



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members and Families,

I trust this report finds you well as we approach the festive season—an exceptionally busy and rewarding period on our annual calendar.

Welfare

Our Welfare Team continues to actively support our Service and Life Members, reaching out through countless phone calls and face-to-face interactions. Each veteran's situation is assessed carefully to provide the necessary resources and assistance.

Behind the scenes, considerable work is done to support vulnerable veterans and their dependents. Direct liaison, outreach, and referrals through VetGen ensure that those in need receive essential support and care.

Outreach and Engagement

Our Sub-Branch has remained highly engaged across the local community and broader region. We have formally initiated the establishment of a Central Victorian Veterans and Families Hub, collaborating with organisations such as RSL Victoria, Bendigo Legacy Club, and the Vietnam Veterans Association Bendigo Branch.

Our engagement efforts have extended through various events, including veteran nights, morning teas, informal gatherings, and the extensive Sheds Program. In addition, the Bendigo Military Museum's Ink in the Lines exhibition continues to highlight veterans' deeply personal service stories through the tattoos that commemorate their journeys.

Collaboration

We maintain strong connections with the RSL State Executive, RSL Region 7, and other Ex-Service Organisations to advance veteran support. The Region 7 circuit meetings throughout 2024, hosted in Bendigo, Castlemaine, Koondrook, Swan Hill, and Kangaroo Flat, have been productive in fostering collaboration and idea-sharing. We look forward to hosting the first Region 7 meeting of 2025 in Bendigo.

Commemorative Activities

Our Commemorative Sub-Committee has worked tirelessly to deliver recent commemorative events such as Beersheba Day and Remembrance Day. The Remembrance Day service was well-attended, with beautiful weather enhancing the solemn occasion. The annual Poppy Appeal, a cornerstone of our fundraising efforts, has been highly successful thanks to our dedicated volunteers and supporting organisations.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2025 Anzac Day

Preparations for next year's Anzac Day are well underway. I am proud to announce that RSL Victoria's 2025 theme will continue to honour peacekeepers and peacemakers—a sentiment we will embrace wholeheartedly in our commemorations.

Conclusion

As your President, I extend my best wishes for a joyful and safe festive season. Together, we will continue ensuring that our Sub-Branch remains a beacon of support, advocacy, and camaraderie for veterans and their families.

Warm regards,
Glenn Ludeman
Sub-Branch President
Bendigo District RSL Inc.



WIN A BRAND NEW MG ZS EXCITE VALUED AT \$22,990



Spend \$25 on food or beverage or exchange 500 MyRSL rewards points for a FREE entry*

MG Take Charge

Weekly draw: 15 winners will be drawn at 8pm every Monday from 13/1/25 until 7/4/25
Major draw: 6.30pm Tuesday 8/4/25 Promotional period: 6/1/2025 - 8/4/2025

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MyRSL members get more

VETERAN SUPPORT- HEALTH & WELLBEING

This report provides an overview of activities, initiatives, and developments pertaining to the Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee supported by the Bendigo District RSL during the reporting period of October – December 2024. The report highlights key achievements, challenges, and ongoing efforts to enhance the health and wellbeing of veterans in the region.

During this reporting period, the HWBSC continued its efforts to promote the physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing of our veterans and members. The BDRSL now has a Veterans Activities Officer; welcome Cassandra Liddy.

Programs and Initiatives:

During this period, the Health and Well Being Sub Committee facilitated the following regular activities for this reporting period:

- The Sheds programs offer Woodwork, Metalwork, Art, Gemstones, Leatherwork, Haircuts, Lead lighting and Computers.
- Group Cross-Fit.
- Yoga in conjunction with Kangaroo Flat RSL
- Veterans' Morning Tea.
- Veterans Golf.
- Walk, Talk & Cuppa in conjunction with Bendigo Veterans Exercise Program.
- An ongoing 3-month calendar of events for veterans' activities.
- An enhanced Veteran support brochure stand is displayed at the entry of the RSL providing support and activities offered.

Initiatives that have also occurred during this period are:

Sheds:

- OHS revamp in Sheds is continuing including Risk Assessments, Safe Work Procedures (SWP), Asset Inventory Management, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and remediation work. Templated SWP will be beside all machinery for compliance. Rectification of non-compliance prioritised and almost completed.
- Tag and Test all Electrical Items including 3 phase items completed. Non-RSL items removed / isolated / locked out.
- Clearing out of all disused and out of date items behind the sheds. Cleaning is ongoing.
- Marquee to be erected behind sheds during reduced tempo period after Christmas break.



Health and Wellbeing Support:

Is now extended by the use of:

- Monthly Calendars
- Health & Wellbeing Program Newsletter
- Veteran Support Brochure Stand
- Our wonderful Veterans Activities Officer

These are located at the front entrance to the RSL, on the Bendigo District RSL Veteran Support and Central Victorian Veterans Facebook sites.

VETERAN SUPPORT- HEALTH & WELLBEING

Upcoming Events include:

- Monthly BBQ on RSL Deck for veterans' groups, i.e. RSL Sheds Program.
- Veteran's Health Week Events October 2025.
- National Volunteer week May 2025.
- MOU with Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre for veteran use on specific days. (in progress TBA)
- Veterans Fishing Trip.
- Petanque.
- Bendigo 10 Pin Bowling.
- Train trip to Kyneton RSL for lunch offering other Sub-Branches in the area to catchup.
- Village and Star Cinema Movie Nights.
- Veteran's Health Week Events.
- Walking off the War Within / Walk Bicycle ride on the O'Keefe Rail Trail to Axedale.
- MOU with Neangar Park Golf club for veteran use on specific days. (in progress TBA)
- Excursions to Melbourne RSLs for lunch.

Conclusion:

The BDRSL Health & Wellbeing Program Sub-Committee remains committed to improving the overall health and wellbeing of our veterans. The initiatives undertaken during this quarter reflect our dedication to promoting physical, mental, and emotional wellness within our community.

Glenn Ludeman
Sub-Committee- Health & Wellbeing Program
Interim Chair



VETERANS
Happy Hour
1ST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH 6 - 8PM

VETERANS CONNECTING WITH OTHER VETERANS
DISCOUNTED DRINKS* RAFFLE PRIZES**

\$500 Jackpot

*Veterans to receive a 20% discount on drinks between 6-8pm on the 1st Friday of every month.
**If the jackpot is not claimed after 3 draws, it will jackpot the following month by \$500.

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LEST WE FORGET



03 5443 4013
welfare@bendigorsl.com.au
www.bendigorsl.com.au/welfare-office
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:00am - 4:30pm

VETERAN SUPPORT- HEALTH & WELLBEING

2025- Health and Wellbeing Program Calendar of Events



January			
ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
RSL Sheds	Monday – Wednesday Reopens Monday 13 th	9:00am - 12:00pm	BDRSL Sub-Branch
CrossFit – Veterans Only	Sunday- Weekly	8:00am - 9:00am	CrossFit
CrossFit – Group Session	Wednesday- Weekly	5:30pm - 6:30pm	CrossFit
Yoga- Mindfulness (Chair Yoga)	Thursday- 9 th & 23 rd (Fortnightly)	11:00am -12:00pm	Kangaroo Flat
Veterans Morning Tea	Friday – 24 th 4 th Friday of the Month	10:30am -11:30am	BDRSL Bistro
February			
RSL Sheds	Monday - Wednesday	9:00am -12:00pm	BDRSL
CrossFit – Veterans Only	Sunday- Weekly	8:00am - 9:00am	CrossFit
CrossFit – Group Session	Wednesday- Weekly	5:30pm - 6:30pm	CrossFit
Walk, Talk, Cuppa	Friday – 7 th 1 st Friday of the Month	9:00am -10:30am	Thrive Fit
Veteran's Golf + Lunch	Sunday – 9 th	18 Holes, 8:00am Pitch & Putt 11:00am	Neangar GC / BDRSL
Yoga- Mindfulness (Chair Yoga)	Thursday – 6 th + 20 th (Fortnightly)	11:00am -12:00pm	Kangaroo Flat
NEW - Falls & Balance	Friday – 14 th 2 nd Friday of the Month	10:30 -11:00am	Thrive Fit
NEW - Walk, Talk, Cuppa	Friday – 21 st 3 rd Friday of the Month	9:00am -10:30am	Lake Neangar
EVENT- LIMITED TICKETS Fosterville Gold Mine open day	Saturday 22 nd	10:00am – 2:00pm	Contact to Book
Veterans Morning Tea	Friday – 28 th 4 th Friday of the Month	10:30am -11:30am	BDRSL Bistro
March			
RSL Sheds	Monday - Wednesday	9:00am -12:00pm	BDRSL
CrossFit – Veterans Only	Sunday- Weekly	8:00am - 9:00am	CrossFit
CrossFit – Group Session	Wednesday- Weekly	5:30pm - 6:30pm	CrossFit
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For more information or to RSVP to any of these activities, please contact the Veterans Activities Officer:
P: 03 5443 7097 or E: healthwellbeing@bendigorsl.com.au Web: www.bendigorsl.com.au/health-wellbeing

VETERAN SUPPORT- WELFARE & CHARITABLE

The BDRSL Welfare Program, through the Welfare and Charitable Sub-Committee, delivers direct proactive support, connection and outreach to the Veteran community through face to face and telephone contact, and off-site visitation. Service personal identified through networking / word of mouth / direct referral are supported in-house and followed up directly by the Welfare Advocate. Other contacts are connected to appropriate adjunct agencies to facilitate both autonomous support and ease of access to those support interventions. The Welfare Program strongly networks with all local and State-wide ESOs and support agencies to establish and cement sound relationships of support, trust, and integrity.

This quarterly report provides an overview of activities, initiatives, and developments pertaining to the W&CSC supported by the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch during the reporting period of October - December 2024. The report highlights key achievements, challenges, and ongoing efforts to enhance the welfare and support of veterans and their dependents in the region.

Veterans Engagement and Support:

Outreach-

In September 2023 the Welfare Program commenced an ambitious program to contact all Veterans and ex-service personnel on the RSLs database and within the district. Two primary volunteers have continued to deliver this initiative. In 2024, close to 85% of service personnel- out of a total of close to 900 - have been contacted and offered welcome, connection, support, and assistance on their terms.

The consultative analysis undertaken post-contact identifies approximately 20% who are in need of or request support for common themes such as financial support, assistance with house/garden tasks, and opportunities for social inclusion. The majority of contacts require no further assistance and all express gratitude for the initiative.

Follow Up-

If initial contact has not been successful – messages left, no voicemail, address but wrong ph. details etc. - the Military Welfare Advocate will attempt to contact again and will frequently make the decision to visit the last known address of the member. Consequently, contact details have been found to be outdated, members have moved to higher supported accommodation - nursing homes, palliative care etc. – or have since deceased and that information had not been passed on.

Ongoing Support-

Members are contacted regularly to provide and embed support frameworks and options until they are able to autonomously assume responsibility.

Several members are contacted / visited monthly to follow up initial points of interest, and also to keep social connection and contact.



VETERAN SUPPORT- WELFARE & CHARITABLE

At the time of writing Welfare had received 140 first off client-initiated contacts, outreached to 138 home/residential care/nursing home addresses, and sent 47 follow up letters of introduction and offers of support.

Financial Assistance:

Requests from Veterans for financial assistance cover a wide-ranging scope of needs. Financial assistance has been provided to address such issues as:

- Vehicle breakdown and repair.
- Support for rental issues or paying of security bond.
- The completion of routine domestic tasks - gardening/pruning/digging/tree removal etc or - Internal/external home maintenance – replacing tiles/fixing fences/cleaning gutters.
- Support for purchase of pharmaceutical products.
- The provision of food/petrol vouchers, groceries purchase or the delivery of fresh T/A or frozen meals to ensure adequate short-term sustainability.

At the time of writing Welfare had financed various forms of veterans support this financial year. There were also many takeaway and frozen Bistro meals distributed in this timespan.

Through the Welfare and Charitable committee, requests for support are usually approved quickly. Prompt intervention enables Veterans to attain the support they need, when they need it, and without the need to experience further embarrassment or humiliation that might accompany cap-in-hand crisis Agency requests.

Additional support is quickly available for more urgent approval from both the Chair of W&CSC and the BDRSL President.

External Support:

A strength-based networking and outreach strategy has been pursued by the incumbent Military Welfare Advocate. Local sister RSL agencies- Castlemaine/Heathcote/Shepparton have been contacted and key personnel communicated with. Organisations such as Lifeline Loddon Mallee, Veteran's Counselling Service, Uniting Agewell, Estia, Bupa, Anglicare for example have been networked within this report period.

Outreach and connection continue to identify issues such as:

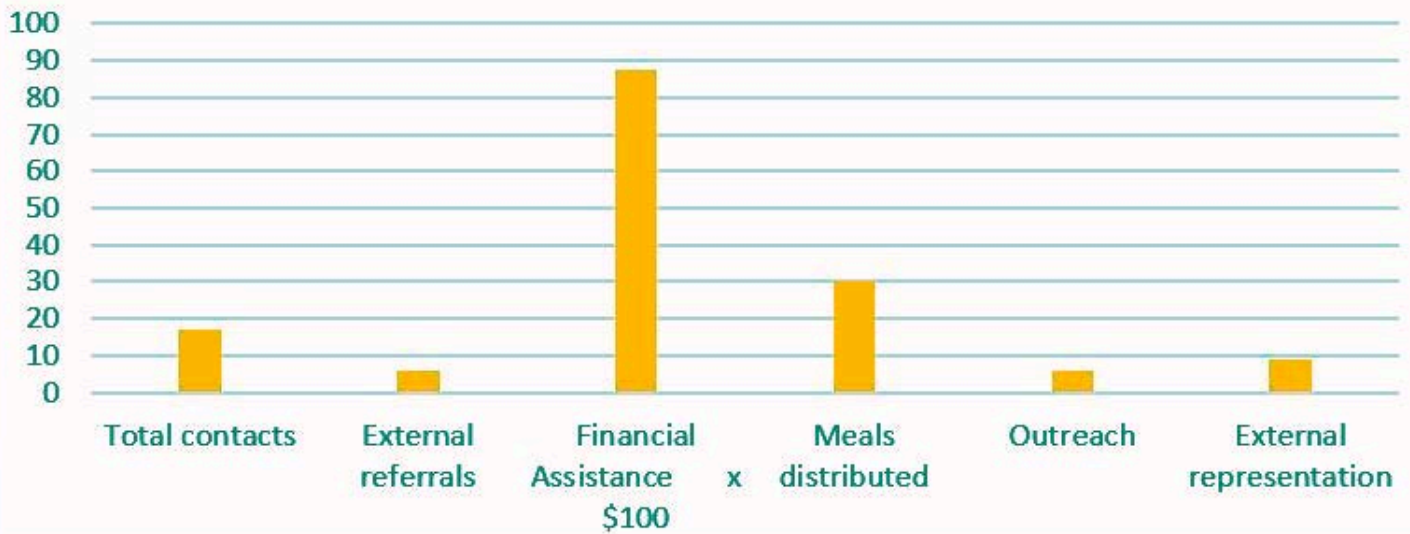
- Many clients struggling with the impact of advancing age and the lessening of cognitive and physical capacity. This has an impact upon self-esteem and self-confidence.
- The difficulty involved in working through Compensation issues with DVA. The Military Welfare Advocate has sourced other referral points for Military Compensation Advocacy and has safe, sensitive and competent agents acting on behalf of Veterans.
- The need for social connection which is absent from a lot of Veterans lives. A significant number speak of a sense of loneliness in their lives. Proactive inclusion is achieved through invitational outreach to the BDRSL Sheds program, Veteran's in-house social functions, and other affiliated community activities.
- Many Veterans need to seek support to complete routine domestic tasks such as gardening chores or internal / external home maintenance. Among other issues that this raises, there are greater incurred financial expenses.

VETERAN SUPPORT- HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Upcoming Initiatives:

- The Welfare program continues to consider recruitment to bolster the endeavours of current members and sustain the committee.
- The Welfare Hub utilised by veterans.
- The Welfare & Charitable Sub-Committee continues to consider ways to resurrect the Hospital Visitation program that was in place before the impact of Covid closed contact and on-site visitation. At present, one experienced former 'visitor' has expressed interest in the role.

Military Welfare Advocate Interventions Year to date 1st July 2024 - onwards



Initial contacts include: any 1st ad hoc walk ins, telephone contacts, offsite visits and calls out.

- Financial assistance includes individual food / fuel vouchers, utilities support, home maintenance support.
- Meals distributed includes individual fresh & frozen take away meals only.
- External referrals include DVA/white card issues, legal advice, Welfare support, financial support, Veteran's support services.
- External representation includes: any initiated networking and collegial opportunities with sector colleagues and associated agencies.
- Outreach covers onsite F2F home/hospital/supportive care visitation.
- Follow up written correspondence if no response from visit.

The Welfare & Charitable Sub-Committee remains strongly committed to supporting the welfare of Veterans. We continue to foster a strong pro-active and supportive community for veterans in the region by supporting our veterans through effective welfare programs and initiatives to a place of wellbeing.

John Edelsten
Sub-Committee- Welfare and Charitable
Chair

ACHEIVMENTS

Hip Hip Hooray! and welcome to the newest Life Member of the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch, Ian Ray.

Ian has been a dedicated member of the Bendigo RSL since 1990. His involvement has been substantial and varied.

He has served on several sub-committees.

He has been a dedicated funeral officer for many years and a long standing "home and hospital" visitor.

His support for the Appeals Committe has been unwavering and he has put his hand up for many other important supporting roles such as Pensions Officer.

Ian's extensive and continuous service to the Bendigo RSL over many decades shows an unwavering dedication and commitment. His contributions have significantly benefitted the RSL community, and his long-term voluntary efforts make him a worthy recipient of RSL Life Membership.

Congratulations Ian. An honour well earned.



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COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES

BEERSHEBA



This report provides an overview of the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Commemorative Activities Sub-Committee since the last General Members meeting held in September

Commemorative Activities observed by the Sub-Committee have included:

- 14th September – Australian Peacekeepers Day
- 31st October – Beersheba Day
- 11th November – Remembrance Day



The Commemorative Activities Sub-Committee continues to uphold the legacy of our veterans through meaningful commemorations and community engagement. The dedication of the members and their commitment to preserving history remains the cornerstone of our efforts.

We are pleased to be welcoming two new members to the Sub-Committee in the coming weeks, Collin Mankey and Amy Murtagh.

On behalf of the Commemorative Activities Sub-Committee, we would like to thank the members of the committee and the support offered by the RSL in assisting services conducted throughout the year.

We wish everyone a Mery Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to another fulfilling year.

Dale Hodges

Chair

Sub-Committee- Commemorative Activities

REMEMBRANCE DAY



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LEST WE FORGET

BENDIGO MILITARY MUSEUM

The Bendigo Military Museum (BMM) continues its efforts to honour the service and sacrifice of local veterans by preserving the rich military history of our region. We remain focused on working with the community to improve our collection and exhibits whilst planning for the future to provide a Museum the Sub-Branch can be proud of.

Again, I must congratulate Peter Ball for receiving the RSL Meritorious Service Award for his many years of dedication and selflessness within the Sub-Branch. The BMM would be lost if not for Peter's knowledge and organisational skills. Well done, Peter.

The "Faces of Peace" exhibition is in has now concluded and the launch for the new exhibition "Ink in the Lines" took place on Friday 6th December 2024. The opening was well attended and is certainly worth a look. The exhibition showcases Australia's modern veterans and their families who, through their tattoos, commemorate the people, events and experiences which shaped their lives. Looking forward, our exhibition schedule is as follows:

- Ink in the Lines: 7th December 2024 – 27th April 2025.
- Royal Australian Survey Corps 110th Anniversary: 10th May - 10th August 2025.
- George Petrou - The Art of Sacrifice: 23rd August 2025 - 18th January 2026.
- Nasho '57: 98 Days at Pucka: 31st January 2026 - 21st June 2026.
- First Nations Stories of Service: 4th July 2026 - 28th February 2027.
- Persona: A contemporary Veterans artist tour 20th March - 19th September 2027.

Donations of memorabilia from familie who want to find a permanent home for the items continue to be received. The cataloguing team continues to do great work ensuring it is all recorded in the Victorian Collections Database. They have catalogued 7902 items as of 30th November 2024. The Ex-Fortuna crew and Passchendaele Barracks Trust, are also working away and adding to the catalogued collection. We are looking to acquire a scanner that will scan 35mm negatives which is another trove of history needing to be catalogued.

We continue to apply for grants to assist with the operational costs of running the exhibitions and have had better than moderate success in 2024. This is in no small part to the BMM Curator's ability to submit compelling business cases, so I thank her for her efforts.

2024 has been a very busy year for visitors with many school groups and tour groups being hosted. Just on 600 local students have visited the museum this year, which is a fantastic statistic and ensures the stories of local veterans is passed on. In November alone, we had 11 groups come through the museum, so I'd like to sincerely thank Kym and everyone else who helped. Without their support the museum's outreach program would be very limited.



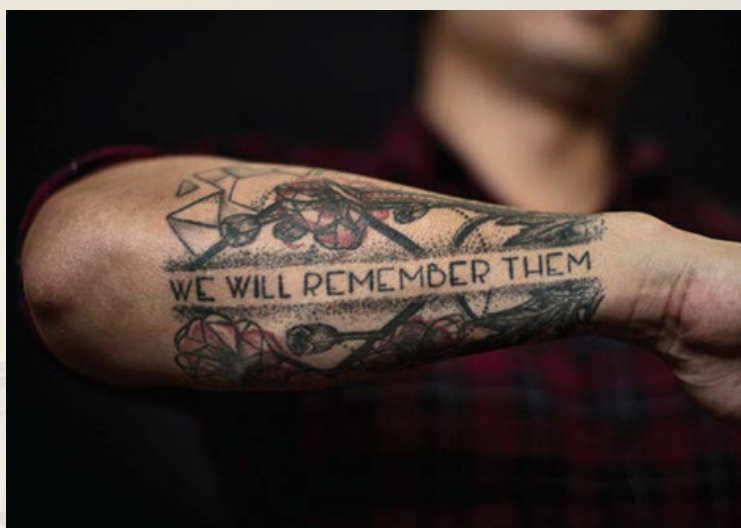
BENDIGO MILITARY MUSEUM

Since the last members' meeting, the vandalism that occurred at the Museum where oil had been sprayed on the building has been repaired. The Bendigo Council engaged the Grimwade Centre from the University of Melbourne for this repair/restoration work, and they have done an amazing job. Aside from the SMI, they've also cleaned the Boer War statue and Eaglehawk Cenotaph.

Another callout for anyone who may want to volunteer... if you are interested in volunteering a few hours, particularly as a Tour Guide, please feel free to contact us via email at museum@bendigorsl.com.au or call the museum on 5442 4513 on Wednesdays between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

Finally, I wish all volunteers, members and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I truly appreciate your assistance, professionalism and dedication.

Steve Burke
Sub-Committee- Bendigo Military Museum
Chair



phone: 03 5442 4513

museum@bendigorsl.com.au

www.bendigorsl.com.au/museum

Open Hours

**WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY &
SUNDAY**

11:00am - 3:00pm



APPEALS

I'm glad of this opportunity to give our members a brief update on what we've been up to with Appeals in recent months.

The 2024 Poppy Appeal has come and gone and I'm very pleased to report that \$ 73,395.56 was raised.

As for every Appeal, thanks must go to every school and business that took and sold Honesty Boxes, every organisation that allowed us to sell at their location and every volunteer that devoted their time and effort to allow us to achieve what we did. However, there are also some special thanks:

- Vietnam Veterans of Australia (FSB Bendigo) for the use of their facilities throughout the Appeal.
- The Bendigo Jockey Club and the Bendigo Showgrounds Market.
- Strathfieldsaye IGA, Long Gully IGA, Eaglehawk IGA, Maiden Gully IGA, Kennington Strath Village, APCO Junortoun, Bendigo Marketplace, Bendigo Pie Shop, Epsom Village and Bunnings Epsom for permitting us to operate our Selling Locations.
- The combined Real Estate Agents of Bendigo (BRE, DCK, Maher, McKean McGregor, PH Property, Professionals and Tweed Sutherland) for yet again managing and operating our Selling Location at Gillie's Corner.
- Ray White Bendigo Real Estate for yet again managing and operating our Selling Location at Strath Village Shopping Centre.
- Lois Newman and her team for yet again managing and operating our IGA- Long Gully Selling Location.
- Paul Penno and his team for yet again managing and operating our IGA- Eaglehawk Selling Location.
- Bob Harrison and his family for yet again managing and operating our IGA- Maiden Gully Selling Location.
- Hugh Elphinstone for yet again managing and operating our Coles- McIvor Road Selling Location.
- The leaders and members of 309 Army Cadet Unit for giving their time to sell at major activities around town.
- And, without whom none of this would have been possible, the BDRSL staff and the Appeals Sub-Committee of Suzi Strong, Andy Turner, Bob Harrison and Hugh Elphinstone.



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APPEALS

Thanks also to all those schools and businesses that took and sold Honesty Boxes for us. In alphabetical order, thanks to:

- Abbotts Building Supplies
- Bendigo Kangan Tafe
- Bendigo Military Museum
- Bendigo Real Estate Golf Day
- Bendigo Senior Secondary
- Bendigo Truck Centre
- California Gully Primary School
- Camp Hill Primary School
- Camp Hotel Eaglehawk
- Creek Street Christian College
- CrossFit by Design
- Domain Village
- Eaglehawk Newsagents
- Eaglehawk North Primary School
- Epsom Post Office
- Epsom Primary School
- Fitzpatrick's Timber & Hardware
- Girton Grammar
- Kennington Dental
- Kennington P/S
- Lightning Reef Primary School
- Lockwood Primary School
- Lockwood South Primary School
- Maiden Gully Primary School
- Quarry Hill Café & Larder
- Quarry Hill Primary School
- Skips Café Eaglehawk
- Spring Gully Primary School
- St John of God Hospital
- St Joseph's Primary School
- St Peters Primary School
- St Thereses Primary School
- Strathfieldsaye Primary School
- Victoria Police Bendigo
- Victory Christian College
- Weeroona College
- White Hills Pharmacy
- White Hills Primary School

The efforts by all schools and businesses are greatly appreciated but a few standouts were:

- St Joseph's Primary School
- White Hills Primary School
- Skip's Café Eaglehawk
- Fitzpatrick's Timber and Hardware

The focus of the Appeals team is now on the 2025 ANZAC Appeal- which will be on us in less than 4 months! The key dates for the Appeal are:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Working Bee (Appeals Office) - Set Up. | Tue 01 April 2025 |
| 2. Distribute Honesty Boxes: | Wed 02/Thu 03 April 2025 |
| 3. Sell at Selling Locations: | Wed 16 – Thu 24 April 2025 |
| 4. Sell at Good Friday Market (Pall Mall): | Fri 18 April 2025 |
| 5. Sell at Showgrounds Market: | Sun 20 April 2025 |
| 6. Collect Honesty Boxes: | Mon 28/Tue 29 April 2025 |
| 7. Working Bee (Appeals Office) -Closure | Tue 29 April 2025 |

The biggest challenge facing us for future Appeals continues to be a lack of Volunteers. Somewhat disappointingly, Service and Affiliate members, the very people that benefit either directly or indirectly from the money we raise, accounted for only 37% of our volunteers for the recent Poppy Appeal.

APPEALS

As always, we'd be very grateful for any of you who can help with this 2025 ANZAC Appeal - whether helping with the Set-Up and Close Working Bees, selling badges at our various Selling Locations around town or distributing/collecting the Honesty Boxes to schools and businesses. If you're a regular Volunteer and haven't heard from myself or one of the team by early April 2025 - don't be bashful - please give the Sub-Branch Office or me a call and we'll fix what has obviously been an oversight.

So please remember:

If not me, who? If not now, when?

Carl Chirgwin
Sub-Committee- Appeals
Chair



CENTRAL VICTORIAN VETERANS

Logged Volunteer hours during the period – 17 hours.

- CVV Catch-Up Nights were cancelled on the 7th November and 13th December in lieu of the Shaun O’Gorman – Strong Life Presentation on the 8th and the CVV Christmas BBQ on the 14th December.
- CVV Chair laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service.
- CVV Chair was invited to the Appeals Committee meeting on 28th November as a guest to look into increasing volunteer numbers for the 2025 Appeals Fund Raising events.
- CVV had its Christmas Catch up on Saturday, December 14th with a BBQ on the back deck of the BDRSL, attended by a small CVV contingent.

Tim Hughan

Sub-Committee- Central Victorian Veterans
Chair



WHAT'S ON

Each and every Friday night, for your entertainment, we present local musicians in the members lounge live and free. Why not come along, enjoy a meal and then sit back for a couple of hours and be entertained by some of Bendigo's best musicians.

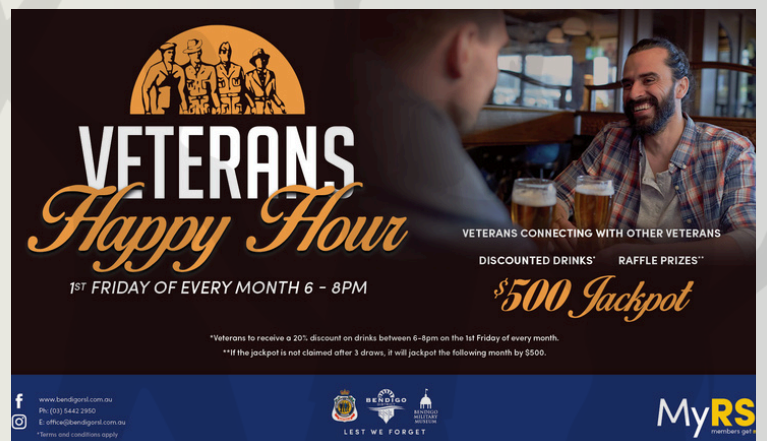


Our courtesy bus is supplied for the use of all members and guests. The bus is available Thursday through to Saturday each week from 4.30pm until 9.00pm.

We will pick up and drop patrons off within a 10km radius from the Bendigo District RSL.

Call reception on 5442 2950 to make a bus booking.

With the Veterans Jackpot increasing by \$500 a month, there is never a better time to get yourself along to our monthly Veterans Night. There are three chances to win the cash, with the first draw at 6.30pm, plus a Veterans Happy Hour. We have a couple of gift cards to give away and a meat raffle open for everyone to enter. Veterans Night is held on the first Friday of each month. Looking forward to seeing you here.



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E: office@bendigorsl.com.au



LEST WE FORGET

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FUNCTIONS

The Bendigo District RSL offers top-notch facilities for a variety of events, including conferences, meetings, Christmas parties, engagement parties, weddings, and family occasions.

Here are some highlights of what they provide:

- Versatile Event Spaces: Suitable for small board meetings to large presentations and launches.
- Capacity: Can accommodate up to 200 people for sit-down events.
- Flexible Floor Plan: Allows for creative design and decoration to suit any function.
- Fully Licensed Bar: Stocked with wines, beers, spirits, soft drinks, tea, and coffee.
- Event Services: Assistance with centrepieces, flowers, theming, audio-visual needs, and entertainment.
- Experienced Staff: Dedicated to providing outstanding service to both small and large groups.

Recent Events Hosted:

Presentation Night:

- Bendigo Rugby Union Club
- Bendigo City Football Club
- Golden City Soccer Club
- Northwest Lightning Hockey Club
- First Aid Trainings
- Defence Careers Information
- Annual Dinner Commemorative and Dining Night
- Golden & Corinthian Masonic Lodge 170th Anniversary Dinner
- Engagement Parties
- Birthday Parties
- Meetings
- Kalianna School Year 12 Graduation
- Army Cadets Annual Dinner
- The Strong Life Project Veterans & Victoria Police and their partners
- Victoria Police Retirement Dinner
- Wine & Dine Night
- Bendigo Military Museum Exhibition
- 410 SQN Australia Air Force Cadets Dining In Night
- Anglicare Victoria Combined Service Area Forum
- Christmas Luncheon:
 - Bendigo Bridge Club Christmas Lunch
 - Bendigo Military Museum Christmas Lunch
 - Central Victorian Veterans Christmas Lunch
 - BDRSL Sheds Christmas Lunch
 - St Vincent De Paul Christmas Lunch
 - Christmas Break Ups



As we move further into 2025, we are looking forward to holding several private functions, weddings, and the reintroduction of monthly Entertainment and Twilight Markets.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with your function's enquiry via email

functions@bendigorsl.com.au and I'll be more than happy to help you create your perfect event.

Functions & Events Manager
Ratna Holland

WINNERS

Congratulations to all of our many winners over the past few months. Members of the MyRSL rewards program have many chances to win, just by being a member of the club. From member's jackpots to monthly promotions and kiosk rewards. Joining is easy and year's community membership is only \$10.00.

Here are just a few of the lucky, happy members from the past few months.



WIN A BRAND NEW MG ZS EXCITE

VALUED AT \$22,990

Spend \$25 on food or beverage or exchange 500 MyRSL rewards points for a FREE entry*

Take Charge

Weekly draw: 15 winners will be drawn at 8pm every Monday from 13/1/25 until 7/4/25

Major draw: 6.30pm Tuesday 8/4/25 Promotional period: 6/1/2025 - 8/4/2025

www.bendigorsl.com.au

Ph: (03) 5442 2950

E: office@bendigorsl.com.au

*Terms and conditions apply

LEST WE FORGET

members get more

GIVING BACK

The Bendigo District RSL is excited and proud to sponsor a number of causes including local sporting and support groups as well as statewide and national institutions.

It is very important that we, as a charitable organisation, assist community groups at a grass level which it is hoped will help build a happier, healthier and vibrant community.

Below are a few of the organisations the Bendigo District RSL has been happy to contribute to:

15th Force Support Squadron.
309 Army Cadet Unit
410 Sqn Aust Airforce Cadets
8/7 RVR Regimental Dinner
8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment
ANZAC House
BDRSL Veterans Morning Tea
Bendigo BMX Club
Bendigo City FC
Bendigo Cricket Club
Bendigo Military Museum
Bendigo Tennis Association
Bendigo Tennis Club
Bendigo VRI Bowling Club
Breeze Tennis Academy
Cancer Council of Victoria – Girls Night In
Cancer Council of Victoria – Ladies Day
Cancer Council of Victoria – Relay for Life
Castlemaine & Kyneton Rifle Clubs – Military & Classic Shoot
Central Victorian Veteran Support Centre
CFA District 02 Headquarters Brigade Trivia Night
Eaglehawk Bowls Club
Eaglehawk CFA
Eaglehawk Citizens Brass Band Hall

East Bendigo Bowls Club
Elmore RSL
Gisborne RSL
Golden City Football (Soccer) Club
Gurkha Welfare Trust
Heathcote RSL
Huntly Memorial Garden – Arch of Remembrance
Kangaroo Flat RSL Sub-Branch
Lifeline
Loddon Valley Football Netball League (faces in the crowd)
Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre / Community Garden
Maldon RSL
Mandurang CFA
Mandurang Pony Club
National Breast Cancer Foundation
Neangar Park Golf Club
North Bendigo Bowls Club
North West Lightning Hockey Club
RSL Active Wheelchair - AFL
Sandhurst Cricket Club
St. John of God Hospital – Da Vinci Surgical Robot
TS Bendigo Ships Cadet Fund
Victorian Rifle Association – Kings Shoot



PROMOTIONS

Parma Nights

only \$22.90

NOW MONDAY & TUESDAY

Includes pot of beer or a glass of house wine or soft drink

Picture is a representation only
Not available public holidays - no further discounts apply

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

VETERANS Happy Hour

1st FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH 6 - 8PM

VETERANS CONNECTING WITH OTHER VETERANS
DISCOUNTED DRINKS* RAFFLE PRIZES**

\$500 Jackpot

*Members to receive a 20% discount on drinks between 6-8pm on the 1st Friday of every month.
**If the jackpot is not claimed after 3 draws, it will jackpot the following month by \$500.

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

HAPPY HOUR

4:30pm - 5:30pm
MONDAY - FRIDAY

Schooner of beer \$6.50
Glass of house wine \$6.50
Pint of soft drink \$5

*Not available public holidays

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

GET OUR FREE APP

GAIN INSTANT ACCESS TO:

- Exclusive App only Member benefits
- Digital Membership Card with all your Membership details & Rewards
- Our Members only Interactive Game | Menus & Booking facilities
- What's On info & much more!

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

INK IN THE LINES

Behind every tattoo is a story of remembrance, mateship, identity and healing.

awm.gov.au/ink
#inkinthelines

Bendigo Military Museum
7th December 2024 - 27th April 2025

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

\$15 BUDGET BUSTERS

Available for lunch Monday
Entrée or Dessert \$5

Not available on public holidays - No further discounts apply

Choose from:

- Roast of the Day
- Lamb's fry
- Bangers & Mash
- Pasta of the Day
- Stir Fry of the Day
- Battered fish & chips

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

WEDNESDAY Steak Night

250g rump only \$29

Includes pot of beer or a glass of house wine or soft drink

Picture is a representation only

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

Tradies' Deals

ONLY \$22

In the Sportsbar | Lunch only | Mon - Fri

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

FREE TRIVIA NIGHT

Presented by TRISTAR Trivia & Entertainment

First Wednesday of the month 7pm - 9pm

In the Large Function Room Teams of 4-10 people

Prizes and giveaways throughout the night!

Bistro open from 6pm
Book Early and have dinner before playing Trivia!

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

Tradies' Deals

Includes FREE schooner of beer, glass of house wine, or schooner of soft drink

ONLY \$22

In the Sportsbar | Lunch only | Mon - Fri

Not available on a public holiday Pictures are a representation only

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

SUPER SATURDAY

12pm - 2pm
EXTENDED HAPPY HOUR EVERY SATURDAY

\$22 POT & PARMA

or enjoy with a glass of house wine or pot of soft drink

Watch all your favourite sports live on the BIG screens

*Not available public holidays

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

WEEKLY MEMBER'S JACKPOT

Thursday MEMBER'S NIGHT 6PM - 8PM

\$1,000 MAX VALUE \$5,000

PLUS meat trays and gift card draws from 6pm
Tickets available at the bar

Phone 03 5442 2950 to book

*The \$1K jackpot if not won, increases each week by \$1K until a max of \$5K is on offer. Then the \$5K must be won before the jackpot resets to \$1K again.

www.bendigomilitary.com.au
Ph: 03 5442 2950
E: info@bendigomilitary.com.au

MyRSL

UP & COMING



We are holding a Twighlight market on the 21st March 2025. If you would like to take part and hold a stall, please scan the QR code or follow the link and register your interest. Powered and unpowered sites available.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CVRQU>



Beginning on January 6th, members have the chance to win a brand new MG ZS Excite valued at \$22,990. To enter just spend \$25.00 on food or beverage during the promotional period and you will get an entry. You can also exchange 500 MyRSL rewards points to gain even more entries and more chances to win this amazing vehicle.

Term and conditions apply and can be found on our website

Making changes



We have had a bit of an upgrade at the entrance to the sheds. Some trees have been removed, and the road has been made wider to accommodate two way traffic. The parking surface has been graded and crushed rock added to smooth out the area.

White posts have been inserted to delineate the drive way and reflectors placed on the posts to improve visibility and safety. Please be mindful of your speed when driving in the carparks.

Travel no faster than 5km/h



Fun & Games

codeword puzzle

Codewords are like crossword puzzles without clues: the letters have all been replaced by code numbers. Using the letters already provided, work out the remaining letters by identifying the words!

The crossword puzzle grid contains the following numbers and letters:

- Numbers: 4, 13, 7, 26, 1, 22, 3, 19, 25, 3, 5, 14, 16, 8, 13, 17, 22, 5, 23, 9, 14, 22, 25, 16, 17, 10, 18, 14, 13, 11, 11, 9, 8, 1, 17, 10, 11, 7, 13, 9, 16, 11, 22, 3, 11, 10, 13, 3, 19, 14, 22, 17, 22, 25, 22, 7, 24, 9, 16, 17, 4, 23, 11, 23, 11, 2, 4, 16, 3, 2, 1, 14, 16, 22, 23, 4, 17, 15, 17, 23, 22, 26, 16, 12, 1, 20, 9, 1, 17, 10, 4, 6, 22, 2, 16, 17, 16, 3, 22, 8, 7, 16, 3, 10, 16, 25, 20, 9, 22, 3, 26, 3, 10, 26, 16, 8, 14, 16, 22, 17, 2, 21, 22, 5, 16, 3, 10.
- Letters: 'a' at 22, 'r' at 3, 'm' at 11.

Code Key:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
		r								m											a					

From the Sheds



Bendigo RSL Sheds Art Group held their Maxibald Awards in early October. The art group gathering is a part of the sheds program offered at the Bendigo RSL and judging by the results, we have some fairly proficient artists in our midst.

Judging was done by Sue Clark (Bendigo Foodshare) and Boyd Robertson. The competition was to create a portrait of Sue Clark, and the award was keenly contested with some excellent work submitted. Rob Milton triumphed, and his effort took home the prize.