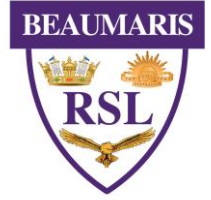




BEAUMARIS RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.

ABN 32 589 633 664

8 Fern Street, Black Rock, VIC., 3193
Post Office Box No. 7409, Beaumaris, VIC., 3193.
Telephone: 0418 318 862 Email: beaumarisrsl@gmail.com



OCTOBER 2023 MEMBERS NEWS



Committee Representatives celebrating the signing of the 50 year lease agreement
Timothy Holden, Andy Coogan, John Douglas OAM, Steve Gage, Gina Scott, Clarke Martin
(not pictured Shayne Bennedict, President, Jane Lapa)

Dear Member

IT'S OVER. WE HAVE A HOME! NOW THE REAL WORK STARTS but not before some celebrations. After 6 years of providing updates and news of our journey to achieving a permanent home it is a thrill to advise we are there. In August the Victorian RSL State Executive supported by the RSL State Property Trustees approved our 50 year lease agreement with the Black Rock Sports Club. This result has not come lightly and positions our Sub-Branch as a trail blazer for other struggling non-pokie branches. Until we stood up and said there must be another way than closing suburban Sub-Branches, the future was quite bleak. Our model provides a new way forward partnering with local communities and offers hope to other Sub-Branches in similar situations.

To mark this milestone, we are very much hoping to get a large turn-out at our home coming celebration in November to witness our historic formal flag raising ceremony. Please come up and say hello to your committee members and enjoy a celebratory drink or two.

Building up the membership of the Beauy RSL with Service, Affiliate and Social members over the next 12 months is a key objective.

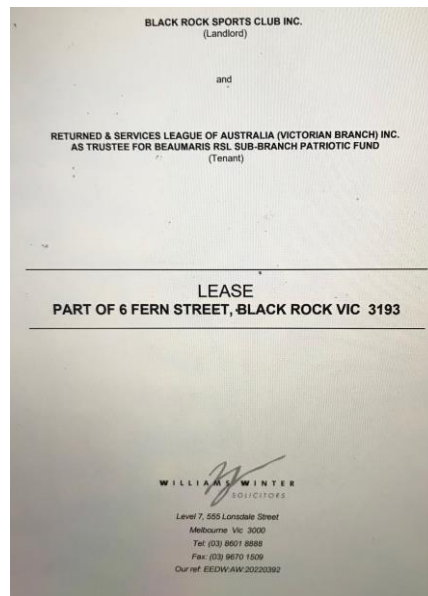
Leading up to the renovations starting at 8 Fern St. I very much implore you to support the increase in events we are planning over the next few months detailed in this newsletter. Bring some friends along and begin the process of incorporating your local RSL back into your lives.

With our new home now comes the launch of our social media accounts and new website. These tools will be predominantly how we communicate our events, volunteering opportunities and other news going forward. Please read the article on how to find the pages and connect with us.

It is now a very exciting time and we are looking forward to the future ahead.

Enjoy the news!

Our new permanent home



The Sub-Branch has entered into a 50-year lease agreement with the Black Rock Sports Club providing the key benefits below and much, much more:

- Sub-Branch members access to the facility
- ANZAC and Remembrance Day functions
- Partnering with BRSC on social nights/lunches
- Upgraded accommodation with disability design
- Permanent Womens Aux Heathland Day club
- Every Wednesday is RSL night
- Venue access for other RSL events
- A place to display our memorabilia
- Storage facilities
- Meeting and quiet space

State Branch supported a simple rental with no on-costs to the Sub-Branch using a 12-year pre-payment to fund the building works. This payment comes directly from the Sub-Branch land sale proceeds that are invested within the Beaumaris Patriotic Building Patriotic Fund.

For further information on the arrangement please do not hesitate to contact our President Shayne Benedict or come to the stand at our home coming day.

Building Refurbishment Project



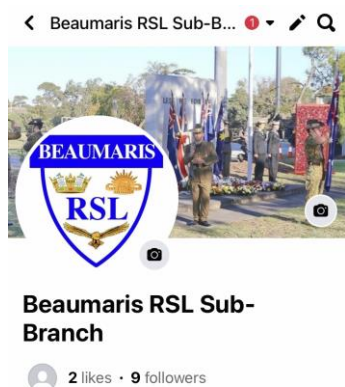
A sub-committee was established in 2021 with members of the BRSL and BRSC committees to develop an agreed floor plan layout to accommodate the Sub-Branch and complete the necessary building works. Completing the floor plan and gaining approval by both committees was a 12-month project starting with the procurement of a suitably qualified architect. After considerable assessment Wilko Doehring was appointed who is also a local resident of Beaumaris.

Wilko worked very hard with the committee and after a number reiterations from feedback from members, the floor plan was approved. The layout forms a major part of our Lease and thus only very minor changes can be made. It should be noted that it is expected that the refurbishment will proceed in stages to ensure the club can keep trading and the project kept within budget.

The sub-committee now moves into progressing the refurbishment needing to secure a builder, supporting specialists, complete documentation and establishing a building management plan. The expected date to start works is Feb/March with a December 2024 completion date.

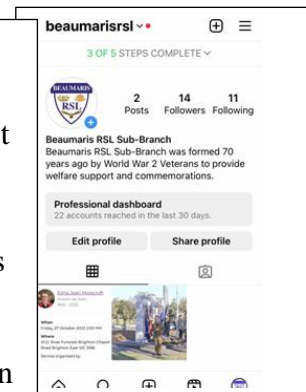
We aim to keep members informed through meetings (we held our 1st information meeting in September) the newsletter and our new social media accounts.

Communications update



A number of Facebook accounts have been opened in the name of our Sub-Branch over the years. It is very difficult to have these officially closed, and our advice has been to simply open a new account and direct members to our pages and ask them to like and follow.

Below are the official names that you can search for on Facebook and or Instagram



Facebook

Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch

Instagram

beaumarisrsl

Please take the time to **search and connect** with these accounts as we will be using these platforms to inform members of news, progress of the refurbishment, events, appeals volunteer info etc.

We are also building a new Website which will carry all the detailed information on our Sub-Branch such as Location, opening hours, our weekly Wednesday Stand To, Committee positions and planned events. As we progress the current pdf Newsletter format will transition into a 'monkey chip' email that you would be accustomed to from other organisations.

If you would like to **get involved** in assisting with our on-line communications please send Gina our Secretary an email to beaumarisrsl@gmail.com

Poppy Appeal 2023

The stalls will be operating in our shopping centres, trays installed in local schools and clubs and no doubt a few mornings at a railway station or 2.

Volunteers at our stalls have pleasingly increased over the last couple of years. All you need to do is contact Carolyn Strong our appeals coordinator on 0411 119 241 email carolynstrong_58@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.

Remembrance Day Service 2023 11th November

This year the day falls on a Saturday and thus we hope to increase our attendance.

Please **be seated at 10-45am** at the Cenotaph Beaumaris Memorial - Community Forecourt 96 Reserve road, Beaumaris (Behind Library)

Morning Tea and Refreshments will be served inside the Senior Citizens' Club on completion at approximately 11.15am

In the event of inclement weather, the service will be moved indoors.

Home Coming Day Saturday 11th November from 2pm

To mark the occasion of the Sub-Branch securing a permanent home at the Black Rock Sports Club both committees have organised a great family event (See flyer below).

Please support this event by bringing some friends along and enjoying a drink or two at the bar, live music, a delicious BBQ and getting acquainted with the new surroundings.

We will have an information stand with committee members to provide all the details of the lease, the refurbishment project and the many and varied activities to get involved with.

The **ceremonial flag raising will occur at 3pm**, quite an historic event not to be missed!



Family Fun Day



2-5pm 11th November 2023

- FLAG RAISING
- KID'S ACTIVITIES
- BAR OPEN
- BBQ
- LIVE MUSIC
- JUMPING CASTLE
- DRINK SPECIALS
- GIVEAWAYS
- RAFFLES
- FACE PAINTING
- GIN BAR
- LAWN BOWLS
- STATIC DISPLAYS AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION STANDS

- Be part of the Historic Opening Ceremony marking the Beaumaris RSL 50 year lease relationship with Black Rock Sports Club
- Kids can learn about Remembrance Day and meet former and Serving Veterans
- Lots of fun for the whole family supporting your local RSL and sports club

 **0407 773 820**

 **Black Rock Sports Club** 8 Fern Street Black Rock

Merchant Mariners officially voted as affiliate members



The Point Danger **Monument to Merchant Mariners** Officially dedicated on the 3rd Sep 2017 by The former Governor of Queensland, his Excellency Paul de Jersey A.C.

It was very pleasing at the 2023 State Conference the below motion (with discussion) to change the membership categories to include Merchant Mariners as Affiliate Members was conducted. One of our very active members Jim Dalglish (a Service Member) spent many decades at sea in Merchant Ships as a Marine Engineer. This included trips to Vietnam during the War.

Jim also lost his uncle Radio Officer, Benjamin Park Dalglish (39 years old) in WW2 when the British Steam Merchant Ship Navasota was sunk on the 5th of Dec 1939 on its voyage from Liverpool to Capetown. The German Submarine U-47 commanded by the famous skipper Gunther Prien attacked at 1440hrs with a single torpedo. His uncle and the skipper made it to a life raft but were found dead making a total of 36 lost. 37 crew were picked up by HMS Escapade and Merchant ship *Clan Farquhar and then landed at Capetown.

In Australian waters 41 Allied Naval and Merchant Ships were sunk during WW2 while transporting vital supplies for Australia and deployed forces with hundreds of sailors losing their lives. Many were unescorted and essentially sitting ducks.

*At time of writing the Clan Farquhar involved in the rescue is disputed by other evidence she was sunk 22 years earlier on the 22/2/1917 during WW1 by another submarine UB-43 80 miles north-east of Benghazi. 49 persons were killed. Read more at wrecksite: <https://wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?58046>. If we have any researchers who can solve this dastardly confusion, please send us your investigation report for publishing!

The memorial at Point Danger QLD includes a Walk of Remembrance with a plaque for every sinking including a number of ships lost off Victorian shores. USS City of Rayville was lost early in the War on the 8th of November 1940 as a result of a German Raider laid sea mine off Cape Otway. It was these acts at sea that brought the war very close to home.



One of Australia's largest sea tragedies was the loss of the Australian Hospital Ship Centaur which had been converted at the start of the war from a Passenger Liner. She was fully marked with the international sign of a Red Cross and on its second voyage from Sydney to New Guinea. The Japanese Commander of the Submarine No. 1-177 at 4.10am on the 14th of May 1943 made the decision to send torpedoes into the hull of this unarmed, large (3066 Ton) and defenseless ship only 40 nautical miles off Stradbroke Island.

She had 332 non-combatant personal aboard made up of 75 Merchant Navy crew, 65 ships Army Medical Staff including 12 female Nurses and 192 members of the 2/12th field Ambulance tasked to set up land medical units. 268 lives were lost as the ship sank in only 3 minutes.

The RAAF Avro-Anson Patrol Aircraft from 71 Squadron based at Lowood QLD sighted survivors clinging to life rafts and debris the next day 15th of May at 2pm. The near-by USS Mugford received a signal to head immediately to the area and after 34 hours in the water picked up 64 survivors including the sole Nurse to live through this disaster Sister Ellen Savage.

If you have a family connection to any of these sinkings we would be very keen to hear from you. Please send an email to our secretary Gina beaumarisrsl@gmail.com

13.9 Rule Remit 8 of 8 - Rokewood Sub-Branch - Affiliate Members

That the rules of the branch be amended, as per the below changes. Rules affected: 5.11 Affiliate of the Branch Amend existing Rule 5.11 (e) (6) Rule 5.11 (e) (6) amend to read: "...or a person who is, or has been, a member, for at least 6 months, of one of the following: A State or Federal Police Force; An Ambulance Service or Brigade; A Fire Brigade or Fire Authority; A State Emergency Service; A Bronze Medallion member of a Surf Life Saving Club; A Corrections/Prisons Officer; or **A member of the commonwealth or allied Merchant Navy.**"

The Chair put the motion forward.

Inverloch Sub-Branch seconded the motion.

The Chair sought discussion from participants.

Discussion

Pam Bailey from Rokewood Sub-Branch opened the debate by explaining that the Merchant Navy march with the Navy on ANZAC Day and that they are the next best thing to a serviceman. It's about time that they were recognised.

Legal Representative Elizabeth Edwards intervened and explained that the rule displayed on the screen was incorrect and that 5.11 (e) (6) was the correct rule to be discussed.

Greg Mead from Phillip Island Sub-Branch opposed the remit. He argued that in 1968 the Sun Newspaper interviewed members of the Merchant Navy on the Jeparit who stated that they were on the ground in Vietnam witnessing Australian troops doing atrocious things to the people in Vietnam in an attempt to turn the public against them.

Clarke Martin from Beaumaris Sub-Branch spoke in favour of the remit explaining that he spoke to a crewman on the Jeparit who had a very different experience to the one outlined by the Sun newspaper of the day.

David Westphalen from Mansfield Sub-Branch spoke in favour of the remit. David's grandfather died on the SFI Crown when it was sunk. 35 men died on that vessel. That is sufficient reason to be considered eligible.

Stephen Hayes from Woorinen Sub-Branch - Bronze medallions from Surf Life Saving Clubs are accepted, anyone can get a Bronze Medallion. James Steedman from Caulfield Sub-Branch argued that there should be some parameters around the Maritime service and that there should be caution around letting latter day Maritime service people into the organisation.

Pam Bailey from Rokewood Sub-Branch closed the debate by explaining that bronze medallions, prison guards are currently accepted, we have no idea where they are from, they are not connected to service.

Vero Vote: 196 voted in favour 54 voted against Margin of 78.4%

The Chair declared the remit Carried, Outcome: **Approved**

A good question

Our Vice President John Douglas OAM was provoked into action recently when he came across a Dutch made safety marine product advertised on-line. He posed the question to the Sub-Branch members informally known as the 'Marine Section'. What is dramatically wrong with this Starboard Side Light?



After considerable discussion, written feedback and reflection our VP, has formed the belief the lens should be blue not green which is the international recognised colour of Starboard (Right Hand Side of a vessel as you look forward) and also provided a response regarding the Arc of Visibility that appeared to be a little too wide. Below is the VP determination:

An oil lamp has a yellow flame. An electric light gives a yellow light. Yellow and blue make green. A Mickey Mouse El Cheapo lamp may have green glass and it will appear green over a short distance, however it is quite anaemic and appears white as the range increases.

The arc of visibility for a single sidelight is from right ahead to two points abaft the beam. IE 90° from right ahead to the beam plus 2 points @ $11\frac{1}{4}^\circ$ per point = $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ Plus the 90° = $112\frac{1}{2}^\circ$

Add the arc of the Port side light and we have a total of 225° for the two side lights. Subtract that from 360° and we have the arc of visibility of the Stern or Overtaking Light. IE 135°

We thank our VP for raising this important maritime matter and do hope the manufacturers can respond in time

Members updates

Ted Morecroft



Terry & Reg Black, Rhonda & Peter Corfield paid a visit to Ted Morecroft in his new 'abode', Aged Care Facility in Cobram after Jean's passing. Ted has settled in well and is being well looked after by The Staff and his daughter Di. He was really pleased to see us and asked for his regards to be passed on to All his Friends at The RSL and Black Rock Sports

Robbie Essery

Good to hear that Robbie Essery is back home recuperating, we wish him well and look forward to seeing him back at The Club on Wednesday Nights.



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 OCTOBER 2023

It is a pleasure to be able to once again inform members of the past and future events that have kept the Auxiliary busy over the winter months.

Vale

Jean Morecroft

It is with great sadness that I report that one of our longer term members passed away in September. Jean was a loving and adored wife to Ted who, up until a few months ago, lived in Beaumaris and together they supported the auxiliary and the RSL. Jean loved our social afternoon teas and enjoyed sharing time with her fellow auxiliary members. She attended most of our functions and was an exceptional knitter. Her handcrafts were always admired and she contributed to many a fete and charity fund-raising stalls. Jean will be greatly missed by our members and especially by her loving husband.



Rest In Peace
Edna Jean Morecroft

During the Winter months the Auxiliary clocked up 356 voluntary hours, supporting those in need, organising the Long Tan Dinner and preparing for future events

Past events

On August 18 the Women's Auxiliary held the annual Long Tan Dinner at Sandy Bay

Our guest speaker and entertainer was Fred Smith who flew in from Canberra to be at our event. Fred spends much of his life within the Diplomatic Service. He is also a song writer and author and had some amazing tales to tell whilst entertaining us through song. Tears were shed and many times we were grateful for his philosophical humour as he related his times in Afghanistan during the war.

This was a very successful evening and we thank our MC Terry Black OAM JP for ensuring the night ran smoothly. I would also make mention of Ross Brimmer who added such a contrast to the evening with his acknowledgement to our speaker. His wit and humour had us all clinging to our sides with laughter. What a wonderful evening it was!

The main focus of our September meeting was to discuss the Poppy Appeal, organise the catering for the after-service gathering held at the Senior Citizen's Club adjacent to the Cenotaph in Reserve Road.

We also discussed how we could assist with the service and asked for volunteers to help with handing out Orders of Service, assisting those attendees who needed support on the day and how the catering would be co-ordinated.

Many members are putting up their hands to support the RSL in the sale of poppy badges at local venues including Bunnings. If you are available to help the committee would love to hear from you.

Coming Event

We are also focused on our end of year Christmas function. Again volunteers have offered to assist with the co-ordination and other activities associated with our successful events. Raffle prizes are an important feature of our luncheon and these are already being sourced by our hard working Elves. They will be wrapped and put on display at our lunch. Many businesses in the local area support our Auxiliary and we appreciate their ongoing generosity.

We have been able to book "The Repeters" to entertain us and fill us with as much Christmas joy as we can handle.

A little dancing and a small glass of grape juice certainly help to get us all in the mood for the festive season ahead. This year we have decided to celebrate early to try to avoid the time demands of the Pre-Christmas period and are holding our function on November 30th.

The flyer is attached to this newsletter so that you can begin to approach friends and those with whom you need to catch up over Christmas and get in early to book your table. As I write this newsletter we have received our first table booking and the money has already been paid into the bank. So don't hesitate. We would love to see as many members, friends and locals joining us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Poppy Appeal

Remembrance Day November 11 at the Cenotaph on Reserve Rd

Women's Auxiliary Christmas Function November 30
Flyer attached

PLEASE BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT NUMBERS CAN BE PROVIDED TO THE CATERER.

Payments made to :
Beaumaris Women's Auxiliary
BSB 083 337
Acct No 515 228 944

Please include names of those attending for seating allocation.
For further information don't hesitate to call Reg Black or send an email to either Noelene Muller or myself. All details are on the flyer.

Would you like to know more about us?

The Beaumaris RSL Women's Auxiliary is a vibrant group who love being involved in community events and through this involvement, raise much needed funds for Veterans and their families. We work together, support each other and have fun. We usually meet bi-monthly, enjoy a meeting followed by afternoon tea and chat if time and our diaries allow. We would love to extend our membership. If you are interested in joining us, don't hesitate to give one of the committee members a call. Have a chat, ask questions and come along to one of our meetings held at 1.30 on the 3rd Wednesday of alternate months. Our names and numbers are on the letterhead.

Reg Black OAM
Hon Secretary.
Beaumaris Women's Auxiliary
9th October 2023

John Munro Moller, OAM,RFD,RD,RANR,(Ret'd).
14/07/1932- 10/09/2023.



John joined the Beaumaris RSL in 1959, President 1999-2003 and a Life Member Of RSL Australia.

He served in both The Korean and Vietnam Wars, and The Malay Campaign. John was a former Mayor of The City of Sandringham. He worked tirelessly in many ex Service Associations, he was State President of The Naval Association for sometime.

In an indication of the high esteem our community had for John, in attendance at his Funeral was The Korean Ambassador.

John was awarded a Full Navy Service as a component in his Funeral conducted by The Senior Vice President of RSL Victoria, Commander, Terry Makings AM RANR (Rtd). Our deepest condolences to Patricia and Family.

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