



# WARRAGUL RSL SUB-BRANCH NEWSLETTER

May 2019

No. 50

## Warragul RSL Sub-Branch Committee 2019

### President

Bill Westhead 0408 240 215

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### Vice President (Operations)

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Mark Buttner 0434 280 231

### Secretary

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### Treasurer

Chris Berg 0429 105 544

### Assistant Treasurer

Brian Hastings 5623 1280

### Membership

Phyll Parish 5623 2816

### Newsletter Editor

Bob Green 0408 002 760

### General Committee

Alan Tatlow

Ross Gaff

Ernie Matkovich

Ken Plumb

Tom Lawler

Kath Murnane (Hospital Support)

## Branch Details

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## Important Dates

General Meeting on May 6th @  
1.30pm

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## A word from the President...

We have been very busy since the AGM, bedding-in personalities, learning all the intricacies of the RSL from the previous Executive, meeting the key personnel that impact the Warragul Sub-Branch and taking advantage of some of the offers coming our way.

The last General Meeting was well attended, be it at the 1.30pm or the 7.00pm time slots.

As a result of conversation and requests I will give a presentation at the May 1.30pm meeting on my time at Christmas Island and an outline on how the Border Protection Operation works. This topic can be contentious, and I will keep the opinions to the minimum and let the facts speak for themselves.

We have programmed Gary Blackwood for the June 1.00pm meeting and he will speak on his treks to Kokoda and show some footage of his experiences. Please be advised that Gary has parliament late in the day and we will bring the meeting forward by half an hour and it will start at 1.00 pm sharp.

In July the evening session will be receiving a presentation from Soldier-On.

We have been fortunate in receiving a total of \$2,000 from two (2) members of the community for new signage for the front of the RSL premises. See below for a mock-up of the signs to go at the corner of the property. Your thoughts would be appreciated. When the new signs are erected I will disclose our benefactors, so they can receive their proper due.

The sign is designed to reflect the contribution of Vietnam Veterans and members who have had recent operational service.

The Warragul RSL's relationship with Voyage continues to strengthen as was exemplified by a session where we all received body-scans supported by printed results. Some of us have work to do as we discovered bad fats, soft muscles and strength imbalances!

The Executive under the auspices of Ben Vahland planned a great ANZAC Day. Noel's knowledge is again invaluable, and this year will be complicated by the roadworks – "One Way in Warragul!"

Ben is planning a bus trip to Phillip Island, the Vietnam Veterans Museum, lunch at the Phillip Island RSL and possibly a visit to Coal Creek on the same trip. There are also plans for a mid-winter function, a bit of fun finishing with musical trivia and some dancing by those who are capable.

We have had discussion with the local community, Police, Soldier-On the Baw Baw Shire Council and all in all a busy time.

Don't forget we work for you the members so please let us know of your views. All the best and see you at the May General meetings.

Regards ,Bill Westhead | President | Warragul RSL Sub-Branch



## Activities

**Monthly General Meeting**  
1st Monday of the Month  
7.00pm

**Monthly Social Info Meeting**  
1st Monday of the Month  
1.30pm

**Young Veterans Exercise Group**  
Every Saturday Morning  
Voyage Fitness  
9.00am

**Heart Health Exercises Group**  
Every Wednesday  
9.45am

**Members Carpet Bowls**  
Every Wednesday  
1.30pm

**Legacy Widows Social Club**  
Second Thursday of the Month

**Library Open**  
Every Friday  
9.30am

**Drop in for a Cuppa**  
Every Friday  
9.30am

**David's Light Exercises**  
Every Friday  
9.45am

*Vale*

*Kemp – Maurice  
Late RAAF  
Leading Aircraftman  
Service Number 12599  
Lest We Forget*

# Vice President - Operations Report

### **Social:**

The RSL Sub Branch will be holding a function on the 13th of July in the RSL rooms. This will be a relaxed night of music, a bit of musical trivia, finger food and refreshments. \$15 per person. The function is for members, their families and friends. More details in the June Newsletter where we ask for your RSVP to the RSL by the 25th of June.

Plans are on foot for a bus trip to the Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island followed by lunch at the Phillip Island RSL. This is most likely going to be in August. Further information will be provided in the June Newsletter in regards to the date and cost (which will be subsidised by the RSL).

### **Mateship and Fitness Group:**

The group continues to be a great success and we are constantly seeing over 25 attendees with representatives from Ex-Military, Police, Ambulance, CFA and SES. We had a week off over the Easter long weekend but will be back on the 27/4. Please encourage any ex-military or first responders you know to attend for a session, 10am Saturday mornings at Voyage Gym, Warragul.

Regards,

**Ben Vahland**

**Vice President - Operations**

**Warragul RSL.**

## Editor's Comments.....

Your new Executive are wanting to keep all members fully informed as to what is happening and they welcome your feedback and suggestions as to communications.

We are aware that the Facebook page has limitations, making it difficult to attach documents that can be easily read, so this is an issue we will work on. The May newsletter, albeit a short one is provided as part of the desire to keep you informed!

ANZAC Day was a very well attended – a huge success beginning with Noels address at the Dawn Service, a well organized March and Parade managed by Brett Kersten, and Bills informative, powerful and relevant speech.

Regards ,

**Bob Green**

**Editor**

**Warragul RSL Sub-Branch**

**NEXT MEETING**

*Monday 6th May @ 1.30pm*  
*All Welcome.*





## BIOGRAPHY:

### *David Whelan*

I grew up in the Outtrim/Korumburra area before moving to Warragul at the age of 8. My childhood dream was to join the Army and at the age of 17, I enlisted in the Australian Regular Army. I thought I would be there my whole life. I was a Cook/Fitter & Turner for a good part of my Army career. I made it to the rank of Corporal and was based in Oakey/QLD (1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Reg), Broadmeadows/VIC and Woodside/SA (Air Defence). I left after 9 years as I wanted to become a Physical Training Instructor [PTI], unfortunately the Army had other requirements of me. In civilian life, I completed a Gym Instructors course and worked part time in the local gym called Shapes before Voyage came along, I have always had an affiliation with the gym.

I joined the country railways (V/Line) in 1997 and have been there the past 22 years. I suppose I am one of those people that if it feels comfortable and enjoyable, then you stick with it. I have three beautiful children that take up most of my time now as I try to get them through to adulthood and send them in the right direction. Like most people, my family is extremely important to me and I am very fortunate to have most of my family within Warragul. In my leisure time, if I am not keeping my fitness regime up at the Gym, I enjoy getting out for a ride on a motorbike or having a hit of golf.

I have taken on the role as the day to day liaison between the Young Veterans and First Responder Fitness and Mateship group [YVFRFMG] and Voyage Fitness Warragul. Never too old to learn some new skills. The people who started our group should be greatly commended. It has created a large cluster of mates/support network that continues to grow and importantly, we are developing the communities awareness of and appreciation for those that serve the Nation.

#### **Editors Note:**

David gives generously of his time helping others including growing his whiskers to raise funds for the "Movember" cause - Note the colourful whiskers in the attached photo from a recent event. He has also used his Military cooking skills at several RSL/YVFRMG functions and this week took his turn at raising funds selling ANZAC wares. Well done David! **Pictured below** at the 2019 Anzac Service are left to right top row; Brett Kersten, Noel Tucker and bottom row left to right. Warragul Municipal Band Leader/Musical Director Benjamin Sim leading the Band [Well done WMB and thank you for your great service to our Community], Brett Kersten and some of the many attendants.

