



BEAUMARIS RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.

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2024

Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch

ANNUAL REPORT

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President's Annual Report

With enormous enthusiasm, gratitude and optimism I write this year's report.

It is not often you are involved in such an endeavour as 'Saving the Beaumaris RSL'. I for one did not expect this journey to take over seven years and bring so many people together. I am very proud to have been part of it and extremely appreciative of our key volunteers and the broader membership.

I would like to thank our Secretary Gina Scott, Treasurer Timothy Holden and Membership Officer Jane Lapa for the work undertaken during the year. These are key roles in the Sub-Branch and require dedication and time to ensure we remain compliant with the RSL Rules, Consumer Affairs financial duties and support our members and bring on board new members.

Our building sub-committee completed many difficult and time-consuming tasks. Since the last AGM Steve Gage our Property Officer has managed to gain agreements with the BRSC on the final design, building contractor and selection of colours, furniture and the interior decoration plan.

Gina and Past President Clarke Martin also giving many hours to achieve on-going trust and confidence in our relationship with the BRSC. Timothy made himself available on all financial matters so as a small team they achieved a great deal for our club. This work was very important to ensure our overall goals were met.

Of course, the Sub-Branch needs to keep the day-to-day work going and our Women's Auxiliary have been a big part of that. Through Mairi, Reg, Rohnda and Carolyn our ANZAC and Poppy Appeals hit fundraising records. The weekly and fortnightly raffles and members draws have become well attended affairs again through the extra efforts of Reg and her fund-raising team ticket team.

The support to our commemorations through the Wreaths and contact with officials has been yet again a major contribution. This of course is not to understate the incredible morning and afternoon teas that are provided post these events!

The Long Tan dinner was another great over-subscribed event with a very interesting speaker Charlie Bezzina and a delicious meal at the Sandringham FC.

The ANZAC March and Service and Remembrance Day commemoration led of course by our Vice President John Douglas OAM were as always professionally organised and well attended events by our local community. The volunteers start early and finish late setting up tables, chairs, flags and equipment under John's direction so our guests can have a safe and enjoyable time.

Our ANZAC lunch and football match hosted by the BFC was another special and well attended event by our community. We all are aware of the strong relationship the BRSL and the BFC have enjoyed over many years which was instigated by many ex-servicemen returning from WW2.

The committee were approached last year to sponsor the annual ANZAC Beaumaris football game. This year we are donating funds towards the cost of special Anzac jumpers for the players and a new medal that will be awarded to the best team mate. Nick Heath President BFC, the committee and Ron Nichols have made a great deal of effort to ensure this is a major community event.

The work Paul Maple along with John representing our Sub-Branch at the Region 4 meetings ensure we are seen as a professional and engaged operation.

Our annual conference team of John and Clarke is another demonstration of our commitment to the RSL movement, and I was informed this year they achieved their 7th Conference together. It is this type of volunteer work that is rarely seen or heard about but ensures our Sub-Branch participates in policy and strategy development of the Victorian Branch.

This year it was also very pleasing to have our Grants Officer Andy Coogan seeking and applying for the grants on offer. It looks very likely we will be approved for 1 or 2 significant grants and for that we will be very thankful to Andy. Grant applications are not easy but Andy's work in creating the templates will make it much easier for the person who takes over as Andy is stepping down after a 3-year tenure on the committee.

There is also our website and social media assets that have finally been established through Clarke and Geoff Johnston's hard work. As we can all attest there are plenty of opportunities to make these resources do more and that certainly is our intention. We welcome feedback from our members in this area on how we can offer better services and communications to our members. On that basis if any member would like to join our small IT group, please contact myself or Clarke.

I would also like to thank Black Rock Yacht club providing temporary accommodation during the construction phase. Of course, all the members who came along and supported our Wednesday Stand To's were a blessing (particularly during those very dark winter stormy nights!) and maintained our strong commitment to ensure our members were able to meet on a weekly basis whilst final negotiations of our new home were proceeding.

A very big thank you to the BRSC President Brent Marcombe, Bob and his staff and the BRSC members who made us very welcome both before and after our agreements were signed off.

Finally, I would like to thank Sue Cattermole, CEO and the officers, Rob Webster Victorian RSL President and the board members for their on-going support. We have had quite a long journey with ANZAC House, and it is so pleasing to now be in

a position to demonstrate our appreciation and know we are all working together to assist our veterans and the RSL family statewide.

With all this work done it really is now the time for our membership to take the next steps and bring the life and fun back to the Sub-Branch. This will be a large ongoing task, and I welcome our members to become involved in our membership drives and spread the word the BRSL has a new and vibrant home.

I very much look forward to seeing you all at the clubhouse and at our ceremonial and social functions in 2025. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the committee directly on any matter concerning the BRSL

Kind Regards,

Shayne L. Benedict
President BRSL.

Vice President's Report

The last 12 months have been exceptionally busy. During this period both Paul Maple and I have attended six Region 4 Bi Monthly Meetings at various Sub Branch Headquarters around our region. The meetings have been reasonably well attended and some really good ideas have been presented. One of the best suggestions has turned out to be a great time saver.

All Sub Branch Bi monthly Reports are to be submitted by COB on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled meeting and will be circulated to all attendees in plenty of time to be studied before the meeting. Reports will be tabled, but not read. Questions may be asked if necessary.

A very successful ANZAC MARCH and SERVICE was conducted on SUN 21 APR24. It was very well attended with only minor inconvenience brought about once again, by extensive building works taking place at the Beaumaris Memorial Community Forecourt and Cenotaph precinct. Extensive modifications and building works have been taking place to the adjacent Beaumaris Arts Group Studios for well over a year. These works are now nearing completion and I am advised the temporary fencing will be removed within a week.

Planning for this Years Beaumaris RSL Community ANZAC Commemorative March and Service is well under way, however, not without some degree of difficulty. As you may be aware. Sun 20 APR25 happens to fall on Easter Sunday. This causes no end of problems due to Family and School holidays meaning the unavailability of our regular School Band and our Chief Medical Officer. We were well aware of these problems very early in the piece and have been able to make alternative arrangements.

As most readers of this report will be aware, towards the end of June last year, we had a work party to clear most of our items out of the main building in preparation for substantial building works at the Fern Street Site. These works took place over the period 01 JUL24 and were mostly completed by mid Nov 24 and the Building was reopened by 28NOV24.

During this period of some 5 months or so, our Sub Branch met regularly at the Black Rock Yacht Club at Half Moon Bay. Their Manager, Paul Morgan and his staff made us all feel very welcome in these marvellous surroundings and were quite happy for us to conduct our normal practices.

I would like to move a motion that our Sub Branch writes to The President, Committee, Manager and Staff of the Black Rock Yacht Club, thanking them for their kind hospitality and substantial support to our members during the period of 01JUL25 – 13 NOV24

Their help was greatly appreciated.

On the 02 JAN25, the fun started, Wilko, our Architect, and his assistant Jenny, together with Gina and myself commenced the work of building some of our internal displays of our Memorabilia Collection in the newly completed Members Lounge. There is a long way to go yet and I would like to appeal to members that anyone able to help would be most welcome.

Sunday 23MAR25 is going to be a huge day in Bayside. A former Councillor and Mayor, Felicity Frederico has been working for over two years, planning to celebrate the Centenary of the Castlefield Estate. It will take place at the Castlefield Oval in Ludstone Street, Hampton from about 1030.

Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Margaret Gardiner will be attending, as will a Senior Naval Officer, Senior Army Officer and a Senior Air Force Officer, of Victoria, the Governor of the Shrine of Remembrance and many more. The Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne under LCDR Nathaniel Maxwell, RAN Musical Director and OIC, will be attending.

This is a marvellous opportunity to support a real Community occasion.

With kind regards,
John

J. de C. Douglas, OAM
Vice President.

Secretary Report

Another year has been completed and probably my most exciting. It has been extremely productive for the Sub-Branch. Thank you to Jane our Membership Officer for continuing with the Committee to look after our members remotely from her Navy service post in WA.

This year the Building Sub Committee which includes Clarke, Steve and me, have completed the long term lease and building renovation negotiations with the Black Rock Sports Club. Steve has been involved numerous meetings and site visits to oversee the approved works and procurement of furniture at our new home. We planned to close the building in its quietest trading period over winter and open again by one of our most important days of Remembrance.

There were many doubts about whether such a big commitment could be completed in four months but it was achieved thank you to the meticulous planning by Wilko Doehring and project management by Richard Evans and Brent Morecombe. The professional build from 2Moro Group has provided the beautiful surrounds we now can call home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Shayne and the Committee for the support they have provided me as the newest member to this Sub-Branch on the Committee. We are a small committee and needed to work hard. You all have other commitments and constraints on your time but I hope you have all enjoyed the year and our achievements.

Our Sub-Branch remains financially stable thanks to the diligent scrutiny and governance of Timothy, our Treasurer. He will explain the results in more detail in his report. Andy, our Grants Officer is submitting applications for possible future projects to keep developing the Sub Branch and fund welfare activities. Thank you Andy for the time you have given formally on the Committee this year. We greatly appreciate that you will continue to assist even though you have resigned from the committee. It is a reminder to all that you don't need to commit to a formal Committee position to make a difference.

Our most important function is to look after Veterans and members welfare and I would like to acknowledge and thank our Peter, Welfare Officer for the numerous hours he has undertaken providing care and support for those in need. Both Appeals in 2024 raised a large amount for the Welfare of Veterans and their families thanks to a small and dedicated team lead by Rhonda and Carolyn. Thank you to all those that helped them and gave up their own private time to volunteer and sell badges around the local area.

The ANZAC and Remembrance Day Commemorative Services were extremely well attended and ran to precision thank you to the hours of meticulous planning by John, our Vice President. He always ensures that we all take the time to appropriately remember those who give up, and have given up, so much for our country. Our Sub-Branch could not function so well without the generous assistance from the Sub Branch's Women's Auxiliary. I would like to thank all the ladies for the numerous hours they donate from organising major social functions during the year to making well received and appreciated catch up welfare calls to members.

Our social get togethers at the Black Rock Sports Club have been diligently overseen by Bob Barclay. I would like to thank Bob for all his efforts to ensure our comfort and that all is organised when we attend. We intend to have an official opening for the BRS� lounge and at that time give our area an official name so that I do not have to keep referring to 'our home at the Black Rock Sports Club'. Please keep your suggestions coming whilst we decide on the most appropriate voting method to capture the opinions of all our members that have remained with us over the journey.

The kitchen has recently opened and the feedback on the tasty menu and its value has been extremely positive to date. Please continue to support the chef so that this service remains.

Much was achieved last year and there are big plans for 2025. This year our aim is to focus efforts on providing welfare support and increasing membership through community engagement. I encourage as many of you as possible to assist where you can. Volunteering and supporting others provides a great sense of achievement and fulfilment. It is a great way to meet new friends, feel connected in the community and provide a sense of purpose.

We will be developing relationships with local schools, organizations and community clubs and so welcome any suggestions for activities.

Thankyou and best regards as always.

Gina Scott
Secretary

Membership Report

The membership has remained steady through the year even with the disruption of having to move to temporary accommodation.

Our new members processing timelines have improved through ANZAC House and we are confident further enhancements will be made in 2025

Our big project of having on-line membership management continues and is expected to go live in 2025.

New cards

New cards were received from State Branch at the end of 2024 being handed

Membership Type and Numbers

We currently have 99 members

Service type	Number
Life Member	2
Service	36
Affiliate	52
Social	9
	99

New members

9 new members have joined in the last 14 months. 2 before March 2024.

Transfers

6 members transferred to Beaumaris from other local clubs

17 members transferred to other clubs. We are not provided the location of the other clubs. One member advised he transferred to Mildura, as he spends much of his time there.

Vale

It is with sadness that I report 12 members passed away in the year

Name	Membership	Name	Membership
Mrs Vondel Donovan	Affiliate	Marg Couper-Johnston	Social
Mrs Wendy Shenfield	Social	Mr Ralph Butcher	Service
Mr Wayne Padley	Affiliate	Mrs Audrey Caudwell	Affiliate
Mr Ted Morecroft	Life	John Neil	Service
Mr David Dyring	Affiliate	Mr Fred Hofmann	Social
Mrs Barbara McLoghlin	Affiliate	Mr Babara Letheren	Affiliate

As always if you have any family or friends who you think would enjoy becoming a member please do not hesitate to introduce them on a Wednesday.

Jane Lapa
Membership Officer

Past Presidents Report

As mentioned by my fellow committee members this year has been the most productive. I thank my fellow committee members, the BRSC President and Committee, Bob our Venue Manager and all the other volunteers that have helped the building sub-committee achieve so much. The joint meetings were held regularly with minutes taken off-line email considerations. During the year identifying and managing our temporary accommodation was also an important task.

On the 5th of July 2024 we started our time at Half Moon Bay with a roaring fire and exquisite views. This began 16 weeks of being hosted by the BRYC which we were very thankful for. It was a difficult time for the Sub-Branch to keep our members together. The Womens Auxiliary did a wonderful job of continuing the raffles and members draw. We certainly observed some beautiful sunsets over the bay but also a number of storm sea conditions and very cold and dark nights.

Returning to the refurbished building has been very satisfying and enjoyable. Of course there is still lots to be done including the external signage and internal hanging of memorabilia.

The sizing and locating of the RSL Crest and lettering were finally approved by BRSC and ANZAC house in February 2025. Installation will take place with the lettering scheduled in by the signage contractors for late March. The works will come with compliance certification. The BRSC signage on the front entrance is expected to be installed sometime before June.

To ensure the newly refurbished building was finished with appropriate memorabilia hung the sub-committee commissioned an interior layout report by Wilko. This involved viewing, measuring and photographing all the potential items for hanging from BRSC and the Sub-Branch. The report was presented for comment to both committees and hanging is expected to take place before ANZAC Day.

John Douglas OAM, Wilko ably assisted by a qualified curator from Melbourne Museum and members of the sub-committee completed the first tranche of displayed items in the cabinets over a few days in early January. To have our major pieces of commemorative memorabilia back on display in beautifully crafted display cabinets after nearly 10 years of being in storage was a major and emotional milestone.

Further work is planned including procurement of museum-grade Plastazote foam helping prevent deterioration by providing stable, pH-neutral support. Professional mounting is also being considered to enable the space used more effectively with more items displayed and an easier and safer rotation method.

Consideration by BRSC and the Sub-Branch of how to complete the decking to the original plans continues. The budget unfortunately allowed only the decking to the new double doors to our space. The further decking which would continue to the clay tennis court footpath would provide single level access to all external doors and a second ramp.

The BRSC have updated their Point of Sale system which provides the capability of recognising two membership cards. This is a tremendous advantage and is assisting in the considerations of how to offer each membership their entitlements. It is expected the final arrangement will be announced over the next few months. This will include all Sub-Branch members receiving a special Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch Card. Members will still enjoy the RSL Victoria Card when visiting other sub-branches

During the year our new website was launched along with our supporting social media accounts. The website currently provides all the information a person needs regarding our Sub-Branch. It also has every Newsletter that we have published since 2017 providing a very good recent history.

An upgrade to the website is on track to provide on-line payments, membership accounts and other modern features.

I am looking forward enjoying our new surrounds and getting all the projects completed over the next 12 months.

Clarke Martin
Past President



RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE

Beaumaris Sub-Branch Victoria
WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

President: Mairi McIntosh OAM
Corfield

Hon. Sec: Reg Black OAM

Treasurer: Rhonda

Beaumaris RSL Women's Auxiliary PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

It is good to be able to meet in our new newly refurbished Club Rooms at Fern Street after the disruptions of the last few years.

It is amazing that it is now 5 years since the beginning of all the lockdowns. We are now all comfortable in our lives, but must not forget that the COVID19 has not completely disappeared.

Unfortunately, many people still think Beaumaris Sub-Branch RSL no longer exists. We hope to entice more members to return.

The Women's Auxiliary has 18 financial members including 3 life members. Our life member Beth Caruthers turned 100 last week. Unfortunately, her celebrations were cut short with a fall and she remains in hospital surrounded by bouquets of flowers get well cards and birthday cards We wish Beth all the best, on behalf of all members of the Women's Auxiliary.

Auxiliary members assisted with the administration of the ANZAC and Remembrance Services and organised the refreshments following the ANZAC Service at Beaumaris Bowls Club and after the Remembrance Day service at the Senior Citizen's Club. The Auxiliary also assisted with the rosters and sold ANZAC badges, poppies, made wreaths and assembled displays.

We hosted three fundraisers at Sandy by The Bay. In June at our Mid-Year Feast, we commemorated the Beaumaris RSL Legacy Widows' Club 40th birthday, organising special handtowels for our Legacy members. In August, we assisted with the organisation of the Long Tan Dinner with Charlie Bezzina as our guest speaker. Then at the end of November we hosted our Christmas Lunch. Each function attracts more attendees and we are very grateful to all the local businesses who support us in our fundraising ventures.

We initiated the Beaumaris RSL Women's Auxiliary raffle during the year. This is our way of giving back to local businesses where we purchase our raffle prizes. With their support, we have seen an increase in numbers on Wednesday night. We also

now hold a fortnightly members' draw with a pot of money to be won by members who need to be present.

Through our fundraising, we were in a position to pay \$35,000 to the Club for the refurbishment of the floors.

My thanks to all members who have assisted in making the Women's Auxiliary acknowledged for their work. Special thanks to our hardworking Secretary, Reg, and Treasurer, Rhonda.

Mairi M P McIntosh OAM
President.