



April 2010

Incorporating Bendigo
and Kangaroo Flat Sub-Branches



Thales Australia's Donation of 1000 lb bomb to BDRSL

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The Price Of Liberty Is Eternal Vigilance

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By the time this newsletter is released we will be fast approaching one of the most important days on our commemorative calendar and the AGM results will have been published.

Our committees and management groups are busy preparing for the many activities that will take place on ANZAC Day and after the main parade, our ANZAC Day fellowship will once again be held at the Havilah Road Complex.

2009 was a year of continued enhancement of delivery of our welfare and veteran support services. Combined with ongoing support from the Central Victorian Veterans' Support Centre and Department of Veterans' Affairs, we have been able to provide a support service worthy of our members.

The Sub-Branch Committee has been planning for future challenges - structurally, demographically and commercially. Within the Victorian RSL network, Bendigo rates in the top ten and our peers recognise us as progressive and innovative.

Our continued involvement with the men and women of the Australian Defence Forces is critical and our endeavours to embrace and welcome them into our league are a priority.

Our membership numbers are stable at around 850 due to the increasing membership numbers of former and current serving ADF members and a larger base of affiliates. This new membership base is compensating for the declining numbers of WWII members. For the first time I am reporting that the membership numbers of younger veterans is greater than the membership of the WWII veterans.

I value the opportunity to be part of the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc. and most of all I value the opportunity to work with people united in dedication to do their best for the veteran community and their dependants.

**Cliff Richards,
PRESIDENT**



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc. continues to flourish despite the global financial crisis.

Now that the 2009 audit has been completed, I am pleased to announce that financially, our position improved last year. Whilst the NET return has been somewhat below our expectations, our earnings before rent have surpassed 2008 while at the same time we have spent a larger amount on Welfare and Charitable activities, completed the sheds project and implemented an RSL bus for the benefit of our members. Additionally, we have spent a larger amount on repairs and maintenance particularly in the area of preventative maintenance to ensure our trading integrity is not compromised and member services are not disrupted.

Considerable time and effort has also been invested in shoring up our earning capacity through planning for the post 2012 gaming environment, long-range planning for our facilities at all our campuses as well as defining possible new areas for development in order to continue to offer our members a viable and vibrant Sub-Branch.

Our facilities remain at the fore throughout not only the RSL network but also the hospitality market within our region and our membership base is one of the largest in the State, something we can all take pride in.

The day-to-day running of a modern RSL Sub-Branch is a complex and diverse proposition and we should all be grateful that we have a committed, professional Committee that is able to deal with all issues in an efficient manner. Likewise the valuable contribution made by my staff members is second to none as the dynamics throughout the team are positive, cohesive and above all they continually deliver above expectation.

The support and enthusiasm of our members is always valued and never underestimated. You are the very being of this organisation and should be credited for the success we enjoy. Thank you for your support and I hope we all continue to flourish in 2010.

**Erik WYNVEEN
GENERAL MANAGER**



COMMITTEE 2010

Mr Cliff Richards	President
Mr Steve Burke	Snr. Vice President
Mr Paul Penno	Jnr. Vice President (1 year position)
Mr Keiron Dole	Secretary
Mr David Serradura	Treasurer (Co-opted)
Mr Peter Ball	Committee
Mr Phillip Chapman	Committee
Mr Murray Poustie	Committee
Vacant	Committee (1 year position)
Mr Jonathan Ridnell	Committee (Social)
Mr Ian Bates	Committee, Kangaroo Flat
Mr Jack Thomas	Committee, Kangaroo Flat

BENDIGO RSL BUS

Our bus is proving to be a great asset; the numbers of bookings have increased and there have been many positive comments from the user groups.

The bus is available at no cost except that we ask that you use a registered RSL driver and refill with fuel after use. If you wish to use the bus, book ahead to avoid disappointment by contacting the General Manager on 5442 2950.

BEST WISHES & SAFE TRAVELLING

Murray Poustie has announced his wish to withdraw from the Sub Branch and Commemorative Committees to pursue future travel plans.

With no hesitation I would like to thank Murray for his commitment to the Bendigo RSL and his outstanding organisational skills during his time as Sub-Branch Treasurer, Sub-Branch Committee member and his achievements as Commemorative Committee Chairperson.

Murray has offered, when time permits, to continue to assist in Sub-Branch activities but will not actively participate in the planning and organisation of future RSL events. He has a keen interest in the history of the Sub-Branch and will continue his undertaking to complete the project he is currently working on in time for the Sub-Branch Centenary.

I feel sure that all members will join with me to wish Murray and Barbara many kilometres of enjoyable and safe travel.

**Cliff Richards,
PRESIDENT**

ANZAC DAY 2010 SERVICES

Bendigo Dawn Service

March starts at 6.20am from the Memorial Hall Pall Mall.

The Service is held at the Cenotaph commencing at 6.30am.

Return to Memorial Hall for a gunfire breakfast.

Bendigo Morning Service

March starts at 10.45 (Outside the TAFE building in McCrae St.)

The Service is held in the Forecourt of the Memorial Hall Pall Mall commencing at 11am

Return to the Sub-Branch at Havilah Road for fellowship

Eaglehawk Dawn Service

Service starts at 6.30am at the Eaglehawk Memorial

Return to Eaglehawk Band Room for coffee

Eaglehawk Morning Service

March starts at 9.00am from Darling St.

The Service is held at the Eaglehawk Memorial at 9.10am.

Kangaroo Flat Dawn Service

The service is held at the Soldiers Memorial Kangaroo Flat at 6.30am (Cnr.High & View Sts.)

followed by breakfast at the RSL Hall, Station St.

Kangaroo Flat Morning Service

March commences at 9.30am from outside St. Monica's Church, Station St. and will proceed

south along High St. to the Soldiers Memorial for the main ANZAC Day Service

Morning tea is served at the RSL Hall after the Service

Huntly Service

The ANZAC Day Service will be held at 9.30am in the Garden of Remembrance, Huntly Hall Grounds

Morning Tea will be served after the Service in the Huntly Hall

Soldier's memorabilia will be on display in the former Court House building after the morning tea.

ANZAC Day Luncheon at Havilah Rd

Table reservations are available in the bistro and function room for the luncheon. Please specify your preference at time of booking. An ANZAC Day menu will be available as well as the usual menu board.

Book now to guarantee a table by phoning 5442 2950.

A marquee at the rear of the RSL will host our usual barbeque and game of "two-up".

Flying of Flags – ANZAC Day 25th April

Flags are to be flown at half mast until noon, then at the mast head until sun-down.

Policy Statement:

Non-Veteran participation in ANZAC Day marches

The following policy has been adopted in respect to ANZAC Day marches to Commemorative Services in Bendigo and Eaglehawk. *It does not apply to Dawn Services.*

Participants should be aware that the consensus of returned servicemen and women is that they be allowed to retain the integrity of marching units for as long as possible.

Bendigo District RSL welcomes non-veteran (civilian) participation in the ANZAC Day March strictly on the following basis:

Veterans should march with the appropriate service group as listed in the Order of March.

Veterans may be accompanied by one carer if needed, and that carer must be of an age where they can directly assist the veteran if required.

Veterans having difficulty completing the March must fall out of the March, to enable the March to continue. Marshals should be

contacted promptly if medical assistance is required.

Next of Kin (NOK) may march in place of deceased veterans on the following conditions:

- NOK should march at the rear of the appropriate service group as listed in the Order of March.
- NOK representation is limited to 1 per veteran.
- NOK representatives must be dressed appropriately and are to wear medals on the right breast. The carrying of pictures of relatives is not supported.

This Policy will be supported by appropriate publicity each year and relevant information and briefings for the March RSM and March Marshals.

Notes:

Order of March: as issued each year to Ex-Service Organisations and other March participants such as Army, Bands and Cadets. (Also available from the RSL Office)

This policy was based on current RSL Vic Policy.

Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc.

Approved by Commemorative Committee

– Meeting 4 February 2010

Endorsed by Sub-Branch Committee

– Meeting 22 February 2010

WEARING OF MEDALS

Protocol for wearing of medals is as follows:

War Medals may be worn only by the persons upon whom they were conferred and in no case does the right to wear war medals or their ribbons devolve upon a widow, parent, son or relative when the recipient is dead.

Similarly, in cases where a posthumous award is made and the medal is handed to the deceased's next-of-kin, such decoration or medal may not be worn.

Modifications of the above rule are permitted in connection with Remembrance and ANZAC Day ceremonies when relatives who desire to avail themselves on those days only, of the distinction of wearing the decoration and medals of deceased relatives, may do so ON THE RIGHT BREAST.

War medals (with certain exceptions) are worn on the left breast of the coat or in a corresponding place on the dress, as the case may be. War medals are worn to show the Sovereign's head. War medals (or Campaign medals) are worn in the order of the dates of Campaigns for which they have been conferred, the first being obtained being farthest from the left shoulder.

It is a Federal offence to wear medals and/or decorations for which you are not entitled.

ANZAC APPEAL

The ANZAC Appeal will be run in Bendigo from 10th April to 25 April. Volunteers will be at various spots throughout the city and suburbs with a full range of products for sale which range in price from \$2 to \$50.

We will have the very popular wristbands for \$3. This year temporary tattoos have been added to the selection - 3 in a packet for \$2. A limited range of products will be available at various hospitals, nursing homes and businesses throughout the area.

To help with sales for the ANZAC Appeal, we are calling on members as without your support we will not be able to raise funds to assist with the welfare work undertaken by the RSL. If you are able to give us some time, even as little as two hours, please contact the RSL Welfare Office on 5443 4013 between 10 and 4.30 Monday to Friday and help us to make this the biggest and best ANZAC Appeal ever.

Joe & Lyn Bolton, Appeals Officers

MUSEUM REPORT

Welcome to another year, our 13th in fact.

It has been a slow start to the year but memorabilia is still coming in, mainly WW1 items for which we have managed to make space available in existing cabinets. The museum is at a maximum with cabinets and this is overcome by regular rotation of memorabilia.

A very good half page story about the Grinton exhibition has appeared in the Queensland State RSL Newsletter in their Summer 2010 edition.

The Australian Army History Unit that believes the collection is historically significant, has been granted a full copy of the photo collection on CD, under strict guidelines. Actually they were astounded by the material we have in the museum.

A museum in Aberdeen, Scotland has also contacted us requesting a copy of any photos that Jack Grinton took while on leave there.

Recently some visitors from England stated that before leaving for Australia they were told that if they go to Bendigo to make sure they visit the RSL Museum. Word is certainly getting around!

Peter Ball, Chairman, Museum Sub Committee



World War 2 Post Cards

- Courtesy Alan Telford collection, VX146055, 41st Australian Landing Craft Company. (Museum Collection)

WELFARE & CHARITABLE REPORT

So far this year our committee has been happy to provide membership waiver for our all service members reaching 90 years age and members infirmed.

We are hoping soon to provide a eulogy parchment for families as a keepsake of their relative's RSL funeral. As a reminder, the Bendigo District RSL Sub Branch Inc. is always willing to conduct an RSL funeral upon request by any member or member's family and they will be asked to accept the full protocol of an RSL funeral as it is laid out in the BDRSL policy.

Do not forget that if you find yourself in hospital, please let loved ones know if you would like us to visit you. You will also receive a gift bag with some little necessities from our dedicated hospital visitors.

Very few responses were received to the offer of assistance for bushfire prevention but we would like to keep the offer open for the next season so as people are prepared. Please keep the offer in mind over winter and we can help you in the spring.

While we continue to find innovative ways of helping folk we would like to hear from you as well. If you have any ideas that you think may be helpful to people, please let us know and we will happily look into it.

Jo Harding, Chairperson W&C Committee

GRINTON EXHIBITION

Whilst in Queensland recently I had the opportunity to visit the current exhibition of the "Camera On The Somme" at the Ipswich Art Gallery, just out of Brisbane.

The gallery has done an excellent job of displaying both the prints and the various other items that make up the exhibition. The section of the gallery into which the Grinton collection is housed is light and spacious and all displays and photographs are easily viewed by the public.



I spoke to a few of the visitors and all were amazed that the images were so good i.e. crisp and clear. One comment made was that, "you would think that they were just recently shot, not some 90 years ago." One man told me that he was sad to think that practically all the people in the photographs were dead, considering how alive they all still look in the prints.

Pauline Garner, Exhibitions & Collections Manager of the gallery told me that around 200 people go through the art gallery everyday and that a high proportion visit the Somme collection. They will provide all the attendance figures at the end of the exhibition.

From what I could see, all who were involved in bringing this display together should be very proud of the outcome.

Wayne Eeles

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Victorian Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia is conducting a Statewide series of **veteran welfare information sessions** with a local session being held in Bendigo on Tuesday, 13th April at 3.30pm at the Bendigo RSL, 75 Havilah Road, Bendigo.

The Bendigo and Castlemaine VVAA Sub-Branches will be hosting the Bendigo information session and Bendigo President, Richard Penna said, "These welfare presentations have taken on even more importance since last year's bushfires, when the Association came into contact with veterans who were not prepared and although they had been living in the area for some time, we had no knowledge of them. We want all local Vietnam Veterans, their partners and other veterans to attend the sessions so that we can assist them to improve their own personal welfare."

For further information contact the Bendigo Sub Branch President, Richard Penna on Ph 5443 5375 or Castlemaine Sub Branch President, Alan Lane on 5472 3115.

Office Bearers 2010

President	5443 3549	Richard Penna
Vice President	5862 3739	Paul Blackwell
Secretary	5448 4470	Maurie Betts
Assistant Secretary	5448 4234	Sue Arthur
Treasurer	5448 3350	Rex Willis
Assistant Treasurer	5442 6526	Graham Davis

Supper Dance sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans' Association - Bendigo Sub Branch at the RSL Havilah Road, Bendigo - 29th May 2010, 7.00 pm till 12.00 pm. For tickets or further information please call Maurie Betts: 5448 4470 or Rex Willis: 5448 3350.

Tickets: Per Person Vietnam Vets: \$15.00 - Non Veteran's: \$20.00 - Entertainment by the Impalas.

All welcome - you do not have to be a Vietnam Veteran to attend



NM&BVA (AUSTRALIA)

Meetings of the NM&BVA Bendigo Branch are held bi-monthly on the second Friday at 11 am at the Bendigo District RSL Sub Branch Inc. at 73 Havilah Road. During 2010 the meeting dates are scheduled for 9th April, 11th June, 13th August (AGM), 8th October and 12th November. Veterans and family members are welcome.

Contacts for the Bendigo Branch are:

President - Peter Dodd Ph: 5443 4249

Secretary - Greta Balsillie Ph: 5443 4803

A major purpose of the Association is to raise funds to support Gurkha soldiers and their widows. Gurkha Regiments have fought alongside Australian soldiers since WWI and do not receive the same support as Australian veterans.

On Sunday, 16th May, from 2 pm to 4 pm, a fund raising, old-fashioned afternoon tea & games including bingo, cootie, ludo, snakes & ladders, etc will be held at the Bendigo East Progress Hall, Lansell Street (adjacent to swimming pool & bowls Club). Entry is \$10 and will include a raffle and lucky door prize. Proceeds will go to the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS/ PEACEMAKERS VETERANS REUNION

On 21st February 2010, the Bendigo District RSL Sub Branch Inc. hosted a special day for Post '75 Veterans at the Bendigo Jockey Club.



The event was organised to acknowledge and thank those personnel who have availed themselves to military service in some of the world's worst trouble spots since the end of the war in Vietnam.

These deployments began in 1975 and continue today. The commonly known countries include, The Balkans, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, Bougainville, East Timor, Iraq, and Afghanistan. These veterans are valued members of the broader veteran community but to this point in time, there has been no formal social gathering to acknowledge their contribution to the security of this country and the stability in the region.

It is hoped that this event will inspire those who attended, to form a sub-branch of the Peacekeepers/Peacemakers Veterans' Association.

Any eligible Veteran wishing to be a part of this Association can contact Jo Harding or Keiron Dole via the RSL Office in Havilah Road Ph: 5443 4013.

POPPETHEAD DAY CLUB

The Poppethead Day Club meets every Wednesday at the Bendigo RSL in Havilah Road from 10am-2pm. Our programme consists of mind games, exercises, active games, theme days (a lot of fun) speakers, entertainers and bus trips. In January our special guest was Kim Ritchie, country and variety singer with a difference and a great entertainer. Rev. Robert Grenfell was our speaker who gave a talk about his time in Samoa. Ross MacDonald gave a presentation of his trip to Vietnam in 2009. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day at the Whitehorse Hotel and had a lot of fun.

Vi Willis, Co-Ordinator

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS ASSOCIATION (VICTORIAN BRANCH)

On 28 February 2010, the Victorian Branch of the RAAMC (Royal Australian Army Medical Corps) Association - "The Home of the RAAMC", was established.

The Victorian RAAMC Association is a social network of medical corps personnel and their associates. The Association is free to join for any current serving RAAMC members and ex service RAAMC personnel and other associate corps such as Dental, Nursing, Catering, Transport, etc, who have worked in a medical unit. Defence civilians who worked at an RAAMC unit and Allied Medical Corp personnel such as The Royal Medical Corps are also welcome.

The RAAMC Association Victorian Branch is for you and your friends to have fun by meeting new and old friends and to network within the civilian and defence community. There is no rank associated with this Association. The RAAMC Association shall march this ANZAC Day 2010 in Melbourne for the first time and members are welcome to join us.

If you wish to join the association and march on ANZAC Day please contact Kevan Andrews on 0425785598. Email: kandh.andrews@bigpond.com

Alternately, you may go to the RAAMC Association web site www.raamc.com.au and click on the VIC Branch blog/guest book to add a comment. We are also on Facebook - just search under groups for the Victorian RAAMC Association.

Kevan (Bat) Andrews

President, RAAMC Assn Victoria



PARTNERS OF VETERANS ASSOCIATION (BENDIGO BRANCH)

If you are a partner of a veteran or peacekeeper/peacemaker who served in an allied conflict, you are welcome to join the PVA Bendigo Sub-Branch. This group meets to enjoy fellowship and support, on the third Monday of the month at 11.30am at the Bendigo District RSL at 73 Havilah Road.

Come to a meeting and stay for lunch at the RSL. Meet at the lake for coffee and a walk on Wednesdays at 9.30 am or come on a bus trip at least every second month. For more information contact:

Joy Herman: 0409343950 or 54395003 joy.herman49@gmail.com

Sherold Kelleher: 0417571656

RELAXATION SKILLS & LEISURE CENTRE (SHEDS)

It gives me pleasure to officially announce the completion of the sheds. The Occupancy Certificate has been obtained and it is time to get the management committee and activities underway. ANZAC Day will give us the opportunity to showcase the sheds and planning is in progress.

There have been a number of suggestions by members about what activities could be undertaken in the sheds. A management committee has been formed and its foremost roles will be to formulate future working conditions and shed rules.

It is anticipated that notification of the planned courses will be sent out to members in the near future and members are reminded that the original conception of the sheds evolved from a basic mechanical theme but that will not prevent us from having a wide range of creative courses.

If you wish to be involved in the sheds programme as a course demonstrator or just socially, please register your interest with the RSL Office on 5443 4013.

**Cliff Richards,
PRESIDENT**

The wind does not hit them
 The rain they do not feel
 They do not grow old
 Nor wither nor heal
 The heroes of great land
 The soldiers who fall
 The one who died to save us
 And saluted the call.

The memory of them
 Will stand strong and bold
 Yet the ones who survived
 Have become withered and old
 They feel their bones aching
 The winter' dark cold
 And all of the memories
 The good and the bad
 Make some feel happy
 And make some feel sad.

But we will remember you
 The children, mums and dads
 And our children will look up to you
 Like we always had

Celeste, Year 6 QHPS

What's On

Saturday Night Entertainment

8.00pm – 11.00pm

No Cover Charge

APRIL	3rd	Norm Price
	10th	Beat Bros
	17th	Horizon
	24th	Cameron Mason
MAY	1st	Ian Hamley
	15th	Club Kaalua
	22nd	Norm Price
	29th	Robert Edge
JUNE	5th	Horizon
	12th	The Decades
	19th	Club Kaalua
	26th	Barry Bishop

Brian Cadd & Russel Morris



Appearing **SUNDAY, 11th APRIL**

Tickets \$35 – show only

Starts at 7.45pm sharp

Tickets on sale at Reception

VALE

STEPHENS, Edgar James	2nd Aust Corp Postal	03.11.09
MAGUIRE, Oliver Herbert	30th Bgde HQ	10.11.09
JACKMAN, Ernest Alfred	67 Tpt Platoon	23.11.09
COOKE, Allan	148 Aust Tpt Coy	17.12.09
BURKE, Leonard (Len) John	Affiliate Member	03.01.10
KENNEDY, Edward (Ted) Campbell	2/1 Tank Attack Regt	08.01.10
DALE, John William	58/59 Inf. Btn.	09.01.10
GRIGG, John Patrick	RAAF	15.01.10
MOYLE, John Charles	140 Aust Heavy A/A Bty	31.01.10
SELWYN, William (Bill) Godfrey	RAF 36 Sqn	03.02.10
REID, Alexander Dundas	RAN	12.02.10

Rock & Roll Night

"TWO OF US"

Appearing **FRIDAY, 11th JUNE**

No Cover Charge

Starts 8.00pm

COMING SOON

The Col Elliott Show

SATURDAY, 8th MAY

\$30 per person

on sale now at Reception

Doors open at 7.30pm – Adults only show

W
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1

Buy a coffee from the Bistro, get a free snack from the Bar

*Not valid with any other offer • Subject to change without notice.

Valid: 2/5/10 – 8/5/10

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Spend \$20 in the venue and receive a \$4 Venue Voucher

*Not valid with any other offer • Subject to change without notice.

Valid: 9/5/10 – 15/5/10

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Members Mega Beer Giveaway

1 free entry into the draw to win 5 VB slabs. Must enter between the dates listed below. Drawn 27th May 2010

*Not valid with any other offer • Subject to change without notice.

Valid: 16/5/10 – 22/5/10

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10 Pot Beer Card Only \$18

Purchased during this week. Valid for 1 calendar month.

Served responsibly. Limit 1 per customer
*Not valid with any other offer • Subject to change without notice.

Valid: 23/5/10 – 29/5/10

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*Buy one Main Meal get a 2nd for Half Price**

*To equal or lesser value. available Mon. Tues. Wed. only
 *Not valid with any other offer • Subject to change without notice.

Valid: 31/5/10 – 1/6/10 – 2/6/10

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6

Buy any \$10 Keno ticket and receive 5 Free Games

*Not valid with any other offer • Subject to change without notice.

Valid: 6/6/10 – 12/6/10