

# BEAUMARIS RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.

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### SEPTEMBER 2021 MEMBERS NEWS



#### **Dear Member**

Good News! I trust most of you received the email outlining our Heads of Agreement with the Black Rock Sports Club proposed lease. I would like to again take this opportunity to thank our Business Planning and Black Rock Sports Club committees for the work they have put in to get us to this stage. What this means is we now have a firm address for our headquarters.

The next phase is to refurbish the current club house to accommodate us. A Sub-Committee of both clubs has already started meeting and is tasked to engage a designer to provide a number of concepts for members consideration. We plan to keep our members fully informed through our newsletters and the undertaking of meetings when required. As much as finding a home is very important to us the state of the RSL movement as a whole is even more important. I thank all the members who attended our recent pre-conference zoom meeting to provide our two delegates with voting guidance. I also thank Clarke for his summation of the conference and John's report.

#### **Long Term Accommodation Update**

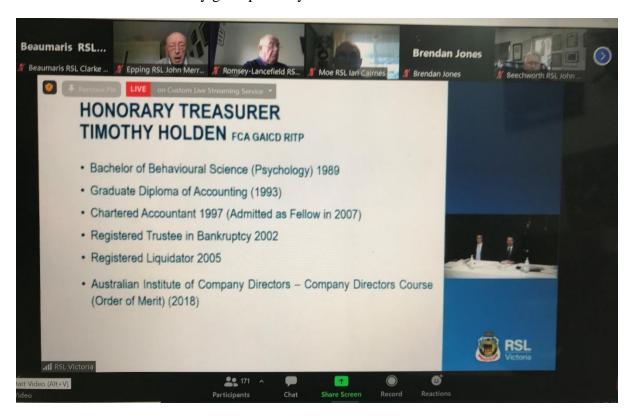
With the Heads of Agreement completed the leasing documentation is now being legally prepared for sign off which includes approval from the Patriotic Fund Trustees. As previously reported all this work is consulted with the State Branch and is fully supported. The newly formed Refurbishment Sub-Committee has met and established meeting guidelines, reporting and procurement of technical expertise. There is a strong sense of enthusiasm and understanding of both the shared and specific needs of each club. The key principle is for the spaces to be vibrant, safe, comfortable and have as much utility to both memberships as possible. Regular updates to members will be provided and opportunities for feedback on draft plans as soon as they are ready for display. An expected project plan with budget and timeline should be completed in the next 4 weeks.

#### RSL of Australia, Victorian Branch 106'th Annual State Conference A report from elected delegate and Vice President John Douglas

Both Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch Delegates, Messrs Clarke Martin and John Douglas, felt that the meeting was well run and could be recorded as a successful annual Conference. Registration commenced at 0800. The Meeting was opened via an elaborate zoom broadcast by the State President, Dr Rob Webster, who was the Chairman.

Beaumaris RSL Sub Branch Members who attended our pre—Conference Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) on 25 AUG 21, should be very proud of themselves. The way they instructed their Delegates to vote on each Remit was Carried by the meeting. Clarke was using his best debating skills on each item and I am sure he managed to influence many who were teetering on the edge, before hitting the vote button. He got very close to addressing the Chairman as "Mr Mayor", but didn't! Please read the full minutes for the full details.

Beaumaris RSL received very good publicity and it rubbed off on more than one occasion.



Timothy Holden, in his Maiden Speech as State Honorary Treasurer, gave an excellent address and made it very clear on his standards of Governance and formal financial reporting.

The acting CEO, Brian Cairns also provided a very detailed report before the luncheon break. The real action started with the proposed rule changes and remits. Beaumaris RSL received several words of praise from both Hawthorn RSL and Box Hill RSL who liked what Clarke had to say in support of or against a motion (see below summation). One bloke from the bush spoke and said the felt the same way as "that guy from Beaumaris". My question to Clarke "was he referring to Mathew Guy or Athol Guy from the seekers"?

#### Clarke's Summation

Having now attended 4 conferences I felt considerable progress has been made in the glacial movement of delegates points of view regarding much needed reforms to the Victorian RSL. The reform group through the Hawthorn Sub-Branch also brought a much welcomed improved approach to its campaign to bring in reform. This could be seen in one of their proposed Policy Remits in asking the State Branch to lobby the RSL National to act to represent veterans in much more strident methods. This was supported 172 to 23 against. There is no doubt that Sub-Branches across Victoria now accept Vic Branch needs to bring reforms to modernise the institution and attend to the needs of the Middle East War Veterans. With our history it is right that Beaumaris Sub-Branch is taken very seriously in these matters. Our 'wilderness years' are behind us and we now have an opportunity to demonstrate how a modern suburban RSL Sub-Branch adds so much value to the community.

#### President attends the Long Tan Rainbow Beach Memorial

Who would ever have thought the proud Beaumaris RSL would be in a position of our own President restricted, embargoed, restrained, banned, lockout or whatever term you wish to use from his own Sub-Branch. As outrageous as this may sound it is in fact the case. On his routine visit to Queensland this year he and his wife have found themselves stuck in Qld. Of course most of us would think that is not a bad result and our President certainly didn't waste the opportunity to attend the Long Tan Battle Memorial.

Many members would recall the annual dinners to commemorate the battle which occurred on 18<sup>th</sup> of August 1966. The Viet Cong launched in the early hours a surprise attack on the Australian newly established base at Nui Dat in the province of Phuoc Tuy which Australia had operational authority. A very good read can be found on the Australian Army website. <a href="https://www.army.gov.au/our-heritage/history/history-focus/battle-long-tan">https://www.army.gov.au/our-heritage/history/history-focus/battle-long-tan</a>



Australian National Flag along with White Ensign and RAAF Flag fly high at Rainbow Beach

It is worth noting that commendations for a number of valour awards were made but ignored, seemingly because of some quota system. Major Harry Smith continued ever since to agitate for these awards to be bestowed and these were accepted and ultimately awarded at Government House 50 years later. We hope to continue the Long Tan dinner tradition once we bed down in our new home.

#### Two Life Stories from our Members

#### JOHN MUNRO MOLLER OAM

John went on to become a Life Member, a Mayor and receive an OAM! Our Welfare Officer Peter Corfeld and other members are keeping in regular touch with John and his wife Patricia and our other senior members as part of our Sub-Branch out reach work.

Peter found the below article from 1960 and sent it through for the Newsletter. If you have any similar items of interest pleased send through to <a href="mailto:beaumarisrsl@gmail.com">beaumarisrsl@gmail.com</a>

# Congratulations to John Moller

With so many of our members hoary with the years, with our service life dimmed by the mists of time, it is pleasant to pluck from our ranks as a subject for an article a youngster who is still very much on the "Active List".

In the Commonwealth Gazette No. 76 dated 3rd November, 1960, the following announcement appears:

"John Munro Moller is appointed Supply Sub-Lieutenant (Acting) (on probation) dated 30th June, 1960."

John enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy at the age of 17½ years, and during his service visited practically every ocean and continent in the world. Among the highlights of his naval career was service as a Stores Assistant on board the aircraft carier H.M.A.S. Sydney during the Korean war. He was also present on board H.M.A.S. Sydney when she attended the Monte Bello atom bomb trials off North-Western Australia, and when she carried the Coronation contingent to England to attend the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, returning via North America.

John was discharged from full-time service with the R.A.N. in July, 1956, and immediately joined the Royal Australian Naval Reserve. Three years later he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer (the photo shows him in the uniform of that range) and, one year after that, to the position Supply Sub-Lieutenant on the special duties list. He has reason to be proud of this accomplishment, for this is the first commission which has been granted in the Supply Branch to a member of the R.A.N.R.

Following his discharge from the Navy, John joined the Commonwealth Public Service. After serving with the Navy Department at the Naval

Following his discharge from the Navy, John joined the Commonwealth Public Service. After serving with the Navy Department at the Naval Store Depot, Port Melbourne, he joined the assessing section in this office as a Grade I assessor in May, 1957, and has since been promoted to his present position of assessor Grade

The Sub-Branch and his friends in it desire to express their congratulations upon John's promotion. His pleasant, friendly disposition,



his conscientious approach to all his duties, the able and cheerful manner in which he carries out his every task, are appreciated by all who come into contact with him, and his generous nature is exemplified by the ready and willing manner in which he gives advice or assistance to anyone who desires it.

We have all experienced the difficulty of settling down in civry life after the free and easy days in the services. From having a girl in every port John is now content with one wife, and at present one son. His well-known sporting interests were possibly influential in selecting his son's name, Gharri John.

All members of the Sub-Branch wish John

All members of the Sub-Branch wish John well in the future, both in the Taxation Office and in the Senior Service.

-J. W. BROWN

Publication: 'Present Arms' and appeared in internal Taxation Dept Publication where John worked

#### **RALPH BUTCHER OAM**

Ralph's father, Benjamin, was a Congregational Minister in London. On hearing of the killing of two missionaries, Chalmers and Tomkin, near the mouth of the Kikori River, he volunteered to take their place. After 4 years of intensive training on medical and trade matters, he spent 4 years in the Torres Strait Islands. In 1909 he honoured his promise and took the dangerous trip to the Kikori Delta, Papua, area where the two missionaries had died.

In 1912, he went to Brisbane, met and married Georgina Lucy Davidson, and the newly-weds returned to Papua where they continued their missionary work.

In 1916, when he heard that England was involved in the war in Europe, Ralph's father left Papua and sailed for England with his wife and daughter, Phyllis. He joined the British Army as a Padre and served in France. Following the birth of sister, Hilary in March 1917, Ralph was born in London on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1918.

The family returned to Papua late in 1919 where Ralph lived with his parents and sisters, running barefoot with the local native children at the mission in the Kikori River Delta. They had a kind and loyal nanny named Gotadou, who wore a grass skirt and little else. Ralph also had an old friend and storyteller named Dauwa who built him a canoe. Dauwa was once a cannibal who saw the two missionaries and their followers killed and took part in the cannibal feast that followed.

Ralph and his sisters all suffered bouts of malaria and his eldest sister died of it aged 7. As there were no other white people within hundreds of miles, Ralph's father built her coffin and they buried their daughter.

At the end of 1924 their mother took Ralph and Hilary to Sydney, where she gave birth to their brother David. She bought a house in Northbridge and Ralph started his education at the local school - 1925 and 1926.

In 1926 his father joined the rest of the family in Sydney and they all sailed for home leave in England. On return to Australia, Ralph and Hilary were left at boarding school in Sydney. His parents and younger brother returned to Papua.

In 1930, Ralph and Hilary, travelled to Port Moresby by steamer, where his father met them in his launch (which he had built) and took them to the mission for three months Christmas holidays, which included a tour of various villages.

Ralph saw the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932. The following year Benjamin took the family to England. The London Missionary Society had asked Benjamin to speak at the Royal Albert Hall where he addressed some 4,000 people about New Guinea, its people, customs and beliefs.

This was Ralph's fourth trip to England by the time he was 14. His father then returned to Papua, leaving his children in boarding school in London to complete their education. Ralph's London University education finished a little before World War 2 commenced. He went to Australia House to volunteer for service in the Australian Army. At that stage, enlistment could only be done in Australia. With the Germans advancing towards the French Channel coast and the threat to England of invasion, he volunteered for service in the British Army in 1940 – Private Ralph Butcher.

These were the days of London Burning, the Battle of Britain, Dunkirk and very likely invasion.

He attended the Military College of Science, leading to the rank of Staff Sergeant and was sent to Egypt where, in due course, he was commissioned and joined a unit in Libya where heavy fighting was going on. This led to the 8<sup>th</sup> Army retreating almost to the Suez Canal.

Eventually, the Africa Korps and Rommel were driven out of Africa and Ralph, now a Captain, joined the invasion of Sicily. After 14 months in Italy, he took part in the liberation of Greece and an encounter with ELAS, the Greek Communist partisan group who wished to take Greece into the Russian sphere.

Ralph returned to the UK where he married Christine. They were repatriated to Australia and sailed into Port Phillip Bay on Christmas Eve of 1946 and spent Christmas Day at the family home in Northbridge, having travelled to Sydney by overnight train.

Ralph had been Mentioned in Dispatches during the war.

Ralph had seen action in Egypt, Libya, Sicily and Greece. The latter two were the liberation of those theatres of war

At the end of the war, Ralph returned to London and was posted to the 11 Civil Resettlement unit, formed to receive returning British POWs and assist them in the return to civilian careers and normality. This experience caused a change in his career plans and into human resources.

In February 1947, Ralph joined BHP Steel Works in Newcastle, supervising apprentice training. During his 11 years at Newcastle, he was seconded to two special projects - in 1954, Ralph supported a senior colleague in planning and supervising the Queen's Royal Tour of the Steelworks. Shortly after, he organised assistance for BHP employees whose homes were damaged in the great Hunter River Floods.

He joined Legacy in 1949 to care for war widows and their children and in the same year, at the request of the local Brigadier, he agreed to form and command 111 Infantry Workshop CMF, RAEME and did so until 1956 when he was promoted to BHP Head Office. He served 22 Years with BHP ending as the Executive Officer, Personnel and Training.

In 1957 BHP sent him to USA and UK to visit selected steelworks and industries such as IBM, to gain insight into their approach to Human Resource Work. This included visits to major Universities and Colleges providing management training. He attended such a course at Cornell University.

This was of great assistance to him and resulted in BHP establishing its own Residential Management Course in 1964, which operated for at least 25 years. He was a member of Melbourne University and RMIT Appointment Boards and the Victorian Advisory Council on Technical Education (1966-71). He was a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management (FAIM).

He joined CRA-Rio Tinto as Personnel Manager in 1968 for 12 years followed by 2 or 3 years consulting with Liquid Air.

Over many years, Ralph has been heavily involved with Yarra Yarra Golf Club, Melbourne Legacy, the local Legacy Widows' Club and Probus.

On retirement Ralph and Chris travelled extensively in Australia, the Pacific, UK, Europe and USA. From 1956 they lived in Beaumaris with their two daughters, Susan (1947) and Jennifer (1949). He has four grandchildren and a great granddaughter. Chris died in 2010, and Ralph now lives in his own apartment in a retirement facility in Sandringham.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2018, Ralph was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), 13 days prior to his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday - which he celebrated in great style. In January 2020, he was also honoured as the Bayside Senior Citizen of the year

Ralph turned 103 on 24<sup>th</sup> June and remains in fine fettle. What a great man.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT and Questions and Answers**

In early August I was invited by Bayside City Council to be a member of the Beaumaris Community Memorial Precinct Working Group representing our Sub Branch. Currently construction is underway for the upgraded sports pavilion, design planning phase for the proposed refurbishment of the heritage Arts Group Building and discussions on the Cenotaph enhancement project. The working group is expected to hold its first meeting on 30 SEP 21. Planning has begun on Remembrance Day now that we have the Victorian Road Map. It being a Thursday we intend to incorporate as many local schools as possible.

On the  $3^{rd}$  of September this year was the Australian National Flag Day and Merchant Navy Day.

#### Members had a Question: What is an En Sign?

An en sign, as you put it in your question, is an ENSIGN. An Ensign is a Flag. (it is pronounced ENSUN) An Ensign is also a Midshipman in the U.S. Navy but let's not confuse you further!

1. At the top left of the newsletter, is an Australian Blue Ensign. It is in fact, a Blue Ensign, defaced with a Southern Cross in the fly and a 7 pointed Federation Star in the lower Hoist Canton. It is also the Australian Jack and is worn on the Jack Staff of HMA Ships from 0800 to Sunset, only when the ship is berthed alongside or at anchor.

It just so happens that it is the Australian National Flag (ANF) as well!

- 2. The centre flag on the front page of the newsletter, you will notice an Australian Red Ensign (ARE). It is the Ensign of the Australian Merchant Navy. It is also deemed to be the correct Ensign to be worn by Private / Pleasure Vessels registered in Australia. On Merchant Navy Day this Ensign/Flag may be legally flown ashore. It is the day that we remember the many thousands of Merchant Navy Sailors who gave their lives defending their country and its citizens.
- 3. On the right, we have the Australian White Ensign (AWE) It is the Saluting Flag of HMA Ships and is worn 24 hours around the clock at sea, when under way. Vessels either alongside or at anchor wear their Ensign and Jack from "Colours" (0800) to Sunset. The correct time of Sunset for the ship is calculated using the coordinates of the ship, from tables, usually by a Junior Officer Under Training (JOUT) and not the back page of Royal Auto.

Here endeth the lesson.

Happy Birthday to you Happy Birthday to you Happy Birthday Dear Member Happy Birthday to you.

Hip Hip Hooray.



#### **Birthday's September and October** MOODY MARGARET Sep **MCQUEEN** DAVID 4 Sep MICHAEL READ 6 Sep **GIBSON** LOYCE Happy 93<sup>rd</sup> Sep MARTIN BARRY 7 Sep BENNING KENNETH 9 Sep HODSMAN JULIE 9 Sep BRUCE **ADAMS** 10 Sep MURRAY ROLAND 12 Sep SEXTON MICHAEL 12 Sep TAYLOR BARRIE 13 Sep Happy 98<sup>th</sup> SPOTSWOOD JAMES 14 Sep BENEDICT SHAYNE 17 Sep Happy 60<sup>th</sup> ROBINSON LINDSAY 18 Sep **HUMPHRIS** JOHN 21 Sep TEMPLETON SHANE 21 Sep DONOVAN **SAMANTHA** 21 Sep Happy 60<sup>th</sup> HILL **JOANNE** 23 Sep

MARTIN	CLARKE	26	Sep	
PHILLIPS	ANTHONY	27	Sep	
SHENFIELD	WENDY	28	Sep	
TILLEY	JOHN L	30	Sep	
BURKE	PHILIP	4	Oct	
COLLETT	SHANE	4	Oct	
WESTON	NOEL	5	Oct	
NORTON	GARRY	7	Oct	
STRONG	CAROYLN	8	Oct	
WRAY	DOUGAS	10	Oct	
MCALISTER	ELISABETH	14	Oct	
CANANZI	DWAYNE	14	Oct	
LAPA	THOMAS	16	Oct	
MCCONAGHY	JONATHAN	18	Oct	
GLEADELL	WILLIAM	18	Oct	
CAMERON	IAN	19	Oct	
HOLLAND	GRANT	19	Oct	
ANTOLOS	FRANK	20	Oct	
NOBLE	DAVID	23	Oct	
MCGANN	MICHAEL	23	Oct	Happy 70 <sup>th</sup>
SMITH	MELVA	26	Oct	
MCGUIGAN	JONATHAN	29	Oct	
ROWSWELL	BRAD	29	Oct	
WILLIAMS	SIMON	30	Oct	
GOODE	GEOFFREY	31	Oct	



## Beaumaris RSL Women's Auxiliary

We certainly are in challenging times at present but it is heart-warming to hear members are keeping in touch with each other through telephone networks. Through these networks we have kept abreast with their news and each family's updates.

We have been unable to meet as planned and our luncheons have come to a stop. Not to be daunted, the Auxiliary reached out to members and delivered 45 care packages of French Vanilla slices, hand-made face masks and tea or coffee bags to members of the Auxiliary, Heathland Day Club and WW2 veterans. We had the great pleasure of doing this task to coincide with Jim Spotswood's 98th birthday. Congratulations Jim - a wonderful milestone which ought to be celebrated with a pot or two.

We would like to acknowledge the amazing work done by our members in personally delivering these packages in a very COVID safe manner. Thank you to Mairi McIntosh, Julie Tilley, Annie Tolliday, Noelene Muller and Terry Black. Without your contribution and support, these contacts could not have been possible. Your enthusiasm and willingness to reach out is very much appreciated by those you made feel special. Thank you all.

We have received many calls and cards of thanks from the recipients who were very grateful for the contact and our invitation to join with us for an "lockdown afternoon tea".

As we look forward, we hope for the chance to meet up and celebrate special events and renew friendships but until then, stay safe, enjoy the special moments and keep those phone connections going.

As soon as is possible, we will organise a lunch with you all. Watch this space!



Great to catch up with Beth Carruthers, Jean and Ted Morecroft, Di Vance and John Newby





Nan Charles and Margaret Cooper-Johnston. Happy 98th Birthday Jim Spotswood

#### HEATHLAND DAY CLUB

Organisation of the weekly Day Club has been a challenge due to the various lockdown which we have experienced. Fortunately, we were able to restart our programs with our Fitness coach for several weeks, increasing our strength levels and graduating to using weights within Covid restrictions. It was a welcome change to get together after such a long break. We were also able to sit together, with a cuppa, thanks to Margaret Cooper-Johnston and catch up with news. Then lockdown was upon us again and we all curled up in our homes keeping contact as much as possible by phone. We were thrilled to open the door to an unexpected delivery from the Beaumaris Women's Auxiliary who reached out and reminded us that we were still part of an active community. Care packages were delivered to us and our partners. It was such a lovely gesture. My personal thanks to Reg for her organisation of the Care packages. She sewed all the face masks that were included. The packages are always beautifully presented.

This seemed to herald a change and some slight easing of restrictions are on offer and we hope that once the metro area settles down, we will be able to recommence our programs as we are all double vaccinated. We look forward to more announcements. Till then, remain safe healthy and keep up the contacts by phone to your networks. They are so very important to us.

#### VALE



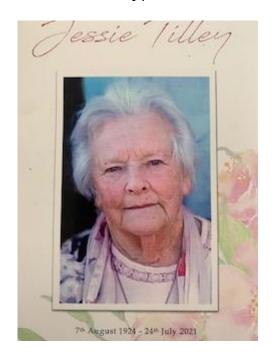
#### **Shirley Turrell**

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our long-standing member of the RSL and Women's Auxiliary Shirley Turrell. Shirley joined the Auxiliary in 1957 and after a break re-joined in 1967. During her 30 years' continuous membership of the Auxiliary Shirley has been an active participant at Meetings and Fundraisers.

Shirley has had many years of volunteer work. She was the social co-ordinator of the Miss Beaumaris Quest raising significant funds for charities through the RSL. She was Vice President of the Beaumaris Group of the Red Cross, a Committee Member of the Royal Children's Hospital, Beaumaris Auxiliary and a Committee Member of Ricketts Point Probus. Shirley was also a member of the Legacy Widows.

Other associations in which Shirley took an active part have been Beaumaris Bowls Club, Kingswood Golf Club, Cheltenham Golf Club, Moorabbin Lions Club and Beaumaris Art Group.

Shirley will be remembered for her love of a party, who took great pride in her appearance and loved to support the functions of local groups. Shirley was a great conversationalist and showed an interest in the lives of those she met. She was encouraging and supportive and never failed to set pen to paper and thank those who organised functions or events. She was the first to come forward and support raffles and fundraisers in support of local veterans. A woman with strong views, with a fierce determination to do things her way. In the later part of her life, she enjoyed being a part of the Heathland Day Club and participated in their weekly programs. Her flamboyance and Helena Rubenstein lippy will be fondly remembered.



#### **Jess Tilley**

Jess moved into Beaumaris and became an active member of the community. In 1976 Jess became President of the Beaumaris chapter of Victorian School for the Deaf. This group of a dozen or more women raised much needed funds for the Deaf School. For her work she was awarded Life membership. The group disbanded in 2000 and Jess continued RSL support in attending many of the fundraising events. She was also a member of the Women's Auxiliary for many years and was also a member of the Heathland Day Club

She was an exceptional knitter, loved playing tennis at St Augustine's in Mentone and was a devoted mother to John and David. In her later years, Jess became involved with Legacy after the death of her husband Jack and joined Hampton and Beaumaris Legacy groups. Jess was a pocket rocket and despite her constant pain due to debilitating arthritis she never complained and always welcomed a chat. Her vibrance and interest in what others were doing was heartfelt.

They will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to their families as they come to terms with the loss of their matriarch.

#### LEST WE FORGET

President Mairi McIntosh

Secretary Reg Black

#### **Strategic Planning**

Now that the issues of debt and accommodation are resolved it is time to establish a plan for our future. This type of work needs members to get involved and have their say. Clarke Martin has volunteered to lead this work and if any members would like to assist please email <a href="mailto:clarkemartin@bigpond.com">clarkemartin@bigpond.com</a> or call 0412 259 631

A planning workshop will be conducted for interested members seeking ideas on a range of opportunities including memberships, community engagement, welfare of our members and Veterans who may not yet be members, fund raising, functions and history to name a few.

I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and please 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 <a href="mailto:jane.lapa@icloud.com">jane.lapa@icloud.com</a>

If you have any feedback or an item you would like to include in the newsletter, please email it through to <a href="mailto:beaumarisrsl@gmail.com">beaumarisrsl@gmail.com</a>