



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Members and Families,

I hope this report again finds you all in good health and high spirits in the busy lead up to the festive season. We have another busy reporting period where many opportunities were exploited, planned and others are now under consideration.

Welfare has been exceptionally busy as things get tougher in the current stressed financial climate. This time of the year can be especially stressful when Veterans may need the extra support that is sometimes missing.

Our thoughts and work are orientated to all veterans and their dependents, especially during this time. Welfare and well-being of our Veterans is our first and foremost consideration.

Outreach and Engagement:

Our Sub-Branch continues to be busy across many areas in our buildings, locality and wider region. The Sub-Branch has provided financial and welfare advocacy support to veterans and provide them with provisions to assist in making a difference.

We continue to engage with our Veterans through Veterans' events including veteran nights, morning teas, informal gatherings and our esteemed sheds programs. Our veterans and veteran community are busy at the Bendigo Military Museum through cataloguing, filing, research and providing tours of the museum for individuals and groups from near and far.

We continue to work with RSL State Executive through leadership and administration support, the Region (through our RSL Region 7) and other Ex Service Organisations in supporting our Veterans. The recent Region 7 Meeting in Woodend went well with challenges shared, compared, tabled and many solved.

Our Commemorative Sub Committee have had a busy time with Beersheba Day, Remembrance Day, and other events. Our Appeals volunteers have used the lead up to Remembrance Day for the annual Poppy Appeal that is one of our largest fundraisers. A substantial amount of much needed funds was raised.

The Central Victorian Veterans Group continues to grow with many new veterans and families attending our Veteran's Friday night. Figures of up to 69 veterans have been recorded on these events. Fellowship, friendship and a great atmosphere are the common observations from many.



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Welfare and Wellbeing Programs:

Our Welfare Branch has been busy with visits and outreach. The festive season will bring a surge in welfare challenges. Our Welfare Advocate Pete French and the Welfare Committee has connected many veterans in our community to the required services through advocacy. Maintaining engagement with Veterans have taken considerable work by many involved.

Our Health and Wellbeing programs continue to attract Veterans from a wider area than just Bendigo. The Castlemaine to Maldon Historic Train hosted Veterans from Bendigo, Keilor East, Wangaratta, Kyabram, Wonthaggi, Ararat, Melton and current serving members from Puckapunyal.



Our Sandown Historic race event allowed Veterans to be part of historic motor racing and be together for Remembrance Day in a unique way.

Advocacy and Recognition:

We have been in discussion with Victorian State Politicians regarding the Gaming Reform Bill before the parliament. Many politicians have been engaged with by the Sub-Branch and the Victorian RSL State Branch. Further arbitration is anticipated however we are giving our 10A Sub-Branch the best opportunity to be heard and have voiced our concerns into how we can sustain

our Veteran programs with a potential roll-back due to gaming reform; watch this space.

Community Engagement:

Our organisation continues to be seen as a beacon for currency and reputation. Our Bendigo Military Museum offers an opportunity for the wider population to immerse in our proud military history. Year 9 students submitted their research for perusal by Museum Staff and it was wonderful to see a student awarded for exemplary work.

Our Central Victorian Veterans Events, Motor Racing, Sheds program, Health and Wellbeing programs are helping veterans be able to actively participate in opportunities.

Sub-Branch Committee:

Some changes in our RSL Leadership; Jeff Crust has moved from Committee Member to Senior Vice President. Jeff has many years as President of the Elmore RSL before that Sub-Branch closed down. Jeff is valued and is very much part of the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch. Paul Stevenson has moved from Secretary to Vice President. Paul has been very much appreciated in our governance as Secretary and has set a precedence that will be very hard to follow. Dale Hannaford has moved from Committee Member to Secretary. Dale is ideally suited as his extensive background in governance and organisational administration is also welcomed. All positions requiring further approval processes by Anzac House have been confirmed.

Veteran Support:

The future of the Regional Veteran Centres Program (RVCP), of which the CVVSC are part of, has centrally changed. RSL Vic was originally the conduit for BEST funding that is applied for on an annual basis through DVA to be administered by CVVSC. The CVVSC currently has funding up until June 2024. As RSL Vic is not continuing the BEST Funding application process, and as CVVSC is a



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

registered charity, has its own ABN and has its own board of management, CVVSC will be able to apply directly for BEST Funding on their own. RSL Vic and CVVSC are currently in discussions on this front.

2024 Anzac Day:

Planning is well underway for next year's Anzac Day, another very special occasion. I am proud to share that next year's Anzac Day march in Bendigo will be led by peacekeepers and peacemakers. Peacekeeping is a proud tradition; Australians were among the first international peacekeepers to be deployed in 1947 as part of a United Nations operation. Since then, more than 40,000 Australians have served with Multinational Forces to unite, to maintain or restore world peace and security. This is something we are proud to honour next year on 2024 Anzac Day.



Awards:

The Sub-Branch, staff and volunteers have been nominated for awards at the RSL Victoria Hall of Fame Awards Night. The outcome was that the Sub-Branch attained a Hall of Fame Commendation Award for the best 10A (large) Sub-Branch, Life Member Stephen Burke attain a Hall of Fame Inductee Award and Achievement and Encouragement Awards were presented to our Head Chef Pardeep Taya, Events Coordinator Ratna Holland and Duty Manager Graeme Towler.

The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch, had also been nominated for the Awards Australia Charitable Foundation: Mental Health and Wellbeing Award. Though unsuccessful, The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch were finalists amongst many highly regarded organisations and individuals in this category. Again, another highly esteemed and recognised outcome. An outstanding effort overall, and I thank all staff and volunteers in supporting our Veterans and the Veteran community as a whole.

In conclusion,

As your President, I wish you well for the festive season and ensure that our RSL Sub-Branch remains a beacon of support and advocacy.

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



VETERAN SUPPORT- HEALTH AND WELLBEING



DECEMBER

Activity	Date	Time	Location
Veterans Morning Tea	Fri 15 th	10.30 – 11.30	RSL Bistro
RSL Sheds	Mon -Wed	9am – 12pm	BDRSL
CrossFit – Veterans only	Sundays	8am	CrossFit – 24 Taylor St
CrossFit – Group session	Wednesdays	5.30 - 6.30	CrossFit – 24 Taylor St
Mindfulness Yoga (deep breathing & relaxation)	Alt Thursdays 14 th Dec	11am – 12pm	Kangaroo Flat RSL
General Yoga (stretching & balance)	Alt Thursdays 7 th Dec	11am – 12pm	Eaglehawk Band Hall
Veterans' Golf	Sunday 3 rd Dec	10am start	Neangar GC & Bistro
Walk, Talk, Cuppa	Friday 1 st Dec	9am – 10.30	Thrive Fit, 28 Abel St
Murray River Cruise	Sun 17 th Dec	9am – 5pm	Veterans and dependents www.trybooking.com/CMTTJ

Please note RSL Sheds will be closed from Monday 18th Dec to Mon 8th Jan for Christmas

For more information or to RSVP to any of these activities, please contact the Health and Wellbeing Coordinator: P: 03 5443 7097 or E: healthwellbeing@bendigorsl.com.au

The Veteran support team has been hard at it over the last few months. As you can see from the chart above, they have been busy organising activities and classes for local the Veteran community.

In addition to the reoccurring yoga, golf, morning teas, crossfit and monthly group walking sessions they have run a number of excursions and outings to benefit Veterans.

These have all been well attended and reports received indicate that attendees have been well pleased with the efforts of the welfare/wellbeing team.

We encourage more veterans to participate in these events. They are run entirely for the benefit of veterans and dependents. We would love to see new faces at the events. If any Veterans are in the least bit interested in attending, please reach out. We would love to see you here.



VETERAN SUPPORT- WELFARE

Executive Summary:

The Welfare Program delivers direct proactive intervention, connection and support to the Bendigo and district Veteran community through face to face and telephone contact, and off-site visitation. Service personnel identified through networking / word of mouth / direct referral are supported in-house and followed up directly by the Welfare Advocate. Other personnel are connected to appropriate adjunct agencies to facilitate both autonomous support and ease of access to those support interventions.

The Welfare Program continues to instigate strong networks with all local and Statewide ESOs to establish and cement sound relationships of support, trust, and integrity.

Veterans Engagement and Support:

The Welfare Sub Committee has continued the initiative that it commenced in the previous quarter to contact all identified Veterans within the district. At the time of writing more than 500 individuals – out of close to 900 - have been contacted and offered welcome, connection, support, and assistance on their terms.

This process has identified “hidden Veterans”. These Veterans not being on the database or being secreted in aged / infirmed care - and who can be followed up as a matter of priority.

Financial Assistance:

The Welfare Program receives requests for financial assistance from Veterans across a range of needs. Financial assistance has been provided to address such issues as:

- (i) the completion of routine domestic tasks.
- (ii) relocation expenses.
- (iii) short term emergency accommodation.
- (iv) the hardship brought on Veterans who live with minimal fixed income.
- (v) the provision of food/petrol vouchers or the delivery of frozen meals.

Prompt interventions enable Veterans to attain the support they need, when they need it, and without the need to experience further embarrassment or humiliation that might accompany cap-in-hand external crisis agency requests.

Recent examples of this assistance have included:

- (i) supporting a Veteran, impacted by mental health issues, who is living on fixed minimal income.
- (ii) A local TPI Veteran whose father-in-law died interstate and whose mother-in-law then had to move into fulltime care. He has 3 dependent children living at home, and his wife works very minimally. He requested support to move goods and chattels from Adelaide to Bendigo. The Welfare Advocate approached the Welfare Chair and BDRSL President who authorised immediate support.

VETERAN SUPPORT- WELFARE

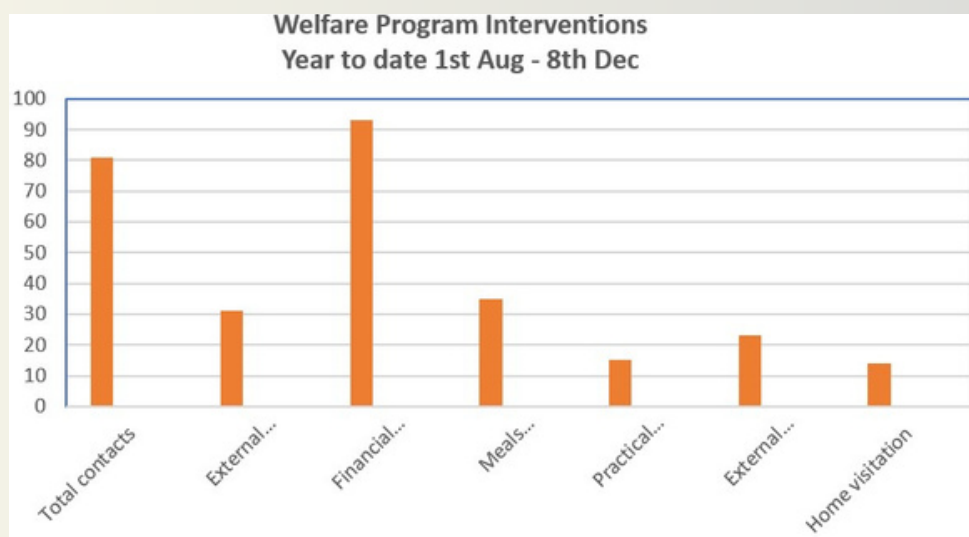
Welfare Funeral Support:

Included as a component of holistic welfare is the delivery of the RSL Funeral Ritual at Veteran's funeral services. This is delivered by suitably qualified staff to ensure that Veterans are accorded appropriate recognition of their military commitment at their last parade. Additional personnel have recently been recruited to this volunteer role.

Outreach:

An aggressive networking and outreach strategy has been pursued by the incumbent Welfare Advocate. We have reached out to ESOs who have been in contact with key personnel. On-site visits have taken place with regional RSLs and key support agencies – Legacy, CVVSC, VVA, Open Arms and Carry On.

With the assistance of Veteran members, several local Lifestyle Communities have been approached and former service personnel invited to a social gathering and connection opportunity. Further outreach to local nursing homes and supportive accommodation residences is bookmarked for the near future.



(i) Total contacts include ad hoc walk ins, telephone & F2F contacts, visitations, and external referrals in to BDRSL.

(ii) External referrals assistance includes support for DVA health & compensation issues, legal advice, welfare /financial support, Veteran's support services, accommodation, and mental health support.

(iii) Financial assistance includes individual food / fuel vouchers, utilities support, accommodation, transport, home / garden maintenance support.

(iv) Meals distributed includes individual fresh and frozen takeaway meals only.

(v) Practical assistance includes assessment/authorising of home maintenance tasks, pickup from individual homes to appointments, liaising with 3rd parties etc.

(vi) External representation includes any initiated networking and collegial opportunities with sector colleagues and associated agencies.

(vii) Home visitations include nursing homes and private residences.

VETERAN SUPPORT- WELFARE

Collaboration Opportunities:

The Welfare program will continue to build upon the already established networks and relationships that have been developed over the past months.

Ongoing Initiatives:

The Welfare and Charitable Sub-committee is considering ways to resurrect the Hospital Visitation program that was in place before the impact of Covid closed down contact and on-site visitation.

Conclusion:

The Welfare program of the Welfare and Charitable Sub-committee offers sensitive, timely and accountable commitment to supporting the welfare of all returned and current service personnel and their families. The program continues to foster a strong and supportive community for Veterans in the region by supporting their pathway from “welfare to wellbeing” and providing a dignified pathway for ease of access to support that transition.

John Edelsten
Chair, Welfare and Charitable Sub-Committee
8th December 2023



AFFILIATE
Happy Hour
3RD FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

\$250 JACKPOT
RAFFLE PRIZES

10% DISCOUNT
ON FOOD & DRINKS 6-8PM

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AUSTRALIA'S FUNNIEST HYPNOTIST
THE BIZARRE GAZZARD
AS VEGAS
"You Will Believe!"
INTERNATIONAL COMEDY HYPNOTIST

DINNER & SHOW
SATURDAY 6 APRIL 2024
MEMBERS \$65
GUESTS \$70

DOORS OPEN FROM 6PM
DINNER & SHOW FROM 8:30PM
2 COURSES (MAIN & DESSERT)

SCAN TO BOOK

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RING IN THE NEW YEAR
THE RIGHT WAY
at Bendigo RSL, with
RETRO REWIND DUO
"60'S TO 80'S BOY'S CLASSIC HITS"

Sunday 31st December 2023
Doors open from 6pm
Free entertainment 8:45pm – 12:15am
BISTRO BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: CALL 5442 2950

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E: info@bendigorsl.com.au

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Veterans Morning Tea
BDRSL Members Lounge
10.30-11.30am

UPCOMING DATES:
19th January, 2024 16th February, 2024 15th March, 2024

Please RSVP by leaving a message on 5443 7097 - 1 week before the Morning Tea
For more information please email: healthwellbeing@bendigorsl.com.au

www.bendigorsl.com.au
Ph: (051) 5443 2950
E: info@bendigorsl.com.au

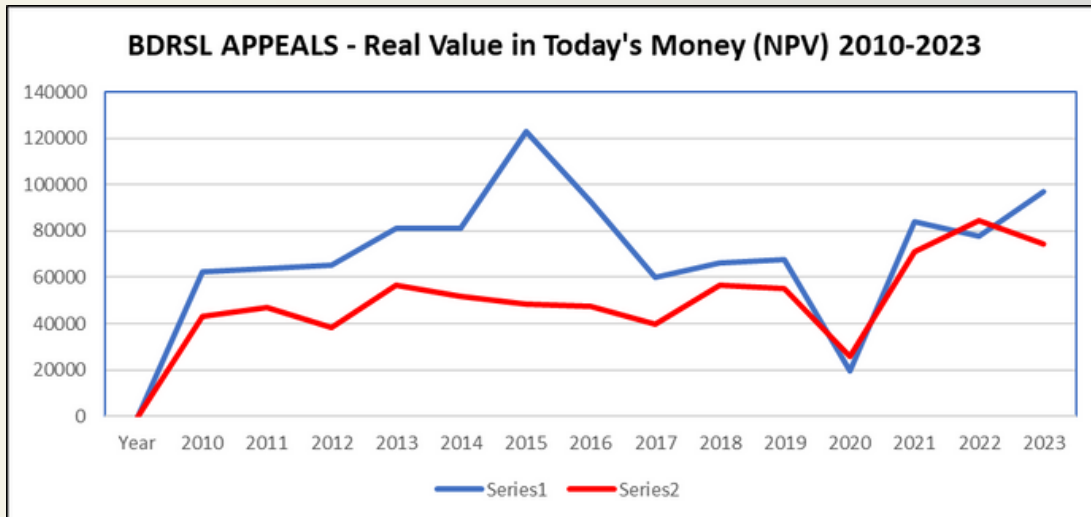
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LEST WE FORGET

APPEALS

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Poppy Appeal has now come and gone and I'm pleased to report that, through the sterling efforts of our volunteers and the Appeals team (both BDRSL staff and Committee) we raised \$74,500. This is a little down on the 2022 Poppy Appeal (\$84,000) but, given the difficult circumstances currently challenging many people in our region, the result clearly shows their generosity and support to our Veterans and their families.

I've included below a graph showing the trend with our Appeals, both Poppy and ANZAC, over the past 14 years. Anzac Day in blue. Poppy Appeal in red.



As for every Appeal, thanks must go to every organisation that allowed us to sell at their location and every volunteer that devoted their time and effort and to:

- To Vietnam Veterans of Australia (FSB Bendigo) for the use of their facilities.
- To the Bendigo Jockey Club, Bendigo Showgrounds Market and the Bendigo Swap/ Federation Committee.
- To Strathfieldsaye IGA, Long Gully IGA, Eaglehawk IGA, Maiden Gully IGA, Kennington Strath Village, APCO Junortoun, Bendigo Marketplace, Bendigo Pie Shop, Epsom Village and Bunnings Epsom.
- To the Real Estate agents of Bendigo for yet again completely manning the Selling Location at the Gillie Corner.
- To the members of 410 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets and 309 Army Cadet Unit for giving their time to sell at major activities around town.
- To Steven and Nicole Mooney for their great initiative of making and selling the Bendigo 'one-off' Leather Poppies.
- To Heather and Howard Macdonald.
- To Lois Newman, Paul Penno, OAM and Hugh Elphinstone.
- To Lisa Gellatly and Bob Harrison.
- To Andy Turner for his unswerving support on the committee.
- And to Grace Warner and Sam McGowan, again for their unswerving support on the committee but, most importantly, for their unstinting, proactive and empathetic efforts in managing and coordinating the Selling Locations and rosters and for generally getting us across the line.
- I'd like to highlight the great efforts of:
 - Epsom Primary School
 - White Hills Primary School
 - Eaglehawk North Primary School
 - Kennington Primary School
 - Skips Skate Shop Eaglehawk

APPEALS

Challenges

The biggest challenges facing us for future Appeals are the economic environment and our internal sustainability. Appeals is very much within our control. We can only do this by increasing our number of Appeals volunteers and, attracting younger volunteers. There are a few things to consider: The overwhelming majority of our volunteers are over 65 or even 70 years of age and, with the greatest will in the world, there comes a time for us all when we can no longer give the support we used to or wish to give.

We currently operate 10 Selling Locations for the nine days of each Appeal with a total of 360 volunteer-shifts. Not including special events.

Our Sub-Branch has a membership of more than 789 Service members and 646 Affiliate members the groups that benefit most from our Appeals fund-raising. This year less than 6% of Service members and less than 7.5% of Affiliates physically supported our Appeal.

We need to increase the number of available volunteers, starting with the upcoming 2024 ANZAC Appeal. If numbers do not increase we will need to decrease the number of selling locations or decrease the number of days we sell. Either way, this will significantly decrease the funds we raise and make available to our Veterans and their families.

Carl Chirgwin
Chair
18 December 2023



COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES



On 31 October 1917, the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade stormed the town of Beersheba to seize control of the town from the Ottoman Empire. This successful cavalry charge heralded the beginning of the end for Ottoman control of Palestine, and ensured the name of Beersheba would be forever remembered in Australian history because of its daring cavalry charge. Never would history see such a full-scale charge again.



A remembrance service was held in the memorial garden at the Bendigo RSL to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade 106 years ago.

Dale Hodges, chair of the Commemorative Activities Sub-Committee was MC for the service with speaker Stafford Kelly CSM providing an inspirational and stirring speech to the small but attentive crowd.

Remembrance Day services at both Eaglehawk and Bendigo were once again well attended with good crowds paying their respect.

Paul Penno OAM officiated for the Eaglehawk service at the newly refurbished war memorial while Nicole Hodges – Commemorative Activities Sub-Committee member, directed proceedings at the Bendigo service. Capt. Amy Murtagh was the guest speaker for the service at the Bendigo Military Museum forecourt.



The Commemorative Activities Sub-Committee continues to uphold the legacy of our Veterans through meaningful commemorations and community engagement. The dedication of the members and their commitment to preserving history remains the cornerstone of our efforts.



I would like to acknowledge the efforts of two of our long-serving members, Pat Petri and Lois Newman, who are stepping down after well over 10 years. Thank you for your dedicated service to this Sub-Committee and we wish you both all the best for the future.

Dale Hodges
Chair – Commemorative Activities Sub-Committee



BENDIGO MILITARY MUSEUM

The Bendigo Military Museum continues its efforts to preserve and showcase the rich military history of our region. The subcommittee and volunteers are focused on enhancing museum exhibits, engaging with the community, and planning for future initiatives.

The 38th Bn 1st AIF Exhibition will wrap up at the end of the month and we will kick off 2024 with an exhibition from the Golden Rivers Artists. Overall, our exhibition schedule for the rest of 2024 is firming up with the recent inclusion of the peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding exhibition in the March to May timeframe.



Our cataloguing team continues to do great work in cataloguing all BDRSL Sub-Branch Memorabilia on the Victorian Collections Database. They have catalogued 6989 items as of 8th Dec 2023 which is a great effort. A reminder that anyone can view this collection online at www.victoriancollections.net.au.

We have now engaged two students from Deakin University to assist us with our museum work. One will work locally and the other remotely and both have been allocated 100 hours to assist us and to develop their skills. It is likely we will get additional students as Melbourne University has recently asked their students for Expressions of Interest to work at the BMM.

We have grant applications in the pipeline and if successful, will fund what we are calling an “audio storyscape” for the BMM. This will take the BMM to a new level with the use of innovative technology to create an immersive experience for visitors. Simply put, visitors will be able to interact with the various display spaces in the BMM as they move throughout the building through the use of videos, headphones and smartphones.

As always, we can't do anything without our band of dedicated volunteers, and we truly appreciate their efforts and selflessness.

That said, it is a small group and we are looking for new volunteers, particularly anyone willing to assist as Museum Guides. If you are interested, and have a couple of spare hours on the weekend, please feel free to contact us via email at museum@bendigorsl.com.au or call the museum on 5442 4513 on Wednesdays between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

Steve Burke
Chair, Bendigo Military Museum Sub-Committee



03 5442 4513
museum@bendigorsl.com.au
www.bendigorsl.com.au/museum

Open Hours
WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
11:00am - 3:00pm

Peacekeepers, Peacemakers, and Peacebuilders.

The Bendigo veteran community is gearing up for a poignant Anzac Day in 2024, as we proudly announce the theme for 2024 commemoration: "Peacekeepers, Peacemakers, and Peacebuilders." The terms have been used for UN missions since 1947 and Australians have participated in 62 missions since then. The theme seeks to honour and acknowledge the significant contributions of those who have served in Peacekeeping Operations with Multinational Forces.

In line with this theme, the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Commemorative Committee extends a heartfelt invitation to all Veterans who have been a part of Peacekeeping Operations to participate in and lead the Bendigo 2024 Anzac Day Parade. This is a unique opportunity for these individuals to share their experiences and be recognised for their crucial role in maintaining peace and security domestically and around the world.

A further opportunity to showcase, display, and share memorabilia, artifacts, and personal histories relating to Peacekeepers, Peacemakers, and Peacebuilders is available through a temporary exhibition titled 'PEACE' that will be held at the Bendigo Military Museum from 5th April-31st July 2024.

We would like those who served as Peacekeepers to complete a brief questionnaire about their peacekeeping activities. It will also help us gauge their willingness to contribute to the Bendigo Military Museum, join the ANZAC Day march, and potentially share their stories of their service with us. Please use the link above / QR Code to be able to contribute to this special event.

The QR Code navigates to a brief form.



ANZAC Day Theme 2024 -
Peacekeepers



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Ph: (03) 5442 2950

E: office@bendigorsl.com.au

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MyRSL

LEST WE FORGET

WHAT'S ON

The winners of the GIANT Christmas Raffle have been announced! Congratulations go to:

- Kathleen Harris who took home the first prize.
- Rodney Pinder was the lucky winner of the second prize.
- Colin Jackson walked away with the amazing third prize.

GIANT Christmas Raffle

OVER \$10,000 total prize value!*

2ND PRIZE \$1,926 VALUE
1ST PRIZE \$8,045 VALUE
3RD PRIZE \$711 VALUE

\$5 per ticket or 3 for \$10
Redeem 500 points for an extra entry!

PROMOTIONAL DATES: 9am Monday 30/10/23 to 19.59pm Tuesday 19/12/23
DRAW DATE: 8pm Tuesday 19/12/23

*Images are representations only, actual prizes may vary
Total raffle value \$10,622.75
Sub-Branch Committee members & B&B staff are ineligible to enter

WIN A HYUNDAI VENUE ACTIVE 1.6P AUTO

VALUED AT **\$28,000**

Spend \$25 on food and beverages **OR** exchange 500 MyRSL rewards points for a **FREE** entry

WEEKLY DRAW
15 winners will be drawn at 8.00pm every Monday from 15/1/24 until 1/4/24

MAJOR DRAW
8.00pm Monday 8/4/24

Bendigo Hyundai

Promotional period: 8/1/2024 - 8/4/2024

MyRSL

Beginning on January 8th you have a chance to win a fabulous HYUNDAI VENUE ACTIVE. Members get an entry when they swipe their members card, when a \$25 accumulated spend occurs or members can exchange 500 bonus points at the kiosks for an entry.

If your current membership is coming up for renewal or, if you would like to become a member of the Bendigo RSL, now is the time to act. If you renew your membership, or become a new member before the 31st December, you are automatically entered into a draw to win. \$1000 Bottle of Penfold's Grange, or \$1000 bottle of Whisky.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR **Membership**

Renew your membership between **November 1st** and **December 31st 2023** and enter the draw to win a bottle of Penfolds Grange or whisky, each valued up to **\$1,000**

Pictures are a representation and for promotional purposes only

MyRSL

FREE TRIVIA NIGHT

In the Large Function Room Teams of 4-10 people

Prizes and giveaways throughout the night!

Bistro open from 5.30pm

Book Early and have dinner before playing Trivia!

Presented by **TRISTAR**
Trivia & Entertainment

First Friday of the month 7pm - 9.30pm

MyRSL

As of 5th January, 2024, our Trivia nights will be moving to the first Friday of the month. Get your team together and join in the laughs. Who knows? That useless little tidbit of information you have been carrying around may just win you prizes. Call reception to book your table.

WHAT'S ON



Monday night means Burger Night!

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

Book online from our web site or call the venue on 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 Parmas 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.



www.bendigorsl.com.au

Ph: (03) 5442 2950

E: office@bendigorsl.com.au

*Terms and conditions apply



MyRSL

LEST WE FORGET

FUNCTIONS

Functions

Bendigo District RSL offers you the very best facilities for conferences, meetings, Christmas parties, engagement parties, weddings, and rooms for any family occasion.

We can cater for several different styles of corporate events, from smaller board meetings to large presentations and launches.

Our sit-down events cater for up to 200 people and we can be creative with the venue's flexible floor plan. We can design and decorate the space to suit your function. You can utilise the fully licensed bar stocked with wines, beers, spirits, soft drink, tea, and coffee.

Our dedicated staff will provide outstanding service to small and large groups and have a wealth of experience and expertise.

Our latest events were:

- Bendigo Tennis Club AGM
- Poppethead Day Club Bendigo Weekly Programme
- Bendigo City Football Club Presentation Night
- Northwest Lightning Hockey Club Presentation Night
- Health & Wellbeing Programs
- Golden City Football Club Presentation Night
- Vietnam Veterans State Meet & Greet
- Vietnam Veterans State Conference
- Woolworths Group Forum
- Bendigo Indian Association Diwali Celebration
- Wedding Anniversary Celebration
- Kalianna School Bendigo Graduation
- Bendigo Malaylee Association High Tea
- Bus Group Luncheon
- Funeral wake
- Weddings
- Veterans Morning Tea

Upcoming events:

- Bendigo Legacy Christmas Lunch
- St Vincent De Paul Christmas Lunch
- Poppetheads Day Club Christmas Lunch
- C Coy 8/7 Bn RVR Christmas Dinner
- St John of God Hospital Christmas Lunch
- Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-Operative Christmas Lunch
- 80th Birthday Lunch
- BDRSL General Members Meeting & Christmas Lunch
- Bendigo Military Museum Christmas Lunch
- Health & Wellbeing Programs Christmas Lunch
- Bus Groups Luncheon

Our friendly and professional Function and Events team can help you create the perfect setting to suit your occasion and budget and are more than happy to provide advice and recommendations on further services we can arrange.

For further details about our celebration packages please visit our BDRSL website 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.



WINNERS



Here are a few of the smiling faces from our 107th Birthday celebration night. Our \$2000 jack pot winner was **Donald Ramage**.

The winners of the BBQs were, **Diane Jackson, Shaun D'Arcy and John Roberts**.

Thank you everyone for the Birthday wishes.



Here are the very happy winners of our 10 kilo chocolate block. Smiles all around but the biggest smiles are from the kids.



Hi everyone. Please meet **Iris**. Iris was the lucky member who walked away with our \$2000 members draw . Congratulations to Iris on your win.

This is **Stuart**. Stuart won \$3000 in the Member's draw on the 16th August. You could be skipping out the door with \$1000 from our members night. Be like Stuart! Book your table and come along to our Thursday evening members night.



WINNERS



Val was one of our members lucky enough to win our members jackpot draw. Val took home \$1000 just by being present when her number was called on our Thursday night Members night. You could be filling your bank account too. Just being a member of the Bendigo District RSL puts you in the draw automatically., and then be here on Thursday night. Never mind Bruce. He likes the limelight.

Our Veterans nights happen on the first Friday of each month. In November we made **Rod Hosking's** month when he took home the Veteran's jackpot valued at \$2500. If you are a service or life member you are most welcome to attend these nights. Speak with like-minded folk, catch up and relax. You may even win the meat raffle.



A big WELL DONE to **Donna Hamley** on winning the members jackpot on 30th November. Donna is a regular at our member's nights and often makes off with one of the meat trays. On this night however, she was able to fold \$1000 into her pocket. Congratulations Donna.

The Veterans draw has some great prizes on offer for those that attend the social catch-up on the first Friday of each month. The draw on the 1st December saw **Alison McAlpine** picked out of the barrel. Alison was the lucky winner of a custom clock created and donated by Jon Crust. Alison chose a Navy theme for her clock and was pretty chuffed at the result. Mant thanks to Jon for his kind donation.



BEHIND THE SCENES

RING IN THE NEW YEAR THE RIGHT WAY
at Bendigo RSL, with **RETRO REMIND DUO**

Sunday 31st December 2023

Doors open from 6pm
Free entertainment 8:45pm – 12:15am

BISTRO BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: CALL 5442 2950

MyRSL

AUSTRALIA'S FUNNIEST HYPNOTIST

THE BIZARRE GAZZARD

You Will Believe!

INTERNATIONAL COMEDY HYPNOTIST

DINNER & SHOW

SATURDAY
6 APRIL 2024

MEMBERS \$65
GUESTS \$70

DOORS OPEN FROM 6PM
DINNER & SHOW FROM 6.30PM
2 COURSES (MAIN & DESSERT)

SCAN TO BOOK

www.bendigorsl.com.au
Ph: (03) 5442 2950
E: office@bendigorsl.com.au
*Terms and conditions apply

BENDIGO DISTRICT RSL
LEST WE FORGET

MyRSL members get more

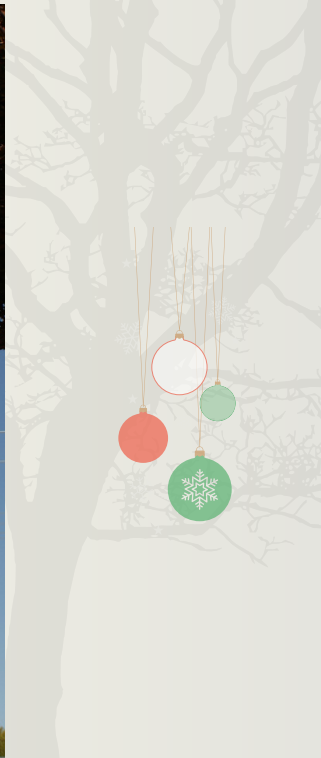
Veterans Morning Tea

BDRSL Members Lounge
10.30-11.30am

UPCOMING DATES:
19th January, 2024 16th February, 2024 15th March, 2024

Please RSVP by leaving a message on 5443 7097 - 1 week before the Morning Tea
For more information please email: healthwellbeing@bendigorsl.com.au

MyRSL



After a long process of lobbying the relevant authorities, we have been successful in having lighting installed over the pedestrian crossing at the front of the club on Havilah Road.

The new lighting along with tactile pedestrian strips and painted traffic islands will increase the safety of our members and guests enormously.

Giving Back



The Bendigo RSL is excited and proud to sponsor a number of causes including local sporting and support groups as well as statewide and national institutions.

It is very important that we, as a charitable organisation, assist community groups at a grass root level which it is hoped will help build a happier, healthier and vibrant community.

Here are a few of the organisations the Bendigo RSL has been happy to support to over the past twelve months.



BE.
BENDIGO



PROMOTIONS



Trivia night. First Friday of the month from 7.30



Free Friday night entertainment



Goldmines promo. Each Tuesday from 1.00pm



\$15 budget Buster deal for Monday lunch



Get our free app



Wednesday night steak night. \$27.00



Monday night burger night. \$20.00



Tuesday night parma night. Just \$20.00



Happy hour Monday to Friday. 4.30 - 5.30pm



Big Breakfast. Great Brekky menu. Sunday morning only



Summer specials menu. Tuesday to Friday lunch

Accolades



Warmest congratulations go to former committee person and BDRSL Secretary **Steve Burke** on his initiation into the RSL Hall of Fame at the RSL Hall of Fame award ceremony at Frankston RSL on 4th November. Steve has also been honoured with “The Meritorious Service Medal of The Returned Services League of Australia.” This award was presented to Steve in recognition of 25 years of selfless service to the RSL and Victorias veterans.

Congratulations Steve!



At the RSL Hall of Fame Awards Night, three individual staff members were also acknowledged for their outstanding service.

Congratulations go to **Ratna, Pardeep and Graeme.**

The award is a testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and collaboration. It is fantastic to see that their talents and efforts have not gone unnoticed, and it is truly inspiring to see their contributions recognised in such a prestigious manner.

As valued members of our team, the commitment to the club and customers has played a pivotal role in our collective success. This recognition is well-deserved, and we have no doubt that their passion and expertise will continue to drive the team forward.



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MyRSL

*Terms and conditions apply

LEST WE FORGET

Accolades



Heartfelt congratulations go to our very own **Maurie Betts** on being awarded a Life Membership with The Returned Services League (RSL) of Australia. This prestigious honour is a testament to his unwavering commitment and dedication. His commitment to the principles of mateship, service, and remembrance has set a remarkable standard for all.

At the General Members Meeting, plaques recognising volunteer service to BDRSL Sub-Committees were presented to;
Ann Merry – Welfare & Charitable
Lois Newman – Commemorative Activities
Patricia Petri – Commemorative Activities

We're very proud to announce the Bendigo District RSL was awarded the 10A Sub-Branch Commendation award tonight at the 2023 RSL Hall of Fame Awards. This would not be possible without the hard work shown by the Staff, Management and Sub-Branch committee in supporting our Veterans and the Bendigo community.



Doin' Time

Congratulations to Assistant Manager **Chris** on reaching the ten-year milestone. The organisation presented Chris with a small token of appreciation and THERE WAS CAKE!



From all of our amazing team we would like to say a huge thank you to all our members and guests for supporting us here at the Bendigo RSL. Without your continued support we could not do the important work that enables us to help and support our Veteran community. We look forward to an exciting 2024 and wish you and your loved ones a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

