



Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch

Temporarily located at Beaumaris Sports Club
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September 2019

MEMBERS NEWS

Dear Member

Yet another busy couple of months and we hope you enjoy catching up with the news. Since the last newsletter we have presented to the Victorian State RSL Board with two clear concepts. Our long-term lease at the Beaumaris Sports Club and the proposed sharing of resources with Mentone RSL in a strategic approach which dealt with our debt issues. Unfortunately, since our presentation we have been informed of the resignation of Barry Lowe the President of Mentone RSL.

Barry had been a key figure in the concept to date which gave all involved a great deal of confidence. His business experience, standing within the RSL movement and successful completion of a major upgrades at his club were all strong influences on our direction.

We are now re-engaging with Mentone and State Branch Executives to confirm our next steps and believe we are still on track to complete discussions before Christmas. As always we will keep you informed.

New Caterer Arrives

Locals Shaun Bowls and Sally Fenton have teamed up to provide a terrific service for us on a Wednesday night. Shaun and Sally have enormous experience in the industry which has certainly been on display over the past couple of weeks. We do cater for our regulars but to avoid disappointment please book through an email info@foodstyling.net.au or call 9553 6610.

Lone Pine planting and dedication

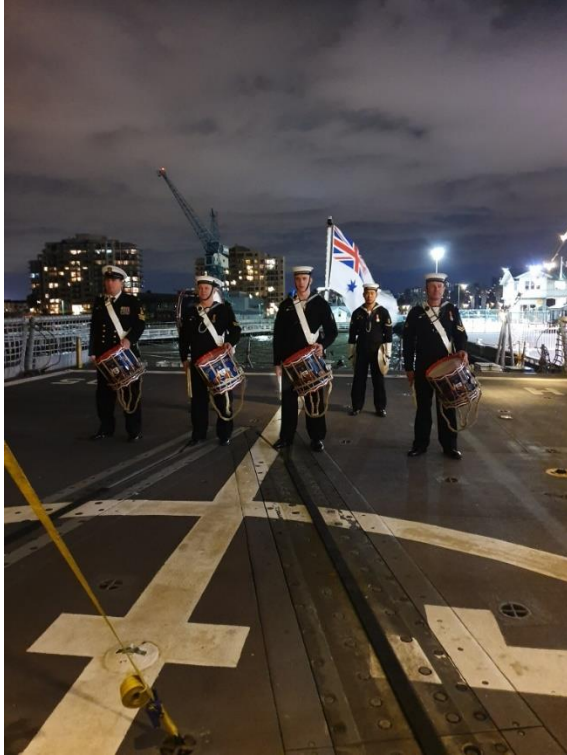
On Saturday the 24th of August the Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch in conjunction with the Bayside City Council planted a Lone Pine with lineage from Gallipoli (see the attached details and background of the event). We were blessed with good weather and terrific cooperation for the Beaumaris Soccer Club. We thank Mr Chris Sutton a local resident and driving force behind the entire initiative.



John Douglas, Vice President Beaumaris RSL (L) Clarke Martin President Beaumaris RSL (centre) Michael Heffernan, Mayor Bayside City Council (R)



The Mayor with Ralph Butcher and Jane Lapa (left) and Gina Scott at the morning tea 24 Aug 2019



HMAS Melbourne comes home on it's last voyage. Of course our Vice President was well representing the Sub Branch during the obligatory cocktail party on the deck with the Vice Admiral./



Vale-Norm Fletcher

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of our fellow colleague Norm Fletcher. Norm was an Army National Service Conscript in the mid 50's. He was a regular attendee at The RSL Club (House On The Hill), on Wednesday nights. He had his regular spot and would be seen socialising in particular with Klaus Hillgemann, Lou O'Reilly and Geoff McCalman. In latter years John Humphries, Stuart Hunter and Lindsay Robinson et al joined this group.

Norm enjoyed a party and the associated celebrations; he will be well remembered by his enthusiastic participation in The RSL's Australia Day Celebrations.

Norm was remembered by a number of RSL Members at Springvale Botanical Cemetery , Wednesday August 27.

We offer our sincere condolences to Norm's Family.

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

If you have any feedback or an item you would like to include in the newsletter please email it through to beaumarisrsl@gmail.com

The LONE PINE – PLANTING AND DEDICATION

SAT24AUG19

A week prior to the Beaumaris RSL Community ANZAC Commemorative March and Service, on SUN22APR18, the large Banksia Tree, that stood behind the Cenotaph in the Beaumaris Community Memorial Forecourt, dropped a huge branch.

A thorough inspection by the Arborist showed that the tree was not in good condition and could be a threat to the community. It was completely removed and replaced with 5 small wattles to help make the site look reasonable for the ANZAC Service, that was to take place only days later.

After the Service, which had over 750 people present, a local resident, Mr Chris Sutton, who is Convenor of the Friends of Beaumaris Reserve and a member of the Beaumaris RSL, suggested to the Mayor of the day, Cr Laurie Evans, that a genuine Lone Pine would be a most suitable replacement for the Banksia. Councillor Evans asked me write to him by email to confirm our conversation.

After one or two short delays, due to uncertainties about redevelopment of the adjacent sports club, the council decided it was time to proceed.

Mr Chris Sutton very kindly sourced a genuine Lone Pine with the correct lineage, from Canberra and offered to present it to the Beaumaris RSL, so that it could be planted with due ceremony, by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Michael Heffernan and dedicated by the Club Chaplain, Rev Bill Pugh, on behalf of the Beaumaris Community.

It is nearly 60 years since the then City of Sandringham, set aside the land and built the Beaumaris Community Memorial Forecourt and Cenotaph and indeed the Beaumaris Reserve.

Over those years, many of our community who served in the Navy, Army and Air Force, have paid tribute at this Cenotaph, to their mates who did not return.

As the years go by and their numbers thin, it is their children who come here to remember their relatives.

It is pleasing to see the interest shown by the youth of today who attend our local ANZAC March and Service and Remembrance Service. each year.

As well as representation from all our local schools, there are Cubs, Scouts, Venturers , Rover Scouts and Cadets who are attending in increasing numbers. These people are our future and it is they who will keep the ANZAC spirit alive and carry it into the future.

Kind regards,

John Douglas

Vice President, Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch Inc

The LONE PINE – PLANTING AND DEDICATION SAT 24 AUG 19

Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch - President's Speech

The **Lone Pine** was a solitary **tree** on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey, which marked the site of the Battle of **Lone Pine** in 1915. ... **Pines** which are planted as a memorial to the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought in Gallipoli are also **known as "Lone Pines"** or "**Gallipoli Pines**".

The attack was planned as a diversion for the Australian and New Zealand units that were to breakout from the Anzac perimeter by capturing the heights of Chunuk Bair and Hill 971. At 5.30 pm on 6 August 1915, the Australian artillery barrage lifted and from concealed trenches in no man's land the 1st Australian Brigade charged towards the Turkish trenches.

The troops paused on reaching the Turkish trenches, finding that many were covered by timber roofs. Some fired, bombed and bayoneted from above, some found their way inside and others ran on past to the open communications and support trenches behind. Others advanced as far as "the Cup" which was where Turkish support units were located and from where the Turks counter-attacked.

By nightfall, most of the enemy front line was in Australian hands and outposts had been established in former Turkish communication trenches. The Australian Engineers dug a safe passage across no man's land so that reinforcements could enter the captured positions without being exposed to Turkish fire.

Having captured the Turkish trenches, the Australians now tried to hold what they had taken while the Turks desperately and determinedly tried to throw the Australians out.

From nightfall on 6 August until the night of 9 August a fierce battle ensued underground in the complex maze of Turkish tunnels. The Australians succeeded in drawing the whole of the immediate Turkish reserve. Six Australian battalions suffered nearly 2,300 killed and wounded at Lone Pine. Seven Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest number ever awarded to an Australian division for one action.

Lone Pine Cemetery is the location of the Memorial to the Missing in the Anzac area of Gallipoli and is situated on the ground captured by the Australians during the battle. It commemorates 4,224 Australians who have no known grave. There are 652 Australians buried at Lone Pine cemetery

For those here today it is probably quite obvious why the Beaumaris RSL supports the planting of a Lone Pine that has lineage to the original Lone Pine at Gallipoli. The Gallipoli campaign for Australia ended all romantic ideas of heading off overseas on an adventure of a 'life time' to fight for our mother Country.

It did not take long for the word to spread on the horrific casualties that were mounting. Then came the return of the wounded with tales of living in the trenches of the Gallipoli Peninsular.

Most of us here know what happened over the next four years. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of which over 60,000 were **killed** and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner. It is now understood that almost all of the 416,000 men who served Europe came home with what is now known as PTSD then known as Shell Shock.

Virtually every family in Australia during the 1920's was dealing with someone severely affected by WW1. There is plenty of evidence many families are still being influenced by the trauma of WW1 and how the men tried to live their lives again.

So the Beaumaris RSL vision for the Lone Pine and plaque is to provoke people remember what happened and most importantly to never let it happen again.

Clarke Martin
President
Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch