



# Despatch

The Journal of the Kyneton RSL

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Craig Byrne - Kyneton Service

## Kyneton and Trentham received large attendances at their services



Mike Gretton - Trentham Service



ANZAC March - Kyneton

Photography - Courtesy - Lynny Ingles - blue pencil publishing

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## Kyneton RSL Committee Members 2022

### OFFICE BEARERS

**President:** John Taubman

**Senior Vice President:** Brian Turley

**Vice-President:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Mike Gretton

**Treasurer:** Ian Jackson

**Committee Members:**  
Rob Renton, Brian Spurr

### ADMINISTRATION

**Manager:** Rebecca Hemphill

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

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

**Appeals:** Brian Turley

**Social Events:** Ian Jackson

**Funerals:** John Taubman,  
Rob Renton, Mike Gretton, .

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

## FROM THE SECRETARY Mike Gretton



### Dear members

Firstly, we were all saddened by the sudden loss of our Immediate Past President, David Watson, who passed away on 30 March just days after he relinquished the position of President of the Kyneton RSL Sub-Branch. Dave was elected to the position in 2016 when the Sub-Branch was in a parlous state. Under his stewardship the club has re-invented itself and has become the venue of choice for many local residents. We welcome John Taubman as the new President of the Sub-Branch. We also lost another staunch supporter of the RSL in Arnold Jenkins who passed away on 29 January. Although not a member of the RSL in recent times, Arnold will be remembered for his role as the Master of Ceremonies for our ANZAC Day services over many years. No one will ever forget his booming voice. RIP Dave and Arnold.

At last we are back to a more or less normal existence, free from most COVID restrictions. This enabled us to conduct our normal ANZAC Day ceremonies. With the weather gods on our side, good crowd numbers turned out at commemorative services in Kyneton, Malmsbury, Taradale and Trentham. In Kyneton, commemorations commenced with a Dawn Service at the Cenotaph followed by the traditional Gunfire Breakfast at the RSL. Later in the morning a march was followed by an ANZAC Day ceremony, again at the Cenotaph. We were pleased that cadets from 430 Squadron AAFC were able to form the Catafalque Party for the Dawn Service and members of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victorian Regiment were on hand to form the Catafalque Party in both Kyneton and Trentham. Their presence was much appreciated. Local schools were also well represented in the various programs. Many people and organisations were responsible for the success of ANZAC Day commemorations and we will be thanking all those involved.

Our new President gave the ANZAC address in Kyneton and Tony Van Rensburg, President of the Trentham District Historical Society, gave the address in Trentham. Copies of their addresses are published in this edition of Despatch.

In addition to the public commemorative events, the Kyneton RSL also had members conduct ceremonies at RM Begg and Trentham Aged Care Facilities. These ceremonies are always appreciated by the residents as they are generally unable to attend the public ceremonies. Presentations were also given at a number of schools in Kyneton and the surrounding district and again were all well received.

This year's ANZAC Day Appeal raised \$9929.29 and we would like to express our thanks to all those who generously donated to the Appeal and also to the volunteers who gave their valuable time to sell badges on our behalf. All the money raised will be used to support our veterans.

We were excited to take possession of our own Courtesy Bus on 30 April. The 12-seater Toyota will be used to convey members to and from the RSL as well as for outings. Full details of operating hours and costs will be published in the near future.

Membership of the Sub-Branch continues to grow strongly and as at the end of April we boasted nearly 2200 financial members. We still have quite a number of members who are now lapsed and we would welcome all those members to take up their memberships once again. In particular we would encourage ex-servicemen and women living in the district to join the Sub-Branch and enjoy the benefits that the Sub-Branch has to offer.

A reminder to all our service members that the prime objective of the Kyneton RSL is to look after the welfare of our veterans. If you are in need of assistance for such things as gutter cleaning, window cleaning, general garden maintenance or financial assistance for utilities or pharmaceuticals etc, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Welfare Office continues to provide assistance to veterans on Tuesdays from 10am – 2pm or by appointment.

Finally I am pleased to advise that installation of solar panels at the Kyneton RSL is underway and will achieve an estimated saving of over \$5000 per annum on our energy bills as well as reducing our carbon footprint.

Regards,  
**Mike Gretton**  
Secretary



Creative by  
Lynette Ingles  
blue pencil publishing  
0429 911 980



Ann Perry	11 December 2021
John Dawson	21 December 2021
Frans Sevenich	21 January 2022
Arnold Jenkins	29 January 2022
Stuart Reed	19 March 2022
David Watson	30 March 2022
William Lotherington	14 April 2022

*Lest We Forget*





## Obituary - David Irving Watson - 1 October 1946 - March 30 2022

David was born on 1 October 1946 to Edgar and Mary Watson and they lived at Green Hill Farm just out of Kyneton. He attended Malmsbury Primary School and later Kyneton High School. His parents wanted him to go to Pharmacy College but that fell through and he went on to study Applied Science at RMIT. After his stint in the Army, Dave returned to Kyneton to live with his parents moving into "The Hollies" in Langley Street in 1972. Dave spent his working life at CSIRO.

Dave was a keen sportsman, playing football for Kyneton and West Brunswick in his younger years. He also enjoyed going to VFL matches, especially to see Essendon beat Collingwood. He was also a handy cricketer with both bat and ball. He was also a single-figure handicap golfer. He developed a love of sailing and sailed competitively to Tasmania and Vanuatu as well as sailing regularly at Sandringham. In later years he took up lawn bowls and became a very competent bowler with the Kyneton Golf Bowling Club. He also represented the Kyneton RSL in the Edinburgh Shield Bowls Competition.

Following the declaration of conscription in 1964, Dave deferred enlistment for two years after his call up finally signing on with the Army on 2 October 1968. Following recruit training he attended the School of Army Health. Following stints at 11 Field Ambulance and training at the Jungle Training Centre, Dave was posted to 1 Australian Field Ambulance as a Medical Assistant at the Australian Task Force Base at Nui Dat in South Vietnam on 29 October 1969. He completed his tour of duty in South Vietnam on 2 October 1970. For his service, Dave was awarded the Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp Vietnam, The Vietnam Medal, the Australian Defence Medal, the Anniversary of National Service 1951 – 1972 Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Returned from Active Service Badge.

Dave was a member of the Kyneton RSL for over 30 years, joining the committee in 2014. He was elected President in 2016 and remained in that position until a few days before his death on 30 March 2022.



When he assumed the position of President, the Kyneton RSL was in a parlous state financially and Dave made a pledge to leave the Sub-Branch in far better shape in all respects, particularly financially. He committed himself to the welfare of our current veterans as well the memory of the fallen by ensuring that the Sub-Branch conducted commemorative services on all important occasions including ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. He also oversaw substantial renovations to the Sub-Branch which enhanced facilities for the members. Through his leadership, the Sub-Branch emerged from the pandemic in a very sound position.

Dave was true to his word and the Kyneton RSL is now a vibrant and well-respected venue of choice for many people in Kyneton district. His presence will be greatly missed. Lest We Forget.

## Commander John Taubman RAN Rtd – Newly elected President of the Kyneton RSL

John joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Midshipman in 1970 and undertook four trips to Vietnam on HMAS Sydney. He qualified in submarines in 1974 and spent the next 14 years at sea on operational submarines.

John has had two submarine commands, HMAS Otway and HMAS Otama. Other senior submarine appointments include Director of Submarines, on the staff of the Commander Submarine Forces Pacific Fleet, Honolulu Hawaii, Director of Submarine Personnel and Training and Principal Staff Officer Submarine Capability Development. John left the Navy in 2001 to become a Defence consultant.

John retired in 2017 and moved to Kyneton. He has been a member of the Kyneton RSL committee since 2018.

John's priorities for the Kyneton RSL are to increase service membership, particularly younger veterans and to provide improved RSL Kyneton supplied services to veterans.

John is married to Veronica, and they have two adult sons, John's interests are snow skiing, ocean yacht racing and U3A Network Victoria.



# ANZAC DAY – Trentham



Troops from the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victorian Regiment

The traditional ANZAC Day march and ceremony returned to Trentham this year following a COVID-enforced hiatus in 2020 and 2021. A crowd estimated at about 250 lined the street and were bathed in warm Autumn sunshine. The parade was led by school children from the local primary school parading the flags of Australia, New Zealand and the Aboriginal Flag. Ross Redwin provided the musical accompaniment on the bagpipes. Troops from the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victorian Regiment, immaculately turned out, formed the Catafalque Party.

The service was conducted by Mike Gretton, Secretary of the Kyneton RSL who welcomed everyone to the service. The ANZAC Address was given by Tony Van Rensburg, President of the Trentham District Historical Society, who spoke passionately about the role indigenous Australians had played in both World Wars

when they were not even recognised as Australian citizens. Brian Hood, Coliban Ward Councillor, also gave an address on behalf of the Hepburn Shire Council.

School children from Trentham District Primary School played an important role with students doing all readings during the service. They are all to be commended on their efforts.

Wreath-laying was to the accompaniment of World War I songs 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' and 'There's a Long, Long Trail' ably led by Val Goodwin. Last Post and Rouse were performed by Shani Clark. The Reverend Melissa Clark gave the Benediction and Peta Sherlock spoke about six Trentham war veterans who are remembered in St Georges Church.

The ceremony concluded with the singing of the New Zealand and Australian National Anthems.



Last Post by Shani Clark



Cr Brian Hood



Choir led by Val Goodwin



Reverend Melissa Clark

## NEW Power Savings Bonus

The Victorian Government has announced a new **\$250 Power Saving Bonus** program for all Victorian households.

From **1 July 2022**, you can access the new \$250 program by visiting the Victorian Energy Compare website and submitting an application. **The program will run from 1 July 2022 to 31 June 2023.**

The existing **\$250 Power Saving Bonus** for Concession recipients remains open and is available until 30 June 2022. Before submitting an application for the bonus, please read the eligibility requirements.

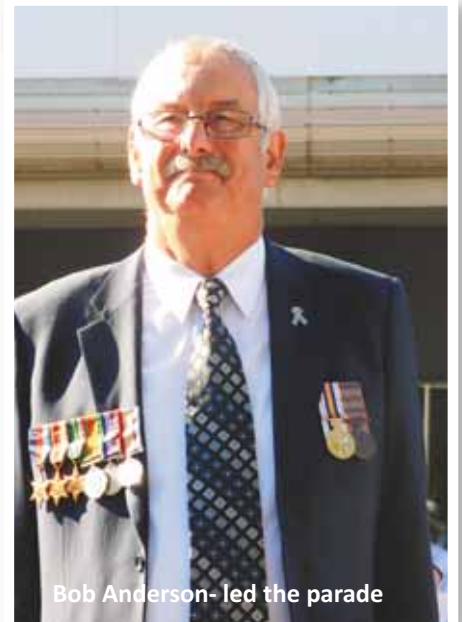
**Eligibility Requirements for the existing Power Saving Bonus program:**

- You must be a Victorian residential energy consumer (i.e. have a residential electricity account).
- You must be receiving payments under one of the following concession programs:
  - o Centrelink Pensioner Concession
  - o JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Austudy or Abstudy
  - o Department of Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession
  - o Or hold a Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card

**If you are unable to apply for the concession online you can call 1800 000 VEC to receive a cheque within 4 weeks. Please contact the RSL if you require any assistance.**



# ANZAC DAY – Kyneton



Bob Anderson- led the parade

Kyneton residents turned out in big numbers for the return of the traditional ANZAC Day march and ceremony in Kyneton. A crowd estimated at about 500 lined the street on a fine Autumn day. As well as veterans or their descendants marching, the younger generation were represented by the Airforce cadets, local footballers and the Scouts.

Following the sad loss of Arnold Jenkins earlier in the year, who normally acted as Master of Ceremonies for the ceremony, Major Craig Byrne admirably took over the role. Bob Anderson was also on hand again to marshal the troops.

John Taubman, the newly-elected President of the RSL, gave the ANZAC Address and spoke about the seemingly never ending list of conflicts in which Australia has been involved. He then went on to talk about local hero Alex Burton who was killed in action at Lone Pine

on Gallipoli and was awarded the Victoria Cross, along with two others, for bravery in the face of the enemy.

Students from all the local schools in Kyneton as well as Tylden Primary School played an important role in the ceremony doing readings and joining in the singing of the National Anthem. They are all to be commended for their part in the ceremony.

Wreaths were laid to the accompaniment of the Kyneton Municipal Band. The Federal Member, Lisa Chesters was represented by Eric and Margaret Dearthcott while State Member, Mary-Anne Thomas attended in person. Representatives from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council also attended.

Earlier in the day, a solemn Dawn Service was held at the Cenotaph followed by the traditional Gunfire Breakfast at the RSL.



Robbie Renton





# ANZAC Day address – 25.04.22

by Tony Van Rensburg, President, Trentham Historical Society

*Good morning all.*

Welcome to the our first ANZAC Day service since 2019 - probably the only time that this special event has been interrupted since ww11!

it is really good to be able to gather again!

I would like to thank Mike Gretton and the RSL for inviting me to make this address. I am honoured.

Much of the material in my address has been sourced from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Australian War Memorial.

Firstly, I want to set the scene by sharing with you my experience of ANZAC Day as a new migrant.

I moved to Melbourne from Africa in 1986. The following year my neighbour invited me to attend a dawn service in Waverley. Initially, I was curious but cynical. As someone who had military experience and attended my fair share of similar events, my expectations were not high.

However, the impact was profound and lasting. For want of a better description, it was deeply spiritual. Once I understood that the same event was also taking place in most cities, towns and hamlets across the country, attended by young and old, across political lines and incorporating different religious beliefs, my cynicism quickly faded.

ANZAC Day in Australia is a unique phenomenon and an experience that has helped me define my adopted country and, given the current events in Europe, very poignant indeed.

I have reflected on my ANZAC Day experiences over the years and believe that the inclusion of what might be an overlooked factor, would make the experience even more poignant.

I'll explain by paraphrasing a story about Harry Thorpe.

Harry was from Lakes Entrance and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in 1916 and soon joined the 7th Battalion in France where he became known for his courage.

He was wounded at the battle of Poziers and after recovery, rejoined his unit. He was again wounded in 2017 on the Hindenberg Line. After a month of recovery time, he once again rejoined his battalion.

Later that year Harry showed disregard for his own safety while clearing enemy dugouts. He was promoted to Lance Corporal and awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field.

In 2018, Corporal Thorpe was involved in fierce fighting in the Somme region. During the fighting Harry was found with a severe wound to his stomach and was taken to the dressing station where he died. He was buried at Heath Cemetery near Harbonnieres where he had fought his last battle.



*Tony Van Rensburg, President Trentham Historical Society addressing the attendees at Trentham ANZAC Service*

"They laid our hero down to rest, in the flag with a Southern Cross, and we mourn him as one of the best; for his death was Australia's loss". (family notice in the Argus 1918).

So what was so special about Corporal Harry Thorpe you might ask – after all thousands of Anzacs experienced the same sad fate?

Well, Harry was a Brabuwoolong man from Tyers Mission station who grew up on his father's farm where he learnt to grow food and hunt kangaroos.

Joining the Australian forces as an indigenous person was no mean feat in the early days. Under the constitution aboriginal people weren't recognised as citizens and the Defence Act of 1903 excluded indigenous people as 'not being substantially of European origin or descent'. They were not allowed to vote, enlist or receive a pension.

To get around this some men lied about their heritage, even going so far as to claim that they were Maori or Indian.

During the course of WW1, 'recruiters weren't so fussed and if you fronted up - the recruiter only saw another soldier. He didn't care what colour you were'.

It is believed that the ADF was the first equal opportunity employer in Australia!

When indigenous volunteers were rejected, which happened, many would- be soldiers just nipped down the road to another recruiter and so on, until they were accepted.

It is not known how many indigenous people served in the Australian armed forces because

enlistees did not record their ethnicity on recruitment papers. However, it is estimated that more than 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men served in ww1 and around 250-300 were killed in action.

Approximately 50 aboriginal men served on Gallipoli, with 13 killed.

After the war, they returned to their communities, never marching on ANZAC Day.

So, on this ANZAC Day, let us honour Harry Thorpe and our indigenous soldiers for their contribution to defend our land, protect our people and help create a freer and more just world.

In conclusion, i would like to recite 2 verses from a song titled 'Freedom Called' composed by Dave Arden a Kokatha, Gunditjamara singer- song writer, with collaboration from Paul Kelly:

"When freedom called  
Those Greenwich men and women stood tall  
When freedom called  
Oh God!  
Is there nothing left at all?  
When freedom called...  
Sometimes those men would sit there quiet  
Go driftin' in their mind  
It would seem to me they could see the spirits  
Of the ones they left behind  
They fought for more than just their homeland  
They fought for respect  
To walk down a road like any other man  
Lest We Forget..."

Thank you.

# ANZAC Day Service – 2022

by Commander John Taubman RAN Rtd



Kyneton RSL President Commander John Taubman RAN Rtd presenting his address at the Kyneton ANZAC service.

Good morning.

Honoured guests, Serving members, Veterans, Ladies and gentlemen and Young Australians.

Today is a special day for Australia, as it represents the sacrifice that Australian's have made at war and remembers those who died or were injured while preparing for war. This is the 107th anniversary of the landing of ANZAC's at Gallipoli.

It is worth reflecting for a moment on the wars that Australian has been involved in, the list is quite long for a country that is only 122 years old:

the Second Boer War (1899-1902), Australia's first war, the Boxer Rebellion (1900-1901), World War I (1914-1918), the Russian Civil War (1918-1919), the Egyptian Revolution of 1919, World War II (1939-1945), the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960), the Korean War (1950-1953), the Borneo Confrontation (1953-1966), the Vietnam War (1965-1973), the Gulf War (1990-1991), the War in Afghanistan (2001- 2021), the Iraq War (2003-2009), Operation Astute (support for East Timor, 2006-2013), the War on ISIL (2014- 2019), and the many other unnamed operational deployments that have been undertaken by the Australian Defence Force over the years.

It is interesting to note that in all the above conflicts we have participated in, almost in every case it has been in conjunction with the United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand and Canada. A group commonly referred to as the 'Five Eyes'.

I would also like to mention the "Special Military Operation" in the Ukraine – actually it is a war inflicted for political sovereign purposes in Ukraine by Russia. It seems to be never ending!

But today I would like to reflect on one of our own, Alexander Burton, VC.

Alexander Stewart Burton (1893-1915), a soldier, was born on 20th January 1893 at Kyneton, Victoria, son of Alfred Edward Burton, grocer, and his wife Isabella, née Briggs, both Victorian-born. The family moved to Euroa and, after attending the state school, Burton followed his father into the firm of A. Miller & Co., working in the ironmongery department. He was a chorister in the Euroa Presbyterian Church, a member of the town band, and was active in sport. In 1911 he began his period of compulsory military service aged 18.

Shortly after the outbreak of the First World War, Burton enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 18th August 1914 and was posted to the 7th Battalion.

He embarked with the battalion in Albany, the port in Western Australia from which the first convoy, carrying Australian and New Zealand troops, horses, and supplies to the First World War. It left on 1st November 1914, 48 troop ships and seven escort vessels, including 2 Cruisers, a total of 55 ships. Albany was the last Australian port of call for Australian servicemen sailing from the eastern states to join the Allied forces in Europe and Africa.

On 25th April 1915, 7th Battalion landed at Gallipoli, but Burton was sick and did not reach the frontlines until a week later. He was promoted to the rank of lance corporal on

10th July 1915 for "having volunteered and taken part in the forcing of Saphead D21 in the face of the enemy".

On 9th August 1915 now a Corporal, Burton fought in the Battle of Lone Pine when his company reinforced newly captured Turkish trenches. Burton was one of a party of men that manned a barricade against attacking Turkish soldiers. Killed in this action, he was just 22. He was recommended by his battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Pompey Elliott, for the award of the Victoria Cross (VC). Two other members of the party, Lieutenant Frederick Tubb and Corporal William Dunstan, were also awarded VCs. Burton's VC was gazetted on 15th October 1915; the citation read as follows:

*For most conspicuous bravery at Lone Pine trenches on the 9th of August 1915. In the early morning the enemy made a determined counterattack on the centre of the newly captured trench held by Lieutenant Tubb, Corporals Burton and Dunstan and a few men. They [the enemy] advanced up a sap and blew in a sandbag barricade, leaving only one foot of it standing, but Lieutenant Tubb with the two Corporals repulsed the enemy and rebuilt the barricade. Supported by strong bombing parties the enemy twice again succeeded in blowing the barricade, but on each occasion, they were repulsed, and the barricade rebuilt, although Lieutenant Tubb was wounded in the head and arm and Corporal Burton was killed by a bomb while most gallantly building up the parapet under a hail of bombs.*

## — The London Gazette

Burton has no known grave but is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial. He was subsequently mentioned in despatches by General Sir Ian Hamilton on 28th January 1916.

In early 1916, the VC, along with a cover letter from King George V, was presented to Burton's father who later wore it for the homecoming of Frederick Tubb, who was a friend of Burton's, and had returned to Australia to convalesce from the wounds received at Lone Pine. Burton's VC remained in his family for many years but in 1967, it was donated to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, where it is on display.

Today we are not gathered to remember particular exploits, but to give thanks to the character, the spirit and the sacrifice of the ANZACs and those Service men and women that have followed in that tradition. May that character live on in Australia through us and our accomplishments in whatever our chosen field is. The responsibility for passing on the ANZAC tradition to the coming generations remains with us all!

It is the duty of each of us to pass on the message:

'Lest we Forget'.



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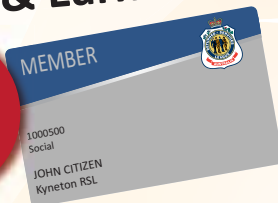


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**10%**  
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RSL REWARDS PROGRAM is open  
to RSL Members only at participating  
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For more information please call  
**(03) 5422 6735**

### Kyneton RSL Trading Times

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

### Kyneton RSL Club

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

## PARMA NIGHT – TUESDAY

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### 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

### 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.



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