours of the Croix de Guerre

French Legion of Honour - Grade of Chevalier

French Croix de guerre (with Silver Star)

French Croix de guerre (with Palm)

Medal of Liberated France

Belgian Croix de guerre (with 1940 Palm)

Additionally, Murphy was awarded :

The Combat Infantry Marksman badge with Rifle Bar, Expert Badge with Bayonet Bar.

Now about the other hero.

From the Los Angeles Times on April 15, 2010

Pamela Murphy, widow of WWII hero and actor, Audie Murphy, died peacefully at her home on April 8, 2010. She was the widow of the most decorated WWII hero and actor, Audie Murphy, and established her own distinctive 35 year career working as a patient liaison at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration hospital, treating every veteran who visited the facility as if they were a VIP.

Any soldier or Marine who came into the hospital got the same special treatment from her. She would walk the hallways with her clipboard in hand making sure her boys got to see the specialist they needed. If they didn't, watch out. Her boys weren't Medal of Honour recipients or movie stars like her husband, but that didn't matter to Pam. They had served their Country. That was good enough for her. She never called a veteran by his first name.

It was always "Mister." Respect came with the job. "Nobody could cut through Veterans Administration red tape faster than Mrs. Murphy," said veteran Stephen Sherman, speaking for thousands of veterans she befriended over the years. "Many times, I watched her march a veteran who had been waiting more than an hour right into the doctor's office."

She was even reprimanded a few times, but it didn't matter to Mrs. Murphy. "Only her boys mattered. She was our angel." Audie Murphy died broke in a plane crash in 1971, squandering millions of dollars on gambling, bad investments, and yes, other women. He wasn't the ideal family man by a wide margin. "Even with the adultery and desertion at the end, he always remained my hero," Pam told me.

She went from a comfortable ranch-style home in Van Nuys where she raised two sons to a small apartment - taking a clerk's job at the nearby Veterans Administration clinic to support herself and start paying off her faded movie star husband's debts. At first, no one knew who she was.

Soon, though, word spread through the VA that the nice woman with the clipboard was Audie Murphy's widow. It was like saying General Patton had just walked in the front door. Men with tears in their eyes walked up to her and gave her a Hug. "Thank you," they said, over and over.

The first couple of years, I think the hugs were more for Audie's memory as a war hero. The last 30 years, they were for Pam. One year I asked her to be the focus of a Veteran's Day column for all the work she had done. Pam just shook her head no. "Honour them, not me," she said, pointing to a group of veterans down the hallway. "They're the ones who deserve it."

The vets disagreed. Mrs. Murphy deserved the accolades, they said. Incredibly, in 2002, Pam's job was going to be eliminated in budget cuts. She was considered "excess staff." "I don't think helping cut, down on veterans' complaints and showing them the respect they deserve should be considered excess staff," she told me. Neither did the veterans. They went ballistic, holding a rally for her outside the VA gates. Pretty soon, word came down from the top of the VA. Pam Murphy was no longer considered "excess staff".

She remained working full time at the VA until 2007 when she was 87.

"The last time she was here was a couple of years ago for the conference we had for homeless veterans," said Becky James, coordinator of the VA's Veterans History Project. Pam wanted to see if there was anything she could do to help some more of her boys. Pam Murphy was 90 when she died. What a lady. What a hero.

by Dennis McCarthy,
Los Angeles Times on April 15, 2010

LONG TAN DINNER – early notice

The 2023 Long Tan Dinner will be on the evening of Friday, 18th August

We are delighted to advise that our speaker will be FRED SMITH

The following is extracted from The Australian War Memorial website:

“Fred Smith is a diplomat with a difference. Described as “Australia’s secret weapon” in international diplomacy, he 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.

“Dust in Uruzgan” struck a chord with Australian troops serving in Afghanistan, and a second song, “[Sapper's lullaby](#)”, became an anthem for soldiers and their families.

“I think most guys who serve in these environments would like to think that if something happened, they would be remembered,” he said. Fred performed Sappers Lullaby at the Australian War Memorial’s [2019 Anzac Day National Ceremony](#) in Canberra, in a moving tribute to those who have served.”

Fred is a veteran of multiple diplomatic postings to conflict zones and to Peacekeeping operations.

He is also a regular and popular performer at music festivals.

When bookings open in early June, make your reservations and prepare to be captivated.



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

The Auxiliary began its year slowly with a welcome lunch in February attended by 12 members. It was a wonderful way to start our year and reconnect after a very hectic December. Since then, members have clocked up 545 voluntary hours due to the commitment and dedication of a small group who are always ready to roll up their sleeves and take on the next challenge.

We supported the Badge appeal coordinators Carolyn Strong and Rhonda Corfield who ensured that most of the designated sites were covered during the two and a half week campaign. And what a successful appeal it was. With over \$30,000 raised, we congratulate all those who gave of their time to assist. I would like to acknowledge the amazing work of the co-ordinators who stopped by each post to refill boxes, ensure that the EFTPOS machines were charged and stayed to show their support of the “workers”. If that wasn't enough, after the appeals wrapped up the volunteers received a personal thanks via letter. A small gesture but certainly one that is greatly appreciated.



Then came our traditional ANZAC Service. Volunteers once again rallied around and helped set up on the day, ensuring that all was perfect when the attendees arrived. Flags were handed out, programs were given to all so that they could join in and sing and wreaths were set out for laying by our dignitaries and members of various groups and schools in the area.

Behind the scenes were the workers in the kitchen, placing sandwiches, sausage rolls and cakes made by many Auxiliary members who offer their support without being asked. The task needs doing and all hands are on deck. For your support and hard work I sincerely thank you and acknowledge the great job done by our convenor John Douglas OAM.

No sooner was ANZAC Day over, we started planning our Midwinter feast.

The entertainment for the lunch will be Neil Scott and Peter Valentine. Peter is currently a member of the tribute band Fleetwood Mac, having previously worked with Darryl Cotton, Wendy Stapleton and Russel Morris.

Neil had success in Perth supporting acts such as Roy Orbison, The Doobie Brothers and The Hollies.

They now perform together as the Repeters and their song list is diverse, covering hits from the 60's 70's and 80's.

As they proclaim "they are best suited for the young at heart who want to dance and reminisce. I have attached our flyer for this event on June 8th at Sandy by the Bay and look forward to welcoming you and your friends to our community function.

Till then stay warm, keep safe and practice your warbling and dance steps to ready yourself for a fun lunch on the 8th

Reg Black OAM

Hon Secretary.
Beaumaris Women's Auxiliary
25th May 2023

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

Beaumaris RSL Women's Auxiliary



MIDWINTER FEAST

Join us for this community
event.

Thursday 8th June 2023

From 12pm for 12:30pm

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

\$40 PER HEAD

Come along and enjoy our buffet
lunch catered by Scotty and Luke.
Make up a table and celebrate
with your friends.

Everyone is welcome!

**EARLY BOOKINGS ARE
ESSENTIAL TO SECURE YOUR
TICKET OR TABLE.**

Bank transfer

BRSL Women's Auxiliary
BSB: 083 337

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 515 228 944

Please ensure that your bank transfer clearly includes your name/s

PAYMENT REQUIRED AT TIME OF BOOKING.

For further information contact
Mairi McIntosh: 0419 882 501

