



WARRAGUL RSL
Sub Branch

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

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



Ivan Standen OAM

Our congratulations to Warragul RSL member Ivan Standen who was recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on Australia Day 2026 for service to the welfare of veterans.

Ivan was a Vietnam veteran in the Ordnance Corps and has spent over 20+ years in veteran welfare advocacy and training. Ivan was heavily involved for many years with the West Gippsland Veterans Welfare Centre based in Drouin before it closed in 2024.

We are fortunate that Ivan will continue as mentor to our next generation of advocates currently undergoing training for our Baw Baw Veterans and Families Centre.

We also congratulate Warragul RSL members Emma Conway and Gavin Parker on receiving an Australian Fire Services Medal in the Australia Day Awards.



Hi everyone!

Firstly, a Happy New Year and I hopefully you all had a good Xmas and New Year!! Our first monthly Committee of Management meeting for the year was held on the 12th January. Key outcomes from the meeting included:

- Confirmation from Monacellers of a \$997 refund to the Warragul RSL as a result of member discounts.
- Requirement for all guests of the Warragul RSL to sign in (more info in this newsletter).
- Transfer of our banking accounts to the Bendigo Bank in Drouin.
- OH&S issues including sun damaged chairs and the small bar tables and stools being a trip hazard.
- Bookings for meals and non-attendance (more info in this newsletter)
- Membership now stands at 431 members which includes 197 service members, 228 affiliate members and 6 social members.



We are planning for our upcoming AGM and General Meetings on Sunday 29th March including a new look Annual Report which I am very excited about.

We are also busy planning our events and commemorative program for 2026. There are a couple of fully funded events in February thanks to funding from DVA (see Page 2) and I encourage our members to participate with their families in these events.

To end the month of January, we again had a very successful Burns Night dinner thanks to our wonderful Warragul RSL Pipes & Drums – a great evening and lots of great feedback.

Happy Reading!!!

Best Regards, Lynn



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

Syd Fraser (Service Member) on the 4th January aged 92 years

May he rest in peace.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Car Discovery Challenge – Sat 14th Feb

THRIVE 365
CONNECT · MOVE · NOURISH



As part of the Veterans' Health Week Program Thrive 365, the Warragul RSL is running a car discovery challenge on Saturday 14th Feb (and yes, we know, it's Valentines Day, but feel the romance as you tour around our beautiful West Gippsland!)

- **Time:** 10 a.m. for a 10.30 a.m. start.
- **Where:** Start and finish at the Warragul RSL.
- **Participants:** Veterans, first responders, RSL members and family.
- **Cost to participants:** Free (fully funded by DVA)
- **Activity:** This is a family event, that involves a drive of approximately 2.5 hr. Lots of fun for the whole family as you search for answers to questions around the West Gippsland area.

A BBQ lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the event and Ales on Albert will be open.

Cars must be currently registered and insured, drivers must hold a valid driving licence, all road, other laws, by-laws and regulations must be adhered to, failure to do so will disqualify the participant/s from participating.

Go to our website to complete the registration form or email us at admin@warragulrsl.com.au with your contact details, number of cars participating and number of participants.

Family Ten Pin Bowling – Sat 21st Feb

Also, under the Thrive 365 program we are having a family ten pin bowling event on Saturday 21st Feb. Aim is to just have some fun and try something new.

- **Time:** 3.00 pm start.
- **Where:** Warragul 'The Alley' Ten-Pin Bowling, 45 Queen St
- **Participants:** Veterans, first responders, RSL members and family members.
- **Cost to participants:** Free (fully funded by DVA)
- **Activity:** This is a family event, that involves a fun and casual social activity for all ages and levels.

A BBQ tea will be provided at the conclusion of the event and Ales on Albert will be open.

This is a fun event and no experience required – if you haven't tried ten pin bowling before then 'give it a go'.

Go to our website to complete the registration form or email us at admin@warragulrsl.com.au with your contact details and number of participants (adults and children).

Let's Go Bowling



MONTHLY DINNER – BURNS NIGHT



2026 kicked off with our Annual Burns Night fundraising evening for the Warragul RSL Pipes and Drums on Saturday 31st January. Guests enjoyed all the Scottish traditions and celebrated the renowned poet Robert Burns with a number participating in reciting poems.

The pipes and drums welcomed everyone, and guests stood to welcome the dinner's star attraction – the haggis, which was piped in and delivered on a platter by a procession including the chef for the night (Brent Wilson). Special guests Colin and Elisabeth Paterson entertained with the traditional 'Toast to the Lassies'. More photos of the very enjoyable night will be posted soon on our Facebook.



Above: Amanada Allen also presented Helen Roberts (ex 3 Recov Coy) with a Quilt of Valour on Burns Night.



please note

DINNER BOOKINGS

The Management Committee will be monitoring our dinner bookings and attendance over the next 3 months. Unfortunately, at our Xmas lunch, we had 22 bookings that did not show. This meant that as a result, we were over catered for the event. Whilst those in attendance were able to enjoy takeaway packs, it also meant that our costs were more than they needed to be.

We ask that if you book in for one of our catered dinner events, that if you or members of your group are unable to attend that you let us know as soon as possible so we can adjust numbers accordingly.

We will also be reviewing our dinner booking and catering processes as well as the option to pay when you book. We want to continue to provide our members regular meal events, but we also need to ensure that they are cost effective for us. Your support with this will be much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Just a reminder that the membership subscriptions for 2026 are due to be paid if you haven't already done so. As we have now changed to the Bendigo Bank our payment details have changed as follows:

Bendigo Bank Drouin Branch
BSB:633 000
Account Number: 238 166 573
Account Name: Warragul RSL Sub-Branch General Account.

Payment details are also on our website www.warragulrsl.com.au or see our membership officer Pete Parish on Friday mornings from 10 – 12 or at Ales on Albert on Friday night.

Just a
reminder...





**VISITORS
MUST SIGN IN**

All Visitors to Sign In

Due to our liquor license requirements and compliance all **non-Warragul RSL Members must be signed in** as a Guest by a current financial member of the Warragul RSL. A new sign and sign-in form is now located in the front foyer. Please ensure that if you have any guests attend the RSL that they are signed in. This includes any visitors from other RSL sub-branches.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!

Reserved Parking Spaces

Shortly two car parking spaces will have reserved parking signs. One is for visitors to the Veterans Centre and will be reserved from Mon – Fri from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm and the second is a reserved parking for the President.

The signage will be placed on the fence by the Veterans Centre to indicate the 2 spaces being reserved.



Our Australia Day event was a very relaxed affair with entertainment provided by our own Warragul RSL Singers who sang some classic Aussie songs. BBQ sausages and salads were provided for a gold coin donation.

The 2nd annual dessert bake-off competition was won by Brent Wilson for his plate of mixed lamingtons.

The 'Best Dressed Aussies' were John and Pam with their matching gold and green outfits.



Above: Sunil Bhatt and wife enjoying the activities

Right: Our Warragul RSL singers getting ready to entertain

Below: President Lynn with Sally and Marg

Below Right: Winners of the 'Best Dressed Aussies' John and Pam



GETTING TO KNOW THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In getting to know the Executive Committee, this month, we posed our 10 questions to our Senior Vice President – Operations Mark Buttner.

10 Questions to the Senior Vice President Operations Mark Buttner

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

I'm retired, there are no weekends, just six Saturdays and one Sunday. But pottering around home doing odd jobs satisfies me, I like to keep busy, but not too busy.

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

Definitely not a night owl, so more a morning person, but not too early.

3. Do you have any pets?

A dog, Addy, Miniature Schnauzer, great pet/companion, and she doesn't moult.

4. What's your favourite type of cuisine?

Anything spicy, probably Thai and Indian are my favourites.

5. What kind of music do you enjoy?

Anything except the more recent types of "fashionable music", like Hip Hop, Rap etc.

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

Absolutely, I don't really have a favourite place, but my favourite experience is luxury train travel, we did the Ghan and absolutely loved it, and we did the Eastern and Oriental Express train trip from Singapore into Malaysia for 3 nights at the end of last year, which I think will be a step up from the Ghan. I also enjoy cruising, it's like an enforced rest, but there's still plenty to do, you can do as much or as little as you want, you unpack once, and everything is within a stone's throw.

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

Not really, but if I had to pick one, Saving Private Ryan or the series Band of Brothers.

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

Six Saturdays and one Sunday! I have time to do everything I want to do.

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

I get a lot of satisfaction with helping people, whether it's with my specific skill sets, or just helping.

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

Work hard and pay attention to detail.



EVENTS FEB/MAR 2026

Month	Date	Day	Event
FEBRUARY	14 th	Saturday	Car Discovery Challenge – 10.00 am for a 10.30 am start
	21 st	Saturday	Ten Pin Bowling – 3.00 pm
	27 th	Friday	Monthly Dinner
MARCH	27 th	Friday	Monthly Dinner
	29 th	Sunday	AGM and General Meeting

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	1.00 pm	1 st and 3 rd 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 – February 2026