

Summer Newsletter 2018

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ISSUE NO. 6

SHEPPARTON RSL SUB-BRANCH INC.

A PIECE OF LOCAL HISTORY THAT HAS SHAPED OUR REGION

One hundred years ago on November 11, four years of brutality and sacrifice came to an end.

On that Monday at 11am, the final gunshots were fired and the battlefields fell silent, yet the aching hearts of millions of Australian's could still be heard.

While the fallen soldiers of the first World War have now been gone for a century, it remains our duty to ensure their memory lives on.

I myself have always had a keen interest in the wars that have shaped our history. Having had grandparents who both served, I have grown up hearing stories of sacrifice, mortality and brutal destruction. Like many, my grandparents seldom spoke of their personal experiences, instead wishing to erase any memories they had of such sheer loss and devastation. While the pain may have been too strong for them to talk about, I believe it is important these events in history are recognised.

Last month I began working on a Remembrance Day feature for the Shepparton News, collaborating with the Shepparton RSL to mark the centenary of Armistice Day.

When I was asked to take on the project, I took it in my stride, not realising the significant impact it would have on me emotionally.

I began contacting dozens of Goulburn Valley locals whose relatives served in World War 1. Although some lived to tell the tale, most were lost in the battlefields never to return home.



Sub-Branch President Bob Wilkie with a special Roll of Honour published over 100 years ago.

According to the Australian War Memorial, World War 1 remains the costliest conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of less than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of which more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner. This means around 10% of Australia's population at the time went to war. This is a figure that I struggle to comprehend.

The local descendants I have spoken to shared some incredible stories and were able to show me not only letters that were sent home but also pictures, medals and other valuable keepsakes.

They spoke of underage men enlisting to serve, families being torn apart after four brothers went to war together and tales of men being injured in the field and left to die.

The faces of dozens of these local men can be seen on a Calendar and Roll of Honour of Fallen Heroes that was

published in the Shepparton News at the end of 1917. This calendar was discovered by the Shepparton RSL earlier this year, a full century after it was originally published.

This cherished piece of history has been framed and now sits proudly on a wall at the Sub-Branch, paying tribute to the young men who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Whilst devastating to think their lives were cut short, the calendar is an iconic piece of local history that has shaped our region.

On your next visit, I encourage you to spend some time appreciating what this hidden keepsake represents.

Up close you will see the smiling faces of young soldiers, each telling a tale of bravery, courage, mateship and sacrifice. And that is a tale that should never be forgotten.

by Liz Mellino, Shepparton News





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Bob Wilkie

Anzac Day saw a large crowd attend the Dawn Service. The Shepparton Cenotaph was not built to cater for such numbers with many unable to see the speakers and wreath laying.

We are currently looking at having large screens placed throughout the Cenotaph which will enable everyone attending to see the Service.

From next year, the route of our Anzac Day March will change from being on Wyndham Street to instead heading from the Sub Branch down Welsford Street to the Cenotaph. This is a far more direct route which is not only safer but more likely to attract members of the public to watch the March before the service takes place.

This year's Remembrance Day will mark the "Centenary of the Armistice". Our Poppy Appeal is underway and we trust our members will dig deep for this special cause. A special thanks must go to a number of our members who have hand knitted approximately 300 poppies which form part of a special Remembrance Day display.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish all our members a wonderful Christmas and safe new year.



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

by Grant Tarrant

In the last 6 months we have seen new initiatives at the Sub- Branch.

The car park redevelopment has been completed and the additional car spaces has seen a great boost to our patronage, with all members and guests having easier access. Other projects on the horizon include a

potential solar solution to combat the ever increasing cost of electricity and the possible introduction of an outdoor kids playground adjacent to the Bistro. These initiatives will enhance the customer experience and help the sustainable financial viability of the Sub-Branch as we proceed towards Stage 2 of our Master Plan.

This year's Remembrance Day marks the centenary of the end of WW1 and a lot of planning is going into making sure its an extra special day. We have a club favourite, "The Real Paul Hogan" performing in the lounge plus other special activities planned so be sure to join us for this special day.

Our membership numbers continue to increase and have now exceeded 7,000 which is a fantastic effort.

We continue to invest in advertising and marketing, with our new TV commercials being a hit. These along with special live shows, in-house promotions, Members Cash Mania and Friday night meat and white goods raffles all being well received.

On behalf of management and staff, I personally wish to thank all the members for your ongoing support. Have a great Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.



WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

by Graeme Bayley

I reported in the last newsletter that we had been working on recruiting younger veterans and getting them involved in welfare activities. I can now report that thanks to Bruce Davis and Mick Elston a sub committee has been formed to work in conjunction

with the main committee. I am sure that we will soon see some positive activities as a result of their participation.

Letters have been sent to the schools in the area inviting nominations for the 2019 Portsea camp. The selection committee will soon be meeting to make the appropriate selections.

Unfortunately, due to his injury our long term Men's Hairdresser Reno Lia has closed his businesses permanently. If you are a current Service Member, complimentary

haircuts are available from some local hairdressers:

The Barber Shop
(186 Corio Street - ph 5821 2485)

Daniela's Hair Design
(100A Wyndham St - ph 5821 8937)

Rebecca Watson at the Beauty Bug Hair Salon works from her salon or has a mobile service (1 Perrivale Drive - ph 0409 854 569).

My sincere thanks again to our hard working committee who continue to do hospital visits, organise Bingo and run Senior Melodies.



VETERAN SERVICES

by Paul Blackwell

Understanding DVA entitlements can be very confusing but doesn't need

to be. That's where Goulburn Valley Veterans can help. Please call us and make an appointment to see one of the team. We will explain in layman's terms how DVA works and assist you in completing any relevant paperwork.

If you have any queries about Pensions, War Widows, War Graves or just a general enquiry, we will assist you to solve the matter.

If you are not an Extreme Disable Adjustment or Totally & Permanently Disabled maybe it is time you considered applying for an increase in your Pension.

Goulburn Valley Veteran Services is open Mondays and Wednesday from 11am to 4pm plus Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 3pm. Phone 5831 7220.



'READ ALL ABOUT IT'

Shepparton News Thursday 8th November

The team at The News have been busy putting together a special lift out feature to commemorate Remembrance Day.

We cannot thank them enough for the time and effort that has been put in to creating this feature with special thanks going to cadet journalist Liz Mellino. Liz has been spending many hours meeting with descendants of our local World War 1 heroes and will be sharing their stories with us.

The Calendar and Honour Roll that she wrote about on the cover of this newsletter will be reproduced across the middle pages of this feature.

Be sure to grab your copy of The Shepp News on Thursday November 8. We've already read some of the stories and are genuinely moved by what has been shared.

SEEKING YOUNG VETERANS

Are you a young veteran or know someone who is?

The Goulburn Valley Young Veterans Group was formed so that young vets, who appreciate the true value of mateship, can come together in a social environment with others of similar background.

There are a number of special functions and excursions held each year and members receive discounts on all beverages, many menu items plus a weekly \$5 food and beverage voucher (conditions apply).

For further information please visit reception or call 03 5820 4100 during business hours.



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE - SHEPPARTON

10.30am	Service commences at Shepparton Cenotaph, Welsford St
10.59am	Three-Volley Salute
11.00am	1 minute silence
11.15am	Conclusion of Service

GUEST SPEAKER: JOHN GRIBBEN

John Gribben is an historian with a keen interest in local military history. A popular writer, speaker and local historic tour guide, John is going to share the story of a soldier named Edgar John Rule (or Ted as he was better known). Ted Rule, who after WW1 married a local Cobram girl, and settled in Shepparton East, published his account of the war from his war diary under the title "Jacka's Mob". One of Australia's foremost war historians refers to "Jacka's Mob" as not just a book, but the Bible of the First World War.

A Remembrance Day Service will also be held at the Mooroopna Cenotaph commencing at 10.30am.

AFTERWARDS AT THE SUB-BRANCH

Although November 11 is a day of remembrance, it is also a day of celebration and we invite you to the Sub-Branch for an afternoon of festivities.

At around noon we will unveil and cut a special commemorative cake created and donated by the very talented Angela of *Angie's Cakes & Bakes*.

Club favourite "THE REAL" PAUL HOGAN will perform some well known classics in the Members Lounge.

Plus we'll have some food platters, free tea & coffee making facilities and, of course, the bar will be open for a bevvy or two with mates.



PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 20 NOVEMBER, 2018

1.30 pm at the Shepparton RSL Sub-Branch

The prime purpose of this meeting is to adopt amendments to By Law 10A as passed at the 2018 State Conference.

The secondary purpose is to provide an information brief as to certain items of memorabilia relating to the 59th Bn.



What's on at the Club



Christmas RAFFLE 2018

40 great prizes up for grabs
\$4,999 total prize pool value
DRAWN AT 2PM ON SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER

TICKETS JUST \$2 FROM RECEPTION



WIN a Hyundai Kona!

Renew or join by December 21st, 2018 for your chance to win!



\$20,000 + \$10,000 draws

Swipe your card at the kiosk or when making a purchase between 4 & 7pm on Wed 28th November 2018 to enter the draws!
Winners announced 7:15pm that night.

As the saying goes, it pays to be a member of the Shepparton RSL.

Right now, when you renew your membership or join for the first time, you'll go in the draw to win a sporty Hyundai Kona. Check out the one on display in the foyer - you'll love it!

On Wednesday November 28, RSL Victoria are giving away a whopping \$20,000 cash to one lucky Victorian member PLUS a \$10,000 2nd Chance Draw! For your chance to win, simply visit the venue and swipe your card between 4 and 7pm on that day.

ALL YOUR SPORTING ACTION
FULL TAB facilities, Fox Sports + all the big name sport live on the big screen.

FREE COURTESY BUS
Services Shepparton, Mooroopna & Kialla from 5pm every Friday and Saturday night.

FREE WEEKLY LIVE MUSIC
Every Friday night and on the last Saturday of each month from 8pm. Full lineup of bands can be found on our website or at Reception.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
It will help you keep up to date on events and special promotions.

MEMBERS CASH MANIA.

9 chances to win every Thursday. Member number drawn every 15 mins between 6.30 & 8.30pm. Prize starts at \$1,000 and jackpots by \$500 per week if not won. Once jackpot hits \$5,000, it must be won that night!

Win a Harvey Norman \$100 Electrical Voucher with our 2nd Chance Draw which guarantees a winner every week. Swipe your RSL Members Card whenever you make a purchase between 6.30 & 8.30pm and put your receipt in the entry box! Winner will be drawn 8.30pm.

Happy Hour & a Half is 5.30 - 7pm.

Full T&Cs can be found at reception.

MEGA MONTHLY MONSTER RAFFLE

On the last Friday of every month we raffle 20 electrical items with a retail value of over \$2,000.

Tickets go on sale at 6pm with raffle drawn at 7.30pm.

MONSTER MEAT RAFFLE

Every Friday night except the last Friday of the month. 25 x \$40 Meat Trays to be won plus a 2nd chance draw of a \$100 Meat Tray. Tickets on sale from 6pm, drawn at 7.30pm.

SATURDAY SUPER RAFFLE

10 x \$40 Coles Myer vouchers and 5 x \$40 Meat Trays to be won. Tickets on sale from 11am with raffle drawn 12.30pm.

ALSO ON SATURDAYS

Happy Hour and a Half is on from 11.30am to 1pm.
\$2 Race Tipping Competition with a minimum prize of \$100.

BINGO!

Wednesdays at 1pm. Includes complimentary tea & coffee. (Bingo will take a break after Dec 19, returning Feb 6).

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Dec 25: Entire club closed
Dec 26: Club open/Bistro closed
Jan 1: Club open/Bistro closed.

LOOKING FOR A GIFT IDEA?

We have venue vouchers available in your chosen value, that are redeemable for food and beverages and presented nicely in special gift card pockets.

'QUEEN FOREVER' IS COMING EARLY 2019

Tickets on sale soon!

PLANNING A FUNCTION?

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Christmas Parties... we can more than cater!

