



PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

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



At the Rural Press Club of Victoria awards on the 31st October, the Warragul & Drouin Gazette won the award for **Most Innovative Journalism** for the My Service/My Story and His Service/Our Story series.



This is a well-earned honour for the Gazette and is the result of a fantastic collaboration between the Warragul RSL and the Gazette in bringing the history of our local veterans to life.

A huge thank you to all the Veterans who participated in sharing their stories, the Warragul & Drouin Gazette team, as well as Ben, Bob, Gavan and Shane from the Warragul RSL.

Our congratulations to you all!!!!

Hi everyone!

This month is a bit of an action-packed newsletter with lots of news, information, activities, projects and events. We have a busy couple of months to the end of the year so no doubt we will all be looking forward to a bit of a break and recharge of the batteries. I know I will.

Our monthly Committee of Management meeting was held on the 13th October with a large agenda of items. Key outcomes from the meeting included:



- Appointment of the ATO Authorised Persons to manage our ATO account.
- Only essential and committed spend approved for the remainder of the year.
- Upcoming opening of the Baw Baw Veterans and Families Centre.
- Approval of the allocation of 2 carparks for the President and the Veterans Centre
- Victoria Police inspection of our firearms on the 14th October.
- Membership now at 418 members which includes 196 service members, 216 affiliate members and 6 social members.

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

Robert Hill (Previous Service Member) on the 8th October 2025 aged 80 years

Harry Milne (Service Member) on the 12th October 2025 aged 94 years.

Ron Mahoney (Service Member) on the 26th October 2025 aged 79 years.

Fred Coutts (Service Member) on the 30th October 2025 aged 85 years.

May they rest in peace.

We had our General Meeting on the 5th October. Attendance numbers were a little low. I encourage our members to try and attend these meetings as it is important to get updates on what we are doing especially at the state level. Our final General Meeting for the year is on the 13th December just prior to the Xmas lunch.

As I said, this newsletter has a lot of information this month, so I won't cover it again here. Happy reading!!

Best Regards, Lynn

EVENTS UPDATE



Annual P075 (Post 1975)
Commemorative Event
18th October 2025



For the third consecutive year, Warragul RSL held its Post 75 Veterans Commemorative Service on Saturday 13th October. About 40 people came along including some representatives from the Drouin RSL which is always great to see.

We are one of the few RSL's who acknowledge the modern-day service that has taken place in our Nation's name and the commemorative service was about acknowledging the service of those who have served Australia since the Vietnam war ended, being Post 1975.

Guest speaker was Post 75 Veteran and member of our RSL James O'Beirne or Jay. Jay shared the many challenges he faced from a very young age, the support that enabled him to overcome adversity and the sacrifices he made to ensure he would qualify as a Commando in the Australian Army. It was a very interesting story as he suffered many serious injuries as part of his military life, but it was the overcoming of those injuries that was inspiring. Jay's involvement with military dogs had a big impact on his life and he also shared his vision for a new charity called Winston's Companions. The charity intends to provide support and companion dogs for Veterans.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about Winston's Companions or to assist Jay as he is also looking for volunteers to assist his charity just drop us an email to admin@warragulrsl.com.au and we'll let Jay know.

Below: Guest Speaker Jay O'Beirne with President Lynn Mizen.



Below Left: John Brooks and Ross Gaff at the P75 Event.

Below Right: Kay and Jenni from Drouin RSL with Kathy and Bill Kettle sitting behind.



An evening with Lambis Englezos AM



On Thursday 23rd October, the Warragul RSL and the West Gippsland Genealogical Society held an evening with Lambis Englezos AM.

Lambis Englezos is an amateur historian and schoolteacher who was responsible for discovering mass war graves of some 250 lost Australian soldiers from the disastrous Battle of Fromelles in World War 1 near Fromelles, France. About 60 people attended the event in which Lambis gave a fascinating but sometimes shocking presentation of the discovery of the mass graves, the Battle of Fromelles and the horrific loss of life as well as the incredible efforts to exhume, identify and reinter the Australian soldiers.

Left: President Lynn Mizen with Lambis Englezos and Barbara Clayton, President of the Warragul Genealogical Society.

MONTHLY DINNER



Above: Brent Wilson, Mandy Buttner and Karen Wilson in the kitchen doing a fabulous job!!

After a hiatus in September with the Grand Final, the monthly dinner was back in business on the 31st October with a wonderful winner winner chicken dinner cooked by Brent Wilson and his team. Karen Wilson and Mandy Buttner not only assisted but created a scrumptious lemon meringue ice-cream cake.

About 70 enjoyed the night. A big THANK YOU to all those that volunteered in setting up, serving and clearing up as well as all those on the night who chipped in to help out.



Above: Henry Cotton on the left, with Jackie Green, Nina Azzopardi and Marg Vahland sporting her spider fascinator for Halloween!



Left: Geoff and Sigrid Earl at the head of the table with Hans and Maggie Rehorn on the left and Lynn Coutts with a close friend on the right.

ALES ON ALBERT

Our Friday Ales on Albert continues to see a regular crowd enjoying catching up especially now that daylight saving has kicked in – Bring on the warmer weather!!

A few of the shots taken at Ales during the month of October.



Right: Gerardine and Keith Crew with Dave (Harro) and Ash



Above: Rod Dunlop (right) from Drouin RSL enjoying a beer and a chat with Bill Canobie (left)



Above: Lynn Coutts with Jackie Green.



Above: Gerry entertaining a few of the regulars

PROJECTS UPDATE

Baw Baw Veterans & Families Centre Grand Opening

Ben and I are thrilled to advise that the Baw Baw Veteran & Families Centre will formally open on **Friday 21st November**.

Several special guests will be in attendance.

Time: 2.15 for a 2.30 pm start

RSVP: By CoB Wednesday 19th November to:

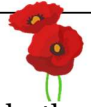
Email: admin@warragulrsl.com.au

Phone: 0480 247 478

Light refreshments will be served post the formal opening.



Warragul 500 Poppies Project

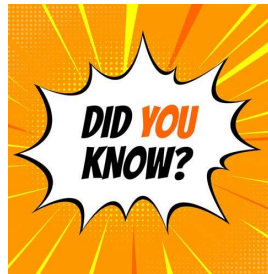


Well, what can I say. I have been overwhelmed by the community response to our poppies project and as at the 31st October have had **2937 poppies** handed in. The next step is to get the poppies ready for installation on Remembrance Day.

Poppies Working BEE!!!!

Don't forget the Poppies working bee is on **Wednesday 5th November from 10.30 am through to 3.30 pm**. Anyone who can help is welcome to come along during those times. We will be attaching poppies to stakes and sewing poppies onto panels. If you want to sew, please bring along a pair of scissors and a wool sewing needle. There will be tea/coffee/cake/biscuits available but if you intend to come for a while, feel free to bring some lunch.

A second working bee is scheduled for Sunday 9th November from 10 am to 2.00 pm if needed.



Real help. Right now.

With a \$100 Power Saving Bonus for eligible concession card households.

Authorised by the Victorian Government



The Victorian Government is providing real help, right now with a \$100 Power Saving Bonus for eligible concession card households to assist with energy bills. Households with an eligible concession card, including Veterans Affairs' Pensioner Concession Card and Veterans Affairs' Gold Card, can now apply for the \$100 payment via the Victorian Energy Compare website.

One payment is available per household and to be eligible, you will need to:

- Have a recent residential electricity bill.
- Hold one of the following concession cards:
 - Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card
 - Veterans' Affairs Gold Card
 - Pensioner Concession Card
 - Health Care Card

You can also get help to apply by calling the Victorian Energy Compare helpline on **1800 000 832**. Victorian Energy Compare is a free and independent government-run website that makes it easy to compare electricity, gas and solar offers. On average, people who used the website across 2024 saved \$240 by switching to the best priced energy offers!

CHECK THIS OUT!



Thinking about your brain health?

You can check that with fun, free games and activities on the **BrainTrack** app.



Scan the **QR code** to embark on your **brain health** journey, or visit dementia.org.au/braintrack



GRANTS UPDATE



VETERANS HEALTH WEEK GRANTS

We submitted two grant applications for the Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Health Week Grants, and both were approved!!! This year, the grant program allows us to run our activities up until the end of February 2026. We will be running our two activities in the New Year which will be:

Amazing Adventure Car Challenge!

Event is for members to drive their cars as teams around the local Baw Baw Shire stopping at set locations to perform an activity whereby, they can score points for their team. At each location upon completing the activity, the team are provided with directions to the next location.

Fun on the lanes!

A fun ten-pin bowling event at the Alley Warragul bowling venue for veterans and their families for a fun and casual bowling experience with some special awards.

More information on these events will be provided once we set the dates, so keep a lookout.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Yes, it's that time of year again. Reminder that the membership subscriptions for the new year are due as of the 1st November!!!

Please check our website www.warragulrsl.com.au for payment details or see our membership officer Pete Parish on Friday mornings from 10 – 12 or at Ales on Albert on Friday night.



RSL Australia Elects Peter Tinley AM as New National President

Peter Tinley AM replaces Major General Greg Melick AO RFD FANZCN KC (Retd), who has stepped down after six and a half years of leading the RSL. Peter Tinley brings a distinguished record of service and leadership, as well as a deep commitment to the values of the RSL, to his new role. He has a unique combination of military service, business leadership, and extensive political experience. He served 25 years in the Australian Defence Force, including 17 years with the Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment. Peter Tinley was endorsed as the preferred candidate by the State Executive of RSL Victoria.

GETTING TO KNOW THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In getting to know the Executive Committee, this month, we posed our 10 questions to our Vice President Governance Lou Gale.

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

Having a weekend with no commitments and being able to enjoy going to a market or go away for a short break.

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

I am definitely a morning person, 5 am is my weekday wakeup and a weekend sleep in is normally no later than 6am.

3. Do you have any pets?

Yes, we have a Cat called Willow and 5 snakes - all pythons called Medusa, Salazar, Mehen, Nathair and Beithir.

4. What's your favourite type of cuisine?

I don't really have one.

5. What kind of music do you enjoy?

My music tastes are very eclectic. I am not sure how to describe it. The first 5 songs on my play list are

- The Gambler - Kenny Rogers
- The Sound of Silence – Disturbed
- Zombie – The Cranberries
- Sk8er Boi – Avril Lavigne
- I Will Wait – Mumford and Sons

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

I do like to travel, I very much enjoyed Green Island in QLD but after a recent trip to the UK Scotland is now my favourite place

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

My favourite movie is Rose Red.

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

I wish I had time to Paint and Draw as I am crafty and just don't get time to do this at the moment.

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

Spending time with my husband Rob either camping or going to museums.

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

When you make a decision know your reasons, so you can reflect on the outcome and grow.



EVENTS NOV/DEC 2025

Month	Date	Day	Event
NOVEMBER	5 th	Wednesday	Poppy Working Bee 10.30 am to 3.30 pm
	8 th	Saturday	Working Bee @ 10.00 am
	11 th	Tuesday	Remembrance Day – Service commences at 10.20 am
	28 th	Friday	Monthly Dinner
DECEMBER	7 th	Sunday	RSL Golf Day
	13 th	Saturday	General Meeting Kids Christmas Party Member Christmas Party

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	9.30 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
Sub Branch

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 - October 2025

For further information go to our website: <http://warragulrsl.com.au>