



NEWS & Current Events

July 2020



Presidents Message

Hi to everyone

I hope you are all coping with the lockdown. I know it has been a strange and demanding time we have never been through something like this before.

Our lives have been turned upside down and we have to change much of what we have taken as normal. Hopefully it is coming to an end.

Life as an RSL sub-branch is also different. Starting this year with a new committee, not being able to have meetings, coping with video meetings for the committee has put a strain on everyone.

We are looking at having a full committee meeting back at the club in July.

We are not able to have a General meeting yet so we are missing all your smiling faces, hopefully that can be rectified soon.

Our new committee is settling in well, the new faces being:

Ian Rouse

Simon Golby

Brendon Lloyd

Alison Sloane

John Crozier

The new members of the committee are all fitting in and we are finalizing positions for them on the board. I welcome all new board members.

I hope everyone is fit and well and if anything is needed please contact any of the board member for help. Make sure you stay safe and isolate (as per current Restrictions)

Kel Arnott

President

Guest Speakers

We are always looking for people to speak at our Monthly General meetings. It is becoming harder for us to find / think of someone new to do a short and interesting talk for approx. 20mins. I would like to throw it out there for the Members to suggest someone. It does not necessarily need to be military / RSL related, just an interesting talk about maybe anything they may have done or a place they have been to or maybe a hobby that they enjoy.

If you the members can help with this it would be very much appreciated.

Contact our Secretary Richard Lewis with details

Secretary News

This has certainly been a challenging year, firstly noting that this is my first year as the Secretary but more so that I have had minimal personal contact with other members of the Committee and the General Membership. Just to let you know though, we have continued to conduct our Monthly Executive Meetings but these have been done using the software app called Zoom that provides a Video and Audio Communications service. The first Zoom meeting took some time to set up but after some initial technical difficulties everyone was attending the meeting virtually from their homes. We have considered using this medium for General Meetings but believe it would be too complicated to set up for individual members to host a meeting. It is something we need to consider in the future though, to allow those members that are unable to make it along to our meetings be able to view them from home.

We are hoping to hold the July Executive Meeting in the Meeting Room at the Ocean Grove Bowling Club (OGBC) but will continue to use Zoom for those who would prefer not to meet face to face. It is uncertain when we will be able to resume holding our General Meetings at the OGBC as the numbers allowed inside the club are still very restricted and centre around the food and beverage area(s). We will keep you informed but urge you to also keep an eye out on our Web Page: <http://oceangroversl.com.au>.

Speaking about keeping an eye out. We would also like to communicate more regularly with the membership with the preference being via email. I would urge you all if you have not done so already to provide your email details to either myself, or our Membership Officer, John Dickinson. **If you have received this newsletter in the mail it means we do not have your email details.** See Dicko's Special Request about this

issue in this newsletter.

The State Executive is also battling with how to conduct meetings during this period of social distancing and have also relied on Zoom to hold meetings and provide training. The State Conference which is normally held in early July is still up in the air for a date for this year and in the meantime, have provided the Ballot Papers and Instructions for this year's Elections. The nominations are for President and State Executive Members Metro and Country. The Sub-Branch Committee will provide their recommendations for endorsement at the next General Meeting. The resumes for each of the candidates are available from the Secretary if you require a copy in the interim.

I am hopeful that when we do return to 'normal' and can hold a General Meeting at the Bowling Club that we will be able to set up a laptop computer(s) to assist any Service Members that have not already done so, to apply for their Defence Veterans' Covenant. The Covenant consists of a Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath and respects and recognizes your military service. You will need to have a myService account to be able to apply for the Covenant and if not already registered will need two identify documents (Drivers licence and Medicare card) to register. We can assist you on the day if need be (stay tuned for more on this). More info on the Defence Veterans' Covenant can be found at the following link: <https://recognition.dva.gov.au>

If you need to know more about what's happening in your Sub-Branch that has not been covered in this Newsletter, I ask that you give me a call (Richard Lewis – 0417 853 219). Please stay safe. I look forward to seeing you all at our next General Meeting (whenever that will be.)

Richard Lewis

Secretary



Wellbeing Support

It has been a difficult time since our General Meeting in February. With a large number of new members on the Committee and trying to organising the Wellbeing Support Team and then COVID-19 hit.

The restrictions that were put in place put a stop to most of the work that the Wellbeing Team had been planning. The monthly morning teas that Lola Fisher and Christine (Chris) Wheal had been running so well last year had to be stopped. Chris and I will look to get these morning teas up and running again as soon as possible.

The visits to Hospitals, Aged Care Homes and also Residential Homes also had to be put on hold. These will have to remain on hold to protect out more vulnerable members.

Leading up to ANZAC Day, a group of businesses in our community decided to help out our well deserving Veterans. With the help of Rotary a large number of Care Packages were put together. These Care Packages were delivered on ANZAC Day to over 20 of our members. It's great to see that the local area still has a strong sense of community. Well done all those that assisted with the Care Packages.



Brad Clarke, OAM
Wellbeing Support
Coordinator

Mobile: 0407 972 177
bradley.clarke@live.com

Pensions.

For all matters relating to pensions and support etc. call The **Geelong Surf Coast Veterans Centre 035222 6003**. The centre is closed to drop in's while the Corona Virus restrictions are in place but it's business as usual, just not from our office. Our Volunteer Advocates are working from home, interviewing clients over the phone.

Just because we are all in lock down doesn't make the problems and issues we have go away, in fact they are often worse. We are getting through the back log of appointments and attending to the new clients that have contacted us in the last few weeks and together we will all get through this and keep our Centre going.

Let us know if you have an injury or health condition that relates to your service. You need to

submit a claim to access medical care and other support. Apply for extra compensation if your injury or health condition caused permanent impairment.

Contact us now for a phone appointment to discuss any of the above issues or for some friendly advice on 03 5222 6003



Ceremonial

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day 2020 had been organised and prepared to be a similar format as the previous couple of years, with the Dawn Service in Ocean Grove, commencing at 6.15am. Gunfire Breakfast at the Old Fire Station. The March and Service in Barwon Heads commencing at 8.45am and the March and Service in Ocean Grove commencing at 9.45am. Due to COVID-19 those plans were changed by the Government. The Services that we normally run in the local Aged Care Facilities prior to ANZAC Day also had to be cancelled.

Most of us enjoyed the Dawn solitude in our own driveways, with candles or fire pits and ran our own services, observing all the restrictions that were force. Wreaths were laid at both Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove Memorials by the RSL and also a number of other organisations and community groups, at different times during the day.

We look forward to returning to our usual format for ANZAC Day 2021, hopefully.

Vietnam Veterans Day

Due to a lack of attendance over the past couple of years the Committee back in 2019 decided not to hold a Service at the Memorial for Vietnam Veterans Day for 2020.

If restrictions have been sufficiently lifted, all those that wish to commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day are welcome to join our Vietnam Veterans at the Ocean Grove Bowls Club on Tuesday 18 August 2020 from 3.00pm for a quiet reflection or two, as well as a few tall tales I'm sure.

Remembrance Day

At this stage, the RSL Committee is planning on holding a Remembrance Day Service at both the Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove Memorials commencing at 10.50am on 11 November 2020.

Brad Clarke, OAM
Ceremonial Officer



Please Remember we cannot help any of our members, if we do not know that they are sick, or worse in hospital. So please, if you know of a member who needs help, let us know. We are all responsible for their welfare. If you haven't seen them around for a while, pop in and check on them, and if you think it necessary, report it to us.



Stay healthy!

Bellarine Young Veterans

While restrictions were eased the Bellarine Younger Veterans group had a small get together. It was a great opportunity to catch up and also meet other new veterans in the community. Coffee catch-ups are resuming (within current restrictions) at 10am on the last Friday of the month. The June catch-up was held at Beaches Cafe in Queenscliff.

If you would like to stay up to date with activities please join our Facebook group 'Bellarine Younger Veterans' or contact Alison.sloane7@gmail.com



Photo is Kris O'Brien and Kristen Dillon

Special Request to All Members We would prefer to be sending you sub-branch information and newsletters electronically by email. This would help us to be more sustainable, save time in the preparation and filling of envelopes and reduce our mailing costs (\$1.10 each) etc. If you have not been receiving club updates by email over the last 3 months then Please advise us of your email address if you have one. Also advice of any change to personal details e.g. new address, phone number, email address, next of kin would be appreciated. Contact me if you wish to check any of your information.

John Dickinson—Membership

0409432331 or din-



Merchandise

Polo shirt without pocket:

\$35.00

Polo shirt with pocket: \$35.00

(Size needed before order can be made)

Bumper Sticker \$2.00.

Sub-Branch Logo can be embroidered on Clothing \$12.00 per item.

Is there an item that you think the club members may want with the club logo ??

Contact John Dickinson

(Dicko) for orders & ideas.

0409 432331 or

dingopc@bigpond.com

Treasurer's Report.

The last three months have been relatively slow as far as the work of the Treasurer is concerned. This is purely because of the general slow-down in society as the restrictions associated with COVID-19 were imposed by the government. However, that is not to say there have not been any stresses within the financial portfolio. The account balances for the Agency and Patriotic funds are satisfactory for this time of year, and the monies available for welfare in these accounts will probably be sufficient to meet our obligations until the next injection of welfare funds.

General Account	Apr	\$2,139	Agency to General APF	Apr	\$5,005	These additional funds will come from the Remembrance Day Appeal and the interest from a term deposit in the last quarter of this year. However, the General Fund is not nearly as healthy. Had we not been able to secure two loans of \$1,000 each, the General account would have been about \$800 after the Sub-Branch paid its contribution towards the redevelopment of the Ocean Grove memorial by the addition of the two wing walls. This amount (\$800) may not have been sufficient when the monthly cost of memorial maintenance which, by law, cannot be paid from Agency or Patriotic Fund monies, is taken into account.
	May	\$3,788		May	\$4,940	
	Jun	\$1,788		Jun	\$4,493	
Patriotic Fund	Apr	\$2,930				To overcome this, the Sub-Branch is presently negotiating with the CoGG and the Ocean Grove Park management in the attempt to ensure future memorial maintenance, including the addition or amendment of names on the Commemorative wall, is accepted by one of those organisations. When (if) that occurs, the General fund will be able to survive until the next round of memberships are due early in the 2021.
	May	\$2,930				
	Jun	\$2,926				
Income			Expenses			
Interest		\$2,918	Volunteer Expenses		\$611	
Loan		\$2,000	Memorial Maintenance		\$580	
			Flowers (100th Birthday)		\$55	
			Bank Fees		\$12	
			Postage		\$110	
			Garden Maintenance		\$580	
			Memorial Redevelopment		\$1,945	
			Committee Badges		\$67	
Total		\$4,918	Total		\$3,960	



Tony Wheal—Treasurer.

Cenotaph News

Honour Wall in the Ocean Grove Park is now complete and we encourage members of the Community to come to the park and visit the Walls. The additions comprise of three walls (1 main wall and 2 wings), honouring the names of all those who have served in the Australian Defence Force from WW1 to current conflicts. The criteria for name selection is: Was born in, Enlisted from or on discharge Returned and lived in the Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads or Connewarre Districts. If anyone finds that a relative or friend's name is missing, please let the Sub-branch know, we research the name and if approved, it will be added to the Walls in the correct category.

The cut-off date for this year is 31 July 2020. The names will be added prior to Remembrance Day, contact John Dickinson on dingopc@bigpond.com for any information. The RSL will conduct this exercise on an annual basis

At the present moment we have 8 new names to be engraved on the Walls.

BURROWS M.N – WWII
KILLINGSWORTH M.J - AUST
LAUX C.S - AFGHANISTAN
TINDAL A.R - WWII

COLLINS AFC L.F - SPEC'OPS
LAWRY R.G - AUST
O'NEILL N.S - AUST
GAZE OAM, DFC** F.A.O - WWII



EXECUTIVE LISTINGS

Website & Email: www.oceangroverl.com.au

Club email: rs1@oceangrovebowls.com.au

President: Kel Arnett:	kel.arnott@bigpond.com	0412 493335
Senior Vice: John Dickinson:	dingopc@bigpond.com	0409 432331
Vice President: Brad Clarke:	bradley.clarke@live.com	0407 972177
Secretary: Richard Lewis:	rlew1951@bigpond.net.au	0417 853219
Treasurer: Tony Wheal:	jwheal@bigpond.net.au	0438 300675

Committee Roles

President, Memorabilia—**Kel Arnett**

Vice President, Public Relations, Membership, Funerals, IT—**John Dickinson**

Vice President, Wellbeing Support, Ceremonials, Better Impact—**Brad Clarke**

Treasurer, School Projects, Appeals, Funerals — **Tony Wheal**

Pensions—**Bob Scott**

Padre—**Philip Christian**

New Committee Members:

Young Veterans— **Alison Sloane**

Ian Rouse

Simon Golby

Brendon Lloyd

John Crozier



DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN



Mortar Training 1937

Ingermills Park (Now Ocean Grove Park)

Ocean Grove Barwon Heads RSL Sub-branch COMMITTEE 2020



**President
KEL ARNETT**



**Vice President
BRAD CLARKE**



**Secretary
RICHARD LEWIS**



**Treasurer
TONY WHEAL**



**Snr. Vice President
JOHN DICKINSON**



**Pensions
BOB SCOTT**



**Sub-branch Padre
PHILLIP CHRISTIAN**



**Committee
BRENDON LLOYD**



**Committee
JOHN CROZIER**



**Committee
ALISON SLOANE**



**Committee
SIMON GOLBY**



**Committee
IAN ROUSE**

Disclaimer the material contained in the newsletter is in the nature of general comment only and neither purports nor is intended to be advice on any particular matter.

You may find some errors in this newsletter. That is in keeping with our policy of having something for everyone.