



WARRAGUL RSL SUB-BRANCH NEWSLETTER

April 2022

No. 66

Warragul RSL Sub-Branch Committee 2022

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ANZAC DAY 2022

Warragul



We will conduct the traditional ANZAC Day services on Monday April 25, 2022. The Dawn Service will commence at 6am and the Morning Service will commence at 10am.

DAWN SERVICE 6.00am

Assemble, 5.55am (at the Cenotaph)

Immediately after the service, tea, coffee & refreshments will be served at the RSL Rooms, 94 Albert Street.

DIGGERS BREAKFAST 7.30am

Warragul Sporting and Social Club

(Downtowner, 55 - 57 Victoria Street)

Please note the breakfast is only available to Service and Ex-Service Members and their Carers, as well as First Responders and their direct family members.

MORNING SERVICE 9.50am

Commemorative March @ 10.00am

March will form up in the Woolworths Carpark opposite Frankies.

Following the 10am Service, refreshments will be served for all who wish to attend the RSL rooms @ 11am.

The RSL Members Bar will be open for refreshments.



President's Report.....

Dear Warragul RSL Members,

The report I delivered at the AGM together with the approved Minutes and other reports, will be placed on the Warragul RSL Web Site.

The following is a summary of the key matters I shared at the AGM on March 28 2022 AGM.

It is by necessity long so as to ensure members are aware of what we feel are important matters.

Vale

It is with great sadness that I make mention of the members we lost in 2021, may they rest in peace:

- Mrs Joan Peterson
- Mr Alan Greaves
- Mr Kevin Campbell and
- Mrs Phyll Parish.

Election of Office Bearers:

The results of the elections were as follows.

All Executive positions with the exception of Vice President Welfare [Noel Tucker] were returned. After many years as the Warragul President and in his most recent role of several years as a Vice President responsible for Welfare, Noel is stepping aside and his protégé Kylie Sage was elected to replace Noel.

The new Executive is:

- President: Ben Vahland
- Vice President Governance & Operations: Mark Buttner
- Vice President Communications: Bob Green
- Vice President Welfare: Kylie Sage
- Treasurer: Chris Berg
- Secretary: David Harrison

I am very pleased to see these members re-elected to serve on the Executive team and the Committee of Management for the next 2 years, and I look forward to leading the team forward into the future. I am also excited to have Kylie join the team, Kylie has worked side by side with Noel over the past few years and is more than ready to take over the reins. I am so very thankful for the time that Noel has spent on the executive, his work has ensured a smooth transition. I thank him for being a great mentor and I'm sure that there will be much more in the future.

I would finally like to take this opportunity to thank you, the membership, without you we wouldn't have an RSL. I thank you for your commitment to this RSL and look forward to your patronage, membership, and friendships in the future. I acknowledge each and every one of you who have and do volunteer your time at this RSL. Please know that it does make a difference to the lives of many who need it.





ANZAC Day

We held a full ANZAC day service at Warragul in 2021 including our March to the Cenotaph. A large number of members returned to the RSL and we had an excellent ANZAC Day/Night. It was our first ANZAC Day having our Members Bar up and running and we even saw a return of two up in the main hall.

You will hear from Noel and Kylie soon to arrange sellers for the ANZAC Day appeal. I look forward to seeing you around town. See Warragul RSL WEB Site for all Anzac Day details.

<https://warragulrsl.com.au/ANZAC-Day-2022>

Remembrance Day | November 11, 2021

You will all be aware of the difficulties we had getting a full public event approved. There is a silver lining to this though, Baw Baw shire has recently consulted with us and agreed to an improved and sensible policy that will make the application processes easier in the future. *Pictured left is President Ben Vahland and RSL member Paul Melrose.*



Summit Adventure Park

On Saturday March 13, 2021 we had 45 RSL members and families attend at the 'Summit Adventure Park' in Trafalgar East for a morning of activities. This was a great activity which promoted team-work and challenged participants. We thank RSL Active for funding this activity.

Glen Cromie Reserve Camps

We have held three well patronised camping events at the Glen Cromie Reserve in the last 12 months. The most recent in March this year. The Camps will we expect continue given the strong interest shown by participants.



Book Release

A wonderful night was held when author Michael Madden attended at our RSL to launch his Book, 'Dasher' The Kevin Wheatley VC story on November 26, 2021. A number of presentations were also made on the night to very worthy recipients, presented by myself and the RSL Victoria President, Dr Rob Webster.

Gulwarra Heights | Lone Pine Memorial Project

The Executive have been working closely with Gulwarra Heights Cemetery Trust to develop a remembrance memorial in the grounds of the Cemetery. This will be a memorial that is first of its kind; a memorial that commemorates the service of all that have served, including peace keeping, peace making operations to date, with the ability to add future conflicts to the memorial. An extensive amount of work has been done by the numerous people involved including Lynn Mizen who completed the grant submission this project. As and when we obtain the grant/funds required, we will be in a position to progress the project.





Christmas Dinner

Our ever-popular members Christmas Party was held on December 18, 2021. A wonderful meal was put together by the catering committee and the day was enjoyed by all who attended.

Ales on Albert | Members Bar

Over the festive period Ale's on Albert continued to trade, which saw excellent patronage. I think that this is a great thing to keep us all connected during this time. The members bar development has been a success thanks to numerous people, in particular John Sage, John has contributed significantly to the ongoing improvements and is currently progressing the refit of the beer garden [Rosemary Hedge] outdoor area.

Pictured left is newly elected Vice President of Welfare Kylie Sage and hardworking husband John.



We intend on extending the members bar; Ales on Albert. This project is moving forward thanks to the good work of Hayden Crowle, Damien Sgarbossa John Sage and Mark Buttner. We are fortunate to also have the generous assistance of Wayne Farnham who has provided guidance on building engineering issues as well as assistance with drafting of technical plans, and at no cost.

Ales on Albert has not just given members and their guests a place to drop in for social catch on Friday evenings, but it is providing us with a steady stream of income which will compliment the increased level of income from the hiring of our premises. We are slowly but surely becoming more financially secure. That is due in part to the generosity of charitable groups, including Warragul Lions, Warragul Downtowner, RSL Active, and Warragul Freemasons Lodge who support our vision. Fortunately we also have many members that have demonstrated a powerful commitment to the growth and development aspirations of the Executive which is indeed heartening.



Welcome Back

After a well-earned break we kicked off 2022 with a welcome Back BBQ and General Meeting on the January 30, 2022. Again, a lovely meal was produced by our catering sub-committee.

Royal Commission into ADF and Veterans Suicide

The RC is underway and Media reports are encouraging. At this early point we are mildly optimistic that some real positives will come from the findings. In closing, having a busy full-time job, a busy family life and balancing the commitments of this RSL, is at times challenging. here is no way that I would be able to do what I do if it wasn't for the wonderful support of my amazing family and my extended family of the executive and committee of management, thank you from me and also on behalf of our membership.



Regards, Ben Vahland | President

What's Happening at Warragul RSL



Wellbeing Group

The Gippsland Wellbeing Support group meets at the RSL on the third or fourth Thursday of the month. We have been seeing good numbers return to this activity and have had excellent service from Phil Hunter. Phil has been taking the group through 'Guided meditation' sessions over the last six months. We will be relaunching the Wellbeing Group with a blockbuster meeting in the lead up to ANZAC Day on the April 21, 2022.



Guided Meditation @ the RSL

Meditation expert Phil Hunter has kindly offered to continue his Guided Group Meditation sessions for Members on a monthly basis. These sessions are held on the second Thursday of the month from 7pm to 8pm. There is no cost to RSL members and their families. Tea and Coffee afterwards, Members Bar open also.



Working Bee

We will be holding a Working Bee on Saturday April 23, after Voyage from 11am to 1pm, to prepare the RSL premises for ANZAC Day. Many hands make light work !!



Veterans Expo

The Veterans Support Expo that had to be cancelled in 2021 will be held on Saturday June 18, 2022 in the RSL rooms. There will be 20 ESO's (Ex-Service organisations) in attendance. This event will be heavily publicised in the media and on Social media with an aim of identifying more veterans in the community that are not yet engaged with the RSL or other ESO's. Numerous ESO's will be present and will hold stalls to promote what they do or can do for Veterans. There will be also a presentation by the Drouin Veterans Welfare Centre's James Bourke about the DVA Military compensation systems and how to avoid the pitfalls. Any Veteran that has not made a claim against DVA, or needs help with a claim will benefit greatly from this presentation. James presented to a group including three Warragul RSL executive recently and we commend James presentation to all Ex service personnel.



100th Anniversary

We are still planning on holding our 100th Anniversary Event (2 years late); with special guest Senator Jacqui Lambie. It is hoped that we can host this event in late August / early September 2022.



Guest Speaker night

Special guest Harry Moffitt will be our guest at a function at a date to be advised in late 2022. Harry Moffitt is a ex- SASR Sergeant who has transitioned out of the ADF and onto a career in Psychology.



Vietnam Veterans Day | August 18, 2022

We will hold a service this year in honour of our Vietnam Veterans and build on the service held last year. Further details to follow.



RSL Opening Up | Volunteers needed

As communicated last year I am very keen to "open up" the RSL Monday to Friday to be there for Veterans needing help. Volunteers would be able to have a tea or coffee, have access to the internet and computers. We will put you through an induction session to ensure that you know how to get in open up and secure the facility. Please email admin@warragulrsl.com.au with your availability (days and times) I am hoping to kick it off on May 2, 2022.



Peace Keepers Day

We have set up a sub-committee to organise an event on May 29, 2022. The event will acknowledge the sacrifice and service of Peacekeepers. Further info to follow early May.

Regular Social Activities



- Friday Morning Social Group (Boardroom 10am)
- Carpet Bowls
- Walkie Talkie Group
- Ales on Albert (Fridays from 5pm to 7.30pm)

SAMVOA



Pictured left on Remembrance Day 2021 are Warragul RSL members and former South African Military Veterans, Tony Macquet and Kevin Edwards. Tony is the Chairperson of SAMVOA and Kevin is a member.

SAMVOA (South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia) is a Veteran organisation comprised of former South Africans who now call Australia or New Zealand their home.

SAMVOA started back in 2003 and we have grown continuously, today having 1,335 members in this part of the world.

Our strategy is to join and blend in with the RSLs of Australia and the RSAs of New Zealand, by becoming “members of good standing” within these auspicious organisations. In so doing we anticipate to enjoy the camaraderie and good fellowship of navy, army and air force Veterans at these venues.

SAMVOA is part of a global organisation, called SAMVO, which is an accredited, full member of the South African Council of Military Veteran Organisations in Pretoria. For those former South African Veterans who would like to join, please go onto our website at www.samvo.international and fill in a contact form for more information, or a Membership Application form contact either Kevin Edwards on 0407 886 680 or Tony Macquet on 0411 601 169.

How Sweet It Is

Dear Warragul RSL,

West Gippsland Arts Centre would like to invite Warragul RSL club Members and Partners, to see **Frankie J Holden & Michelle Pettigrove** perform live, on Saturday 23 April @ 2:30pm.

We have an exclusive offer, with tickets available for **\$25** each, when you mention ‘**Warragul RSL**’, at the time of booking.

With limited seating and to ensure you receive your seats of choice, please phone the Booking Office on 5624 2456 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm) or visit the venue Monday to Friday 10am-4pm. This offer is not available online.

Frankie J Holden & Michelle Pettigrove: How Sweet It Is
Saturday 23 April 2:30pm (duration: 1 hour & 50 mins with a 20 min interval)

Frankie J Holden and Michelle Pettigrove are one of Australia’s most popular homegrown showbiz couples.

Michelle is best known for her three year role as Kate Bryant in the well-loved Australian drama series *A Country Practice* and numerous other television appearances including *Brides of Christ*, *Home & Away*, *Blue Heelers* and *City Homicide*.

Frankie J got his start in the rock group OL’55 and throughout his career has created some of Australian television’s most memorable characters through leading roles in *Police Rescue*, *Round The Twist*, *Something In The Air*, *Underbelly* and recently *A Place To Call Home*. As a TV presenter, he was part of the team on *The Great Outdoors* and hosted *In Melbourne Tonight*.

Their show has a special resonance with their own lives and there is sure to be much that you will relate to as well. The show is about living and loving, full of music you will know and packed with laughs. A great opportunity to see two talented performers “up close and personal”.



Linda Kersten | Visitor Services Officer | West Gippsland Arts Centre

Hydro



Pool



Warragul RSL is now running a Tuesday morning hot pool exercise session at the Warragul Leisure Centre for RSL members starting at 8.50am. **There is no cost for Members.**

To participate, you simply need to phone physiotherapist Mark Alcock at Gippsland Physiotherapy Group on (03) 5623 6989 for a **free** 15 minute consultation. This to enable Mark to get an understanding of the safest and best possible way to help you with any conditions you may have. The facilitator is our Treasurer Chris Berg, for further info; please call Chris on 0429 105 544.



Fitness & Mateship Group



Veterans, First Responders, Peacekeepers and their partners are welcome to join the regular Saturday morning 45 minute PT sessions at Voyage Fitness Warragul.

Starting at 10am the sessions are provided free of charge to all participants thanks to Warragul RSL Active, and the generous support from Voyage Fitness.

Pictured below is Mark Buttner: Vice President, Ben Vahland: President, Damien Sgarbossa and Dave Harrison: Secretary who are all great contributors to our RSL.



Glen Cromie Overnighter



Pictures from our third Glen Cromie Overnight Camp.

The first overnighter for 2022 was held Saturday March 5. Camping was free, dinner and breakfast were provided by our Catering Team for \$5.00.



These events are made possible thanks to the continued growth and development of our RSL.

Special thanks to Warragul Lions who generously provided the BBQ Trailer. RSL's Ross Gaff also a Lion pictured here ensuring all was going to plan.

The kids had a ball!



Anzac Day

MEDAL AND DRESS PROTOCOLS & ETIQUETTE

ANZAC Day and Remembrance day are to remember and pay our respects to all those that lost their lives in service to their country in all wars, accordingly the standard of dress generally accepted is:

- Suit and tie and formal leather like footwear.

For those not engaged in any part of the formal commemoration etc, it is considered that a lesser dress standard of a jacket with an open neck business shirt is acceptable. **We seek to encourage a high standard of dress and to deter casual clothes such as sneakers, jeans and apparel with emblems or another organisations logos.**

Medal Protocols:

- Awarded medals are worn on the left breast.
- Medals awarded to relatives are only to be worn on the right breast.
- Medals awarded to a mates mate or a friend, should not be worn at all.
- The wearing of tin, commemorative medals or medals purchased, is an offence and brings individuals and their organisations condoning same, into disrepute.
- When wearing awarded medals, the Returned from Active Service badge [RAS] **should not be worn.**
- When wearing awarded medals, no other badges or pins should be worn on the left breast or lapel, eg unit badges, corps badges etc
- Rosemary sprigs are considered acceptable.
- Hats. The wearing of Unit Berets Caps, Hats etc is acceptable and encouraged. Ideally any other head wear will be plain and not contain any inappropriate symbols etc. Head wear should be removed when formalities are underway.
- The wearing of a service uniform by a retired veterans [no longer serving] is acceptable.
- The wearing of a service uniform by a current serving member should comply with ADF regulations.

Who is permitted to march in an ANZAC Parade:

- Veterans [service and ex service personnel]
- Veterans [service and ex service from allied Military forces].

What about family members:

Whilst the intention is that marchers in the Parade are limited to Veterans, individual RSL organisation's have made exceptions in the past and even encouraged individuals that had a close relative [parent or grandparent] that served the nation in war, to pay their respects and to join the march parade. Note those who are wearing a close relatives medals must ensure they are worn on their right breast? **Partners and friends of Veterans are not permitted to march.**

What about children?

The intention is no they should not march as they are not Veterans, however, some RSL organizations allow Veterans to have their young children march with them. Warragul RSL encourages our Veterans who are marching to have a young child join them. An overriding consideration is safety and control of the march parade. Parents wanting to have more than one child join them in the march parade should seek approval from the RSL President or march Marshall prior to the form up.

Wearing Rosemary:

Rosemary is an emblem of Remembrance.

It is traditional on ANZAC Day to wear a sprig of rosemary pinned to a coat lapel or to the breast (it does not matter which side, but left seems most common), or held in place by medals.

Rosemary has particular significance for Australians on Anzac Day as it grows wild on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

