



“Your Local Club”

“Your RSL”

“Ringwood RSL”

July/August 2024 Newsletter

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide



Update on the Royal Commission’s special report on a proposed new entity

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide had planned to deliver a special report to the Governor-General in June 2024, detailing a proposal for a new entity to follow the Royal Commission. This new entity would provide independent oversight - including monitoring the implementation of the Royal Commission’s recommendations - and help ensure that the prevention of Defence and veteran suicide and

suicidality is a paramount consideration for Government and relevant agencies. The Royal Commission had planned to deliver this recommendation in advance of the Final Report, in recognition of the urgency of addressing the national crisis of Defence and veteran suicide. However, the Royal Commission has decided to delay delivery of the special report to allow the Commonwealth appropriate time to respond to matters arising during procedural fairness processes. As such, the recommendation for establishing a new entity will instead be included as part of the Final Report, to be delivered to the Governor General on 9 September this year. The new entity will be the centrepiece of its recommendations and, if the Government supports its establishment, it will create greater oversight and accountability for suicide prevention, and begin to restore trust in the systems that have failed serving and ex serving ADF personnel and their families.

This proposal has been discussed by a number of Ex-Service Association leaders who have given tacit support to it. However, the proposal that it be a government entity is in my mind a mistake and eventually it will become a tool of government rather than a voice for the veteran community. It will be interesting to see firstly if this proposed recommendation is accepted and secondly if it indeed has a positive impact on the rate of veteran suicides.

Ceremonial Closing - a chance to reflect

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide will formally mark the end of its inquiry with a Ceremonial Closing in August. This special hearing will be an opportunity for it to reflect on what it has heard and learned over the life of the Royal Commission and look towards its Final Report, which will be delivered to the Governor-General on 9 September 2024.

Veterans Games 2024



In a welcome development the Lilydale and Frankston Sub Branches have joined us as sponsors of the ‘Average Joes’ team. The team assembled at the Sub Branch on Friday 2nd August for a “team shirt presentation” and a meet and greet with members. Also attending were the Hon Michael Sukkar (MP for Deakin), Mr Nick McGowan MLC (North-Eastern Metropolitan region)

and Cr Paul Macdonald, Deputy Mayor of Maroondah. We greatly appreciate the support of our local elected representatives.



It was an opportunity for members to wish the teams well before their departure for the Games to be held in the Gold Coast hinterland 17 – 18 August. Pictured with the team are the Team Captain, Jason Isaac, Michael Sukkar (Federal Member Deakin), Paul Macdonald, (Deputy Mayor Maroondah City), David Jamison and Bill Dobson Ringwood & Lilydale RSL Presidents and as part of the Team, Zak Critsilis representing the Frankston

RSL President.

State Conference 2024



General Meeting



The State Conference was held at Sandown on 27th July

and the results of the election for the Senior Vice President and State Executive members were announced as Des Callaghan for Senior Vice President and Warick McDonald for the State Executive positions. Additionally, the agenda item offering free membership to serving ADF members was adopted as was the one requiring more transparency in the 10A sub branches' reporting on expenditure directly supporting veterans.

Project 2022 & Beyond

The Committee is profoundly disappointed that the contract to redevelop the sub branch premises has had to be terminated.

The prevailing economic conditions, state of the building and construction industry, the COVID impacts as well as the State Government response to it imposed significant cost increases that had a serious consequential adverse impact on the planned project. An additional frustration had been the convoluted 'red tape' impediments in the planning and approval processes. The Committee also hopes that future plans for the site would receive more positive support from local and State authorities as this will be crucial to ensure the viability of the sub branch.



The Committee of the Sub Branch remains committed to the provision of 'state of the art' facilities for the provision of a home base both to generate income and to provide support to veterans and their families in the outer Eastern area was crucial if the work of the RSL is to continue"