



Despatch

The Journal of the Kyneton RSL

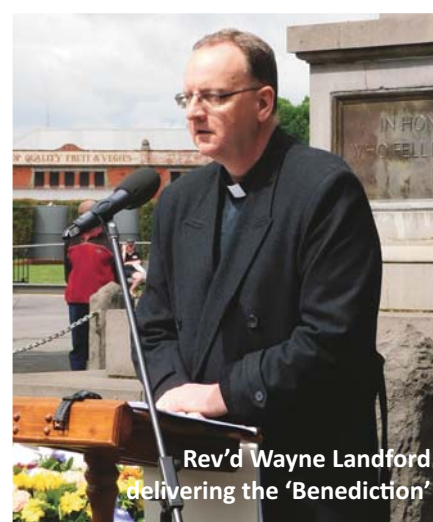
37-39 Mollison Street, Kyneton Victoria. 3444 Phone (03) 5422 6735 Email rsllmanager@kyneton.rslvic.com.au



John Taubman, President
presenting the 'Address'



Rob Renton, reading 'The Ode'



Rev'd Wayne Landford
delivering the 'Benediction'



Floral tributes laid at the Cenotaph



Gerard Noonan - Bugler

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

Bookkeeper: Erin Downie

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, .

Despatch Journal Team:

Mike Gretton, Natalie Gretton,

Lynette Ingles

FROM THE SECRETARY Mike Gretton



Dear members

Despite threatening clouds there were good attendances at both the Kyneton and Trentham Remembrance Day services conducted by the Kyneton RSL this year. About 150 people gathered in Kyneton to remember the fallen with about 50 attending the ceremony in Trentham. Again, students from schools in Kyneton and the district played a prominent role in the ceremonies doing readings, prayers and poems. The RSL feels it is important for the younger generation to be involved in these services of remembrance so that the sacrifices of their forebears are not forgotten.

We feel it also important that the older generation, many of whom are unable to attend ceremonies, are not forgotten and members of the Kyneton RSL conducted Remembrance Day ceremonies at Ray M Begg Kyneton Aged Care, BUPA and Trentham Aged Care. These services are always much appreciated by the residents.

The annual Poppy Appeal was conducted in the lead up to Remembrance Day and residents of Kyneton and the surrounding district again displayed their generosity by donating a total of \$8600 to the Appeal. All of the money donated will go towards veterans' welfare. On behalf of all our veterans I would like to thank all those who donated to the Appeal.

Since our last Newsletter, services commemorating VP Day, Vietnam Veterans' Day and Beersheba Day have also been conducted by the Sub-Branch. Beersheba Day, in particular, was highlighted by the presence of the 4th/8th Light Horse Troop mounted on horses and dressed in the original uniforms of Australian Light Horsemen.

Following the sudden passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September, the Sub-Branch conducted a memorial service in her honour. The Queen had been the patron of the RSL for all of her 70 years reign.

A reminder that memberships are now due for renewal and letters have been sent to all those

Service and Affiliate members who are in renewal status. Please remember that if you do not renew before 31 January 2023, your membership will lapse and all privileges will cease until the membership is renewed. The Committee has also agreed to waive the membership fees for all our Service members over the age of 80.

The offer of welfare assistance to our veterans has been very well received and we are keen to see it expand. We have been able to fund services such as gutter cleaning, window cleaning, general maintenance including grass mowing and other services around the home. We are particularly conscious of rising utility prices. If you are a veteran and in need of assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

A further note on veterans. For the past few months we have been conducting a Veterans Catch Up on the last Sunday of the month for veterans to get together and swap some yarns over a cuppa or glass. Please feel free to come along and enjoy the company of some of your fellow veterans. The November Catch Up will be on 27 November whilst the December one will be on 18 December.

The Courtesy Bus has proven to be a huge success enabling members to enjoy a visit to the RSL and not have to worry about driving.

Our annual combined Veterans/Legacy Christmas lunch will be held on 6 December. If you would like to attend please get in early as seating is limited. RSVP is 30 November.

On a final note, if you think you can make a contribution to the work of the RSL, we are always looking for volunteers either to join the committee or make a contribution in other ways. Please see the Secretary if you are interested and would like to join our small but dedicated group of volunteers.

Regards,
Mike Gretton
Secretary

Vale

Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II
9 September 2022



Creative by
Lynette Ingles
blue pencil publishing
0429 911 980



The Younger Generation Pay Their Respects on Remembrance Day



Students from Sacred Heart College, Kyneton Primary School, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish School, Tylden Primary School and Trentham District Primary School played an important role in Remembrance Day services in Kyneton and Trentham.

Students recited poems, read prayers and laid wreaths in honour of the fallen. Choirs from Our Lady and Tylden also led the singing of the National Anthem in Kyneton.

The RSL feels it is important for younger members of the community to be involved in these services so that the sacrifices of their forebears are not forgotten.



Kyneton RSL Commemorates Beersheba Day

On 31 October, members of the Kyneton RSL commemorated the Battle of Beersheba with a short service and wreath-laying ceremony at the Light Horse Monument in Jennings Street. The ceremony was supported by members of the 4th/8th Light Horse Troop mounted on their horses and dressed in the original uniforms of the Australian Light Horsemen.

Victory at Beersheba fell to one of the last great charges of mounted troops in history. As Australian Light Horse Divisions captured the town and secured crucial water wells, their success also marked the beginning of the end of the war in the Middle East which came to an end exactly a year to the day after success at Beersheba.

Kyneton has had a long history of military involvement. As early as 1859 there was enthusiastic support for the formation of a Mounted Rifles troop. At about this time other country towns in the near vicinity formed their own troops and all eventually trained together. It was inevitable for the economy of scale that these would all join together, and thus the detachments of Kyneton Light Horse and Kyneton Infantry Rifles came into being. These became part of the amalgamated Victorian Volunteer Light Horse and Victorian Volunteer Rifle Corps and following the approval of the Prince of Wales the newly created units came under the umbrella of the Prince of Wales Light Horse, a regiment (the 4th/19th) that still exists and has regularly participated in ANZAC Day ceremonies in Kyneton.



Top: Kyneton RSL members commemorate Beersheba Day



Above: Members of 4th/8th Light Horse Troop on Beersheba Day

Memorial Service for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



430 SQN Cadets Form the Flag Party

A small but appreciative crowd gathered at the Cenotaph in Kyneton on Thursday, 22 September to pay their respects to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II following her passing on 9 September. The solemn ceremony was organised jointly by the Kyneton and Woodend RSL Sub-Branches. Cadets from the Braemar College Cadet Unit

formed the Catafalque Party and cadets from 430 Squadron AAFC formed the flag party. In his address, the President of the Kyneton RSL spoke of the tremendous changes that had occurred through the Queen's 70-year reign and how she had adapted to those changes. John McAusland, President of the Woodend RSL, recited a poem by British Poet Laureate,

Simon Armitage, which he penned following the death of the Queen. Wreaths were laid by the two RSLs as well as other community organisations and members of the public against the background of *Amazing Grace* played by highland piper, Ross Redwin. It was a fitting tribute to a much-loved monarch.



Wreaths laid in honour of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Kyneton RSL Commemorates VP Day

August 15th is commemorated each year as Victory in the Pacific Day (VP Day). It is the day in 1945 when the Japanese surrendered unconditionally to the allied nations with the ceasefire agreement being signed aboard the USS Missouri. This agreement finally brought to end all hostilities in World War II. To commemorate the 77th anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific, the Kyneton RSL held a ceremony at the RSL to remember all those who paid the supreme sacrifice during World War II. A few of the remaining World War II veterans were in attendance at the ceremony. These were Joyce Daymon who served with the Australian Air Force, Jim Foreman and Tim Collins who were both WWII navy veterans and John Wyke, who served in the RAF as a Lancaster tail gunner with 626 Squadron.

Also at the ceremony was Sir Phillip Bennett AC KBE DSO, now a resident at RM Begg Kyneton Aged Care. Sir Phillip was Chief of the Defence Force from 1984 to 1987 and later the Governor of Tasmania from 1987 to 1995. He served with the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan just after World War II and was also a Korean and Vietnam veteran. Following the ceremony the guests were entertained to lunch hosted by the President of the Kyneton RSL, John Taubman.



Back Row: Joyce Daymon, Jim Foreman

Front Row: Tim Collins, John Wyke, Sir Phillip Bennett

Below: Wreaths laid in honour of VP Day



Kyneton RSL Commemorates Vietnam Veterans Day

Vietnam Veterans Day is commemorated on 18th August every year. The day was originally known as Long Tan Day. On that day, 108 Australian and New Zealand soldiers fought a pitched battle against over 2000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in a rubber plantation not far from the small village of Long Tan in Phuoc Tuy province of the then Republic of South Vietnam. Eighteen Australians lost their lives and 24 were wounded, the largest number of casualties in one operation since the Australian task force had arrived a few months earlier. In what was at the time Australia's longest war, some 60,000 Australian troops served in Vietnam with 521 killed and some 3000 wounded, many of whom still bear physical and psychological scars of their time in Vietnam.

To honour those who died during the battle of Long Tan and throughout the whole Vietnam War, the Kyneton RSL held a small ceremony at the RSL attended by a number of Vietnam veterans and their partners.



Vietnam Veterans

Back Row: John Taubman, Greg Wilson, Rob Renton, Warren Gilliland

Right: Front Row: Niels Jensen, Mike Gretton, Secretary, Kyneton RSL, addresses the Vietnam Veterans



WALTER ERNEST BROWN VC, DCM

On 6 July 1918 at Villers-Bretonneux, France he performed the deed for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross.



Linda Bennett

A chance photograph, shown here, taken at the Kyneton ANZAC Day ceremony earlier this year sparked interest in who the recipient of both the Victoria Cross and Distinguished Conduct Medal might be. Linda Bennett, a resident of Malmsbury, was photographed wearing a ribbon bar with both of these medals as well as medals from both World Wars and the King George VI Coronation Medal at the far right. It was quite an unusual combination of medals. It transpires that the medals belonged to Walter Ernest Brown who was born in New Norfolk, Tasmania on 3 July 1885 to Sidney Francis Brown and Agnes Mary Brown (nee Carney).

Walter enlisted in the 1st AIF in July 1915 and was initially assigned to the 1st Australian Light Horse Regiment before being transferred to the Imperial Camel Corps in Egypt. After being transferred to France he was assigned to the 55th Battalion, Australian Infantry, 1st and 2nd Field Butcheries, Australian Service Corps; and then, finally, the 20th Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Division. He managed to secure his transfer to the infantry by claiming that he had lost his false teeth, which meant that he had to be removed from the theatre and returned to Egypt, where he was able to attach himself to the infantry reinforcements that were being concentrated there prior to being sent to France to join the 20th Battalion.

His transfer to the 20th Battalion took place in July 1917 and he joined them while they were stationed in the line around St Omer. During September and October 1917, Brown took part in the fighting around Passchendaele and it was for his actions during this time that he was later awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.



Walter Ernest Brown

On 6 July 1918 at Villers-Bretonneux, France he performed the deed for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross: Brown had rushed a machine-gun post armed with a hand grenade, taking one officer and 11 men prisoner under heavy machine-gun fire. After this incident Brown remained at the front until the end of the war.

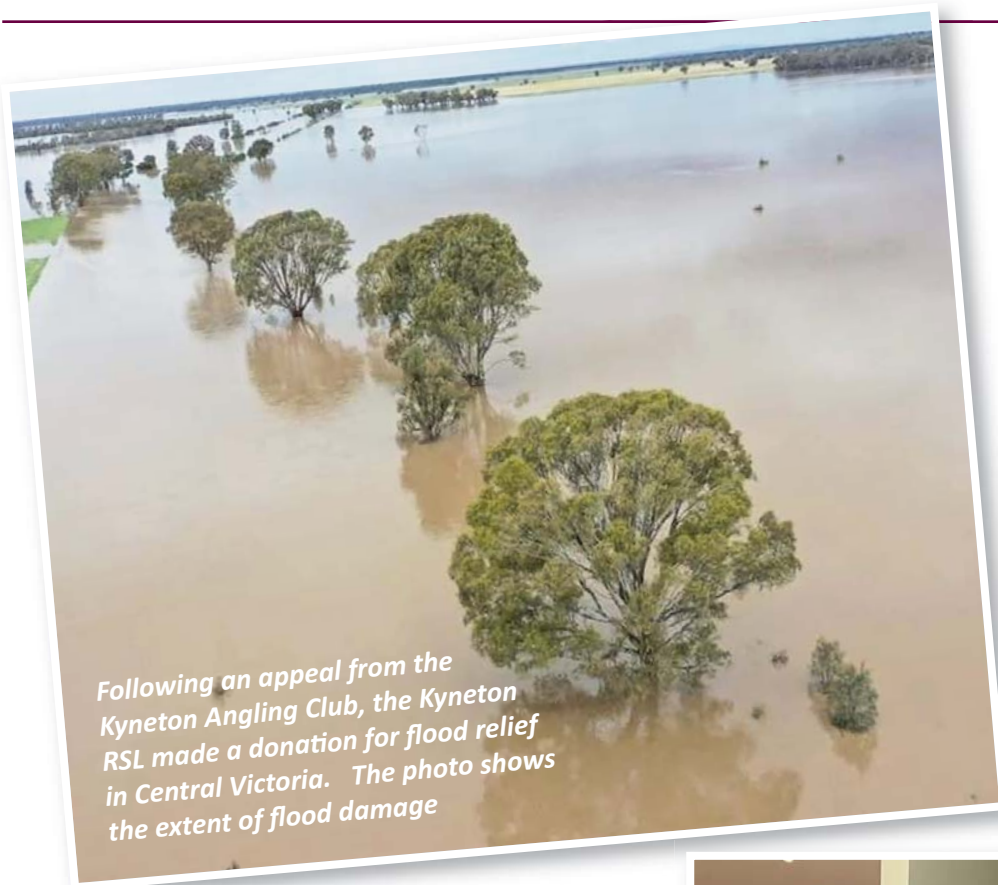
Following the outbreak of World War II, Brown enlisted as a gunner under his real name in the 2/15th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery in June 1940. Hoping to avoid attention and wanting to secure a posting to the front lines, he declared that he had "no previous military experience" and also claimed he had been born in 1900 in order to meet the age requirements for front line service. Although his identity became public knowledge, the military authorities allowed him to continue serving

In 1942 his unit was sent to Singapore following the Japanese attack on Malaya. On 15 February 1942, Brown's regiment moved up to the front line to make a final stand. Sources disagree as to what happened to Brown after this. When the order to surrender came, some witnesses alleged him to have calmly picked up some grenades and said: "No surrender for me", before walking towards the

enemy lines, never to be seen again. Author John Moremon, however, believes that Brown sought to escape and after gaining permission from his commanding officer, led a group of 2/15th men to Rengat, in Sumatra, in a rowing boat. From there it is believed that Brown and the others attempted to link up with other troops that were being evacuated via bus, but they became separated and although some managed to get away to Padang, Brown is believed to have been killed while waiting for transport.

Although his date of death is uncertain, it has been presumed that Brown was killed some time after he went missing, and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission officially records his date of death as 28 February 1942. As his body was never found, Brown has no known grave, although he is commemorated at the Singapore Memorial at Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore.

For his bravery and service during two World Wars, he was awarded the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal 1914-20, the Victory Medal, the 1939-45 Star, the Pacific Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939-45, the Australian Service Medal 1939-45 and the King George VI Coronation Medal.



Following an appeal from the Kyneton Angling Club, the Kyneton RSL made a donation for flood relief in Central Victoria. The photo shows the extent of flood damage

Kyneton RSL - Community Outreach

In addition to the Kyneton RSL Sub-Branch's core mission of providing welfare assistance to our veterans, the Kyneton RSL is also actively involved in providing assistance and support to local schools and colleges as well as a variety of local community groups.

These include the:

**Kyneton Football Netball Club,
Kyneton Golf Bowling Club,
Kyneton Croquet Club,
Kyneton Angling Club,
Country Basketball League,
U3A, Kyneton Kindness Collective,
Kyneton Connections,
Kyneton Old Time Dancing Club,
Braemar College Cadet Unit and the
Kyneton Municipal Band.**

'Thank you' means a great deal

*Right: The Secretary of the Kyneton RSL, Mike Gretton, receiving a **Certificate of Thanks** from members of the **Kyneton Basketball Team** in the Country Basketball League following our donation to help them compete in Swan Hill and Mildura.*



Table tennis is keeping members fit at U3A Kyneton and lots of fun for all who join in.

*Left: **Members of U3A** enjoy the new table tennis tables funded by the Kyneton RSL.*



Christmas Lunch

The **Kyneton RSL** will again be hosting our veterans and legacy widows to a combined **Christmas Lunch** on **Tuesday, 6th December at 12noon.**

Invites have been sent and seating is limited so please book early.

RSVP

Wednesday, 30th November

Camaraderie Night

**Every
Wednesday at 5pm.**

**\$10 meal -
Chef's special choice.
Raffle, lucky draw
and members' draw.
All welcome.**



**Steve Falcon
and the Kingswoods**

**New Year's Eve
ENTERTAINMENT**
Music 8.00pm – 12.30am

BOOK NOW!
5422 6735



**Merry
Christmas
on behalf of the
President,
Committee and Staff
at the
Kyneton RSL.**

**We wish you a wonderful
Christmas and safe
New Year.**



Welcome to the Beersheba Bistro

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



BEERSHEBA BISTRO

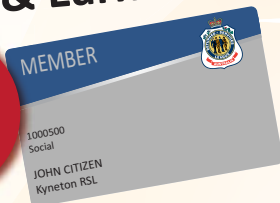


SPORT VENUE

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

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.

\$5pp

includes tea, coffee
(coffee station only)
& scones

For more information about bookings: (03) 5422 6735

Euchre

First Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm.

New players are most welcome.

Information please phone: (03) 5422 6735.

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.



ALL DAY PIZZA
AVAILABLE IN
THE SPORTS BAR

