



Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch Inc.

Temporarily located at Banksia Pavilion
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October 2020

MEMBERS NEWS

Dear Member

I hope you are all enjoying the spring weather and the increasingly good news regarding the control of the Covid 19 virus in the Victorian community. It has been a tough winter for many of our members and a very inspiring one hearing the stories from our volunteers of the substantial effort being made to keep everyone safe and engaged. The work continues for the Sub-Branch with Remembrance Day coming up along with the Poppy Appeal. Our accommodation and debt projects continue and of course the on-going participation in the State Branch conference, Presidents Meetings and Region 4. I am very excited by the proposed upgrade to the cenotaph project and hope as many of you as possible provide your feedback to John Douglas who is leading this project. Enjoy the news!

Members ZOOM meeting

We are holding a member's meeting on Wednesday 28th of October at 7pm to discuss an approach to us from the Black Rock Sports Club. I would like to emphasize that this in no way changes our negotiations on Banksia Reserve Pavilion. To gain access to the meeting please email our Secretary Gina Scott beaumarisrsl@gmail.com by Tuesday 27th of October. If you do not know how to go about this, please just give Gina or Shayne a call on 0418 318 862.

State Branch announces major restructure and reform

Over the past few months, the committee has been liaising with State Branch and monitoring the impact the pandemic is having on the Victorian RSL movement. During this time, the CEO has announced a series of actions including the restructuring of head office resulting in 5 redundancies of staff including one of the long-standing executives Luke Gilholme. Luke has assisted our committee since our formation in October 2017 and we formally thanked him for his support. Another announcement has been the bringing forward of the plan to update the Victorian RSL constitution and implementation of welfare support hubs. This package of proposed changes will have profound and hopefully positive effects on the movement. Your committee will continue to monitor the changes and report through newsletters or the holding of on-line meetings.

2020 State Conference and elections

Like all things this year the state conference has been postponed by the State Executive but is now planned for November. Clarke Martin and John Douglas have been appointed as our delegates. We expect the annual conference agenda to come out soon which will provide enough time for Sub-Branches to hold a meeting prior to the Annual Conference to instruct delegates on how to vote. As there is likely to be very important business on the agenda this year Beaumaris intends to hold a member's meeting in November that focuses on any items that have a major impact on our Sub-Branch.

Remembrance Day 2020

Like all things COVID has had an impact on our annual Remembrance Day Service. At this stage we are planning for a very modified event. This will include invitation only, a shortened program and focus on having wreaths laid. Further details will come out leading up to the event. We do encourage members to visit the Beaumaris Cenotaph after 11.30am to pay respects.

WW2 Members Reflections

This year we mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of WW11. We honor, recognize and remember All Veterans. We also acknowledge the sacrifices made by the families back on the home front during the war and most importantly the years after caring for physically and mentally wounded returned service men and women.

Horace (Jack) Farrington

Jack rarely speaks about his wartime experiences. Like many Veterans' Jack would prefer not to remember the loss of mates and the horrid scenes he faced. However, Jack remains very proud of his service with the Australian Army.

Jack enlisted in WW11 on the same day as his Father (also Horace), a WW1 Veteran. This made the process easier for me says Jack, as I was nervous. We thought we would serve together, but this was not to be. We did not see each other for two years, in Madang.

Jack is emphatic; today we need to remember what Veterans did for our Country. Remembrance Day provides us with this opportunity. Jack felt it was his duty to serve his Country, however he prefaces his comments by saying it was and still is very sad that the conflict associated with WW11 happened at all.

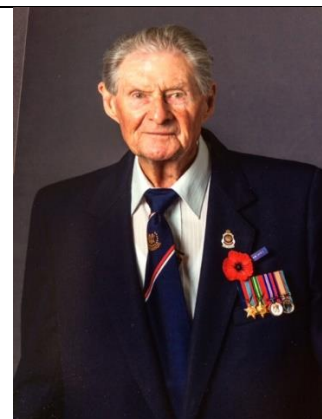


Ted Morecroft

The most important aspect of this day for Ted is the memories and shared experiences with his two Brothers, Bill and Don. Bill enlisted in the RAAF in June 1940, Ted in AIF in October 1941 and Don in the RAAF in early in 1942.

After the end of WW11, the three brothers' joined Sandringham RSL and each year attended the Service at The Beach Road, Rotunda, Sandringham. Ted was transferred with his work to Adelaide for 5 years. Upon his return he found that the Sandringham RSL had been demolished and he joined Beaumaris RSL.

In recent years Ted and his wife Jean, have enjoyed the Service and Commemoration conducted at The Cenotaph Memorial Gardens, behind The Community Centre, Beaumaris



Historical significance of The Day and the memories of Bill and Don will always be cherished by Ted.

Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery

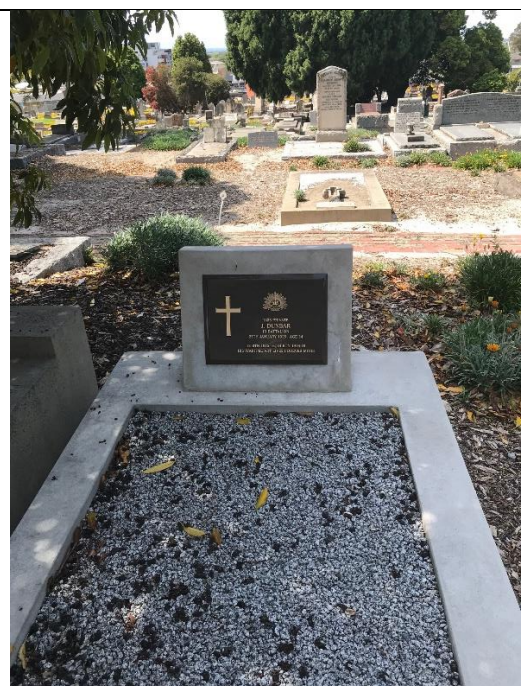
Let us remember those Veterans who have been laid to rest in the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery, many in unmarked graves, and some forgotten. One of these is Ernest 'John' Dunbar, a WW1 Veteran, who until Australia Day 2020 was buried in an unmarked grave.

One of our members Sue Beasley is a committed volunteer with the Friends of the Cemetery and over the past few years has been working on a national project to research Veterans who are buried in unmarked graves and then apply to the Dept of Veteran Affairs for plaques to be installed at their grave sites.

Descendent families are invited to attend a formal service. This takes a lot of long and meticulous work but the results are so uplifting for all involved and importantly add to the Australian history of the sacrifice so many Australians made. Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch will continue to support Sue and the other volunteers of this work until the more than 200 veterans buried in unmarked graves are identified and set to rest.



The Master of Ceremonies at his dedication was Beaumaris RSL President Clarke Martin; The Military Ceremony was conducted by Beaumaris RSL Member Errol Driver. The dedication was organized by amongst others, Beaumaris RSL Member Sue Beasley.



Long Term Accommodation Project

The negotiations with the Beaumaris Football and Cricket Clubs have progressed significantly since the last newsletter. The stated needs of our Sub-Branch (daytime access, Wednesday nights, ANZAC and Remembrance Day events, display of memorabilia and consultative arrangements) have now been in-principally agreed. The Football and Cricket Club committees are now formally considering the recommendations and we expect formalization in the very near future. The next step would be to draft a legal agreement with the Terms and Schedule that is approved by both Bayside City Council and State Branch. The agreement must ensure patriotic funds are used according to the objectives of the trust and we believe many other Sub-Branches have similar arrangements in place to provide for our members and the care of our memorabilia.

Beaumaris RSL partners with Young Veterans Australia (YVA)

Over the past 12 months the committee has been exploring options to support younger veterans directly as part of our mission to provide welfare to veterans. The Melbourne property market makes it unlikely for younger veterans to move into Beaumaris and that is why the committee has established a new relationship with YVA.



YVA delivers masks to very happy residents



A major part of YVA mission is to provide welfare to younger veterans and a sense of belonging. By coordinating a relief effort to older veterans at Vasey during the pandemic. YVA this has given opportunities to many younger veterans to feel part of something. Beaumaris RSL is proud to be involved and will continue to build this relationship.

Beumaris Memorial Community Forecourt and Cenotaph

After many years, Bayside City Council are now in a position to demolish the old Frank Reade Sports Pavilion, that was built back in the 1960's. It failed to meet modern standards and had no facilities for female sportspersons.

A handsome new Pavilion has been designed and to conform to Workplace Health and Safety rules, it will be built close to the Boundary Fence. This will mean the abolition of the existing road that runs in front of the present building and to the east of the Cenotaph. The road will be removed and replaced with new lawns etc.

Council sees this as an opportunity to considerably improve the Heritage Memorial area and have asked the Beumaris RSL to submit ideas so that works can take place in the near future.

We have commissioned Mr Jason Davidson, Landscape Architect, of Davidson Design Studios to prepare conceptual design drawings, incorporating our ideas.

Initial drawings were submitted in time for last week's Committee Meeting and were found to be very impressive and incorporated some very good ideas. Jason is currently making a few minor changes before we have his final drawings.

It is proposed to establish four memorial walls to the east of the Cenotaph and more memorial gardens. There will be a 3000mm (10foot) wide, exposed aggregate footpath between the Art Club and the lawn and this will match other paving that will take place. Stay tuned for more exciting updates!

Vale

We would like to acknowledge the recent passing of past Beumaris Women's Auxiliary members, Pat Reid, and Avis Taylor, sister of Lois Edward dec.

LEST WE FORGET

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



BEAUMARIS RSL WOMEN'S AUXILIARY **OCTOBER 2019**

"Spring is nature's way of saying Let's Party." Robyn Williams

Oh, how things change! This was the opening comment that I made in our newsletter for October 2019 and change they have.....

It has been a very difficult year for many of us with the isolation and loneliness which comes from not being able to meet up with our family and friends. Your Auxiliary interactions with members and the Heathland Day Club have altered dramatically but we have not forgotten our members. The telephones have been ringing hot! We have been in regular contact and have kept abreast of others' news, albeit remotely.

Last month we decided that we needed to do more and with the support of members we banded together and delivered Devonshire Tea to members of the Heathland Day Club and the Auxiliary. Boxed treats were packaged and our hard working, committed team collected their transport routes and set about competing with Australia Post and hand delivered our surprise gift. These were gratefully received and hopefully spread a little joy in our changed world.

I would like to sincerely thank Di Vance, Julie Tilley, Noelene Muller, Annie Tolliday and Terry Black for their willingness and support in completing our "goodwill" gesture. We have received a very positive response from many recipients and their partners who shared in our treat.

Vale

We would like to acknowledge the recent passing of our past Women's Auxiliary members, Pat Reid, and Avis Taylor, sister of Lois Edward dec.

We also send our deepest condolences to Hilary Ferguson whose son Rowan passed away in September. Heathland Day Club Member Margaret Mar sadly lost her husband in July. Our thoughts and sympathies are extended to you and your families during this sad time and hope that the lifetime memories you all have of your loved ones are a comfort to you as you try to come to terms with your great loss.

We are all united in our commitment to maintaining connections and friendships and wish you all well. Whilst some of you are not in the best of health, our thoughts are with you and know that we are here and available if there is anything that we can do to assist you.

In the meantime, stay positive, keep in contact and maintain the wonderful friendships that you have nurtured over many years. They are what will get us through this unprecedented time.

Until we are able to gather together, I send you all good wishes from all on the various committees. Take care, stay safe, and enjoy the beautiful spring season.

Reg Black
Hon Secretary
Beaumaris Women's Auxiliary