

# NEWSLETTER - August 2011



*Post '75 Veterans CV - ANZAC Day March 2011*



## PRESIDENT

It gives me the greatest of pleasure to report to members via this newsletter.

Our Sub-Branch has enjoyed a very positive response from ANZAC House and other RSLs throughout Victoria about our voluntary work and the successful outcomes of our Appeals, Commemorative events, in particular the number of Easter Weekend activities the Sub-Branch was involved in and the manner in which the Sub-Branch conducted itself on ANZAC Day.

There are some exciting business proposals on the table at the moment and the Sub-Branch Committee as your representative has been working hard to produce the best

possible results for the immediate future and set medium and long-term goals to ensure the Sub-Branch remains in a strong financial position.

The Committee has settled the issue of the post 2012 gaming licences and may I add there were some very positive outcomes achieved by the management team in these negotiations. There will be positive direction towards creating a members' facility and most members would have attended a meeting or have heard that planning is underway for a redevelopment. This is a very real proposal and members will be called upon for their opinions in the near future.

The RSL Sheds membership continues to grow and there have been a number of successful outcomes achieved by the Sheds management team. This venture has proven to be a success story and the programmes being conducted have generated many positive health and wellbeing outcomes for our members.

As your President, I recognise and value the commitment of our volunteers. Traditionally this time of the year, many of our volunteers and members are away on holidays or just taking a well-earned break. You are the people who make the Sub-Branch what it is.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the support given to me by my family and friends - their caring and understanding is greatly appreciated.

My regards and best wishes to all members.

**Cliff Richards**  
PRESIDENT

**CVVSC**

**Platform 2 - Railway Station,  
Bendigo**

**Phone 03 5444 1871**

*Your "One Stop Shop" for all your  
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*10 am - 4 pm Monday to Friday*

## *The Price Of Liberty Is Eternal Vigilance*

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## GENERAL MANAGER

As we continue through the 2012 financial year we embrace a challenging period in the operation of our venue.

Gaming revenues throughout the State have seen somewhat of a decline and have delivered to our Sub-Branch lower than anticipated returns over the early part of the year. Fortunately our other operations viz Bar, Bistro and Functions continue to perform strongly however not with the same NET profit as gaming would return.

The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc. is still in a very strong financial position, enviable within the network and this coupled with the anticipated growth in revenues under the new gaming arrangements will enable us to capitalise well into the future.

To curb the decrease in revenues, the Committee and I have been very mindful that we need to be proactive in developing other revenue streams for the Sub-Branch therefore we are fast-tracking our renovations to enable us to grow our business.

Plans are afoot for a two-stage redevelopment with the first stage to commence towards the end of this year. As of the end of July, I anticipate that stage 1 plans will be displayed for member comment and feedback. From the plans you will notice that the focus has been placed on additional facilities and capacities to allow our business to grow; included are new casual seating areas, wagering facilities (TAB) and a Sports Bar to allow for a casual space to catch up for a beer.

I am also pleased to advise that as of 22nd July we will be trialling a courtesy bus facility. This service will operate initially on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights between 5:00 pm and 9:30 pm and operation will be adjusted according to needs and demand. Please see the attached flyer for further details.

In closing, I once again thank you for your support throughout this challenging and exciting period and hope that all members are as excited as I am about the impending changes to our venue.

**Erik Wynveen**  
GENERAL MANAGER



## SECRETARY

The RSL Office is open Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 13:00 hours.

The direct phone number is 03 5443 4013 and e-mail is mark@rsloffice.com.au

### Dates for your calendar:

General Members Meetings – are at 10:00 am in the function room at 73 Havilah Road on 8th August, 12th September, 10th October, 14th November & 12th December.

### Commemoration Services –

VP Day 15th August 11:00  
(Forecourt Soldiers Memorial Hall).

Vietnam Veterans Long Tan Day Thursday  
18th August 10:45  
(Forecourt Soldiers Memorial Hall)

Battle for Australia 7th September 11:00  
(Havilah Road)

Trafalgar Weekend Saturday 22nd October  
16:30 (Forecourt Soldiers Memorial Hall)  
and 23rd October 10:00  
(St Johns Church, Wattle Street)

Remembrance Day 11th November 11:00  
(Forecourt Soldiers Memorial Hall)

Other dates include, Annual Dinner,  
Saturday, 5th November

Veterans Health Week 24th to 30th October

Just think the shortest day of the year has gone and it can only get better from here!

**Paul J. Penno**  
SECRETARY

## WELFARE & CHARITABLE

The Sub-Branch continues to be in a sound position to assist veterans in need due to “necessitous circumstance” and have been able to accommodate all requests for assistance to those eligible from our Welfare & Charitable Fund.

Our nursing homes and hospital visitors Coordinator, Bob Harrison reports that our visiting teams continue to do a marvellous job in supporting our Veterans who are living in supported accommodation.

We are aware that some of our members, in particular WWII members, living at home, often alone and sometimes with support from family and carers can become quite isolated and in need of social support however at this juncture we do not have the resources to facilitate a home visiting service.

In these instances the Sub-Branch can assist with transport via the disabled taxi service to the RSL in Havilah Road and can

provide a meal for the veteran and carer to facilitate social interaction for the veteran.

If any member is aware of a veteran who may benefit from this service, encourage these individuals to take up this offer; also veteran members can self refer. To arrange this, simply contact the RSL Office on 03 5443 4013.

**Paul J. Penno**  
Chairman,  
Welfare & Charitable Sub-Committee

## APPEALS

Despite clashing with Easter and the school holidays, the 2011 Anzac Appeal was a success.

Due to the timing, the organisation around this appeal was vastly different notwithstanding, the sum raised this year was \$52,920 the most ever in Bendigo for an appeal. Thanks for this must go to all of our amazing collectors who gave their time voluntarily. Some of these, particularly those working in groups could not be thanked personally so we take this opportunity to convey our gratitude.



*The redesigned \$20 & \$50 Badge*

This year marks the 90th year of Poppy Appeals and there will be a special commemoration collectors' badge. There will also be redesigned \$20 and \$50 badges which will be either gold or silver coloured in an oblong shape with stylised poppies on them and very different to anything offered before. All these will, as usual, be in short supply.

With the Poppy Appeal now just around the corner (sales start at the end of October), we will once again be looking for volunteers to assist with sales. Simply contact the RSL Office on 03 5443 4013.

**Lyn & Joe Boulton - Appeals Officers**

## COMMEMORATIVE

It has been relatively quiet on the Commemorative front since the hugely successful ANZAC Easter weekend and all those who were involved will be appreciating the break. The membership and public response to this very busy weekend echoes the RSL's good work throughout the wider Bendigo community.

The Royal Australian Navy celebrates 100

years of service on 10th July 2011 and a photograph exhibition is on display in the RSL Bistro so please take the time to take a look.

The exhibition is a timely reminder to members to have a look through your old war-time photos. You may consider having a copy of your photos on file in the RSL library. Please contact the RSL office on 5443 4013 if you would consider doing this.

**Cliff Richards**  
**Chairman, Commemorative Activities**  
**Sub-Committee**

## MUSEUM

Catholic College Junortoun Campus Year 9 was the first school group to participate in the Shrine Education Programme in May this year. Some 250 – 300 students took part in the set programme with 3 groups per day over a 4 day period.



*Teacher Kym Levett talking to student Sean Cockerall about the weight on his back.*

What Sean is wearing is a full Vietnam War era basic webbing and back pack with the equivalent weight carried by soldiers during that time viz 48 – 50 kilo's. This weight was more than the body weight of a number of the students trying the kit on.

The students, impressed with the programme, got together and raised \$250.00 and presented it in the form of a huge cheque, 1 metre long, at the College during the annual 20th Century History talk that we are a part of every year.

This year the Museum was represented by Warwick Johanson, Norm Phillips and me. Warwick and Norm spoke about the 1940's and I spoke about the 1960's. The students in small groups, collated questions to interview the people taking part on all aspects in a decade from food to fashion, politics and war. It was an interesting experience.

**Peter Ball**  
**Chairman Museum Sub-Committee**

## KANGAROO FLAT RSL

Kangaroo Flat Sub-Branch's decision to hold two meetings every third Tuesday of the month has proven successful and is attracting great attendance. The input of the younger members has proven

invaluable and this meeting format will continue. Membership is still on the rise which also helps with new ideas.

Design for the necessary repairs and upgrade to the hall are well under way and when works are complete, will be a boon to our members and community organisations that hire the hall.

Another three plaques have arrived and will be fitted to the plinths when weather permits.

Contact is being maintained with the Korean Veterans Association leading up to the dedication of their plaque at the Kangaroo Flat Soldiers Memorial Park. A bus and several cars will bring Korean Veterans from Melbourne.

**John Handley**  
**Secretary – Kangaroo Flat Sub-Branch**

## RSL SHEDS

In recent months we have seen a consolidation of activities at the sheds.

Participants have completed most tasks that relate to the actual shed requirements i.e. construction of work benches and overhead gantries, etc.

They have now moved on to projects of their own and are starting to use the skills learned from other participants and supervisors at the sheds.

It is appropriate at this stage to acknowledge the "good work" provided by their supervisors.

Materials have been purchased for various toy making projects which will commence in the ensuing weeks. The Coordinator is also very pleased to report that a welcome donation of timber supplies was received from Fitzpatrick's Home Timber & Hardware and I would like to publicly thank Shane and his team for the donation and would encourage all our members to support this business when possible.

During the month of June, the Shed participants enjoyed a "Spit Roast" which was delicately prepared by yours truly and assisted by the "Boy Wonder", Bob E.

Participant numbers are holding steady with slight growth seen. A promotional programme will be undertaken nearing spring when people are more likely to want to get out and about.

**David Paynter**  
**RSL Sheds Coordinator**

## HISTORY OF THE POST 1975 VETERANS CENTRAL VICTORIA

The idea originally stemmed from the realisation that 'younger veterans' in Bendigo had nowhere definitive to march on ANZAC Day and some of them did not feel that they were considered veterans by the community.

Jo Harding has extensive service within Australia and overseas and has always been actively involved within the veteran community. Jo became concerned that as a demographic group, the increasing number of Post 1975 veterans at home, particularly from the Middle Eastern Area of Operations, would not be recognised. There have also been many personnel who served in the Defence Force for many years but were unable to serve overseas due to many issues including a protracted period of non-operational peacetime service.

The main problem identified was that there was no known network for these Post 1975 veterans in the local community and other than on ANZAC Day they were invisible. Anecdotally we knew there was a reasonable Post 1975 veteran population yet to be accounted for but they had to be physically found. Casual discussions with people including the Secretary of the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc., Paul Penno, took place over a period of months. Paul Penno persuaded Jo Harding to continue to encourage other Post 1975 veterans to join the BDRSL.

Eventually and thankfully, there was an opportunity for the BDRSL to name a race at the Bendigo Jockey Club and Paul Penno persuaded the Sub-Branch Committee to pass the opportunity over to the Post 1975 Veterans CV to dedicate a race to the group and at the same time conduct a reunion.

From this reunion the Post 1975 Veterans CV has come a long way and is now a Sub-Committee of the BDRSL and recognised within the Bendigo veteran community.

The Post 1975 Veterans CV aim is to provide camaraderie, support and recognition for specific needs and issues of any current and ex-service defence personnel who served in the Australian Defence Force from 1975.

For further information regarding our group, come along to our meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Kokoda Room at the BDRSL, 73 Havilah Road, Bendigo. We usually partake in a meal during or prior to the meeting. You can also contact us via the BDRSL or SecretaryPost75@rslclub.com.au

# CENTRAL VICTORIAN VETERANS' SUPPORT CENTRE

CVVSC operates out of a building on Platform 2 of the Bendigo Railway Station (the opposite side to the Marketplace). Directions are easy: From Mitchell Street, turn into Gladstone Street then right just past the child care centre and up to the railway station. You will see our sign on the footpath and there is plenty of parking available at the front.

We are a volunteer organisation open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm. Phone 5444 1871 for appointments which are recommended as we get very busy. We provide a free assistance service to the entire veteran community viz veterans, ex-servicemen & women, wives/partners, widows and family members.

CVVSC is a one-stop shop for all your pension and welfare needs. Our pension and welfare officers assist with the completion of forms and facilitate referrals to medico's and health professionals.

**Sue Arthur**  
CVVSC Administrator

# RAAF ASSOCIATION – BENDIGO BRANCH

During May we took a trip to Woop Woop in the Bendigo RSL bus and had a wonderful time, true to the advertising pamphlets. We were served morning tea consisting of scones, jam and cream and if you ever get over to Harcourt, drop in for a side-splitting two hours.

We also visited Maryborough Aerodrome to have a browse through a hangar museum. We were met by Alex and David who are both members of the Aero Club. They made us most welcome, treating us to tea, coffee & bickies and we were escorted through the hangars receiving a very informative talk on the planes. I have never seen such a spotless workshop!

Our monthly meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at the BDRSL commencing 1100 hours. New members are most welcome.

**Glenis Gordon**  
Secretary/Treasurer

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## VALE

BUCHANAN Kenneth David	52 Transport Platoon	2/3/11
HEALEY Henry Gilbert	2/15 Ordnance Coy	11/3/11
MASON Charles Walter	21 Australian Lines of Communication Signals	24/3/2011
BECK Kevin Charles	2 Australian Base Ordnance Depot	24/3/11
HASWELL Gordon	AHQ Survey Regt	8/4/2011
FORNARO Lynette	Affiliate	17/4/11
VANCE Norman Charles	RAAF, Care & Maintenance Unit	26/4/11
PARKER John Victor	10/48th Australian Infantry Battalion	29/4/11
WEBB Ian Thomas	Airforce	13/5/11
ARCHER Alexander William	3 Squadron	20/5/2011
WORNER Neil Murray	6 Airfield Construction Squadron	9/06/2011
TRUEL-MILROY Wallace Reginald	2/7th Australian Infantry	18/06/2011
SCHOLTENS William Theodore	6th Airfield Construction Squadron	26/06/2011