

**“Your Local Club”**

**“Your RSL”**

# **“Ringwood RSL”**

## **Over the Top 2024**



**ANZAC Dawn Service 2023**



**Ringwood RSL Sub Branch Inc.  
16 Station Street, Ringwood 3134.  
PH: 9870 6604 [www.ringwoodrsl.com.au](http://www.ringwoodrsl.com.au)**



**“Your Local Club”**

**“Your RSL”**

**“RINGWOOD RSL”**

**Ringwood RSL Sub Branch Inc.**

**16 Station Street, Ringwood 3134.**

**[www.ringwoodrsl@com.au](mailto:www.ringwoodrsl@com.au)**

**PH: 9870 6604**

**ABN: 28 586 074 047**

**SUMMER 2024 EDITION**

**PRESIDENT**

**David Jamison**

**SNR VICE PRESIDENT**

**David Kelly**

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Christian Bolog**

**SECRETARY**

**Rob Swenser**

**TREASURER**

**Harry Agathagelidis**

**COMMITTEE**

**Ted Dugdale**

**COMMITTEE**

**Des Myers**

**COMMITTEE**

**Neil Trigwell**

**COMMITTEE**

**Kim Brown**

**PENSION ADVOCATES**

**Kevan Andrews & Ian Richards**

**WELFARE OFFICER**

**Lyn Maestri**

# - VALE -

## SERVICE MEMBERS

First Name	Last Name	Service	Service No.	Date of Passing
Robin	Watterson	Army	VX79720	1st Jan 2023
David	Dwyer	Navy	R62631	1st Jan 2023
John	North	Army	3727147	14th Jan 2023
Thelma	Brown	Navy	WR1405	14th April 2023
Nicholas	Hill	Army	3207834	14th July 2023
Stephen	Allen	Army	23559281	8th Aug 2023
Michael	Austin	Airforce	1730890	23rd Nov 2023
Lorraine	Onans	Nurse's		24th Dec 2023



# Lest We Forget

# **VALE**

## **Affiliate Members**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Date of Passing</b>
Reginald	Nicholls	6th March 2023
John	Cromb	13th March 2023
Wayne	Mills	20th March 2023
Gary	Feore	27th April 2023
John	Decelis	1st June 2023
Mavis	Barkas	17th July 2023



## **Social Members**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Date of Passing</b>
Melissa	Carey	4th March 2023
Heather	Young	17th July 2023
Eric	Shugg	1st Aug 2023
Howard	Staples	7th Oct 2023
John	Hamilton	5th Dec 2023

# **Lest We Forget**



**“Your Local Club”**

**“Your RSL”**

**“RINGWOOD RSL”**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The Annual General Meeting of Ringwood RSL Sub Branch Inc.**

**will be held in the**

**VC Room at 10.30 am on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
for all financial Service, Affiliate and Social members.**

**There will also be Amendments to Branch Bylaw 10A and  
Consequent Amendments to Ringwood RSL Sub Branch Rules.**

**Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting and  
Financials will be available from reception on  
presentation of your membership card.**



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# FROM THE PRESIDENTS PEN



## Looking Back at 2023

Last year could be characterised as a ‘steady as you go’ period. We maintained our range of programs designed to help veterans in our local area and our members we also conducted the ANZAC and Remembrance Day services for the Ringwood community. Each of these events was well supported although attendance on the 11<sup>th</sup> November was somewhat less than for previous years.

Again, I am pleased to be able to report that our trading position has continued to be strong and we end the year with a healthy surplus. We are using the trading surpluses to build a fund firstly to cope with the uncertainties ahead particularly with regards to our proposed redevelopment and secondly to ensure we are able to fit out a new facility when it is built.

The Sub Branch conducts many regular activities for the benefit of veterans, their families and our members to provide support for those who need it, to enhance socialisation and to give assistance to those who need to make claims for support from the Department of Veteran Affairs. One such, is the Friday Night Board Games which is open to all. Another is the Veterans Fitness Engagement program which is conducted by Jason Isaac every Wednesday night and revolves around a ‘boxercise’ circuit to promote fitness and encourage friendship connections for veterans, our members and their families as well as the community. A new program which started in 2023 is the ‘From the Horse’s Mouth’ equine therapy program conducted by one of our chaplains. This targets more recent veterans to help them manage and overcome emotional and stress related issues. Details of all our programs are available from reception.

We are well served by our Pension Office personnel led by Kevan Andrews and our Welfare Coordinator Lyn Maestri and our Chaplains. They’ve continued to provide welfare and pension advocacy support to veterans and their families throughout the year.

In September 2023 we entered a team in the veterans’ games which is an exciting initiative targeting in particular, our more recent veterans. This carnival of sport was the inaugural launch of an annual event designed to celebrate and showcase the skills and excellence of our Veteran Community. Our team the ‘Average Joes’ did well, and were voted the ‘most popular’ team by the crowd of supporters at the games. One of the most pleasing aspects of this initiative from my point of view, is the way the team and its supporters have built an ongoing social media based friendship and support network.

The redevelopment project (Project 2022 & Beyond) is progressing albeit not at the speed we would like. It achieved two major milestones in 2023, first the submission of the planning application to the Maroondah City Council and secondly the agreement in principle between the developer and a purchaser for all the residential units in the planned complex. The purchaser is an independent living provider with over 9,000 residents, across 58 communities at present. There are still some serious hurdles to overcome before planning approval will be granted but our project team in conjunction with the developer, has engaged with both the Maroondah City Council and the State Government to help with moving the project forward.

## Looking Forward

The Royal Commission into Veteran Suicides will be completing its work and reporting to the Government. The RSL made a submission to it as did I and the veteran community is looking forward to reading its findings and in particular its recommendations. We can only hope that unlike the numerous previous inquiry reports, there will be positive actions from the Federal Government that will enhance support to veterans and their families.

We will again enter a team for this year's Veteran Games as well as encouraging other sub branches in our area to jointly sponsor another team.

Further equine therapy programs will be conducted through the year and I urge any of you or if you know someone who would benefit from these to please contact reception for details.

We are hopeful that the matter of the planning application will be resolved this year so the project can move to its next (construction) phase.

The Committee and Manager are planning entertainment and other events for our members and are always open to suggestions from members to expand the range and nature of programs and events for the benefit of the veteran community and our members.

## A Final Word

Yet again I am grateful for the loyalty and work of our volunteers including those involved with the ANZAC & Poppy Appeals, Women's Auxiliary, War Widows and the Friday Club, our Chaplains Cheryl & Tristan Forrest and very much look forward to seeing them being able to help with the work of the Sub Branch in 2024.

We are well served by the Sub Branch Club Manager and his staff and thank them for their professionalism and commitment in conducting the commercial operations of the Sub Branch.

The Committee and I are enormously grateful for the understanding shown by and the support from our members.

Thank you all for your support and keep well in 2024.

## Support to Veterans and the Community

### Sub Branch Veteran & Community Support

The main welfare and support work of the Sub Branch is outlined here:

- During 2023 we helped many veterans in the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne. Our pension advocates provided assistance with their claims for support from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. This is a highly valued service at the core of our objectives as an RSL Sub Branch. The Welfare Coordinator and her team of volunteers provided much needed welfare and practical support to veterans in our region as well as to the older and less mobile members of the Sub Branch. These volunteer services included in-home and hospital support, welfare help, transport assistance, mobility aids as well as minor house and garden maintenance etc. These services have a particular value for our frailer members but also for others in our community who need our help. This volunteer support to the Maroondah community was costed out at \$70,195.



- We conducted commemorative services for the Ringwood community to mark ANZAC and Remembrance Days at the Ringwood Clock Tower Memorial Park.
- We conducted our normal remembrance services with local football teams spread from Mitcham to East Ringwood.
- We were able to provide bursaries and assistance worth \$3,000 for children attending Ringwood, Heathmont and Norwood Secondary Colleges.
- We supported the Maroondah Brass and the Ringwood Pipe Bands with cash sponsorship totalling \$8,000 to help them meet their costs of providing musical support to the Sub Branch and the wider community. These bands continue to provide a valued component of our commemoration services.
- We provided support to members of the Sub Branch with subsidised meals and refreshments, and other “in club” activities designed to combat social isolation and enhance camaraderie among veterans and their families. The cost for these was approximately \$317,979.
- We ran the Welfare/Courtesy Bus for members benefit as part of our social inclusion program at a cost of \$73,042.
- We provided sponsorship of and support for the Women’s Auxiliary, War Widows, the Day Club and Sub Branch Sporting Sub Sections worth \$61,125.
- Sponsorship to the Ringwood Football/Netball Club, Heathmont Football Club, Our Ladies Netball Club and Ainsley Park Cricket Club was provided at a cost of \$16,730.
- We provide the use of our facilities provided for local community groups at a cost of \$38,700.
- We contributed to the local community with employment of 50 staff from the surrounding community \$2,219,583.
- We contributed \$139,976 to the State Branch to help fund its work coordinating and providing services to the Victorian veteran community and to assist smaller Victorian sub branches.

In total we contributed **some \$2,948,330 worth** of benefits to our veterans and community in 2023.

**David Jamison**

**President**



# **REGULAR SUB BRANCH ACTIVITIES**

## **MEMORABILIA TEAM**

Mondays at 10am -12pm in the Committee Room.

The memorabilia team meets on Monday mornings to arrange the displays and to catalogue and maintain our holdings of military memorabilia.

## **STRENGTH & MOBILITY EXERCISE CLASS**

Tuesdays at 10am-11am in the VC function room

A weekly exercise program lead by a Qualified Exercise Physiologist, Strength & Conditioning Coach aimed to enhance general strength & mobility.

## **FRIENDLY FRIDAY SOCIAL GROUP**

Fridays at 10am- 12pm in the VC function room

The group meets every 1st, 3rd & 4th week. The group undertakes a number of activities each week to enhance social inclusion & community engagement.

## **FRIDAY NIGHT BOARD GAMES**

Fridays from 5:30pm in the VC Function Room. A range of board games provided or bring your own. All welcome.

## **WOMEN'S AUXILIARY GROUP**

The group meets monthly and conducts regular events & activities for members. There are numerous activities including Bingo, Bus trips, Raffles & additional events.

## **WAR WIDOWS GROUP**

The group meets monthly; further details are available upon request.

## **BINGO**

There are weekly Bingo sessions each Thursday @ 1pm and 2pm. Cost is \$3 per book.

## **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Additional clubs such as golf, angling and pool clubs are also available for members who may have interests in these areas. Further details are available upon request.

Throughout the year the Sub Branch arranges outings to places of interest across the State for members and their guests. Details of these events can be obtained from reception.

*New members are always welcome to join our Activities & Programs.*

# SUB BRANCH PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## Veteran Fitness Engagement

The VFE is designed to promote connection through exercise and conversation with the modern-day veteran, families and friends at Ringwood RSL.

Our aim is to create an engaging environment in a space that's familiar with the model of camaraderie within the ADF and create lasting friendships for a life after service.

The program is open to veterans, their family members, RSL members, police, first responders and the local community.

Connection is the key to conversation, being available as a mate to spend time in a mutual activity, sharing a meal afterwards to unwind and allow people to relax and enjoy their evening with a sense of achievement and connection scheduled for Wednesday nights 1830-1930hrs.

## Wellbeing & Pension Service - Oasis Support Centre

The Oasis Support Centre Ringwood is a service of the Ringwood RSL Sub Branch and provides Welfare and Pension support services to serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), their families & the wider community.

The office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9am- 5pm with the Pension advocates available on Thursdays.

Our Wellbeing Services Coordinator is professionally qualified to assist current ADF Service, our Service Members, Veterans & Community members.

Assistance is provided via appropriate referral to support agencies including:

Home & Community Care	Transportation
Healthy Eating & Access to Meals	Occupational Therapy
Wellbeing Services	Bereavement, Funerals/Eulogies
Counselling	Legal Aid

The Wellbeing Support Office also provides support through phone calls & visits to Aged Care Facilities, Homes & Hospitals.

Our Pension Officers are available on premises Thursdays to provide support services to serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families. Appointments outside these hours can be made by phoning Reception.

## Equine Therapy Programme (From the Horse's Mouth)

This program consisting of four sessions is run over a month and is designed to help in particular veterans and their families better manage stress, their mental and emotional health. It is conducted by Cheryl Forrest one of our Chaplains at a property on Bayswater Road Croydon. It is open to veterans and their immediate families.

# **WELFARE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

The welfare office continues to assist members and veterans and has had over a hundred enquiries with several diverse queries where many referrals have been made to varied services, required by these members.

I encourage members and veterans over the age of 65 that need any assistance to register with My Aged Care. If you need some help the My Aged Care team can support you over the phone. 1800 400 422.

Our fantastic pension advocates, Kevan, Ian, Emily and Heather who assists with the admin, have been kept busy with appointments on Thursdays. I would like to say a big thank you to them for volunteering and dedicating their time in assisting our Veterans. Congratulations to Kevan on 10 Years as an advocate with the RSL in June.

Our wellbeing groups continue with the Strength and Mobility Class, Bingo, Friendly Fridays and now this year a small craft group every second Tuesday afternoon. There is also a free boxing class held on Wednesday evenings. We would like to start up a new social and wellbeing activity group this year and it appears by the survey results people would like to see trivia and games possibly one afternoon a week. If you are interested in participating in any of these groups, please don't hesitate to enquire.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist with our appeals, Anzac appeal in April and Poppy appeal in November. Without these wonderful Volunteers selling badges during the appeals our funds will diminish and this will make it difficult to assist our veterans.

The current volunteers always comment on how much satisfaction they get out of selling badges out in the Community. If you can spare any time, even just a couple of hours please come and see me to register your availability.

We receive many requests from families, to help with eulogies for funerals of deceased veterans and conduct the RSL component of the service. Thanks to Margaret, our funeral officer, we can assist these families at their loved one's funerals. Margaret also conducts presentations in Aged Care facilities for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day to celebrate these important events. If anyone else would like to assist in this, please come and have a chat as Margaret gets very busy at appeal time.

Again, last Christmas we have put together some fantastic care bags for the more vulnerable members of the club, these were very well received.

Volunteers continue to provide support to the needs of others, to the RSL community and the selling of the badges and poppies, we thank all that our volunteers do for us.

## **Community Support - Lyn Maestri**

Office operating Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10-5

Lyn Maestri – [welfare@ringwoodrsl.com.au](mailto:welfare@ringwoodrsl.com.au) or 9870 6604 via reception.



## FROM THE SECRETARIES DESK



Another year has passed and the same old issue of a shortage of Volunteers has plagued us, it makes it extremely difficult to provide the ongoing welfare services when there is a constant need to rely on and overuse of our great volunteers. However, a huge thankyou goes to the small band of volunteers that provide their time and skills to this endeavour.

In my annual report last year, I spoke of our need for more volunteer support, particularly in the area of sale of ANZAC Badges and Remembrance Poppies. You may not be aware that Income from these sales finances our Welfare Programs and of recent years we have seen declining sales due in part by the lack of volunteer numbers. Please consider helping to reverse this trend by providing our Welfare Officer Lyn with your contact details, I know she will organise for you to fit into the sales roster at a time that suits in April and October/November.

It was pleasing to see Michael Hale awarded Life Membership of the Ringwood RSL for his services to many of the activities we conduct, his ongoing dedication year after year to the sale of Badges and Poppies is particularly notable.

The Management and Staff in our Sub-Branch are exceptional and make many of the tasks of our committee somewhat easier with their commitment and dedication to you, our members.

2023 was a difficult year personally with a medical intervention however our committee members compensated for any shortfall, and I am indebted to them for making my task during recovery less stressful.

Please stay safe and enjoy your life

**Rob Swenser**

**Secretary**





# TREASURERS REPORT 2022



It is with great pleasure that I provide this report for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The report is based on the final audited figures, copies of which are provided at the Annual General Meeting.

This financial year came off the back of the 2022 financial year which was a record year for our club bouncing back after the COVID years. Taking this into account I am pleased to report to you that, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, our club made a net profit of \$508,823.

This is a very pleasing outcome, and, in my opinion is a result of the great efforts put in our management and staff during the year. It is also a reflection on you, our members, for supporting the club and making such a great place to be involved with.

There are a few items that I would like to focus on:

- 1) The committee decided to transfer an amount of \$300,000 from its profit to a Redevelopment Reserve. This in essence left the club with Total Comprehensive Income for the year of \$208,823.
- 2) Sales revenue in bar +7% and food +10.7% were up against 2022 but the fact that gaming was down (13.3%) meant that total sales revenue was down (1.4%) against the 2022 financial year.
- 3) Cash on hand at sitting at a healthy \$1.6 million at the end of December 2023.
- 4) Loan to the Building Fund was \$2.944 million as at the end of December 2023.
- 5) After having purchased our floor stock of poker machines in 2022, we undertook a major capital upgrade in 2023 of new EGM's and Game changes spending \$310,750. With this capital investment our club has one of the most modern and attractive floors in our area.
- 6) Cost Of Goods Sold were below 2022 levels.
- 7) Our State Branch contribution was around \$140,000.
- 8) Rent to Patriotic Building Fund \$150,970.
- 9) During the year we set up an offset account with the ANZ bank to reduce the interest paid on our loan.

Looking forward to 2024 I feel confident that the club will continue to remain in a strong financial position.

I would personally like to acknowledge the good work done by the management and staff of the Ringwood RSL Sub Branch and I'd like to thank our General Manager, Wayne Chisholm, and our accounts staff for the support they have given me in performing my role as treasurer. I would also like to thank the committee and you, our members of this club, for what you do to make this a great club.

Looking forward to working with you all again in 2024.

**Harry Agathagelidis**

**Treasurer**

# RINGWOOD RSL SUB BRANCH INC 2023

## Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Sales Revenue</b>		
Bar	1,900,078	1,779,605
Food	1,382,382	1,248,507
Gaming	3,881,273	4,474,655
TAB	66,679	68,868
Other Revenue	526,229	294,609
	<b>7,756,644</b>	<b>7,866,244</b>
Cost of Goods Sold	-2,478,737	-2,539,243
Accounting, Legal And Consulting Expenses	-65,458	-50,325
Advertising and Promotion Expenses	-237,868	-108,876
Amortisation	-387,621	-412,729
Members Discounts	-270,518	-287,421
Donation And Welfare Expenses	-218,408	-173,748
Employee Benefit Expenses	-2,204,296	-1,965,439
Financial Costs and charges	-109,158	-51,760
Patriotic Fund Costs	-41,111	-73,800
Office and Administration Expenses	-238,471	-219,598
Other Expenses	-529,614	-490,981
Rent	-150,970	-144,696
Repairs and Maintenance	-43,729	-54,369
State Branch Contribution	-139,976	-150,639
Utilities	-131,886	-142,873
	<b>508,823</b>	<b>999,747</b>
<b>Profit / (Loss) before Income Tax</b>		
Income Tax Expense	-	-
	<b>508,823</b>	<b>999,747</b>
<b>Net Profit / (Loss) for the year</b>		
Transfer to Redevelopment Reserve	-300,000	-
	<b>208,823</b>	<b>999,747</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>		

# BANTER FROM THE MANAGER



The year 2023 has been a vibrant and successful year for entertainment at Ringwood RSL, with a diverse range of shows catering to the varied interests of our community.

## **Entertainment Highlights in 2023:**

### **BABBA Shows:**

- **9th July:** The first BABBA show of the year, held on July 9th, was a resounding success, drawing a crowd of 170 enthusiastic guests. The captivating performance and lively atmosphere showcased the enduring popularity of BABBA.
- **19th November:** BABBA returned for a second show on November 19th, with 126 guests in attendance. This event continued the tradition of delivering top-notch entertainment to our patrons.

### **Footy Shows:**

- **25th May - Essendon:** In May, the Essendon-themed footy show brought together 93 guests, capturing the spirit of the game and fostering a sense of community.
- **30th August - Richmond:** August's footy show, centered around Richmond, attracted 106 guests, highlighting the widespread appeal of sports-themed events at Ringwood RSL.
- **23rd November - Collingwood:** The Collingwood-themed show in November maintained the momentum with 98 guests, showcasing the ongoing success of our sports-related programming.

### **Drag Bingo:**

- **14th November:** November's Drag Bingo night was a hit, hosting 165 guests who reveled in the lively and entertaining atmosphere.
- **12th December:** The December edition of Drag Bingo continued the success with 172 guests, creating a festive and engaging environment.
- **19th December:** The final Drag Bingo event of the year, on December 19th, attracted 171 guests, rounding off the series with flair.

## Upcoming Events in 2024:

### Meal Deals:

- *Monday - Burger Night:* Starting the week off right, we offer a delicious burger night every Monday at the unbeatable price of \$10.
- *Tuesday - Parma Night:* Tuesdays are for Parma enthusiasts, with our Parma Night providing a tasty meal for just \$15.
- *Wednesday - Steak Night:* Wednesdays are steak nights at Ringwood RSL, offering a mouthwatering steak dinner for only \$20.
- Thursday— Taco Nights:

### Monthly Events:

- *Drag Bingo:* Set a monthly reminder for Drag Bingo on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm, ensuring a regular dose of fun and excitement.
- *Movie Day:* Join us for Movie Day on the last Friday of each month in the VC Room at 10:30 am, creating a cozy cinema experience for our community.

As we reflect on the successful shows in 2023 and look forward to an exciting lineup in 2024, Ringwood RSL remains committed to providing top-tier entertainment, fostering community spirit, and creating memorable experiences for our valued patrons. We invite everyone to join us for a year filled with fantastic shows, delicious meal deals, and engaging monthly events.

And thank you to the staff and committee for their support and hard work over the year.

**Wayne Chisholm**

**General Manager**

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## **APPEALS 2023**

### **ANZAC**

Total funds raised \$42,559 and paid to Anzac House

Remitted back to Ringwood RSL Agency A/c \$12,280

### **POPPY**

Total funds raised \$18,632 and paid to Anzac House

Remitted back to Ringwood RSL Agency A/c \$9,316

**Thankyou to all the volunteers for their hard work .**

**If you would like to volunteer to help please call reception on 9870 6604**

**Tuesday to Thursday and ask for Lynn.**

**Wayne Chisholm**

**General Manager / Appeals**

# MEMBERSHIP AT YOUR RSL

## 2023

During 2023 members received \$32,709 in points and \$343,734 in discounts on food, drinks & promotions.

### Members by Class & Gender

Class	F	M	Total
Service	37	512	549
Affiliate	375	408	783
Social	1061	1637	2698
Associate	1	14	15
Community	154	109	263
<b>Total</b>	<b>1628</b>	<b>2680</b>	<b>4308</b>

### Male Members by Class & Age

Class	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
Service	4	13	12	29	64	221	169	512
Affiliate	6	16	20	43	112	153	58	408
Social	77	99	192	380	397	351	141	1637
Associate	0	0	0	2	3	6	3	14
Community	15	22	12	11	9	22	18	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>2680</b>

### Female Members by Class & Age

Class	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
Service	0	2	2	6	8	14	5	37
Affiliate	2	4	15	27	97	162	68	375
Social	28	44	109	219	246	269	146	1061
Associate	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Community	5	3	3	13	38	54	38	154
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>1628</b>

**Wayne Chisholm**

**General Manager / Membership**



# DEVELOPMENT REPORT

I have recently been asked by several members if the redevelopment project is actually going ahead. The answer is an emphatic YES!

As the members were informed last year: “We are in the phase of the project where we need to apply for the relevant permits and approvals to proceed. No physical action can be taken until those permits and approvals are obtained. Our development partners are working diligently on those and will continue to do so. The approval application process could take in excess of 12 months depending on the response of the Maroondah City Council to the application. We had planned on this time frame.”

The Council has, to date, been varied in their response from being positive to being negative which makes the process more difficult. As a result, our development partners are exploring all potential avenues for expediting the approval process.

Our partners are also in currently in negotiations with a large residential owner/management company which has agreed in principle to purchase all the residential apartments and is presently conducting a due diligence analysis before fully committing to the purchase. This is a well-known and very large company in the independent living sector of the property industry. Due to ongoing negotiations with them, which are “commercial in confidence”, the Committee is not in a position at this time to inform members of the identity of that organisation. As soon as any agreement is formalised, you will be advised of who they are.

If these negotiations are successful, the project will be ready to proceed as soon as the necessary approvals are granted.

The Committee is committed to the project with one over-riding condition. That the club receives the full outcomes, both in terms of financial benefits and club facilities, that are the basis of the existing development agreement.

The committee will keep members updated on significant developments as they occur.

**Des Myers**

**Project Manager**



**“Your Local Club”**

**“Your RSL”**

**“Ringwood RSL”**

# **WELFARE CAR RAFFLE**



**NEW - Hyundai Venue**

**Drawn ANZAC Day 25th April @ 1PM  
TICKETS \$20 ea Only 2,000 Tickets**

[www.ringwoodrsl.com.au](http://www.ringwoodrsl.com.au)



# MEAL DEALS

**BURGER NIGHT**  
**MONDAY**  
**10 TYPES**  
**BOOKINGS: 9870 6604**  
**\$10 EA**  
 "Your Local Club" "Your RSL" "Ringwood RSL"  
 16 STATION ST RINGWOOD

**Chicken Parma**  
**Tuesday Night** = 3 Toppings  
**\$15**  
**BOOKINGS 9870 6604**  
 Ringwood RSL 16 Station St, Ringwood  
 "Your Local Club" "Your RSL" "Ringwood RSL"

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# **MEMORABILIA**

Over recent years the Memorabilia Team has been focused on recording the Sub-Branch collection on the Victorian Collections Museums Victoria website. This work progressed at a slow pass in 2023, due to reduced volunteer numbers. As a team we have revised our collection protocols which will lead us to review all items currently held. This will be an emotional journey for those involved as we access items on quality, best of type, relevance, and future use for display.

Unfortunately, over time many items in the collection (particularly publications and uniforms) have deteriorated due to poor storage conditions. Available storage space and environment will play a role in what is retained.

During 2023 the Committee endorsed a decision with immediate effect not to accept memorabilia donations until further notice. The only exemption to be sets of original campaign/service medals.

Visitors to the Sub-Branch will know that our prominent memorabilia on display reflects service during WW1, WW11 and Vietnam. We have little associated with contemporary Veterans post 1992.

During the year 2 framed pieces below were purchased to address this.

With the proposed redevelopment of the Sub-Branch nearing an important point in the planning approval process the Teams focus for 2024 will be the critical review all items held both on display and stored in the memorabilia cage in the basement.

Current planning is for memorabilia items agreed to be retained by the Sub-Branch to be moved to appropriate storage off site during construction phase of the redevelopment.

**David Kelly**

**Memorabilia Co-ordinator**







# OASIS VETERAN & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

Hello from the military advocacy team. Our team of advocates have worked very hard to assist the veteran community and the club. Many of you may not have seen us as we dwell in the bowels of the club in a place called the Dungeon. Our team consists of Kevan Andrews, Ian Richards, Heather Andrews (Administration Officer) and Emily Gard, our apprentice advocate. We are all volunteers. In June 2024, Kevan will have been an advocate at the RSL for 10 years.

During 2023 we welcomed Emily Gard to the team, and she is currently undertaking her Level 1 training, under the mentorship of Kevan Andrews, to become a Military Advocate. Ian Richards has been continuing his Level 2 training during 2023.

## Statistics

Number of Clients seen: 73  
Number of Interviews: 123  
Number of Applications sent to DVA: 25  
Number of Claims as part of the applications: 92  
Hours Worked: 980  
DVA Outcomes: 12

Of the DVA outcomes the advocates achieved the following: 1 x TPI, 1 x 100%; 1 x War Widow, 1 x Service Pension and many individual claims such as cancer non-liability claims and claims for the white card. When we talk about claims some of our clients have up to 12 or more claims and these can be under various Acts.

11 of the clients we interviewed will not be returning as the advocates are not able to assist them any further.

Our team has doubled the claims submitted in 2022. However, the number of outcomes has reduced due to the delay in DVA processing of claims which is now taking up to two years. This can take longer due to some of the complications of the claim or if the claims are under multiple Acts. We are still awaiting claims to be completed from 2021.

I would like to address the DVA Gold Health Card. Many of our veterans have a gold card issued for operational service in Vietnam. **This gold card is not automatically** passed onto your spouse/partner. Only Special Rate endorsed gold cards (that is TPI, TTI, EDA) are passed onto your spouse/partner in the form of a Widows pension. See the attached link for more in-depth information: <https://clik.dva.gov.au/compensation-and-support-policy-library/part-4-disability-compensation-eligibility/42-war-widowswidowers-pension-eligibility>. If you are unsure or have any questions, please make an appointment with the Advocacy Office. We are open on a Thursday.

## Important Phone Numbers

**1800 VETERAN 1800838372- DVA enquiries**

**Open Arms 1800 011 046**

Thank you all for your service.

**Kevan, Ian, Heather**



# **VOLUNTEER / PRESIDENTS 2023**

**Volunteer of the Year Winner**

**Mr. Jason Issac**

**Award Presented by**

**President David Jamison**



**Life Member Award**

**Mr. Michael Hales**

**Award Presented by**

**President David Jamison**

**Veterans Games**

**Presented To David Jamison**

**By**

**Jason Issac**



## **ANGLING SUB-SECTION REPORT**

The Anglers subsection this year has had quite a few successful trips out with Wayne from Anchors Away, with as many as 70 whiting caught on a couple of trips. Unfortunately some of the trips were abandoned due to weather.

A Eucumbene trip was attended by Michael McMillan, John Yeomans, Bobby Dunstan, Wayne Gilhooley, Cameron Wright and Kerry Cardwell commencing at Ricks place in Tintaldra and spending the next 7 days at Old Adaminady. Fishing wasn't really productive but 24 fish were caught in total with Bobby and Kerry equal winners with trout weighing 3lb cleaned each. More importantly a great time was had by all.

The club has plans for a few more weekends away to Lake Bullen Merri and Goughs Bay in the new year as well as midweek and weekend day charters. If your interested in attending and joining the Anglers sub section please get in touch with [scardwell@interactive.com.au](mailto:scardwell@interactive.com.au) for further details of meeting schedules, planned charters and trips away.

**Scott Cardwell**

**Secretary**



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## **RINGWOOD RSL WAR WIDOWS**

"Ringwood RSL War Widows continue to meet monthly for lunch and a chat. Our numbers have dropped to 6 and no new members are coming to join us unfortunately. For those who are sick or in hospital, we wish you a speedy recovery."

**Jean Carter**

## **8 BALL SECTION**

### **2023-2024 WINTER & SUMMER SEASON.**

We have two teams competing in both seasons. The First division team played in 2023 Winter Grand Final only to come up short by the barest of margins as for the Second Division team we are looking forward to a much improved effort for 2024.

The Summer season is still in progress at the moment and both teams are in top four contention so you never know.

Late December saw the 8 Ball section celebrate our Presentation Dinner in the Function Room at the RSL. A fantastic four course meal and service from the staff was greatly appreciated. Trophies were presented for best player and Sean Walpole was the First Division winner and Warwick Jackson took out the Second Division honour.

Looking forward to another enjoyable year with the continued support of all the players and the RSL.

**Neil Skinner**  
**President**



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## **RINGWOOD PIPE BAND REVIEW**

Hello RSL members. Please find the 2023 update from the Ringwood RSL Highland Pipe Band.

We started last year with a focus in mind, that was to invest in the band with respect to new pipes for learners and a much-needed uniform update. We obtained seven sets of bagpipes for our new learners who will pay them off in instalments. We are one of the only bands that offer this facility, and it would not have been possible without the generous support of the RSL.

We also made some minor investments in our uniform to alter the design somewhat. We added long sleeved shirts primarily for sun-smart options but also it gives some protection on the days when the wind is brisk. We also added some new black socks (hose) and new red flashes (ribbons on socks). This was all finished off with red ties. We also have a new addition in development which is a slouch hat design we are working on. This will really help in the summer months as the Glengarries we use have little protection from the sun on long playouts.

We look forward to supporting the RSL over the next year and thank all the members and committee for their continuing support in 2024.

**Mike Taylor**

**President, Ringwood RSL Highland Pipe Band**



# ANZAC Sunday Service 2023



# ANZAC Day Dawn Service 2023





## **WOMEN'S AUXILIARY**

During 2023 the Auxiliary continued to be active with our members involved in many ways.

Thursday bingo proved, once again, to be a favourite pastime for not only members of the Sub Branch but also members from the wider community and numbers are averaging about 50 people each week. So ... eyes down on Thursdays at 1.00 pm.

We started our activities on Australia Day with a BBQ, gum boot throwing and entertainment. Of course, there was a raffle!

April saw our members selling ANZAC tokens at various locations and participated in wreath laying at both the Sunday service and the dawn service on April 25. It was wonderful to see so many members of the public joining in both commemoration services.

A Christmas in July luncheon saw our ladies being joined by members from both the Croydon and Box Hill Women's Auxiliaries enjoying ourselves in the bistro.

In May, I was joined by our President Lyn Coad at the Women's Council metropolitan forum representing Ringwood at Pascoe Vale. The RSL State President Dr Robert Webster joined us and thanked all of the Auxiliaries for their valuable support to their Sub Branches but also to the wider veteran community.

Our annual "One Day in September" footy day was great fun with games and quizzes. Footy food was provided by the kitchen and funds were raised for welfare.

November also saw our members involved with selling poppies and participating in the service and activities at the Sub Branch.

During December a major raffle was conducted and proceeds will go to supporting the welfare work undertaken by the Sub Branch.

Friday night monthly meat raffles are a major fund raiser for the Auxiliary and we are very appreciative of the support we receive from Noel Jones Real Estate through Rod Burton for funding this. Thanks Rod.

On behalf of the President, committee and members of the Women's Auxiliary, I wish all of you a safe and healthy 2024.

**Shirley Devery**  
**Hon Secretary**



## RINGWOOD R.S.L. – CARPET BOWLS SECTION

The Eastern Suburban Indoor Biased Bowls Association’s 2023 Pennant Competitions had only 7 teams from 4 Clubs entered for the Tuesday Night and 9 teams from 5 Clubs for the Wednesday Afternoon.

The Ringwood R.S.L. again entered two teams for the Tuesday Night Pennant Season Competition. The ‘Home & Away’ games were conducted from May 2 to July 25 with the Semi-finals on August 1 and the Grand Final on August 8. Our home games were again played at the Heatherdale Bowls Club.

Team:	Total	WON	BYE	TIED	LOST	SHOTS	%	POINTS
BLACKBURN RSL 2	12	9	1	0	2	115	161.83	20
BLACKBURN RSL 1	12	7	2	1	2	70	143.21	19
NORTH BALWYN 2	12	4	2	1	5	48	123.41	13
RINGWOOD RSL 1	12	4	2	1	5	-11	95.09	13
NORTH BALWYN 1	12	4	2	1	5	-64	75.38	13
RINGWOOD RSL 2	12	3	2	0	7	-78	66.23	10
GLEN WAVERLEY 1	12	3	1	0	8	-80	68.75	8

### THE LADDER POSITIONS [ At end of “Home & Away” games ]

In the two semi-finals, played at Blackburn R.S.L. on August 1, Ringwood R.S.L. 1 lost to Blackburn R.S.L. 2 by 6 shots [ 19 to 25 ] and North Balwyn 2 lost to Blackburn R.S.L. 1 by 7 shots [ 13 to 20 ]. So the two Blackburn R.S.L. teams fought it out for the Pennant on August 8 with their Team 1 winning by 2 shots.

Pennant is not the only Competition in which our members are able to participate.

One of many, Indoor Bias Bowls Tournaments held around Australia is a Bi-annual Women’s Test between South Australia and Victoria. South Australia hosted this week- long event from April 17 to 24 at the Modbury Bowls Club. 16 lady bowlers were selected from Victorian Indoor Bias Bowls Clubs to represent our State. Victoria WON the series and brought home the “Glad Baker Shield”.



One of our R.S.L. members, Margaret Poile, was in that team, skipped by Jodie Jones from Blackburn R.S.L. They won all their games and were presented with the “John Dyer” Trophy for the week’s best performing rink. A great achievement for us.

### *The “John Dyer” Trophy Winners”*

- Lead:** Margaret Poile
- Second:** Anne Williams
- Third:** Yvonne Clark
- Skip:** Jodie Jones

Another Annual Tournament, in which our bowlers participate, is held every year over the “Sovereign’s Birthday Weekend” in Ballarat. The Tournament involves teams of bowlers from all over Victoria competing against each other during the long weekend in a huge stadium in



Ballarat. The venue has some 50 mats laid out for the competition and teams play 3 games on the Saturday 3 games on the Sunday and a seventh game on the Monday morning.

Players from our E.S.I.B.B.A. Group are usually teamed up with players from the Southern Group to compete as the South-Eastern Group.

This year the pictured 5 members from our Ringwood R.S.L. played.

**Left to right:**

*Jim Corcoran, Bruce Greenland, Margaret Poile, Peter Robinson, and Paula Corcoran*

Another Annual Tournament, in which our bowlers usually participate, is The Gil. PEGG Cup - named after a bowler from South Group and President of The Victorian Indoor Biased Bowls Association. This tournament ( alternately hosted ) is normally played after the Ballarat Inter-Group Tournament. It involves 4 mixed teams (16 ladies and 16 men ) from each of our Associations, playing one game for the “Perpetual Trophy”. The first-ever match was played at Glen Waverley Bowls Club on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 1991. The playing of this match was later moved from Wednesday to Friday nights in 1997. Up until 2009, the Cup was held evenly, with the Eastern Suburbs winning 10 times to the South Group’s 9. Then the Eastern Suburbs did not taste success for the next 10 years until 2019 when we won by 1 shot.

This year the highlighted 3 members from our Ringwood R.S.L. team were selected in the Eastern Suburbs Indoor Biased Bowls Association Team to play against the South Group.

**Gil Pegg Results played on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2023 at Glen Waverley Bowls Club:**

<b><u>Team 1</u></b>	<b><u>Team 2</u></b>	<b><u>Team 3</u></b>	<b><u>Team 4</u></b>
Lesley Furlong	Paula Corcoran	Margaret Poile	Lyn Goodman
Lyn Newberry	Doug McClelland	Miriam Morton	Robyn McClelland
Peter Harry	Grant Pickering	Rodney Jones	Les Newberry
Jim Bullow (S)	Jodie Jones (S)	Gordon Unwin (S)	Jim Corcoran (S)
<b>Won 28 to 5</b>	<b>Won 19 to 17</b>	<b>Lost 14 to 24</b>	<b>Lost 7 to 23</b>

Overall Eastern Suburbs 68 lost to South Group 69



As a Club our R.S.L. Carpet Bowls Section struggled competitively during the year. Two of our bowlers were hospitalised during the year, Arthur Gibson was not able to play all year. Peter Robinson had medical issues requiring treatment throughout the year and he also suffered a fall at home towards the end of the year and is still now undergoing tests and treatment. Babs Elliott, one of our most experienced bowlers moved to Canberra to live with her daughter. And, finally one of our best bowlers in recent years, Jim Bullow, transferred to Blackburn R.S.L. Jim is currently the President of our Association. Hence, we struggled to be competitive all year. We did manage to recruit 3 new bowlers to help us finish the season. With experience and practice, we hope Bruce Greenland, Robert Jane, and Heather Whitehouse will help to make us more competitive next season.

In addition to the Pennant Competition, the Association also conducts “Group Championships” which the members of all the ESIBBA affiliated Clubs can enter. Each year there are Individual and Perpetual Trophies awarded for the Winners and Runners-Up for these events, which include Ladies’, Men’s, and Mixed Fours, Triples, Pairs and to Singles.

The Ringwood RSL Members which featured as Winners and or Runners-Up in the 2023 Group Championships included Jim & Paula Corcoran, Margaret Poile, Peter Robinson, Bruce Greenland and Gail & Gunter Loidl.

The Ringwood R.S.L. is actually the donor of the Men’s Triples Perpetual Trophy and this year the trophy was won by three of our members – Peter Robinson (lead), Gunter Loidl (Third) and Jim Corcoran (Skip).

**NOTE:** Peter Robinson pictured in this winning triples team was also our 2023 R.S.L. Men’s Club Champion. A great achievement.

*L to R – Jim Corcoran,  
Peter Robinson, Gunter Loidl*



The Carpet Bowls Section hopes to again enter 2 teams for the Association’s 2024 Winter Tuesday Night Pennant Competition. Separate competitions are conducted on Tuesday Nights and Wednesday afternoons in the months April to August. Any RSL Members interested in being part of either one or both of the Winter competitions can register their interest with reception.

**Gunter Loidl**

**( Carpet Bowls Secretary / Treasurer )**

## **GOLF SECTION**



Our 2022/2023 season concluded in November and comprised 12 monthly games plus our weekend away trip to Howlong Golf Club in February 2023. Only one game was affected by bad weather at Drouin but we still managed to complete 9 holes prior to adjourning to the 19<sup>th</sup> hole.

Our Presentation Dinner was held on 3/12/2023 with good attendance.

Monthly grade winners were presented with bottles of either red or white wine (52 bottles in total).

The following annual awards were presented :-

**Keith Fields Memorial Award – Greg Frost & Phil Pragnell (Doubles winners)**

**Fred Bosaid Trophy- Aarne Pekkarinen (Most improved)**

**Peter Geldens Trophy- Jimmy Martin (Best net score over championship rounds)**

**Peter Storey Trophy – Phil Pragnell ( Singles)**

**Bill Smith Trophy – Captains team winners over presidents team.**

**Long Tan Cup Trophy – Jason Daly**

**A Grade champion-Ian Morgan**

**B Grade champion –Jimmy Martin**

**C Grade champion – Mick Kostic**

**D Grade champion – Jack Downward**

**Overall club champion – Ian Morgan**

**Yearly NAGA award – Denis Waugh**

Our 2023/2024 season commenced on 10/12/2023 with a loss to the Ringwood Sunday Sippers in our annual challenge match.

Our AGM was held on 7/1/2023 with the new Committee as follows:-

**President – Bob Dunstan**

**Vice President – Stephen Steward**

**Secretary – Jeff Ruddock**

**Treasurer – Paul Mitchell**

**Captain – Phil Pragnell**

**Social Secretary – Hank de Jager**

**Handicapper – Geoff Beer**

**Assistant Handicapper – Steve Jacobs**

Our first game for 2024 is on 14/1/2024 at Dorset.

Our golf weekend away is 9/2/2024 to 11/2/2024 at Howlong Golf Course.

On RSL app shortly we will have a comprehensive information update on the membership and activities of our 2024 season which can be found under the SOCIAL CLUBS section of the app under GOLF SECTION.

New members will be welcomed to our club.

On behalf of our Committee and members we wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2024.

**Bob Dunstan**

**President.**





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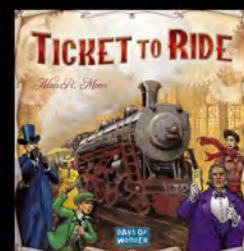
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