

## **JULY 2023**

# **CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP**



Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of a new President, effective 1st July 2023. The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Committee has elected Mr Glenn Ludeman as the organisation's President, succeeding Mr Peter Swandale.

Glenn has been an integral part of the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch for many years and has played a pivotal role in bringing younger veterans of more recent service into RSL activities. Glenn has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence and has shown a strong dedication to serving the veteran community.

As Peter Swandale steps down from the role of President, he will continue to contribute to the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch in the capacity of Immediate Past President and is keen to continue supporting the Bendigo Military Museum.

The Sub-Branch Committee would like to express its deep gratitude for Peter's invaluable contributions during his tenure.

During the President's handover held at the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch General Members Meeting, President Glenn Ludeman said "It is an honour and a privilege to be able to take the organisation forward and appreciation to Peter for his efforts throughout his tenure."







# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Bendigo District RSL Sub Branch Inc. members and families,

I hope this report finds you all in good health and high spirits. As the newly elected President of our esteemed RSL Sub Branch, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and outline my vision for our organisation.

First and foremost, let me express my deep gratitude for the trust and confidence you have placed in me by electing me as your President. It is an honour to serve alongside such dedicated and passionate staff and volunteers who are committed to supporting our veterans, their families, and the wider community. May I also offer my appreciation to Immediate Past President Peter Swandale and his wife Jacinta. Peter has worked tirelessly and passionately over a protracted and testing period of presidency and we look forward to his continued support after a well earnt break.

Allow me to provide you with a brief background about myself. I am a proud veteran, having served (and still serving) 32 years in the ADF across numerous deployments, international engagements, postings, positions and corps. During my service, I had the privilege of working closely with veterans from diverse backgrounds and witnessing the challenges they face firsthand. This experience has instilled in me a deep sense of duty to ensure that our organisation remains a pillar of support and advocacy for our veterans.

As your President, my primary objective is to enhance the welfare and well-being of our veterans. To achieve this, I have identified several key areas of focus:

#### **Outreach and Engagement:**

It is crucial that we expand our outreach efforts to connect with all veterans in our community, regardless of their service era or branch. By establishing stronger lines of communication and engaging with veterans through various platforms, we can ensure that they are aware of the support and services available to them.

#### **Welfare and Wellbeing Programs:**

We will work diligently to review and enhance our existing welfare and support programs. This includes collaborating with local organisations, government agencies, and community partners to provide comprehensive assistance in areas such as mental health support, employment opportunities, housing, and financial aid.

#### **Advocacy and Recognition:**

We will actively advocate for the rights and interests of our veterans at local, state, and national levels. It is our duty to ensure that our veterans receive the recognition they deserve for their sacrifices and that their voices are heard when decisions affecting their welfare are made. I have sought, and will continue to seek opportunities to approach local, state and federal governments and their agencies to support all veterans and their dependents.

#### **Community Engagement:**

We will strengthen our ties with the wider community and promote a better understanding of the unique challenges faced by veterans. By organising community events, collaborating with youth, and fostering partnerships with local businesses, we can create a supportive environment that honours and respects our veterans.

#### **Member Involvement and Development:**

I strongly believe that our Sub Branch's success lies in the active involvement and development of our members. I will work closely with the sub-branch committee and other sub-committees to create meaningful opportunities for our members to contribute, learn, and grow the capacity to further support each other.

In conclusion, I am excited and motivated to serve as your President and work tirelessly towards the betterment of our veterans and the broader community. Together, I am confident that we can make a profound impact and ensure that our RSL Sub Branch remains a beacon of support and advocacy.

I invite each and every one of you to share your ideas, concerns, and suggestions. Your input is invaluable in shaping the future of our organisation.

Thank you once again for entrusting me with this responsibility. I look forward to working with all of you and making a positive difference in the lives of our veterans and families.

Yours sincerely, Glenn Ludeman Sub Branch President Bendigo District RSL Inc.













# **WELCOME**



We would like to welcome Vicki Fox to the welfare team. Vicki has taken up the position of Health and Wellbeing coordinator. Starting her career as a Registered Nurse, Vicki has recently been working in the community services sector with organisations such as, Cancer Council, Volunteering Tasmania, TAS Tafe and BreastScreen Tasmania. One of her most satisfying roles was that of Community Support Advisor with DVA where her she enjoyed a 7 year career. During this time, Vicki launched the inaugural DVA National 10k Steps Challenge, working closely with the RSL network and the ADF community across Australia.

As the daughter of a WWII veteran and the mother of an ADF member, Vicki is looking forward to meeting and working with the current and ex-serving community here in the Bendigo region.

# **Veterans Footy Trip**

We had a great time at the Adelaide v Collingwood game at our veterans footy trip, a big thank you to Ian Thomas, David Little, Allan Curtin, Peter Faulkner, Bryan Dillon, John Todd, William Scott, Roger King, Jon Bake, Noel Riley, Russell Arnold, Glen Rieschiek, Vicki Fox. (Admin), Geoff Gibbs, Linda Pedder, Sherri Burke, Paul Penno, Andrew Turner, Greg Todd, and Peter Swandale for the great time, we hope you all enjoyed yourselves.









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Saturday the 8th of July saw another tranche of veterans head of to the football, this time down to Marvel Stadium to see St Kilda and Melbourne battle it out.

From all reports a good time was had by all with Melbourne taking home the chocolates.

Veteran's draws have been conducted for another two trips to the footy and we are investigating other possible adventures to make available to our Veterans in the future.







Here's to a good time. A bus load of veterans, all smiles, and ready for the comforts of the Medalion room at Marvel Stadium



Looks like a mighty fine view from the Medalion room.



# **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**



# Walk, Talk, Cuppa Repeat

Did you know that walking is often referred to as the wonder drug? It helps reduce the risk of Cardiovascular disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes. It also helps with balance and bone health. Best of all it's FREE. Join Ben from Thrive Fit at 28 Abel St, Golden Square, at 9am for a morning walk on Friday 4th August. (walk at your own pace) and then finish off with a cuppa on us.

## **Veterans Park Run**



Park Run delivers weekly 5km events in parks across the country and is focused on bringing communities together and having fun. Park Run in Bendigo is based at the Bendigo Botanic Gardens every Saturday. Park Run is a fun and growing recreational activity that suits all ages and all fitness levels.

To join, you just need to register for Parkrun and then become part of TEAM VETERAN run club. (you don't need to be a runner, walkers and rollers are all welcome)



Joining Team Veteran is a great way to build connections, share experiences with family and friends, stay active and enjoy the outdoors.

# Soldier On



# **Vet Connect Families**

Puckapunyal - Sept 2023 Sale - Sept 2023 Wodonga - Nov 2023

A family weekend program that aims to bring veteran families together, provide opportunities for family social connections, developing new and improved relationship skills, and working towards future goals.

Scan the QR code to reigster your expression of interest











# WHAT'S ON



Join us for "a sensational, side splitting fun night" out FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3RD MyRSL members \$65 Guests \$70

duesis \$70 Includes a two-course meal.

Scan the QR code or go to

https://www.trybooking.com/CJJOQ

During the month of July we will be giving away \$10,000 to our RSL members on Thursday's members nights.
\$2000 during our member's draw and a

\$2000 during our member's draw and a bonus \$500 for our second chance draw. Book your table early online at www.bendigorsl.com.au or call 5442 2950





With fabulous vocal harmonies & musicianship penetrating their sets of classic hits & fun filled performances, The Baby Boomers Duo revisit musical history with classic tunes & tales from the 50's, 60's, 70's, & 80's!

https://www.trybooking.com/CJJSS

Our courtesy bus is out and about on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. please telephone the venue on 54422 950 to book your ride.

Our courtesy bus operates within a 10 kilometer radius, with the last bus leaving the RSL at around 9pm



# **FUNCTIONS**

Bendigo District RSL offers an outstanding venue with modern facilities in a delightful setting. The venue has everything you need to ensure that your next occasion is unique, stress-free, and, most importantly, an enjoyable experience for all.

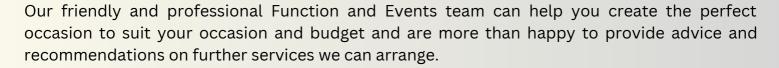
The Bendigo RSL is the ideal contemporary space for your next conference or corporate event in Bendigo. Utilise the entire space for large gatherings of up to 200 delegates, or the many different dining options available. No celebration is too small, suitable for groups of 40 up to 200.

Our dedicated staff will provide outstanding service to every booking and have a wealth of experience and expertise to personalise each event.

We value you and your guests' preferences - our menu caters to all dietary needs and can be gluten free, vegan, vegetarian and pescatarian friendly.

Some of our recent events include:

- Bendigo Bricks Dinner
- Bendigo City Football Club Dinner
- Bendigo Cricket Club Presentation Night
- Bendigo Legacy Annual Changeover Luncheon
- Bendigo Tennis Club Awards Night
- Sandhurst Cricket Club Presentation Night
- VIC SES Medals & Awards Night
- Defence Force Recruiting
- Hill's Pet Nutrition Dinner
- Northwest Lightning Hockey Club Dinner
- Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon
- Pathways to Care & We Coach Conference
- RSL Victoria Governance Training
- Community Clubs Victoria Presentation Day
- Eaglehawk Fire Brigade 150 year and awards celebration
- Veterans Morning Tea



For further details about our celebration packages please visit our BDRSL websitehere, https://www.bendigorsl.com.au/or contact our functions manager Ratna at any time via email on functions@bendigorsl.com.au or alternatively you can give her a call on 03 5442 2950 during office hours.



# **APPEALS**

Ladies and gents,

I'm happy (very chuffed in fact) to report that, through the unstinting efforts of our Volunteers/Committee/Admin Staff and local businesses/schools, we raised just over \$97,100 for the 2023 ANZAC Appeal - \$20,000 more than last year's ANZAC Appeal. This is the second highest amount we've recorded for an ANZAC Appeal - beaten only by the 2015 Centenary of ANZAC Appeal.

Firstly, we are extremely grateful to the following groups who made it all possible, many of them year after year, to sell in their locations:

Bendigo Pie Shop Marketplace Coles McIvor IGA Strathfieldsaye IGA Long Gully IGA Eaglehawk IGA Maiden Gully Bunnings Epsom Epsom Village



This year we were lucky enough to have another two organisations step-up and support our selling. Our sincere thanks to APCO Strathdale and Strath Village Shopping Centre.

Secondly, the groups that supported our selling including the Real Estate Agents of Bendigo (who between them manned Gillies corner day after day), the Naval Cadets from TS Bendigo, the Penno 'Borough' team. the Newman Long Gully group, the Gellaty crew at St John of God and Ian Anderson mobilizing Mitiamo.

Thirdly, every one of the schools and businesses that supported us by taking honesty boxes. Special mention must go to Domain Village, Borough Coffee-Café Cremer, Fitzpatricks Hardware, Maiden Gully Bakehouse Blitz, Epsom Primary School, Camp Hill Primary School, Bendigo Kangan TAFE and Kennington Primary School.

Fourthly, the Bendigo Vietnam Veterans for allowing us to use their Shed during the Appeal and the support they and their members give to each and every Appeal.











Fifthly, to the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Committee that, appeal after appeal, gives us the support, resources and encouragement to run our show the way we think will achieve the best outcomes for the appeals.

Next, the Appeals Committee. Like most committees, a largely unsung and very much unheralded group that, out of sight, "makes the magic happen".

Particular thanks go to:

- Sam McGowan for the thankless task of coordinating and managing the various selling locations around town.
- Rod and Shirley Hosking for taking on the running of every aspect of the preparation, operation and closure of the appeal. This appeal may not have happened, and certainly would not have been anywhere near as successful, without their great ideas and efforts.
- Hugh Elphinstone for making the Coles McIvor selling location our premier selling location yet again.

Finally, having saved the most important to last, an enormous thank you to every one of our Volunteers. Each is owed a huge vote of thanks – every volunteer makes a very real contribution to every dollar we raise to benefit our Veterans and their families.

We'd also like to pass-on our congratulations to Lois Newman and Bob Harrison. Both were very deserving recipients of BDRSL Volunteer Awards presented at the recent Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. Both have been outstanding supporters of our appeals over many, many years:

- Lois has also been a leading force with the Lark Force Commemoration Team.
- Bob Harrison this year marked his 20th ANZAC Appeal to go with his 21 Poppy Appeals.

So, having kicked goals with another ANZAC Appeal, we now need to start looking at the 2023 Poppy Appeal. Planning for the appeal is already underway - but more of that in the next newsletter.

Carl Chirgwin Appeals Chair







Monday night means Burger Night

select form our range of burgers and enjoy pot of beer, a glass of house wine or soft drink for the princely sum of \$20.00.

Bool online from our web site or telephone the venue. 5442 2950

Leave more money in your pocket! With our Budget Buster Deal you can select from a range of fabulous meals for only \$15.00 and with a second course for only \$5:00. Available for Monday lunch





One of the most popular deals we have on offer..

With our Parma Night offer you can choose from variety of Pamas and choose from a complimentary pot of beer a glass of house wine or a pot of soft drink.

Available on Tuesday night. All for only \$20.00

Who doesn't love a great steak deal? On Wednesday evenings you can enjoy 250g rump steak, with your choice of sauces.

Great value at only \$27.00 and it includes a complimentary Beer, Wine or a soft drink.





# **COMMEMORATIVE**





Over the last few months, the Commemorative Committee have been busy with our team organising a number of services.

# **Lark Force**

The 2/22nd Australian Infantry Battalion was raised in July 1940 for service in the Second World War. In 1941 they deployed to Rabaul, New Britain, where they combined with several other units to form Lark Force. They were responsible for protecting the vulnerable airbases at Lakunai and Vunakanau in New Britain.

Already under-equipped, Japanese bombings in January 1942 destroyed most of Lark Force's assets. They withdrew from Rabaul and awaited the inevitable Japanese landings. The superior numbers of the Japanese soon overwhelmed their defences, and the order was given to retreat. Lark Force disintegrated and tried to escape.

A small number of men would escape via boats they found in the New Guinea area.

Approximately 160 Australians were captured and then massacred at Tol Plantation. 836 men – the majority of Lark Force – were either captured by or surrendered to the Japanese.

Many of these men would go on to die in the sinking of the Montevideo Maru transport ship. Unmarked, there was no way to know it was carrying 1,053 prisoners and civilian internees to Hainan Island. On 1 July 1942, the Montevideo Maru was sighted and torpedoed by the submarine USS Sturgeon. It sank in 11 minutes, killing all prisoners on board.

# Sandakan

Sandakan service was again well supported in it's return to the Sandakan Memorial at the Crook Street Park, Strathdale. There was a good gathering of people who enjoyed the service on Sunday morning.

# **ANZAC** day

ANZAC day was again a huge show piece for the RSL and the Commemorative Sub-Committee. The entire day was extremely well supported across the community, both at the dawn and the morning services. This year the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War was marked, and Mr. Paul Penno spoke of his experiences both during his tour of duty and his time back in Australia afterwards. This was an emotional speech and very well received by the large crowd.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Commemorative Activities Sub-Committee for their time and effort in supporting the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch for the first half of the year. The Sub-Committee is pleased to have had a few new members attend our meetings this year and we look forward to our ranks growing with fresh new ideas for conducting services in the future.

Dale Hodges Chair















# **ANZAC DAY**













# **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES**

#### End of Korean War 1950-1953 Wreath Laying Service

Commemorating 70 years since the armistice.

Thursday, 27th July 2023 at 5:00 pm Memorial Garden- Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch 73-75 Havilah Road, Bendigo

# Victory in the Pacific (VP Day) Commemorative Service

15th August 2023 at 5:00 pm Memorial Garden- Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch 73-75 Havilah Road, Bendigo

#### **Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Service**

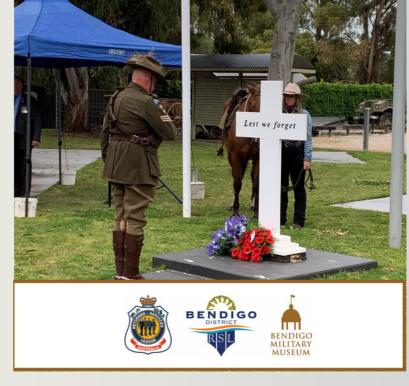
19th August 2023 at 11:00 AM Memorial Garden- Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch 73-75 Havilah Road, Bendigo

#### Australian Peacekeepers Day -Small service

14th September 2023 at 6:10pm Memorial Garden- Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch 73-75 Havilah Road, Bendigo

#### **Beersheba Day Commemorative**

Wreath Laying service 31st October 2023, at 5:00pm Memorial Garden- Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch 73-75 Havilah Road, Bendigo



# **MEMORIAL GARDEN**





Our amazing maintenance crew has been hard at work giving the 4.5 inch twin turret a well needed face lift. We redeveloped the garden area. Gave the turret a good scrub and a coat of paint.

We have installed a small fence and curbing to help protect the turret from damage and vehicles. What a great asset to the memorial garden.

Thank you to Ken and his crew for the effort. We think it looks fantastic!!!







# SWIPE Your chance to WIN a share of \$3,200 in Coles Myer Vouchers! SWIPE your MyRSL card, and SWAP 50 points for an entry - it's that simple! Premotional dates 29/5/23 - 28/6/23 Weekly draws Every Monday in June at 7 pm The standard formers in the standard formers i

# **WINNERS**

#### Week 1

Rod White - \$400 Cheryl Campbell - \$200 Ray Clarke - \$100 Michael Martin - \$50 Tony Stokes - \$50

#### Week 3

Trevena Taylor - \$400 Heather Osland - \$200 Carmel Gillespe - \$100 Margaret Warde - \$50 Josie Robinson - \$50

#### Week 2

Joanne Lythgo - \$400 Josie Robinson - \$200 Maria Martin - \$100 Graeme Bristowe - \$50 Tracey Prigg - \$50

#### Week 4

Lorraine McKerrow - \$400 Debra Danahay - \$200 Stephen MCKerrow - \$100 Carmel Gillespie - \$50 Annina Anfuso - \$50



Congratulations to our \$5000 winning member - **Ronald Armstrong** 

Our Member Jackpot increases by \$1000 per week up to \$5000.

When it reaches \$5000 it is guaranteed to be won.

Members must be financial and be here on the night to claim the prize.



A big congratulations to the winner of our \$3000 Veteran's draw - **Suzie Strong** 

Our Veterans Draw happens on the First Friday of the month and is open to all BDRSL veterans. The jackpot starts at \$500. If it is not won, it jackpots by \$500 per month until it reaches \$3000.

All veterans are welcome to attend these nights for a catch up and a few drinks.

# **MUSEUM**

The Bendigo Military Museum is holding an exhibition on the 38th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF which served in World War 1.

This Battalion was known as "Bendigo's Battalion" as it was formed on 1 March 1916 at a camp established on the Epsom Racecourse. Many locals enlisted and served in this Battalion which forged an enduring connection between the City of Bendigo and the 38th.

The exhibition runs from the 20th June to 31st December 2023. Be sure to take a look at this and the other fantastic items on display.

The Bendigo Military Museum is open on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday between 11:00am and 3:00pm. Other times may be arranged for school groups by prior arrangement.

















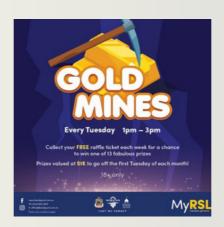






# **UP AND COMING**









#### **WILLY WONKA** is in the house!

Coming in August. A chance to win a 10kg bar of chocolate. You heard it right. 10kg of chocolate!!

When you swipe your Bendigo RSL members card at any of the kiosks through the month of August you will be able to exchange 50 of your accrued bonus points for an entry. Enter as many times as you like and put your bonus points to work. Drop your entries into the barrel provided.

The promotion will be drawn on 1st of September.







# **ADF DRIVERS COURSE**

Soldiers are currently undertaking an ADF Driver's Courses in Bendigo and an opportunity was provided by the Bendigo Military Museum (BMM) for them to visit.

Many commented on the deep respect and understanding it gives them for their predecessors from Central Victoria when they were observing the pictures and artifacts.

The full-time soldiers are from all over Australia after having recently enlisted and currently undertaking their Initial Employment Training (IET) to become ADF-qualified drivers. They are qualifying on the large Rhinemetal trucks and their variants.

It is anticipated that a BMM and Bendigo District RSL Sub Branch Inc visit will become part of their IET. Appreciation to Kym Levett and the BMM for these opportunities. Staff and students were able to visit the RSL and enjoy a BBQ and walk around the Memorial Gardens.

Many took membership applications to join and return again to enjoy the friendship and fellowship on a future occasion. We look forward to our potential new Service Members joining us again soon with our activities.















# CENTRAL VICTORIA VETERAN

# NETWORKING SESSION

#### DATE

9th August 2023 (Wednesday)

#### TIME

10:30am to 1.00pm—Networking Session (Morning Tea Provided)

1.00pm to 2.30pm—Veterans' Health Week Planning Session (Working Lunch)



Bendigo RSL 73-75 Havilah Road, Bendigo



#### **AUDIENCE**

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Committee members, advocates, volunteers, employees of veteran organisations, anyone wanting to learn about veteran supports, and gather new contacts.

The Central Victorian Veteran Networking Session will be co hosted by Karen Cain Victorian Community Support Adviser (DVA) and Phillip Lette Victoria Community and Peer Adviser (OA). This session is designed to bring together local and state based veteran and community support organisations to gain an understanding of supports and services that are available to support veterans and their families.

#### **Networking Session overview**

Introduction of DVA Community Support Adviser Role and how it can support the ESO community Information about DVA grants and funding opportunities'

Introduction and presentation about Opens Arms programs and supports

Introduction from all organisations and outline what services and supports the organisation provides

Opportunity for all attendees to get to know other veterans and defence community support organisations in the area, and gather new contacts during the networking time.

## **RSVP by: Wednesday 2nd August 2023**

10:30am to 1.00pm—Networking Session

1.00pm to 2.30pm—Veterans' Health Week Planning Session

Include name, organisation, contact details and sessions attending

CSA.VIC@dva.gov.au or for more information contact Karen on 9284 6190

# On the BIG SCREEN



All your favorite sports here on the BIGGEST TV in Bendigo.

All the racing
All the AFL
All the Cricket
All the Rugby
World cup soccer















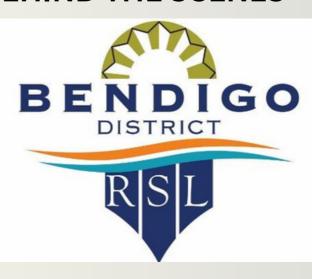






# **BEHIND THE SCENES**











The team at the Bendigo RSL have been working hard to support our veterans and the community we live in.

We are proud to have been nominated in a number of categories from the Community Clubs Victoria including,

Best Community Collaboration Award Social Impact Award









