



# NEWSLETTER

WARRAGUL RSL

## "PRESIDENT'S UPDATE"



### MAY 2026 ISSUE

Hi everyone!

This is the new format for our newsletter which has been created by Kelly Williamson as part of the media operations team. Kelly has taken on the newsletter for me, and we are aiming to do one every 2 months. Hope you like the new look! Well, it has certainly been a busy couple of months leading up to ANZAC Day, and what an absolutely wonderful day it was this year – the weather was just perfect, and both commemorative services were very well attended.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time in the lead up to and during the day. All up we would have had about 60+ volunteers. My heartfelt thanks to everyone involved, without you, we would not be able to run our ANZAC Appeal and ANZAC day to the level that we do.

I'd like to thank Kylie and Paul for coordinating the ANZAC Appeal which takes a considerable amount of effort, in sorting out the merchandise, organising the roster, getting boxes out into the community and then collecting them all back up and doing a stock take. Thank you both and all those that volunteered to sell badges.

From the President and the Warragul RSL Committee of Management  
Email: [admin@warragulrsl.com.au](mailto:admin@warragulrsl.com.au)

To Mark and Rob – thank you for organising the two main commemorative events – there is so much to coordinate, and it takes a lot of follow up and planning. Thank you too, all those that assisted on the big day, whether it was doing catering, staffing the bar, selling raffle tickets, or just helping out with dishes. Every little bit helps. And I'd like to also thank Bob and the media operations team, along with Gerry and Patrick in sorting out the technical aspects to be able to play the podcasts, and audio files on the day. Well done, to you all – great team effort.

We held our AGM on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, and we had quite a few attend the meeting. We presented our Annual Report for 2025 as a booklet which was well received. A big thank you to Bob and especially Shane Keppel in putting the booklet together. Congratulations to Rob Brown for being appointed as a voting committee member in the role of Operations Officer assisting Mark. Appreciate you nominating and taking on the role.

We had our Committee Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. Key focus was planning for ANZAC day. As of the end of March our membership now stands at 435 members which includes 196 service members, 4 life members, 230 affiliate members and 6 social members. The membership team sent out reminders to 92 unfinancial members.

We held a couple of great events over the last period with the St Patrick's Day dinner on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – attendance was down on previous years but those that did attend had a great evening. We also had our second ladies fashion parade fundraiser which was very successful. You can read more about both events in this newsletter.

One final item from me, is that for the month of May and into June, I will be temporarily stepping down as President of the Warragul RSL. This is due to my stepping up as Acting State President and as such am not allowed to be in an officer position at a sub-branch. I will be away quite a bit in May as I'll be attending the National Women's Veteran Forum in Brisbane and then the RSL Australia National Board Meeting as Acting Victorian State President in Perth.

Mark Buttner as Senior Vice President will be Acting President in my absence. I'll be back on-board mid-June so until then, take care and look after one another.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



WARRAGUL RSL  
SUB BRANCH

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Held on the 29th March, the event was well attended, reflecting strong member engagement and interest. The Annual Report, presented in a new booklet format, was particularly well received, with many attendees commenting on its clear layout and professional presentation. Many thanks to Shane Keppel for all his work and support with this.

During the proceedings, Robert Brown was elected as Committee Member - Operations Officer, and we look forward to his contribution and support in this role moving forward.

*"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."*

*– Robert Brault*



# ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Dinner this year was held on 27th March. Attendance was slightly lower than our usual dinner evenings, but the event still offered a warm and enjoyable atmosphere for those who attended.

Catering was expertly provided by Brent Wilson, Karen Wilson, and Mandy Buttner, featuring a hearty Shepherd's Pie followed by a beautifully prepared lemon posset dessert created by Mandy and Karen.

Entertainment for the evening was lively, with Alan Tatlow and friends supplying music, complemented by an engaging display of Highland dancing that added a festive and traditional touch to the celebration



***"It's St. Paddy's Day – everyone's  
Irish tonight."***

***– Norman Reedust***



# FASHION PARADE

Ladies Fashion Parade – held on 15th April. This event was a terrific and highly successful fundraiser, bringing together a vibrant group of 73 ladies for an afternoon filled with fashion, conversation, and community spirit. From the moment guests arrived, there was a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with plenty of opportunity to socialise and enjoy the occasion.

A delightful afternoon tea was served, giving attendees time to relax and connect while enjoying a selection of refreshments. The highlight of the day was the fashion parade presented by U&I Fashions, who showcased an impressive winter collection. The range featured stylish, comfortable, and versatile pieces, with something to suit a variety of tastes and occasions. The models did a wonderful job presenting each outfit, and the parade was met with great enthusiasm and interest from the audience.

The event not only provided entertainment but also achieved a strong fundraising outcome, with a total of \$867 raised. This was a fantastic result and reflects the generous support of everyone who attended and contributed.

Given the success and positive feedback, plans are already in place for the next fashion parade, with U&I Fashions returning in August to present their spring collection. It promises to be another enjoyable and well-supported event on the calendar



*"Clothes mean nothing until someone lives in them."*

– Marc Jacobs





ANZAC Day was marked by the dawn service commencing at 5:45am with excerpts from the “My Service My Story” podcast series and the RSL Pipes and Drums Chapter, creating a reflective beginning as attendees gathered in quiet tribute.

The ANZAC Day March then took place at 10am, Marshalled by John Farthing and the Warragul Municipal Band. Both events were exceptionally well attended and truly moving.

There was such strong support from local schools and the wider community. It was heartening to see people of all ages come together in a spirit of respect and remembrance to honour those who have served and sacrificed. Formal proceedings, wreath laying, and moments of silence allowed everyone present to pause and reflect.

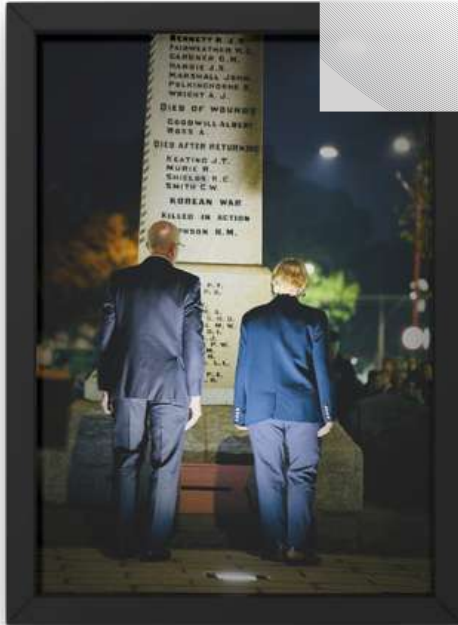
Representatives from local schools played an important role, contributing readings, as young ambassadors shared stories of their experiences in trekking the Kokoda trail and their participation in the ceremony, highlighted the importance of passing on the ANZAC legacy to younger generations.

Veterans, First Responders, community service groups, and community members proudly took part in the day, supported by onlookers who lined the route in appreciation.

Musical contributions such as the New Zealand and Australian national anthems beautifully sung by the Warragul RSL Singers added to the atmosphere, along with traditional hymns and commemorative pieces performed throughout the service.

The final part of this ceremony was the PC21 flypast, which provided a powerful and symbolic tribute, drawing the attention of all in attendance and adding a special moment to an already meaningful occasion.

**‘Lest We Forget’**







In between ceremonies a hearty breakfast was enjoyed by many at the Warragul Downtowner

There was a very generous donation of \$5000 presented to the Warragul RSL for the Veteran's and Families Centre that provides essential support to Veteran's and First Responders.

We sincerely thank the Warragul Downtowner for its generous support of The Warragul RSL.



**'Lest We Forget'**



# 2026 ANZAC DAY SPEECH

## Warragul Service

– MAJ Ben Clover

War is not unfamiliar to the old world of Europe. In the year 1415 at the battle of Agincourt in northern France, the flower of French chivalry was caught in the mud and subsumed under a weight of English arrows. Against the English longbowman 100 'grand nobles' – dukes, barons, viscounts – and 3000 professional knights were killed in the most famous battle of the Middle Ages.

Five centuries later, a nation that at the time of Agincourt did not even exist, would send over its own chivalrous rose to those same muddy fields of northern France. But these men from the new world were not knights of the realm. They were not barons and dukes and noble men of birth. No, these men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Imperial Force were humbler men. They were farmers like Richard George Clark of Warragul KIA 8 August 1918 aged 33. Teachers like Horace Lisle Rintel of Warragul KIA 20 September 1917 aged 26. And blacksmiths like Selby Manderson Hastings of Buln Buln KIA 8 June 1917 aged just 24.

These men bore no coat of arms or titles, the closest they had was the rising sun badge of the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF on their slouch hats and a military rank. They were not decked out in shining armour, but khaki woollen battle tunics. Nor would their behaviour be mistaken for those of noble birth. For the men of the First AIF were known for their fierceness in battle, and out of it an equalising larrikinism that was so antithetical to European notions of class and station. But for all the differences, they would face the same sucking, all-consuming mud. They would face the modern equivalent of the long bow's indiscriminate arrow, the German artillery shells of gas and high explosive. Of the 416,000 who volunteered in the war, 60,000 would be killed in action and 155,000 would be wounded in action.

Equal to any grand knight or blue-blooded noble man, these Australians would make their mark on the long history of Europe and the then short history of this nation. Ordinary men, who in times of deep crisis would reveal an extraordinary character of duty and sacrifice equal to any chivalric knight.

We are then left to grapple with the question of how to honour these men – their duty, their sacrifice. The scale and sacrifice of the Great War is incalculable.

The death and destruction is beyond comprehension in its gravity and violence. Australia and the world still bears deep scars from this terrible conflict. But the darkness of the Great War does not mean there is no enduring good legacy out of it.

For we are that legacy. The men whose names etched in this cenotaph behind me all signed up to do their duty. And they all came from here. They lived here, worked here, had family here. Warragul, Drouin, Darnum, Buln Buln, Ellinbank and other towns in the shire. What we are as towns today is their legacy. There is a reason this cenotaph is in the centre of Warragul, because it is the centre of our shared township. It links us all together, regardless of if you are a direct descendant or moved here last week. The continued flourishing of this community in peace and prosperity is the legacy of their sacrifice and the result of their call to duty.

So how can we going forward pay proper and due respect to their sacrifice? How can we honour their legacy? Like the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF we can do our own duty. We can give back to others and our town and build up our local communal life. We can all be of service to each other in our own small ways while we enjoy the peace and prosperity so many from our community died to defend. This need not be military service, although it can be, as it was for many of us here today. You can spend time volunteering with a charity. Sign up for the CFA. Pop down to the RSL. Help in churches and civic groups. Join a local footy, cricket, netball or other sports club. Help out at schools. Go and say hello to your neighbour. Provide a hand to those who need it. Build those relationships that are the life blood of civic good health. For this is how we love our neighbour, and it is in this civic love that we can bring forth in our own little way in our own little towns, true peace.

For peace in its proper form is not just the absence of conflict. World War I – through the sacrifice of so many – achieved that shallower peace for a time. But true peace is the existence of communal love, one that supersedes our own individual desires and makes violence and conflict not just redundant, but repulsive to the heart. To achieve peace, we must sacrifice selfish desires. We must grow our sense of duty to others. For the 103,000 service men and women who have died made a much larger sacrifice than is asked of us and so displayed no greater love. We should be grateful that they provide us the opportunity to make such small sacrifices for each other. This is how we honour the contract we have with the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF and those who went to war after, and especially those who did not return. For they served and died so that we may have that opportunity to do so. It is our responsibility to ensure that opportunity is passed on to those not yet born.

This morning, from before dawn to now has been one of reflection. For over a century, the buglers' sounding of the last post has been the call to remembrance in solemn silence. May we let the buglers call of reveille that ends the minute's silence – as it has for thousands of soldiers and the millions of those at home – be the call to action; that we may go forth from here dedicated to building those bonds of love and peace as to truly honour them. For this is what we owe them.

Lest we forget

# A FINAL WORD OR TWO



Anzac Day wrap up thanks must also go to Gerry, Gavan and Patrick in upgrading our sound/audio capability.

A thank you also to Blue for her wonderful solo performance of the First Nations Māori version of the New Zealand national anthem "E Ihowā Atua" (God Defend New Zealand)

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any small way with the food, set up, and organisation of the day. We are so very grateful for how we all come together to make what we do so successful and everyone of you are appreciated beyond measure.

And lastly, a thank you to the Warragul Scout Group and the homeschool group who attended the RSL in the lead up to Anzac day to learn about the history and meaning of ANZAC Day. We loved having you be part of it all.

*They shall grow not old as we that  
are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them nor the  
years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in  
the morning, we shall remember  
them...*

*Lest we forget.*



# ALES ON ALBERT



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**“ Each new friend can make you a new person, because it opens up new doors inside of you”.**

**- Kate DiCamillo**

Our Friday Ales on Albert continues to be a magnet for our wonderfully loyal crowd. Here are a few snaps from the past couple of weeks, the proof that good company, a friendly atmosphere and some bar snacks make for a pretty unbeatable combo.

If you haven't made it along yet, consider this your friendly nudge! We'd love to see you there. Members and their guests are warmly welcomed from 5:00 pm every Friday. Come for a quick one, stay for the comraderie and laughs.

Thank you to those who volunteer their time serving behind the bar or prepping the food.

# RSL SPOTLIGHT

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Behind every successful event at Warragul RSL, there is a steady, often unseen force holding everything together. That force is the volunteers.

They arrive early, long before the first member or guest walks through the door, and sometimes stay long after the last chair is stacked and the lights are dimmed.

They are the ones who set up tables for our dinners, who cook food and staff the bar for our weekly Ales on Albert, run our groups, organise our displays, and everything else in between.

They are not there for recognition, applause, or reward. They are there because they care. Our volunteers are the backbone of every event. They fill the gaps, smooth the edges, and quietly ensure that everything continues to move forward.

Often, their work is invisible to those enjoying our events and space, but its impact is felt in every seamless moment.

What makes our volunteers remarkable is not just what they do, but how they do it. With generosity, with patience, and, with a willingness to give their time and energy so that others can experience something meaningful, joyful, or memorable turning every effort into experience and planning into reality.

No event would truly run without them, and yet, they never ask for acknowledgment, when they deserve our thanks, and often.

So to every volunteer who has carried boxes, welcomed our members and guests, cooked, served, cleaned and helped to organise our RSL, your contribution is not small, and it is never forgotten.

You are the quiet strength behind every success, the steady hands behind every smooth moment, and the reason so many events feel effortless to those who attend them.

Thank you for being our backbone.



# ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT - MEDITATION

Meditation is a simple yet powerful way to support health and wellbeing. By taking time to pause and focus the mind, it helps reduce stress, calm the nervous system, and improve emotional balance. Regular practice has been linked to better sleep, improved concentration, and a greater sense of clarity and resilience. Even a few minutes each day can create space to reset, helping both mind and body feel more at ease.

Our meditation sessions are run by Sharon Kuill. Sharon is a qualified yoga and meditation teacher of 12 years with additional qualifications in Trauma informed practices. Sharon's day job is as a Mental Health Nurse. Sharon additionally owns the local yoga studio in Warragul " Pure Light Yoga."

The meditation sessions involve arriving in the space with gentle stretching and releasing the day that has been, utilising breath work to calm the nervous system and connecting to self. Then the session progresses to meditation utilising the principles of mindfulness designed to assist with a feeling of safety and find the presence of the moment by connecting to breath, mind and body.

Each session is delivered in a quiet, safe environment providing the opportunity for the participant to explore new skills to assist with a portable stress relief tool the breath and an increased sense of control over one's own state.

For veterans and first responders, and anyone looking to improve their wellbeing, meditation can be a practical and supportive tool. Trauma often keeps the body in a constant state of alert, but meditation helps activate the body's relaxation response, reducing anxiety, lowering stress levels, and fostering a sense of safety in the present moment.

Do your mind and body a favour and come and try guided meditation sessions held on the second Thursday of the month from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

For more information contact the Warragul RSL on 0480 257 478.

*Peace begins with a pause.*

*- Unknown.*



# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

## MAY

**Monday  
4th** Morning Tea  
Warragul RSL  
10:30 am

**Tuesday  
19th** Volunteers  
Week  
Event

## JUNE

**Monday  
1st** Morning Tea  
Warragul RSL  
10:30 am

**Friday  
26th** Ales on Albert Dinner  
Warragul RSL

## JULY

**Monday  
6th** Morning Tea  
Warragul RSL  
10:30 am

**Keep an eye on our website for upcoming dinner dates which are subject to catering support availability**

**FURTHER DETAILS ON THESE EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE**

**CLICKHERE**



# OUR REGULAR PROGRAMS

## WEEKLY

**Veterans and First Responders Catch Up**  
**MONDAY 10 am**

**Guitars for Vets - G4V**  
**MONDAY 5:00 pm**

**Hydrotherapy - Warragul Leisure Centre**  
**TUESDAY 9am**

**Pipes & Drums Band**  
**TUESDAY 6:30pm**

**Carpet Bowls**  
**FRIDAY 10am**

**Social Group**  
**FRIDAY 10am**

**Ales on Albert**  
**FRIDAY 5pm**

**Fitness & Mateship Group - Voyage Gym**  
**SATURDAY 10am**

**Singing Group**  
**THURSDAY 5:30pm**

## BI-MONTHLY

**Can Do Art Group**  
**2nd & 4th MONDAY of each month 1 pm**

**Scale Model Group**  
**1st & 3rd THURSDAY of each month 10am**

# OUR REGULAR PROGRAMS

## BI-MONTHLY CONT.

Bluegrass & Jam Session  
1st & 3rd SATURDAY of each month 10am

## MONTHLY

Members Morning Tea  
1st MONDAY of each month 10am

Meditation  
2nd THURSDAY of each month 7pm

Wellbeing Group  
3rd THURSDAY of each month 7pm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS

CLICK HERE

