



WARRAGUL RSL
Sub Branch

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

From the President and the Warragul RSL Committee of Management – Email: admin@warragulrsl.com.au

Hi everyone,

Well August seems to have been a very busy month with lots of activities and events.

Mark Buttner, Bob Green, Kylie Sage and I attended the RSL Victoria Operational Review Regional meeting at Traralgon RSL on the 7th August. New State President Dr Mark Schroeffel and CEO Sue Cattermole discussed the recent review, outcomes and next steps with the large number of attendees. Six regional meetings were held across Victoria to engage with RSLs following the State Conference.

Our monthly Committee of Management meeting was held on the 11th August. Key outcomes from the meeting included:

- Attendance at the Drouin RSL Military Memorial Plaque installation on the 31st August.
- Approval of the installation of curtains in the Ales on Albert bar to assist with reducing noise. Cost of \$1700 (incl GST).
- Second GST refund of \$6,500 received from the ATO from our BAS statement which is predominantly refund of GST associated with the Veterans Centre project.
- Membership now 412 financial members with 191 service, 215 affiliate and 6 social members.
- Approval of Meri Gardiner as the **Membership Support Officer** to assist Pete Parish.

We still have a couple of vacant positions for which we are seeking interest from members. These include **Assistant Secretary, Facilities Maintenance and an Activities Coordinator**. If you are interested in any of these positions and would like to know more, please speak with either Mark Buttner or myself.

On the 9th August, we had the George Eyre event. Great attendance with around 60 attendees, including members of the Eyre family and the Traralgon City Band.

18th August was Vietnam Veterans Day and despite a cold grey day we had a good turnout at the Warragul Cenotaph for the commemorative service which was held jointly with the Drouin RSL. Post the service, Veterans, members and guests enjoyed a cuppa or beverage and a bite to eat at the Warragul RSL.

On the 29th August, our monthly dinner celebrated Boshodag (Bush Hat Day) which is a significant South African Remembrance Day. See the following pages for more info and pictures of our recent events or visit our Facebook page!

I have received some good suggestions for this newsletter. See the new **'Get to know your Executive Committee'** section – thanks to Gerry for the feedback!

Best Regards, Lynn



RSL
Victoria

110 Year Anniversary

On the 29th August, RSL Victoria marked 110 years of service to the veteran community across the state.

On this day in 1915, with Australian soldiers still fighting in Gallipoli, a motion was passed at the Overseas Club in Flinders St, Melbourne that an association be formed called the 'Returned Soldiers Association'.

Our State President Dr Mark Schroeffel has said 'This makes the RSL the oldest veteran's charity and one of the oldest charities of any kind in Australia today. Our purpose to support those that served remains today.'



VALE

It is with sadness that we mention the recent loss of the following members:

John Wyke (Past President Warragul RSL) on the 22nd July 2025 aged 100 years. John was WGL RSL President in 1987-1988. He was also a life member and was awarded the RSL meritorious medal.

Roland (Roley) Kenny (Affiliate Member) on the 20th August 2025 aged 68 years.

May they rest in peace.

EVENTS UPDATE

REMEMBERING GEORGE EYRE

A BUGLE AND THE NEXT CHAPTER

WARRAGUL RSL
9th August 2025



The Warragul RSL held a special George Eyre event on Saturday 9th August with around 60 attendees.

The event began with the Last Post played by Lachlan Wilson of the Traralgon City Band on the George Eyre Commemorative Bugle.

Sarah and Anthony Lucas from the Warragul Municipal Band gave a very moving and emotional overview of the Traralgon City Bands' recent European Tour of Remembrance including the special service at the grave of George Eyre at Mouvres Cemetery in France.

Peter Eyre presented the Warragul RSL with the 'George Eyre' WW1 Victory Medal that was buried for many years in a garden in Caulfield before being found!



Above: President Lynn Mizen with Lachlan Wilson of the Traralgon City Band with the George Eyre Commemorative Bugle.

Right: Peter Eyre (George Eyre's Great Nephew) with Lachlan Wilson of the Traralgon City Band



Attendees at the George Eyre Event



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

A commemorative service was held at the Warragul Cenotaph on Vietnam Veterans Day (18th August). Despite the grey and cold weather there was good attendance with our Warragul Pipes and Drums commencing the service. Guest speaker was well known Vietnam Veteran Ivan Standen, who gave an interesting overview of the many aspects of the Vietnam War. Back at the Warragul RSL post the service, presentations were made to the recent podcast participants by Yvette Brand from the Warragul Gazette and Ben Vahland Immediate Past President.

Right: Barry Sell, Mick Bluey Smithwick with Bev and John Grace at the service at the Warragul Cenotaph.



Pete Parish cleaning up after Vietnam Veterans Day celebrations.



President Lynn Mizen introducing guest speaker Ivan Standen.



Vietnam Veterans that received their framed podcast 'My Service, My Story' feature articles post the service.

L-R: Alan Eade, Terry Gleeson, Lynton Malley, John Grace, Hans Rehorn, Ivan Standen, Rod McNab and seated in front, Maggie Rehorn who jointly shared her story with Hans.



The monthly dinner on the 29th August celebrated Boshod Dag or Bush Hat Day. Boshod Dag is a global commemoration observed annually on August 26th by the South African Military Veterans Organisation (SAMVO) and its supporters to honor South African veterans and remember those who died during the South African Border War and other conflicts. The day marks the start of the Border War on August 26, 1966, and participants commemorate it by wearing a bush hat or other military-related items like berets, SAMVO badges, or dog tags.



Kylie and Blue greeting members and guests on arrival and selling all important raffle tickets.



SAMVOA Gippsland Chairman Gavin Jones welcoming members and guests



Entertainment provided by the talented McCafferty family



L-R Lead Caterer Brent, Karen, Lassandra, Mandy, Gerardine, Mary and Paul



South African Ex-servicemen (members of SAMVOA) proudly wearing their bush hats



The popular event was well attended with a South African styled dinner of tomato and beef stew on mash followed by delicious Melva sweets

ALES ON ALBERT

Ales on Albert has been a bit quieter in the winter months, with many away seeking warmer weather. However, the usual suspects can continue to be found having a quiet beverage on a Friday night and enjoying catching up. Marlene and Jackie continue to provide welcome bar snacks for the members.



Terry Gleeson, Bluey Smithwick and Bill Canobie



Usual suspects Ross, Brian, John and Marty having a quiet drink



Geoff Coote & Meri Gardiner with Gerry



Right: Joan, Josh, Nick, Gerry and John in the Quarter Deck

PROJECTS UPDATE

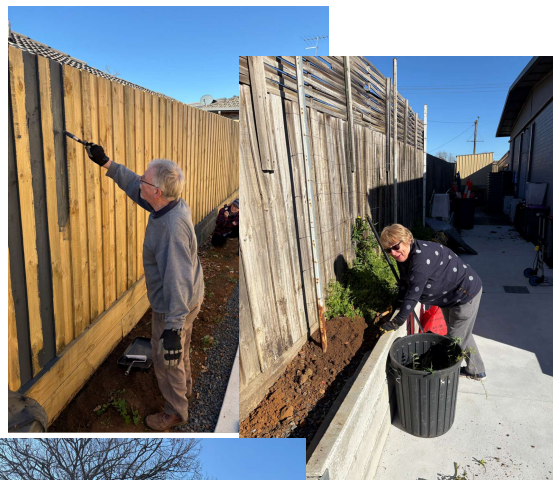


Baw Baw Veterans & Families Centre Update

Veteran & Families Centre Manager Ben Vahland has been very busy coordinating the final items to complete the Veterans Centre including doing all the internal painting!

Garden works are being scheduled to commence soon with the horticulture students from Community College Gippsland. In preparation for the works, the rear retaining wall and garden areas needed weeding and the new fence painted which was recently completed with a few helping hands (Lynn, Graham, Kylie and Ben).

As the Centre progresses towards its grand opening later in the year, we are looking to strengthen our team of advocates who will play a crucial role in supporting veterans as they apply for their well-deserved entitlements. By becoming an advocate, you will not only make a significant difference in their lives but also gain invaluable skills through a self-paced online training program. You will also be mentored by an experienced Level 3 mentor. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who has a passion for serving those who have served our country. For more information contact us at admin@warragulrsl.com.au



President Lynn weeding, with 'First Man' Graham painting the fence and Ben's ute full up with bags of potting mix.



Warragul 500 Poppies Project



The Warragul 500 Poppies is well underway. We now have **125 poppies** already handed in. Our goal is to have 500 knitted or crocheted poppies to create a 'field of remembrance' for the Warragul RSL Remembrance Day service on November 11th, 2025, at the Warragul Cenotaph.

All you have to do is knit, crochet or felt a red poppy to remember and honour someone who has served. All information including a poppy pattern sheet with several poppy designs is available to download from our website at www.warragulrsl.com.au.

You can drop off your knitted poppies to the RSL on Friday mornings, or to the Advantage Pharmacy in Warragul and the Willow Branch in Drouin.

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE BUSY KNITTING!



New Storage Cupboards!

Mark and Kylie have installed new white storage cupboards in the board room to provide additional storage space. The cupboards will store our games, kids play items, and program activity items to provide much needed space back in our storeroom. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be arranging a 'sorting out and clean-up the RSL' working bee.

Post our working bee, the cupboards will be subject to the President's new '**keep tidy rule**' – anything left on the top of the cupboards will be deemed rubbish and removed! The aim is to keep our RSL looking tidy. Next step will be sorting out all the memorabilia display cabinets.

GETTING TO KNOW THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A suggestion from Gerry, was to include something into the newsletter for members to get to know their Executive Committee a bit better. So, each month we will now include a **10 Questions** section for each of the Executive to answer. To kick this off, the first one is 10 questions to the President Lynn Mizen.

Also, we will also soon be putting up photos of the Executive Committee in the front entrance.

10 Questions to the President Lynn Mizen

1. What's your idea of a great weekend?

Just having time to do whatever I want to do – go for a walk, be out in the garden, go for a drive with my partner Graham in the MG, visit a market or having a nice lunch at a winery.

2. Are you a morning person or a night owl?

I'm probably more of a morning person – just feel that you should enjoy as much of the day as possible especially if the sun is out!

3. Do you have any pets?

Graham and I have two ragdoll cats – Milly and Reggie. They are brother and sister, and we have had them since they were kittens. They are 16 years old and going strong.

4. What's your favourite type of cuisine?

I love cooking and all sorts of different types of food, but I do love Thai and most Asian styles of cuisine, so that is probably my favourite.

5. What kind of music do you enjoy?

I have a bit of an eclectic taste in music. Predominately I guess pop, mainstream rock, bit of classical, easy listening. I like bands like Coldplay, U2, Sheppard, Dire Straits and artists like Adele, Tina Arena, Ed Sheeran with a bit of Bach or Mozart thrown in if in the mood.

6. Do you enjoy travelling? If so, what's been your favourite place so far?

I do like travelling when I get the time. I absolutely love France – beautiful country and just enjoy the food, culture, countryside. I also loved living in Singapore – so that would be up there also with being one of my favourite places along with Egypt when I did a cruise along the Nile.

7. Do you have a favourite TV show or movie?

My all-time favourite TV show would have to be Vera – just really loved the character. Graham says I am a bit like Vera at times as I can be a bit of a sleuth. Favourite movie probably Shawshank Redemption and also Groundhog Day!

8. What do you wish you had more time to do?

Spending time in my studio painting, drawing or card making. I find it just a good way to unwind but just don't seem to get the time these days. Also having a day trip out somewhere that isn't going to another RSL for a regional meeting!

9. What activities do you enjoy during your free time?

I like going out for a walk especially when it is nice and sunny, being in the garden and doing my art and crafts. I also enjoy baking and cooking when I can.

10. What's a piece of advice you've received that has stuck with you?

I was once told that life is like a strip of film. Sometimes, there will be bad frames. Learn from them but don't re-live them. Focus instead on making today a good frame.

I have also for the past 15 years, worn a silver bangle that is inscribed with "Be the change you want to see in the world" – Mahatma Ghandi.



EVENTS SEP/OCT 2025

Month	Date	Day	Event
SEPTEMBER	14 th	Sunday	Australian Peacekeepers Commemorative Event
	26 th	Friday	Monthly Dinner
	27 th	Saturday	AFL Grand Final
	28 th	Sunday	National Police Remembrance Day (TBC)
OCTOBER	5 th	Sunday	Ordinary General Meeting
	11 th	Saturday	Oktoberfest
	18 th	Saturday	Po75 Veterans Commemorative Event
	23 rd	Thursday	Warragul Genealogy Society/RSL Event – Lambis Englezos
	31 st	Friday	Monthly Dinner

PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

Day	Activity	Time	Frequency	Location
MONDAY	Veterans and First Responders Catch up	10.00 am	Weekly	Warragul RSL
	Guitars 4 Vets (G4V)	7.00 pm	Weekly	Warragul RSL
	“Can Do” Art Group	1 pm & 7 pm	2 nd and 4 th Monday of the month	Warragul RSL
	Morning Tea	10.30 am	1 st Monday of the month	Warragul RSL
TUESDAY	Hydrotherapy	9.00 am	Weekly	Warragul Leisure Centre
	Pipes and Drums	6.30 pm	Weekly	Warragul RSL
THURSDAY	Scale Model Group	10.00 am	1 st and 3 rd Thursday of the month	Warragul RSL
	Meditation	7.00 pm	2 nd Thursday of the month	Warragul RSL
	Wellbeing Group	7.00 pm	3 rd Thursday of the month	Warragul RSL
FRIDAY	Carpet Bowls	10.00 am	Weekly	Warragul RSL
	Social Group	10.00 am	Weekly	Warragul RSL
SATURDAY	Singing Group	11.30 am	Weekly	Warragul RSL
	Blue Grass Jam Session	1.00 – 5.00 pm	1 st and 3 rd Saturday of the month	Warragul RSL

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

FRIDAYS



Ales on Albert
5pm – 8.00pm
@ Warragul RSL



SATURDAYS

Fitness & Mateship Group
10.00 am
@ Voyage Fitness Warragul



WARRAGUL RSL
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We look forward to keeping you up-to-date each month with news and activities.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of the Warragul RSL.

Lynn Mizen, President, and the Warragul RSL Committee of Management - August 2025