



# Despatch

The Journal of the Kyneton RSL

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## Trentham & Kyneton – A day for Reflection and Remembrance



L-R: Attending the Trentham Remembrance Service were Michael Gretton, Officiating, Graeme Cooper, Brian Hood, Hepburn Shire Councillor and John Riches.

Photography - Courtesy - Lynny Ingles - blue pencil publishing



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## Kyneton RSL Committee Members 2021

### OFFICE BEARERS

**President:** *David Watson*

**Senior Vice President:** *Brian Turley*

**Vice-President:** *John Taubman*

**Secretary:** *Mike Gretton*

**Treasurer:** *Ian Jackson*

**Committee Members:**  
*Rob Renton, Ian Howarth.*

### ADMINISTRATION

**Manager:** *Rebecca Hemphill*

**Pensions & Welfare:**  
*Rob Renton, Phil Davis.*

**Parade & Ceremonials:**  
*David Watson, Mike Gretton,  
John Taubman, Rob Renton.*

**Memorabilia:**  
*Ian Jackson, Mike Gretton.*

**Appeals:** *Brian Turley*

**Social Events:** *Ian Jackson*

**Funerals:** *Dave Watson, Rob Renton,  
Mike Gretton, Ian Howarth and  
John Taubman.*

**Dispatch Journal Team:**  
*Mike Gretton, Natalie Gretton,  
Lynette Ingles*

## FROM THE SECRETARY Mike Gretton



### Dear members

2021 has proved to be another challenging year for the Kyneton RSL with restrictions to a greater or lesser extent in place for much of the year and another extended period of closure through September and October. However, as we go to press most restrictions have been lifted and the Kyneton RSL returned to full capacity from 19 November. The requirement for patrons to be double-vaccinated still applies and would appear to be part of the COVID-normal for some time to come. We hope that our patrons understand that this is a government imposed requirement and that our staff will not be subjected to any unacceptable behaviour when enforcing this requirement.

Despite the COVID restrictions the Sub-Branch has continued to meet its commemorative commitments albeit in a modified format. A short ceremony was held at the RSL on 15 August to commemorate Victory in the Pacific Day. We were also able to host a number of our World War II veterans to lunch at the RSL on that day. Beersheba Day, on 1st October, commemorates the last great cavalry charge in modern warfare and members of the Kyneton RSL together with members of the Kyneton Police laid wreaths at the Light Horse Monument in Jennings Street to honour the fallen in that battle. Remembrance Day was also a low key affair with a small service being conducted at the Kyneton RSL and a wreath-laying ceremony in Trentham.

Earlier this year we circulated a notice to all our service members reminding them of the welfare services that are available courtesy of the RSL. The Welfare Office can assist with DVA claims and other pension entitlements. We are also available to assist veterans with home services such as grass cutting, garden maintenance, transport to medical appointments and financial support in respect of utilities and pharmaceutical bills and assistance with a limited range of mobility aids. Please contact the Sub-Branch if you require assistance. In this issue we have also included an article "What happens to your partner when you die". The article provides valuable guidance on all those things you need

to be take care of when you are perhaps not in the right frame of mind to deal with these matters.

Eligible members should be aware of a one-off Power Savings Bonus of \$250 provided by the State Government. Details are on Page 7.

As with all other activities, the Poppy Appeal this year was also affected by COVID with the Sub-Branch deciding against selling on the street. Despite this the Sub-Branch was still able to raise over \$3000 which will go towards providing support to our veterans. Thank you to all those who donated to the appeal.

We are at that time of the year when membership renewals are due. Please note that all RSL Rewards points will expire on 31st January 2022 if your membership is not renewed by that date. Members should endeavour to redeem their points before that date. Members are also reminded that on 1st February 2022, any member who has not renewed their membership will go into LAPSED status and all benefits and privileges will be suspended until the membership is renewed. Membership will be terminated on 1st May if not renewed by 30th April. As an incentive for members to renew their membership early, all members who renew their membership prior to midnight on 20th December will go into a draw to win a new release Hyundai Venue. The draw will take place at 9am on 21st December. Because of the lockdowns we have experienced this year, all those who joined the RSL after 1st July will have their membership renewed free for 2022 and all members will be credited with 1000 rewards points as compensation for the lockdowns. These will be automatically added to members' accounts.

On behalf of the President and Committee of the Kyneton RSL, I would like to wish all our members a safe and joyous festive season and COVID-safe 2022.

Regards,  
**Mike Gretton**  
Secretary



Creative by  
Lynette Ingles  
blue pencil publishing  
0429 911 980



🍀 Peter Law	7 April 2020	🍀 John McManus	7 October 2021
🍀 Mile Vasic	29 May 2021	🍀 Joan Wheeldon	1 September 2021
🍀 Brian Ward	15 June 2021	🍀 Colin Burns	16 September 2021
🍀 Betty Collins	26 July 2021	🍀 Bill Jolley	28 September 2021
🍀 Winston Beare	9 July 2021	🍀 Laurie Fielding	22 October 2021

*Lest We Forget*





## Beersheba Day Remembered



The great cavalry charge at Beersheba is considered to be the last great cavalry charge and the most decisive battle of the desert campaign in the Middle East in the closing days of World War I. The bayonet charge of the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade took place on 31 October 1918. It was a hazardous affair because of the five miles of rough, open ground that had to be covered. At stake were the wells at Beersheba which were desperately needed to water the parched horses. LtGen Harry Chauvel, commander of the Desert Cavalry Corps was ordered to take the town by nightfall. He ordered BrigGen W. Grant to go "straight at it". He drew up his two regiments behind a ridge and, brandishing their bayonets, the men rode into battle. The Australian's direct attack on an enemy which was well dug-in and equipped with automatic weapons showed that audacity can sometimes achieve the impossible. The wells were secured and, after 10 days hard fighting, the Turks abandoned Gaza, leaving Palestine open to the allies.

Each year on Beersheba Day the Kyneton RSL commemorates those who fell at Beersheba by laying a wreath at the Light Horse Monument in Jennings Street.

*Left: Members of the Kyneton RSL and Kyneton Police lay wreaths on Beersheba Day*

## Kyneton Connection to Boer War

The name Harry "Breaker" Morant will be familiar to many people and popularised in the 1980 movie Breaker Morant. His name is familiar, not necessarily because of his exploits during the Boer War, but more particularly because of his court martial and subsequent execution on war crimes charges while serving with a British contingent known as the Bushveldt Carbineers. Along with co-accused Peter Handcock, Morant faced the firing squad on 27th February 1902. A third man accused and found guilty was George Witton but his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He was released after four years. George Witton was the great uncle of the current Senior Vice President of the Kyneton RSL, Brian Turley.

Following painstaking research by military lawyer, James Unkles, permission has finally been given to award medals to descendants of the three men for exemplary service they gave during their service with colonial units during the Boer War. Brian Turley was the first to receive these medals at a presentation ceremony at Victoria Barracks in Melbourne on 1st November. These medals are the Queen's South Africa Medal 1899 and the King's South Africa Medal. The medals are now on display in the Kyneton RSL.



## Kyneton RSL Sponsors Commemorative Art Work

The Kyneton Art Group normally hold their annual art exhibition in conjunction with the Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival but has had to be cancelled for the past two years due to the COVID pandemic. The Kyneton RSL agreed to sponsor the art group with a donation of \$1000 and it was agreed that the exhibition would include a commemorative art section. Despite the cancellation of the exhibition, several local artists went ahead and produced works of commemorative art which were put on display in the Kyneton RSL in time for Remembrance Day. These wonderful paintings are a fitting tribute to the fallen as well as current serving members. Below is a selection of the art works.



## Trentham Memorabilia Restored

Following both World Wars, shires around Australia would issue Certificates of Appreciation for loyal service rendered by residents of their shire. One such certificate was issued by the District of Trentham to Keith Forsyth Anderson who was born in Trentham on 7 July 1897 to William and Alice Anderson. He enlisted in the 1st AIF on 16 August 1917 and embarked for active service on 21 November 1917 and served with 59th Battalion in France. He returned to Australia on 16 October 1918 and was discharged on 23 November that year. For his service Keith was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

The Trentham District Historical Society recently had the certificate issued to Keith refurbished and properly housed in a Solander Box. A replica of the certificate was also produced and suitably framed. The Kyneton RSL was pleased to be able to contribute financially to the cost of restoring this important piece of Trentham's memorabilia.





# 'Remembering' in Trentham 11-11-21

There was a small attendance today but a very moving service at the Cenotaph in Trentham to remember those that are serving, have served and those that we have lost in Service.

The Service was officiated by Mr Michael Gretton, Secretary of the Kyneton RSL. Wreaths were laid by Mr Graeme Cooper on behalf of Trentham Lodge, Mr John Riches on behalf of the Kyneton RSL and Mr Brian Hood, Hepburn Shire Councillor, who laid a wreath on behalf of the Shire.

For a quiet and solemn service, it did remind us of those who have kept our shores safe and country more so. We give thanks to them all. To all the 'Animals of Service' we remember them too. When passing the Cenotaph please stop a moment and read the names upon it. In reading them it gives them a presence in our time.

I live in Woodend, usually attend Kyneton service as my parents were members of the Kyneton RSL there, but this year my husband Graham and I wanted to visit another service and so with friends Natalie and Mike Gretton, Elizabeth Toomey and John Riches we did so. It was a very touching and memory provoking service. In finishing and on behalf of everyone... thank you for making us feel welcome in Trentham today, you are a spirited community and a welcoming one.

*'Lest We Forget'*

Submitted and photograph by  
**Lynny Ingles**





## REMEMBRANCE DAY – Kyneton



### FLORAL TRIBUTES at the Cenotaph in Kyneton



Remembrance Day In Kyneton was held in the shadow of COVID-19 restrictions. It was decided not to proceed with a ceremony at the Cenotaph because of the uncontrolled environment.

Instead a remembrance service was conducted at the RSL and despite the small numbers in attendance the solemnity of the occasion was not lost. David Watson, President of the Kyneton RSL, and himself a Vietnam Veteran, conducted the ceremony and was ably supported by Ruth Green who read "The Prayer for Remembrance Day" and "The Lord's Prayer" and gave the Benediction.

Students from Sacred Heart College also attended the ceremony and recited John McCrae's poem "In Flanders' Fields" and also laid a wreath on behalf of the College. Councillor Mark Ridgway represented the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and also laid a wreath. Wreaths were laid by the Kyneton RSL on behalf of the RSL, the ADF and Vietnam Veterans.

Following the recital of verses 3 and 4 of Binyon's "Ode for the Fallen", Gerard Noonan was on hand to play Last Post. Following the traditional minute's silence "Rouse" was played. As is custom, Rob Renton read out a number of names taken from the Kyneton Cenotaph to honour their memory.

We hope that these important ceremonies of remembrance will revert to normal in 2022.



# WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR PARTNER WHEN YOU DIE?

## Personal bank accounts

Some banks may freeze joint accounts on the death of a signatory. Your partner will need an account IN THEIR OWN NAME before they can receive ComSuper benefits. It would therefore be prudent for both you and your partner now to each have one account in your own name.

## Wills, Power of Attorney and Enduring Power of Attorney

Every adult should have a current Will and a completed Power of Attorney. Both should be kept in a secure place, the location of which is known to your Partner and at least one Executor; both should be updated on a regular basis, for example on renewal of your driving licence. Each State has different regulations.

Remember that your Power of Attorney may be needed by your partner at any time, eg if you are incapacitated due to even temporary medical care. Having Power of Attorney means that your partner can pay bills, give instructions about your medical treatment and attend to your affairs, if you are unable to do so.

A copy of your Service Record kept with these documents is also advisable.

## Funeral arrangements

Each partner should know the other's choice of funeral arrangements, have them written down and preferably kept with the Wills.

## Routine Household Bills

Keep a list or file of regular accounts and direct debits (eg, rates, security systems, home and contents insurances, vehicle insurance, health insurance, phone and mobile providers, internet service providers, water, gas and electricity). How and when they are paid and the approximate amounts will

save your partner distress and uncertainty. Preferably both partners should be familiar with arrangements for paying household accounts.

These days it is particularly important that your partner can access and terminate such accounts either over the phone or via the internet, so they will need your log-ins, user names and passwords. A list of trusted tradesmen, or fridge magnets on the fridge door would be a great help.

## Club and Association Memberships

An up to date list of organisations of which you are a member, along with your membership numbers and their addresses will be a help. All the deceased's memberships will need to be cancelled. Refunds may be payable.

## Veterans' Entitlements

Your partner may be entitled to benefits from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) but to apply he/she will need documentation and proof of your Defence Service. You should establish your partner's possible entitlements prior to their needing them i.e., while both of you are still alive and can explain your circumstances. Collating the information NOW and having it on hand will greatly assist in any applications to DVA. (Note: A Gold Card is not transferable.) However if a widow is granted a War Widows pension or is the widow of a TPI pensioner, she will be entitled to her own Gold Card.)

## Your DFRB/DFRDB/MSBS Benefit

Upon notification of the death of a recipient of a DFRB/DFRDB benefit, ComSuper will cease

payment until the necessary forms, correctly filled out, are submitted. Only then will the partner receive her/his entitlements, paid into an account in HIS/HER OWN NAME. These entitlements generally are:

**DFRB:** A lump sum equal to seven pays (14 weeks) of the difference between his (old) and her (new) pension, plus the commencement of a fully CPI indexed pension (being five eighths of the deceased's old pension) paid fortnightly.

**DFRDB:** A lump sum equal to seven pays of the difference between the deceased's (old) pension and the partner's (new) pension, plus the commencement of a partially CPI indexed pension. In outline the new pension is five eighths of the deceased's full old pension as if he/she had not commuted his/her benefit when leaving the Service. The value of that additional part is "frozen" and the part relating to the deceased's previous fortnightly pension is CPI indexed. The pension is paid fortnightly.

**MSBS:** These benefits are quite different from DFRB/DFRDB and are calculated on an individual basis upon application.

**CHILDREN:** If there are dependent children and/or full time students, additional pension benefits may be payable. Documents required will include copies of the Marriage Certificate and the Death Certificate.

**LEGACY:** Your partner may be eligible for assistance from Legacy due to your service in a War Zone, operational service, or training for operations. Contact Legacy for details.



## Christmas Lunch

The **Kyneton RSL** will again be hosting our veterans and legacy widows to a combined **Christmas Lunch** on **Monday, 6th December** after COVID conspired to prevent us having this annual event last year.

Invites have been sent out and we expect that there will be a good turnout for the lunch.

However, seating is still limited to a certain extent so book early if you wish to attend.

Cut off date for people to book is **Thursday, 2nd December.**



## Camaraderie Night

Now that restrictions are starting to ease, we are pleased to announce that **Camaraderie Nights** will be held on **1st and 8th December.**

The evening begins at **5pm** so please be early.



## End in sight for Australians in Vietnam

This year marks the 50th anniversary since the announcement that Australian troops would be withdrawn from the conflict in Vietnam. On 18th August 1971, the then Prime Minister William McMahon announced the Australian 6000-man contingent would be home by Christmas.

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War began with the arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 and Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end when the Governor-General issued a proclamation on 11 January 1973. The only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon, which was withdrawn in June 1973.

The Australian commitment consisted predominantly of army personnel, but significant numbers of air force and navy personnel and some civilians also took part.

From the time of the arrival of the first members of the Team in 1962 almost 60,000 Australians, including ground troops and air force and navy personnel, served in Vietnam; 521 died as a result of the war and over 3,000 were wounded. The war was the cause of the greatest social and political dissent in Australia since the conscription referendums of the First World War. Many draft resisters, conscientious objectors, and protesters were fined or jailed, while soldiers met a hostile reception on their return home.

Photograph:  
Australian  
War Museum



On 3 October 1987, after a Dawn Service held at the Cenotaph in Martin Place in Sydney, 22,000 Vietnam veterans marched through the streets of Sydney in the Australian Vietnam Forces Welcome Home Parade. Organised by the Australian Vietnam Veterans Association, the parade was among the events held for Vietnam veterans that weekend. While many units had marched through the streets on their return to Australia, many in the Vietnam veteran community felt Australian society did not respect or recognise their service. Addressing the RSL Conference in August 1987, Prime Minister Hawke noted: "I firmly believe that the October parade will

be the culmination of a long process of reconciliation and community acceptance of its obligations to the veterans of Vietnam. I believe we must honestly acknowledge that our involvement in Vietnam did cause deep divisions in the Australian community. But whatever our individual views on the merits of Australian involvement, we must equally acknowledge the commitment, courage and integrity of our armed forces who served in Vietnam."

Finally there was recognition of those who served, fought and died in Vietnam.

## \$250 Power Savings Bonus

\$250 Power Savings Bonus

The **\$250 Power Savings Bonus** is a one-off \$250 payment to provide direct support to vulnerable Victorian households experiencing energy bill stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program is now open and eligible households can access the bonus by applying on the [compare.energy.vic.gov.au/](https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au/) website. The program closes on 31 January 2022 and is limited to one payment per eligible household. To be eligible to apply you must be able to meet the following requirements:

- You must be a Victorian residential energy consumer (i.e. have a residential electricity account);
- You must be in receipt of one of the following concessions benefits:
  - \* Centrelink Pension Concession Card
  - \* Jobseeker, Youth Allowance, Abstudy or Austudy
  - \* DVA Pensioner Concession Card
  - \* DVA Gold Card.

If you are having difficulty applying online and would like assistance please contact the Kyneton RSL.

An advertisement for New Year's Eve Entertainment. It features a man in a white shirt and red tie, holding a guitar and a microphone. The background is dark with purple and blue light effects. Text on the image includes "SOLO ACOUSTIC GUITARIST", "RANDOM ADS", "New Year's Eve ENTERTAINMENT", "Music 8.00pm – 12.30am", "BOOK NOW!", and "5422 6735".

# Welcome to the Beersheba Bistro

Great Service, Great Venue, Great Value, Delicious food.



BEERSHEBA BISTRO

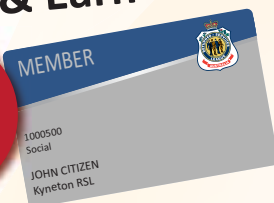


SPORT VENUE

## Show & Save & Earn

Members receive  
**10% discount** off  
all food and drink upon  
presentation of their  
Member's Card

**10%**  
Discount\*



RSL REWARDS PROGRAM is open  
to RSL Members only at participating  
RSL venues throughout Victoria.

For more information please call  
**(03) 5422 6735**

### Kyneton RSL Trading Times

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9am – 10pm  
Thursday 9am – 11pm  
Friday & Saturday 9am – 12 midnight  
Sunday 10am – 10pm

### Bistro Trading Times

Monday	Lunch 11.30am – 2pm	Dinner 5.30pm – 8pm
Tuesday	Lunch 11.30am – 2pm	Dinner 5.30pm – 8pm
Wednesday	Lunch 11.30am – 2pm	Dinner 5.30pm – 8pm
Thursday	Lunch 11.30am – 2pm	Dinner 5.30pm – 8.30pm
Friday	Lunch 11.30am – 2pm	Dinner 5.30pm – 8.30pm
Saturday	Lunch 11.30am – 2pm	Dinner 5.30pm – 8.30pm
Sunday	Lunch 11.30am – 2pm	Dinner 5.30pm – 8pm

### Kyneton RSL Club

Closed on Christmas Day & Good Friday.  
Bistro is closed Boxing Day.

## PARMA NIGHT – TUESDAY

*A choice of toppings*

Come and enjoy  
a meal in our bistro.

**\$16**  
EACH

## MEMBERS' DRAW – THURSDAY

Thursday – *You must be present to win it!*

## SPORTS BAR MENU

Available everyday between  
11.30am – 2pm & 5.30pm – 8pm

## HAPPY HOUR:

Thursday & Friday 6 – 7pm  
Saturday 12 – 1pm

## ENTERTAINMENT AT OUR CLUB

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Last Saturday of every month.

### MORNING MELODIES MONTHLY

2nd Wednesday of every month  
from 10.30am - 11.30am.

For more information about bookings: (03) 5422 6735

**\$5pp**

includes tea, coffee  
(coffee station only)  
& scones

### Euchre

First Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm.

New players are most welcome.

Information please phone: (03) 5422 6735.

### Please Note:

While the **Kyneton RSL** will endeavour to accommodate requests for special dietary requirements, allergies or intolerances, we cannot guarantee complete allergy free meals due to potential trace allergens in the working environment and supplied ingredients.