



December 2010

Incorporating Bendigo
and Kangaroo Flat Sub-Branches



Cadet Petty Officer Kestrel Kentish & President Cliff Richards at the 2010 Annual Dinner, cutting the cake to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the incorporation of the BDRSL.

Proudly Sponsored by:



The Price Of Liberty Is Eternal Vigilance

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we are approaching the end of a very busy year I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who have made this year so successful. I would like to endorse to each and every volunteer that giving your time to care about others is a clear indication that you are strengthening the objects of the RSL in the best way possible.



Thank you to the Executive and House and Finance Committees for their positive direction and forward planning dealing with some very technical and business-like matters throughout the year. It is my belief that this Sub-Branch has positioned itself financially to maintain a positive and progressive future.

The General Manager and Administration staff who most of us do not see, are to be congratulated on their excellent management skills; their commitment often goes far beyond their job description. I am sure you would join with me to thank the staff for their friendly smiles and commitment to ensure members receive the best of service.

I would like to formally acknowledge the resignation from the Executive and House and Finance Committee of Stephen Burke. It is difficult to do this in a few words so I hope THANK YOU expresses my sentiment. Steve has accepted a very responsible and exciting employment opportunity which will see him and his family relocating to the United States for the next few years. Undoubtedly, all members who know Steve and his family will join with me to wish them all the best. Well done Steve!

There have been some wonderful productions of veteran stories and photographic exhibitions throughout the year and our Sub-Branch is also working with the Shrine of Remembrance to produce educational resources. If you have military negatives of photographs, slides old or new tucked away under the bed you may be interested in working with us to help preserve the memory of the past as we move forward to embrace the future. To do this a simple phone call to the RSL Office will start the ball rolling.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the support I have received from my family throughout the year. I have been advised by many members that strength lies within the family unit and I am fully supportive of this statement.

As we look forward to spending Christmas with family and friends, it is also a time to reflect on our loved ones who are unable to be with us. May they remain in our memories.

Have a Safe and Merry Christmas..

**Cliff Richards,
PRESIDENT**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

As the 2010 financial year draws to a rapid end we continue to trade at a very high level. Our food and beverage operations are still enjoying very positive figures, performing ahead of the same time last year by around 5%. Our function trade also remains very strong with Friday and Saturday night events booked out almost 6 months in advance. This is attributable to the service and facilities that this Sub-Branch provides.



Our gaming operations have found this financial year more trying with turnover fluctuating greatly as opposed to prior years. This fluctuation has had an effect on our profitability as it is the largest income segment for the Sub-Branch therefore requires us to be reactive to the sporadic income levels. As per any business the management of the Sub-Branch is well aware of the requirements of maintaining our profitability and as such is reacting to the fluctuating income by reviewing and decreasing our expenditure in line with income levels.

We continue to put in place arrangements for the new post 2012 gaming environment to ensure that all aspects of our gaming operations are met, furthermore we have been completing financial modelling for our post 2012 operations with very encouraging indicators pointing to a far more profitable regime.

The House & Finance Committee has also commenced investigations into our next major extension and refurbishment which are loosely planned for 2012, corresponding with our other loans being fully expunged. This will be an exciting period and will continue our strong position within the Bendigo and district hospitality market. At this stage the House & Finance Committee envisage that some conceptual plans will be displayed for members to peruse and comment on in the first half of 2011.

Once again as we approach the 2010 festive season I would like to acknowledge the great work being done by all our committees and volunteers. Their work and dedication to our Sub-Branch is testament to their character and the strength of the RSL. I would also like to once again praise the staff of the Sub-Branch; the team environment created here is very strong and their work ethic and commitment are a real testament to the professionalism they bring. To you our members, I wish a safe and happy festive season and look forward to your continued support throughout 2011.

**Erik WYNVEEN
GENERAL MANAGER**



BENDIGO LEGACY - 11 Mackenzie St. Ph: 03 5443 6332

Email: legacy@benleg.com.au

Widows of ex-servicemen are invited to contact Bendigo Legacy during the business hours of 12.30 – 4.30 Monday to Friday when seeking advice or assistance regarding personal or family problems. Legacy service is free.

**Do you know any member who is sick?
Contact us on 5443 4013
so we can arrange for a friendly visit
by one of our Welfare & Charitable officers.**

SECRETARY

The Remembrance Day Poppies Appeal is behind us and once again it was strongly supported by the Bendigo community. As always our Appeals Officers Lyn and Joe Boulton, managed and coordinated the whole process in a highly professional and efficient manner.

This is reflected in the sound financial position our Welfare Patriotic Fund is in which enables us to assist veterans who find themselves in need of financial assistance.

Traditionally, RSL members are a proud group and when they are in difficult times, are reluctant to ask for assistance, or for a range of reasons are unable to request assistance. If any member is aware of a veteran in need, it would be appropriate for them to support their fellow veteran to access assistance via the RSL Office in Havilah Road. This may include making enquiries on their behalf.

The Sub-Branch Committee has decided, after consultation with the members, that the General Members Meeting, traditionally held on the second Monday of the month will, on three occasions per year, be held on the second Sunday of the Month at 10.00 am. The reason for this change is to enable the majority of the Sub-Branch membership, access to information and decision-making of the Sub-Branch via this meeting.

The first Sunday Meeting will be held on Sunday 12th December at 10.00 am at the Havilah Road complex. Future Sunday meetings will be in February, June and December 2011.

The Post 1975 Veterans Central Victoria continues to grow and integrate into the life of the Sub-Branch. They have nominated their President, Mr. Grant Thompson to fill a vacancy on the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Committee.

The RSL Office will be closed from Monday 27th December to Monday 3rd January 2011 inclusive..

Paul J Penno
Secretary



MUSEUM REPORT

The winter was quiet but with some good weather at last, visitor numbers are picking up.

The City of Greater Bendigo has finally installed a trap door in the floor of the Reading Room to look at the mine capping. Everything looks pretty good down there and we can see clearly, pillars of brick and concrete that took the weight of the billiard tables many years ago.

A number of us went to the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne on Friday, 22nd of October for the opening of "A Camera on the Somme", the Grinton collection. It was opened by the State President of the RSL, Major General David McLachlan. Considering the number of visitors the Shrine has per year, there is the potential for 150,000 people to see the exhibition in the short time it will be on.

The Museum will be closed from 20th December to 3rd January inclusive for the Christmas - New Year holiday period. At this point I would like to thank the Museum Sub-Committee and all the guides for their support during the year. May everyone in the RSL network have a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Peter Ball, Chairman, Museum Sub Committee

COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

Commemorative activities throughout the year have concluded with the Remembrance Day services in Bendigo and Eaglehawk. Committee members have worked together to ensure the commemorative activities conducted and supported by our Sub-Branch are are of the highest standard as we together with family and the wider Bendigo community remember fallen comrades at these significant military occasions.

A very direct move this year was to conduct pre-ANZAC Day services in nursing homes, care agencies, schools and colleges as our special way of reaching out to veterans and families unable to attend the actual ANZAC Day services. Local radio stations broadcast the 11 am service at Pall Mall live to air.

Larger than expected crowds have attended our commemorative events and the community expectation to continue to conduct future commemorative activities throughout the wider Bendigo region is high. There have been a number of approaches from business organisations to assist the RSL in our planning and preparation of our future commemorative activities.

Thank you to all who have made our year a memorable one.

Cliff Richards, Chairman
Commemorative Sub-Committee

RSL SHEDS

As all members will no doubt be aware, the RSL Sheds project has been a rather drawn out process however, I am pleased to inform the members that we are now operational and have 25 participating members.

Since my appointment as Co-ordinator of the RSL Sheds last July, both the RSL Sheds Committee and I have been able to compile all of the necessary formal documentation to enable commencement of activities.



David Paynter, RSL Sheds Coordinator & Bob English, RSL Sheds Committee.



RSL Sheds participants enjoying their activities.

I can now inform you that operations have commenced and our first projects were started on 25th October. Six members commenced computer instruction and a further 5 start construction of wooden work benches. The computer and woodworking sessions will be ongoing. In the near future we will see the commencement of restoration work on a "Bofors Gun". Other activities will be coordinated subject to member request. (See enclosed RSL Sheds flyer).

It should be noted that all service and affiliate members of the Sub-Branch are able to enjoy the benefits of this RSL Sheds project and you are most welcome to make enquiries by phoning 5443 4013.

David Paynter - RSL Sheds Co-ordinator

AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADETS - TRAINING SHIP BENDIGO

Training Ship BENDIGO formed in 1952 on the shores of Lake Weeroona. It moved to ADI then onto Passchendaele Barracks, Junortoun, its current home. Ships Company consists of 34 Cadets and 7 staff.



Navy Cadets learn power boating, resulting in a qualification for their Recreational Skippers Certificate and yachting which qualifies them as Assistant Instructors and canoeing.

Camps are held throughout the year in places as far afield as Mildura, Albury, Portland and this year, New Zealand.

Training Ship BENDIGO has a camp at Lake Eppalock and now the water has returned, it will be the scene of many weekends of boating and yachting.

A commitment to the veteran community, through various Service and Ex Service Organisations is a feature of the dedication of the Cadets & staff of TS BENDIGO.

This year it was a privilege for the Cadets & staff to provide the Guard and Flag party for the Bendigo District RSL Annual Dinner. Through this support to the service and ex service community Cadets learn to respect the achievements of the Veteran community.

Mark Pritchard – LEUT ANC.

KANGAROO FLAT RSL

The Kangaroo Flat Sub-Branch has been holding two meetings on the one day - one at 10 am and an evening one at 6.30 pm followed by light refreshments. This has proven to be very popular as it enables younger, working members to attend the later meeting and some older members have been attending to meet and socialise with members who otherwise they would never meet.

The upgrade on the Soldiers Memorial at Kangaroo Flat is completed as far as funding allowed and we are now pursuing other avenues to have the fencing finished and modern lighting installed.

John Handley
Secretary, Kangaroo Flat Sub-Branch

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Several members travelled to Canberra to witness the dedication of the National Memorial to all National Servicemen. The memorial was unveiled by the Governor-General in front of approximately 4000 people.

Our Sub-Branch has unveiled a plaque at the Soldiers Memorial at Kangaroo Flat and has applied to place one along the Remembrance Walkway at the Soldiers Memorial Hall in Pall Mall Bendigo.

The Kangaroo Flat RSL AGM will be held at the RSL complex in Havilah Road on Sunday, 5th February 2011.

John Handley, Secretary - NSAA (Bendigo)

ANNUAL DINNER 2010

The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc. Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 6th November. The night commenced with the master of ceremonies Mr. Jonathan Ridnell introducing Training Ship BENDIGO, Australian Navy Cadets Guard and Flag Party.

Katie & Amy McMillan then sang *Lest We Forget* and the National Anthem, unaccompanied, which all agreed was wonderful to hear. Twelve year old James Earle played an amazing *Last Post* which filled the room with those haunting notes.

If the quality of the young people who commenced the evening is any indication, then our future is in very good hands.

Jack Gerdson's story "A Monkey off My Back" was played as an audio visual presentation produced by the Australian Centre for Moving Pictures. Jack's trip back to Korea to visit the grave of a mate killed in the conflict was moving and Jack was given a well-deserved ovation.

After the Loyal Toast, Toast to the RSL and The Response, the story of Alf & Val Maskell was shown. Alf's story of stoicism in the face of incredible adversity - time in Changi, on the Burma Railway, working in Japan and then being in Nagasaki just after the bomb was dropped, left all that heard it shaking their heads in disbelief. Val's story followed and her description of joining the RAAF, missing Alf and continuing to write to him, although she didn't know if he was alive or dead, was a tribute to her loyalty and love for Alf.

Their stories, together was a love story and at the end of the telling, President, Cliff Richards presented Alf & Val with flowers to celebrate their 65th year married!



*Alf & Val Maskell – Digital Story Tellers,
celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary recently.*

The Post '75 Veterans Central Victoria showed a presentation concentrating on the contributions of the modern military in conflicts such as Afghanistan & Iraq. The Group's Secretary, Glenn Ludeman invited all present to join them at their Christmas function.

A birthday cake was wheeled out to the chorus of "Happy Birthday" as the Bendigo District RSL celebrated its 10th Anniversary of its incorporation.

Cliff Richards presented paintings to Stephen Burke, Lyn & Joe Bolton and Murray Poustie for their tremendous contributions to the RSL over many years. The raffle was drawn and five lucky people won prizes while Herb Jackson won the lucky door prize - dinner for two on the Bendigo Tram Restaurant.

All in all it was a busy, entertaining and successful night, one that will be long remembered by those who were there.

RSL VOLUNTEERS' MORNING TEA

On Monday, 6th December all RSL Volunteers are cordially invited to morning tea to thank you for your work and dedication during 2010.

It will commence at 10.00am and will be held in the RSL Sheds behind the Havilah Road Complex.

Please RSVP the RSL Office by Thursday 2nd December by phoning 5443 4013 or email mark@rslclub.com.au

CENTRAL VICTORIAN VETERAN SUPPORT CENTRE

Another successful year is drawing to a close and CVVSC volunteers are still busy obtaining entitlements for our veterans and partners however it is time for a friendly reminder to enquire about an increase if you do not have your full entitlements, i.e. EDA, TPI, war widows, etc.

In the past few months we have had some very advantageous new Statement of Principles (SOPs) particularly for Pulmonary Fibrosis and Alzheimer's/Dementia. If you have either of these conditions, we may be able to help you. Make an appointment to come in and check it out by phoning 5444 1871 or come in to see us at our office on Platform 2, Bendigo Railway Station. We are open Mon-Fri 10am to 4pm and we will be happy to assist you.

CHRISTMAS BREAK 2010: CVVSC will be closed from Thursday 23 December 2010 to Sunday 16 January 2011 while our volunteers take a well-earned break. During the break, mail and messages will be dealt with most days, so if urgent please do not hesitate to call.

The VVCS will be available 24 hours over the Christmas / New Year period for anyone who requires counselling or just someone to talk to. The holidays can be a trying time for some and everyone needs help at times. Till next time, keep safe & take care.

Max Godwin – Secretary CVVSC

POST 1975 VETERANS CENTRAL VICTORIA

The Post 1975 Veterans Central Victoria's aim is to provide support, camaraderie and recognition for specific needs and issues of any current and ex-service Defence personnel who served in the Australian Defence Force from 1975.

We are open to any current and ex-service person who served in the Australian Defence Force from 1975. Full and part time, Army, Navy, Airforce or Defence Civilian and operational or non operational service personnel who served within or outside of Australia are all included and welcome.

Post 1975 Veterans Central Victoria is a Sub-Committee of the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc.. Membership of our group only requires that you hold membership of the Bendigo RSL. This condition has a thirty day waiver for those in the process of obtaining Bendigo RSL membership.

The Post 1975 Veterans Central Victoria meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Kokoda Room at the Bendigo District RSL, 73 Havilah Road, Bendigo. We usually partake in a meal during or prior to the meeting

Our membership is continually increasing and we look forward to hearing from any interested potential members to come to our meetings and help us during these early formation stages.

A special invitation is extended to all interested current and ex service personnel and partners to attend our 1st Annual Christmas Dinner Function which will be held on Friday, 3rd December at 6:30 pm at the Bendigo RSL, Havilah Road, Bendigo. RSVP the Post 1975 Veterans Central Victoria Events / Social Officer Lisa Gellatly on 0400 977 846 or email: lisagellatly@bigpond.com or the RSL Office Administrator on 5443 4013 email: mark@rslclub.com.au

Glenn Ludeman – Secretary, Post 1975 Veterans CV

glennludeman@bigpond.com

TENNIS CLUB NEWS

Now the days are longer, do not forget the Bendigo District RSL has four tennis courts which members can use for a social hit. Just pick up a key to the courts from the front desk. Summer tennis competition started in October and the three teams we are fielding this season are bedding down well in the Eaglehawk Tennis Association.

We are always looking for fill-ins, so if you would like to try your hand at competitive levels, give Tennis Section President a ring on 5442 5314 a/h.

Jonathan Ridnell, President – Tennis Section

POPPEHEAD DAY CLUB

During this year the hard-working Committee has organised a variety of guest speakers, entertainers, 5 bus trips, 2 trading tables (which have been very profitable) and a couple of fashion parades for our members. On average we have 45-50 members attend each Wednesday.

Our final day club for this year is a Christmas luncheon on 8th December. Guest artist will be well-known local entertainer Kim Ritchie. The club will resume again on 2nd February, 2011.

The Committee and members of the Poppethead Day Club, would like to thank the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc. for their support throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Vi Willis, Poppethead Day Club Coordinator

WELFARE & CHARITABLE

This year has been extremely busy for the care agencies and the hospital visiting teams who regularly drop in on veterans for a chat. There have also been some creative activities like fish 'n chips and BBQ lunches, AFS grand final celebrations, as well as commemorative services, group get-togethers and sing-alongs.

The RSL Bus is being utilised by the ex-service community and there have been reports of many enjoyable outings. Bookings for the bus may be made via the General Manager and you must have an RSL approved driver at the wheel.

During the year there has been welfare assistance given to RSL members for funerals, wakes and some financial assistance. We have sent flowers and get well cards to those we have known to be sick or in hospital.

As Christmas is fast approaching we are preparing Christmas parcels for the veterans in aged care and the visiting teams expect to distribute around 300 parcels.

The Welfare and Charitable Business Plan for 2011 has been submitted to the House & Finance Committee for approval. This year there has been long discussion with ANZAC House to ensure any withdrawals from the Welfare and Charitable accounts are correct and justified.

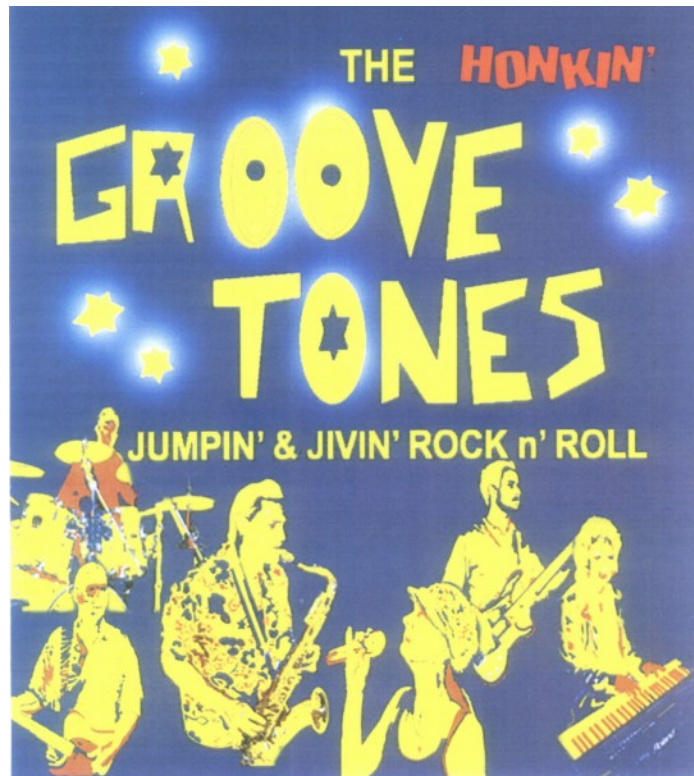
Merry Christmas and a big thank you to all volunteers.

Bob Harrison – Chairman, W&C Sub-Committee

VALE

HENDRY, Robert Thomas (Bob)	2/7 Aust Gen Hosp	3/10/2010
RICHARDSON, Alan Philip	RAAF (Korea)	3/10/2010
COLLINS, William Albert Edward	2/3 Aust INF TPS ORD FD PK	5/10/2010
BRIGHT, John Lawrence	99 Sqn RAAF	16/10/2010
SLADE, Cyril Henry	7 Aust Inf Btn	17/10/2010
BRIGHT, Bertram John	Royal Corps of Aust. Electrical & Mech Eng	27/10/2010
MUSTEY, Ralph Nicholls	15th Inf Btn	10/8/2010
MOORE, Alexander Gillespie	2/12 Field Regiment	11/8/2010
ROCHE, Robert Laurence	3 Aust Field Survey Coy/ 6 Aust Army Topographical Survey Company	11/08/2010
JOHNS, Stanley Ronald	26 Aust Inf Btn 3 RAR, 2 RAR, 1 RAR Army Headquarters Survey Regiment 1 Topographical Survey Troop	19/08/2010
POULSTON, Richard Alexander	31/51 Aust. Inf. Btn	5/07/2010
ROGERS, Claude Paul	2/3 Aust. Inf. Tps Wksh	16/07/2010
DUNGEY, Robert Keith	2/2 AA Regt	20/07/2010
JONES, James Eric Royce	3 Aust Bulk Petrol Storage Coy	20/07/2010

Bendigo District RSL Sub Branch Inc presents



Friday 31st December 2010

8.30pm - 12.30am

\$10.00 cover charge

Includes light supper
& a standard drink

(beer, wine or soft drink)

Bookings Essential

Phone: (03) 5442 2950

Christmas Trading Hours

Christmas Eve : Fri 24th Dec 2010 – 9am – 11pm

Christmas Day : Sat 25th Dec 2010 – Closed

Boxing Day : Sun 26th Dec 2010 – Gaming 12 Midday – 11pm (Bistro Closed)

Mon 27th Dec – 12 Midday – 12 Midnight (No Budget Busters Today)

Tues 28th Dec – 12 Midday – 12 Midnight

New Years Eve : Fri 31st Dec 2010 – 9am – 2am

New Years Day : Sat 1st Jan 2011 – 12 Midday – 12 Midnight (Bistro Closed For Lunch)

Mon 3rd Jan 2011 – 12 Midday – 12 Midnight (No Budget Busters Today)