

# Despatch

The Journal of the Kyneton RSL

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## Cadets and students well represented at Remembrance Day



430 SQN Air Force Cadets form the Flag Party



Kisha & Devin from Kyneton High School read The Ode



Imogen & Isabella from Sacred Heart College lay a wreath



Jed & Hugh from Tylden Primary School read the names of the fallen

Photography - Courtesy - Lyn Ingles - blue pencil publishing

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Secretary 2  
Remembrance Day 3  
Commemorations 4  
Veterans News 5

Community News 6  
Christmas Lunch 7  
Hall of Fame Awards 7  
RSL Active 7  
Beersheba Bistro 8



## FROM THE SECRETARY Mike Gretton

Dear Members,

Welcome to the **Remembrance Day** edition of **Despatch**. We were treated to warm, sunny weather for the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Kyneton and Trentham and good crowds were in attendance at both ceremonies. We were pleased to have Mary-Anne Thomas, State member for Macedon, attend the ceremony in Kyneton and lay a wreath. In Trentham, the Mayor of the Hepburn Shire Council, Councillor Brian Hood represented the Council at the ceremony, gave a short address and laid a wreath on behalf of the Shire. The Reverend Peta Sherlock read a prayer for peace in the Middle East and also reminded us of the tragedy closer to home that occurred in Daylesford just a week before Remembrance Day. It was also pleasing to have students from Kyneton, Tylden and Trentham schools participating in the ceremonies.

We had planned to conduct Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ray M Begg, BUPA and Trentham Aged Care facilities but these last two unfortunately went into lockdown just before Remembrance Day so we were unable to attend.

Our **Poppy Appeal** this year raised almost \$7000. We would like to thank all those who gave up their time to sell poppies and those who generously supported the appeal.

In conjunction with Remembrance Day, the Kyneton RSL hosted an art exhibition for the Kyneton Art Group with works of art themed around '**Remembrance**'. Many of you may have seen the works of art displayed in the RSL. We hope to make this an annual event leading up to Remembrance Day.

We conducted ceremonies to commemorate **VP Day, Vietnam Veterans' Day and Beersheba Day**. See **Page 4** for further details.

This year marked the **100th Anniversary of Legacy** and the daughter of Affiliate Member, Bill Bates, raised in excess of \$13000 for Legacy and took part in the **Torch Relay** in Ballarat. See **story on Page 6**.

On 5 December the Sub-Branch held its annual **Veterans/Legacy Christmas lunch** with a total of about 90 people in attendance. They were treated to a wonderful traditional Christmas lunch of ham and turkey followed by plum pudding prepared by our great kitchen staff. Everyone also received a small Christmas parcel. **Tim Collins** was most effusive in his praise of the Kyneton RSL for looking after veterans and Legacy widows. A great day was enjoyed by all.

On the subject of Christmas, the Sub-Branch was able again this year to provide all our Service members with a \$50 Woollies food voucher to enable them to buy a few extra goodies for Christmas they may otherwise have not been able to afford. This initiative was well received last year.

At a Region 7 Meeting in Charlton on 27 September, Committee members of the Rochester RSL Sub-Branch outlined the dire situation facing not only some of their members but many in the community following devastating floods in 2022. In response to this the Kyneton RSL made a donation of \$3000 to the Rochester RSL to assist with flood recovery.



Attendees to the 2023 'Hall of Fame Awards Night'.

Back L-R: Rebecca Hemphill, Warren Rogan, Millie Gibbs, Dylan Thomas, Erin Downie.

Front: Ian Jackson & Robbie Renton.

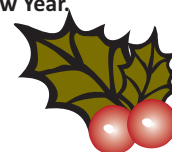
The **Hall of Fame Awards Night** was held at the Frankston RSL on Saturday, 25 November. We were not so fortunate this year as our submissions for Sub-Branch of the Year and Manager of the Year did not get up. However, **Warren Rogan**, one of our Duty Managers, received an '**Achievement & Recognition Award**' for all the hard work he devotes to the Kyneton RSL. Congratulations Warren, a well-earned reward.

Many of you will have noticed renovations taking place to the front office – a long overdue project. These are now complete and the office is now fitted out with new furnishings and fittings that are more in keeping with the rest of the venue.

A reminder that membership renewals are now due. Members have the option of a one year or three year renewal for \$15 or \$40 respectively. A reminder also that on 1 February 2024 those members who have not renewed will go into Lapsed status and all privileges and benefits will cease until the membership is renewed. Remember that **RSL Rewards points** you have earned can be used to renew your membership.

Finally, on behalf of the President and Committee, I would like to wish all our members a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mike Gretton  
Secretary



## Kyneton RSL Committee Members 2023



### Office Bearers:

**President:** John Taubman

**Senior Vice President:** Brian Turley

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Mike Gretton

**Treasurer:** Ian Jackson

**Committee:** Rob Renton, Natalie Gretton

### Administration:

**Manager:** Rebecca Hemphill

**Bookkeeper:** Erin Downie

**Pensions & Welfare:** Rob Renton, Phil Davis, Joy McDermott

**Memorabilia:** Ian Jackson, Mike Gretton

**Appeals:** Brian Turley

**Social Events:** Ian Jackson

**Funerals:** Rob Renton, Mike Gretton

### Despatch Journal Team:

Mike Gretton, Natalie Gretton, Lyn Ingles

## VALE

Jim Peucker	14 July 2023
Glenis Gordon	28 June 2023
Laurie Williams	20 July 2023
Sir Phillip Bennett	1 August 2023
Shane Feely	9 August 2023
Doug Hedington	3 September 2023
Elaine Cocks	25 September 2023
Peter Williams	24 September 2023



*Lest We Forget*



Creative by Lynette Ingles blue pencil publishing 0429 911 980



# Remembrance Day - at the Kyneton Cenotaph



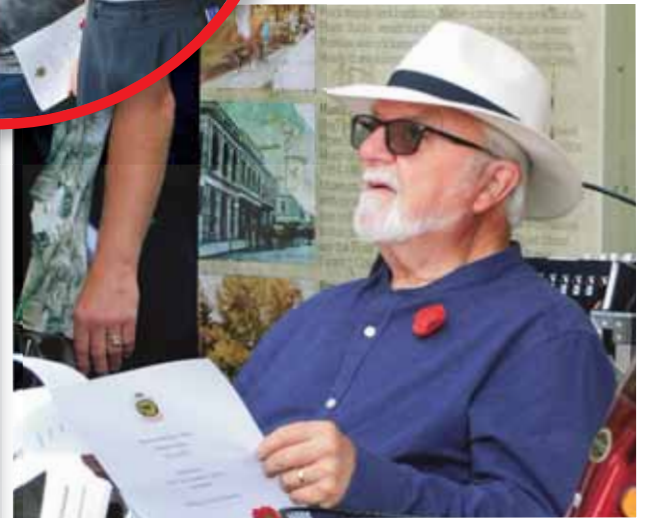
Cr. Mark Ridgeway gives an Acknowledgment of Country.



Floral tributes from varied associations and clubs



Visiting Veterans attending the Kyneton Remembrance Service



## and townspeople attending the Trentham Memorial



Cr. Brian Hood addressing the Trentham ceremony



Remembrance Service at the Trentham Cenotaph



## Victory in the Pacific

To mark the end of hostilities in World War II the 15 August each year is commemorated as **Victory in the Pacific Day** - the Japanese having agreed to an unconditional surrender to Allied Forces the day before.

To mark the occasion, the Kyneton RSL held a short ceremony at the RSL including wreath-laying. We were pleased to have six of our seven remaining World War II veterans attend the ceremony and were entertained to lunch following the ceremony. The combined age of all these veterans came to just about 600 years.



*Above: WWII Veterans & their families enjoy lunch on VP Day*

*Left: WWII Veteran, Joyce Strawhorn lays a wreath on VP Day*

## Beersheba Day

On 31 October 1917, mounted troops of the **4th Australian Light Horse Brigade** carried out the last great cavalry charge in the history of modern warfare when they charged the Turkish lines defending Beersheba. The charge caught the Turkish defenders off guard and the 4th Light Horse Regiment took 700 prisoners in the Turkish lines whilst the 12th Light Horse Regiment continued on into the town, capturing it before the Turkish troops could regroup and the wells, vital to the Australians, were secured.

To commemorate the day, the Kyneton RSL conducted a short ceremony at the **Light Horse Monument in Jennings Street** on 31 October at which wreaths were laid by both the Kyneton and Romsey-Lancefield RSLs. Mike Garnett gave a short address in which he outlined the connection of Kyneton to the Kyneton Mounted Rifles, the forerunner of the Light Horse.



Photography Lyn Ingles blue pencil publishing



*Above: The gathering at the Light Horse Brigade Monument in Kyneton*

*Left: Michael Garnett addressed the Beersheba Day ceremony*

## Vietnam Veterans Day

Originally known as Long Tan Day, 18 August is now known as **Vietnam Veterans Day**. It commemorates the Battle of Long Tan when, on this day in 1968, 108 Australian and New Zealand troops fought a pitched battle against an estimated 2000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in a rubber plantation near the village of Long Tan. Eighteen Australians lost their lives and 24 were wounded which amounted to the largest number of casualties in a single operation during the Vietnam War.

To honour the memory of the 523 Australian killed and over 3000 wounded during the Vietnam War, the Kyneton RSL held a short ceremony with wreath-laying at the RSL on 18 August. The ceremony was attended by a number of Vietnam veterans.



The Long Tan Memorial Cross in Vietnam



# Last Post Ceremony for Thomas Dorney

One of our Service Members, Margot Thiele and her husband Eric, along with three generations of the Dorney family from the Macedon Ranges attended the Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 20 October in honour of her uncle, AC1 Thomas Dorney.

**Thomas Dorney was born on 20 October 1914 in Ballarat.** Tom, as he was known, applied to join the Royal Australian Air Force in May 1940. With his experience as a mechanic gained in civilian life he was accepted as a trainee mechanic. After initial training he embarked for active service in November 1940 arriving in England in February 1941. He was attached to No. 10 Squadron equipped with Sunderland flying boats responsible for locating and destroying German submarines, air-sea rescue missions and convoy duties.

On 21 June 1942, Dorney joined an 11-man crew on an air-sea rescue mission, searching for the crew of a Wellington shot down near the French coast. Upon reaching the search area they were attacked by an enemy aircraft forcing it to land in the sea where, according to witnesses, it exploded. None of the crew survived. Today, Thomas Dorney is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in England along with others who have no known grave.



AC1 Thomas Dorney

The Last Post Ceremony is held daily at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. For further details visit [lastpostceremony@awm.gov.au](mailto:lastpostceremony@awm.gov.au).

## Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Citation

The **Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation** (the Citation) was awarded by the former Government of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) to military units that distinguished themselves in battle. Initially, only a limited number of Australian units across the three services were approved to accept and wear the Citation emblem.

All Australian military units under the operational control of the United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam are now eligible for the Citation emblem.

Eligible individuals can submit an application. Under 'Application Type' select Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with PUC.

<https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/defence-medals-application-form>

Applications will be assessed against veteran service records and the Department of Veterans' Affairs Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans.



## The Veterans Card - Victoria

To thank Australian Defence Force (ADF) members for their service the Victorian Government has introduced The Veterans Card - Victoria. The digital Veterans Card - Victoria entitles all past and present ADF members living in Victoria to discounts and benefits including:

- \$100 off light vehicle rego
- free trailer and caravan rego
- free marine licence
- fishing licence exemption
- free transport on Anzac and Remembrance Days
- veteran employment programs

### Who can apply:

All past and present ADF members, living in Victoria, can get a digital Veterans card. You can be on active duty, a veteran, or in the reserves. Civilian ADF employees aren't eligible for the digital Veterans card.

### What you'll need:

#### One of 3 ID numbers:

- PMKeyS number
- Regimental or Service number
- DVA Card number

*You'll also need to share 2 identity documents with us.*

#### Choose from:

- Medicare card
- Australian birth certificate
- Australian driver licence / learner permit (current)
- Australian passport current or less than three years expired
- ImmiCard current or less than 3 year expired
- Foreign passport with a valid Australian visa with working rights
- Australian citizenship certificate

*Your names on the 2 documents must match.*

**WALKING FOOTBALL**



**Walking Football Social program**  
for Seniors aged 50+ to play football  
in a fun, social and safe environment

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**2PM-3PM**  
**BUFFALO SPORTS STADIUM**  
CONTACT DAVID 0427 967 824

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Legacy Reaches the 100 Year Milestone

In the trenches of the Western Front during World War I, a soldier said to his dying mate *"I'll look after the missus and kids"*.

This became known as The Promise – and it is still kept today.



Isabella Bates lighting her torch.



Isabella in the relay

This year marked the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Legacy, an organisation set up by Sir Stanley Savage in 1923 to provide assistance to the families of those service personnel killed in the service of their country. To commemorate this milestone, a Legacy Torch Relay was held commencing in Pozieres in France on 23 April before travelling on to London and then Australia where it is visited all 44 Legacy Clubs – a journey of some 50,000 kilometres. In conjunction with the torch relay, a fund-raising campaign was held known as 'Legs for Legacy'. Isobella Bates, the daughter of Kyneton RSL Affiliate Member, Bill Bates, took up the challenge and has raised in excess of \$13,000 for Legacy – one of the highest individual amounts raised in Victoria. She also participated in the relay leg held in Ballarat on 19 September.

## Trentham Railway Station Rejuvenation



The **Trentham Rail and Tram Association (TRATA)** has taken on the task of rejuvenating the old Trentham Railway Station complex to make it more inviting to the community and visitors and hopefully attract more groups to use the area. The site and its facilities are important to the local community due to its central location, accessibility and historic significance.

It is also the start of the Domino Trail that attracts many locals and visitors every day. The work has involved planting trees and other plants and shrubs. This project was helped by a donation of \$750 from the Kyneton RSL.

Looking ahead, TRATA hopes to carry out restoration work on the goods shed and rolling stock, establish a mobility path from the station to the rail trail and provide access from the platform to the rolling stock.

## Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival



The **Kyneton RSL Sub-Branch** has long been a supporter of the annual **Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival** and 2023 was no exception. This year, however, we decided to go one further and enter the parade with the Courtesy Bus suitably adorned with daffodils and a scarecrow. Staff members also entered into the spirit of the event walking down the street handing out daffodils and free Courtesy Bus tickets. As usual, the **Watsonia RSL Pipe & Drum Band** came back to the RSL following the parade for refreshments and to provide some Highland music entertainment for our members.



Astrid getting into the spirit of the Daffodil Festival



# Hall of Fame Awards Night - Warren Rogan, Congratulations



The RSL Victoria annual **Hall of Fame Awards Night** was held at the Frankston RSL on Saturday, 25 November. **Warren Rogan**, who has been a Duty Manager since November 2020, received an Achievement & Recognition Award for all the hard work he puts in on behalf of the Kyneton RSL.

The citation read in part *"His knowledge of hospitality is second to none and is demonstrated implicitly through his passion, dedication and commitment to his workplace and team each day"*. Warren has also given generously of his own time to organise RSL Active events. Congratulations to Warren on a well-deserved award.

**Millie Gibbs**, one of our Supervisors, is also to be congratulated for her participation in a Loyalty Championship course conducted by RSL Rewards. Her final assessment of activating a promotion and creating a presentation earned her a top ten position Victoria-wide. She is hoping to improve on this next year. **Well done Millie.**

***Warren Rogan** beaming with pride for winning his award.*

## Combined Veterans Legacy Christmas Luncheon



The luncheon was well attended and all patrons were catered for by the Committee and Staff. Roast luncheon topped off with plum pudding.... a happy and enjoyable afternoon.

***Far left:** Santa entertaining the patrons*

***Top Left:** Mr Collins thanking the KRSL Club for a splendid luncheon*

***Below:** Santa with Committee members Mike Gretton & Robbie Renton*



Photography Lyn Ingles blue pencil publishing

## Visit to The Path of the Horse



On Saturday, 2 December despite inclement weather, a number of people enjoyed a visit to **The Path of the Horse**, an equine therapy centre located on the outskirts of Trentham. The visit was conducted as part of the RSL Active program.

Dean Mighell, who runs the centre, explained that their aim was to provide free support for veterans, emergency service personnel and their families to better manage conditions such as PTSD, anxiety and depression. Founded in 2016, **The Path of the Horse** works in conjunction with a number of RSL Sub-Branches, including the RSL Active program, as well as other organisations such as the Austin Repatriation Hospital.

Dean also explained that horses have an amazing ability to relieve stress and a unique capacity to share their empathy with humans. They never judge, they are completely honest and are much-loved assistants in the healing process. Following a tour of the facility, which included getting up close and personal with the horses, the group was treated to a great barbecue lunch put on by his assistants Shona and Donna. Thanks again to Warren for organising the activity. *A great day enjoyed by all.*



*Celine and her father Ray getting to know the horses*



*Some of the beautiful therapy horses at the centre*



*Dean Mighell manager of the 'Path of the Horse'*



# Welcome to the Beersheba Bistro

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



BEERSHEBA BISTRO

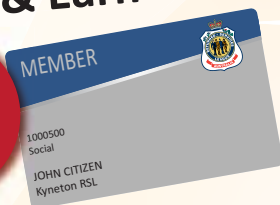


SPORT VENUE

## 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.

## 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**

