



2022
ANNUAL REPORT

SHEPPARTON RSL
SUB-BRANCH
INC.



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WHO WE ARE + WHAT WE DO

The RSL was founded in 1916 to provide comradeship and support to Australia's veterans and their families.

That core mission has never changed but has continued to evolve to meet the needs of each generation of servicemen and women.

We have a branch network that covers Australia and any veteran who needs help will get it — every serving ADF member and veteran will be warmly welcomed at their local RSL.

We advocate for the best possible conditions for our serving men and women and for those who have served the nation in the past.

We foster respect and thanks from the nation for all those who have made sacrifices in Australia's name and we will provide a strong voice on issues of national unity and security.

In addition to this, however, we are a community organisation and our community support is wide and varied including:

- Local sporting groups and clubs
- Educational institutions with grants and scholarships
- Emergency services with equipment and funding

- Health and aged care
- Kindred organisations such as Legacy
- Other mainstream charities doing great work across Victoria



NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in accordance with By-Law 12 (a), (c) that the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be conducted at the Shepparton RSLSub-Branch Inc.

A0036142E — A.B.N. 85 547 263 045

88 Wyndham Street Shepparton

At 1.30pm on Tuesday the 28 of March 2023

With respect to the 2022 Financial Year

**By order of the
Committee**

Edwin G.Ball

Honorary Secretary

THE AGENDA

1. Meeting declared open
2. Welcome
3. Vales
4. Silent Tribute / ODE
5. Allegiance
6. Apologies
7. Attendance
8. Minutes of the previous AGM
9. Business arising
10. REPORTS
 1. President
 2. Treasurer
 3. Annexes Treasurers Report Financial Reports
 4. General Manager
 5. Secretary- Committee attendance - Volunteer hours
 6. Welfare
 7. Veteran Centre
 8. Appeals
 9. Memorabilia
11. Appointment of Auditors
12. Election Year-Returning Officers Report.
13. Honorariums
14. Confirmation of Bank Signatories
15. Special Resolution Amendment to By-Law 10A.,
16. General Business (any matter of which 14 days notice has been given and the Chair accepts)
17. Next Meeting TBA
18. Close

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The highlight of the year was the unveiling of the Sir Murray Bouchier Memorial Statue on the 24th of April, 2022. We have nothing but glowing reports from Members and the Public alike, and I believe the location is definitely the right spot to recognise this great Australian. The Sub-Branch provided \$50,000 from its Trading Account in the 2022 year to help finalise this important project.

In the year we saw Life Member Peter Martin retire from his position as long-serving Secretary of the Sub-Branch. Peter's knowledge of RSL Rules, and Protocols are undoubted and he is sadly missed, however, he has still been available to assist when requested. We also saw Shane O'Keefe and Karen Holmes both resigning from the Committee and re-locating to Melbourne. We thank them both for their contribution towards the success of the Sub-Branch during their time on the Committee. We also thank Graeme Bayley for stepping up to fill a vacancy on the Committee after the resignations of Shane and Karen.

Anzac and Remembrance days were once again successful with good crowds in attendance. This Anzac Day Dawn Service we propose to go back to the 2019 Anzac Day (pre-Covid), where we invited the whole Public back to the Sub-Branch after the Service where they enjoyed Egg and Bacon Rolls, together with Coffee and Tea. We were assisted by Shepparton South Rotary Club and the Shepparton Lions Club, with their BBQ Trailers. Once again they will be helping and we thank them for their assistance to make the Breakfast a success.

A special thanks to Paul Blackwell and his team of Volunteer's at the Goulburn Valley Veterans Centre for their outstanding work in Meeting our Veterans and War Widows needs. They continue to serve a growing list of Veterans and Widows each year. Paul and his wife Ronnie continually record the most Volunteer Hours within the Sub-Branch each year, with 2,908 hours between them for the 2022 year.

Other special thanks to Appeals Team Leaders Bruce and Sandy Davis and their team of sellers. A total of just above \$111,000 was raised for both Anzac and Remembrance Day Appeals, not including funds raised from their Raffles, which are growing more popular, with funds directed to our Welfare Account.

I will not mention the financial result for the year and leave that up to our Treasurer Darryl. I will comment that we are in a very sound financial position. Given that next year we will have to service a large debt when our upcoming renovations are completed. Upon completion, we will have the best Club Facility in Regional Victoria and I am confident we will have little difficulty in servicing the debt.

You cannot record a sound financial result without a committed General Manager and staff focused on great Customer Service. I would like to thank Grant for his outstanding personal commitment, ably supported by his hard-working staff. I am always getting great feedback from Members and Visitors about our Staff. We are the number one hospitality venue to visit in the Goulburn Valley.

Bob Wilkie
President

TREASURERS REPORT 2022

Following 2 years of compromised trading, 2022 offers the opportunity to reset and operate under normal trading conditions.

Results were outstanding with a profit in excess of \$1.1m recorded without the inclusion of Government Subsidies, which formed part of the profit In 2021.

This result enabled us to make some significant inroads into our debt position and allowed us to purchase our electronic gaming machines (EGM,s) and accumulate good cash reserves.

Summarised:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Retired Debt | \$ 890k Approx. |
| 2. Purchase 80 EGM'S & Systems | \$ 990k Approx. |
| 3. Accumulate Cash Reserves | \$1500k Approx. |

<u>Total</u>	<u>\$3.380k Approx.</u>
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In addition, we provided **\$80k** in Sponsorships & Donations to the Community.

It would not have been possible to achieve results of this nature if it were not for the efforts of General Manager, Grant Tarrant & his dedicated staff. They delivered the service that our Patrons deserve.

Special thanks go to the Administration Manager, Peter Bustin, for his oversight of all financial matters. His assistance over the year was greatly appreciated.

Darryl Butcher
Honorary Treasurer

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT F/Y 2022

It is with great pleasure that I provide the General Managers Report for the year ending 31 December 2022.

A full year without restrictions with solid trade throughout was great to see and all our members & guests enjoyed a little normality during 2022. During the 12 months, we have been able to achieve an outstanding result, with an overall net profit of **\$1,112,563.22** Solid trade throughout the year and growth in all areas of the business contributed to this amazing result.

The year that was 2022 has seen some amazing achievements, being able to purchase our gaming room floor (approximately \$860,000 from Tabcorp) and upgrading our EGMs with approximately \$160,000 worth of new boxes and game changes, between August and December 2022. We paid \$800,000 off the CBA Loan on 92 Wyndham Street, leaving a balance of approximately \$60k and we start 2023 in a strong financial position.

Through donations, sponsorships & member benefits the RSL was able to contribute approximately \$209,340 back to our community throughout 2022.

We continue to work on our Masterplan, with 2023 being an exciting year as we plan to deliver on Stage 1 of the redevelopment with our new Administration, staff facilities and Veterans Centre.

I want to extend a big thank you to all our staff across all departments, who have stood up to the challenges of the past three years and have continued to deliver the best possible service to our Members & guests. Your commitment and dedication, we are proud of and your continued support of each other has been amazing. We are so lucky to have you all representing the Shepparton RSL!

Personally, I would like to thank our President Mr Bob Wilkie and the current Board for their amazing support of our staff, as always.

I would like to acknowledge all our volunteers. Without you, we would not be able to deliver the services all our wider community rely on each year.

To our management team, thank you for your commitment and efforts over the past 12 months as we have seen some stability return. The energy, pride, and dedication you show is amazing and is seen on a daily basis.

We look forward to 2023, delivering on many of our projects that have been planned. This will confirm Shepparton RSL Sub-Branch standing as the premier entertainment venue in the Goulburn Valley. Finally, and most importantly, thank you to our 10,000 members and visitors for their patronage and support

Grant Tarrant

General Manager

SECRETARY'S REPORT Relating to the 2022 Financial Year

Overview

Well, who ever thought that we would be presenting such a great Annual report after the effects of Covid over the past several years? This year we are reporting the best-ever result for our Club.

The Committee and our band of great volunteers have worked hard for this result. A big congratulations to all but especially to our General Manager Grant and his wonderful staff. The Veteran Centre led by new Life Member Paul Blackwell and his great team whose dedication and hours put in, have made it one of the Best Veterans Centre's in the State.

Congratulations to the Welfare and Appeals teams, what a great effort you have all put into the year 2022.

The purchase of the property next door during Covid has turned out to be a great decision and has set the Club up nicely as we move into our renovation period later in the year. The House and Finance Committee your decisions throughout the year have proven to be the correct ones and has put our Club in a very healthy position financially for now and in the future. A special thanks to President Bob, and Ex-Secretary Peter Martin who has guided me throughout the 2022 year. To my Friends at the Club and on the General Committee thank you for your helpful assistance and especially your friendship is truly appreciated. We all look forward to the future and the continuing success of our Sub-Branch.

1. Committee meeting Attendance:

There were 12 General Committee meetings throughout the year 2022 and the attendance record appears below:

Pres: R.Wilkie	Region 9/Finance	11/12
SVP: B.McInnery	Finance/Funerals/MC Anzac/Remembrance Days	11/12
JVP: B.Davis	Appeals	11/12
Sec: E (Ted Ball)	Secretary/Finance/Veterans	12/12
Treas: D.Butcher	Treasurer/Finance	12/12
S.Davis	Welfare (Jun22)/Appeals	9/12
S.Whitford	OH&S/Finance	9/12
G.Bayley	Welfare (From Jun22)	6/12
P.Martin	Secretary(Resigned Apr 22)	3/12
S.O'Keefe	A/Sec/Veterans (Resigned Jun 22)	5/12
K.Holmes	Veterans (Resigned)	3/12
G.Tarrent (General Manager)	GM/Finance)	12/12

WELFARE REPORT FOR 2022

Let me begin by saying that I write this report with sadness and regret and the reason is that I have been involved with veterans welfare, including pensions, and war Widows since the mid 1970's, both here and Melbourne and I have come to the conclusion that to perpetuate the RSL and what it stands for our younger veterans need to become involved and for that reason I have decided to step aside from the Committee to help this happen.

I took over from Sandy Davis in June 2022, and would like to acknowledge the hard work and contribution that Sandy and her Welfare Committee contributed to our Club over the last several years in this portfolio.

This year has been a good year in as much as we have been able to assist many veterans in need of help both financially and with goods and services The Total Expenditure of Welfare for the 2022 F/Y was **\$62,133.71**. I would like to acknowledge the tireless work and commitment of our Sub Committee and also the Veterans centre, and in conclusion, I would like to wish all involved with the Sub-Branch, Committees, our General Committee and also our hard working staff led by our General Manager Grant Tarrant, it has been a truly great year!

Graeme Bayley
Welfare Officer

Goulburn Valley Veterans Centre Annual Report 2022

The year of 2022 has had an even more successful year assisting veterans with their claim even though there has been and still is massive delays in the processing of their claims, at present delays are up to and even more than 2 years processing some claims. Our current situation is that we are getting more and more of younger veterans coming in to see us which enables us to get them the assistance they need and also their families.

In 2022 the centre's volunteer hours are a massive 5133 hours and we had a total of 323 Walk-Ins, these are veterans or family members with enquiries and do not have an appointment. So far in 2023 for the first 2 months of this year, we have had 96 Walk-ins.

During 2022 we lost Shane O'Keefe to Melbourne due to family reasons but he still maintains our books and we communicate at least twice weekly.. We have had 2 new Volunteers Robyn Hunt and Tom Lipscombe they are at present undergoing training to become Pension Advocates. Earlier this year we had Molly Kennedy join us as well and she also wishes to become a Pensions Advocate so now we have a staff of 8 to assist in looking after our veterans.

Over the next couple of months I will be liaising with Seymour RSL and will be visiting them on a fortnightly basis to render advocacy to Veterans of Seymour and hopefully current serving soldiers from Puckapunyal as we are getting increased numbers of current serving soldiers.

We still visit outlying areas like Tocumwal monthly, Mansfield when required and have given talks at other RSL's within Region 9 area.

Our current standing is 224 claims awaiting decisions from DVA and have roughly 600 veterans on our books who are from various states not just Victoria.

Last but not least I would like to thank the Shepparton RSL and their staff for their support during 2022 and especially for getting me Life Membership of the Victoria RSL which is extremely appreciated

Paul Blackwell (Chairperson)

Goulburn Valley Veterans Centre

APPEALS REPORT FOR 2022 F/Y

This year between Anzac and Remembrance days appeals, the amount of Funds raised for the year was approx **\$111,000.00**, which is a fantastic result given Covid, shut downs and various factors over the period. Our Volunteers who sell and collect at shops and local stores and businesses houses work tirelessly to raise this amount of monies, half of which is kept here at the Sub-Branch Welfare fund which all is spent on our ADF Veterans, their Families and War Widows.

We take this opportunity to thank the Shepparton Community and surrounding towns, schools and businesses for their ongoing support and generosity in supporting our Veterans who sometimes find themselves in a situation of asking for help and assistance from their Local RSL.

Some situations are:

1. **Financial difficulties.**
2. **Emergency accommodation.**
3. **Lawn Mowing and Gardening services.**
4. **Small home maintenance.**
5. **Medical Aids & Equipment.**
6. **Haircuts.**
7. **Bus Trips and Outing for Veterans and Widows.**
8. **School Fees and educational aids.**
9. **Other Hardship events.**

If you find the need for assistance and you are an Ex Serving Member (ADF/Reserve/National Service) or a War Widow, please contact the RSL Welfare Officer and make an appointment, after you have spoken to the Welfare Officer you maybe be asked to complete an application form, this is not onerous task and you can ensure you will be treated with confidentiality, respect and honesty.

A special thanks goes to all the Businesses and store outlets in the region who have given their support many that have been doing it for over 30 years plus. A special thanks to the support given by our local Service Clubs:

1. **Kiwanis Sunrisers.**
2. **Lions Club.**
3. **Rotary Club**
4. **Various Sporting Clubs.**
5. **Life Style Village and Kensington Gardens.**
6. **And to any other Organisations that I have missed on this list**

Your generosity and time spent is greatly appreciated by ADF Veterans, Service persons, War Widows and the RSL as a whole.

Bruce Davis
Appeals Officer
RSL-Sub Branch

MEMORABILIA REPORT 2022 FY

The Memorabilia Team have had a busy but pleasing past 12 months. To begin the year off there was a change within the team structure. John Harrington needed a well-earned rest and stood down from the position of the Memorabilia Coordinator, thanks for your time, John is still a highly active team member. Mark Stephens stepped into the coordinators position to try and fill the gap that John had left. After our first team meeting, we decided we will try and rotate our display cabinet more often (3 to 4 months) and with the changeover also incorporate a new feature each time. Our first display was different orders of dress, from WW1 battle dress to a current service dress and current Dining In Night dress (whites) with bow tie. I received very good feedback from staff and visitors reference that particular display.

Memorabilia has purchased 4 new mannequins to improve our displays. During our meeting we also discussed the topic of having a good working relationship with other organisations like Tatura RSL, Shepparton Heritage Museum, and the Mooroopna Museum. All of these locations have allowed us to borrow certain items for our displays example: Mooroopna Museum, WW2 fully dressed up Nurse. Tatura RSL, replica M60 MG and framed Vietnam Pictures. Shepparton Heritage Museum has loaned us **"The Shepparton Ships Bell"** which sits proudly in the foyer of our RSL. This bell is on long term Loan to the RSL. In return we have loaned items to each of these organisations. From my perspective the team has an excellent working relationships with these locations. The team has also conducted memorabilia tours of the RSL . These tours give visitors the opportunity to handle some of our items. The school kids special display are the hats. We have about thirty unique styles and the kids love trying them on and having photos taken with them on.

The team will be trialling a new procedure for off the street memorabilia. This is where people are bringing in memorabilia to **loan** to the RSL. It is becoming extremely difficult to register, account and store these items for safe keeping in the limited space we have. We really would like a **donation only** system where, when we get the time, we can assess the items to keep, donate to other locations or discard the rest.

The Memorabilia Team is assisting with the downsizing of the RSL library. This is a big task. Team members have sat down and gone through all the books and have kept the old and new (valuable) ones and also any series of books. There is one series which has about 25 books to it. Check out the books we are still holding and if you see one you like, talk to one of the memorabilia team to check if it is not one the RSL wants to keep, then you can have it.

The Memorabilia Team represented the RSL where we were involved in the restoration of Mooroopna flood victims' Medals and other military memorabilia. The items were saved from going to the local tip by a volunteer who was cleaning up after the devastating Mooroopna flood. The volunteer

contacted the RSL, and the memorabilia team took it from there. I was able to restore all the Military Medals and the other military items but unfortunately could not save the badly damaged Ribbon. I was able to obtain the correct ribbon for the medals from Sydney. Once all the medals were mounted correctly, they were then all framed. The restored Medals were then returned to the flood victim by President Bob Wilkie at a small presentation at the RSL. The volunteer who found the medals also attended the presentation.

One very interesting point about these medals, because the medals were the original medals issued, I was able to obtain the service details from them. There were 7 X 2nd World War medals all up. 5 with one name (Male) and 2 with another name (female). With further research, I found these 2 soldiers had met during the 2WW and married, but the medals still had their enlistment names. The medals belonged to a Husband and Wife who lived in Mooroopna

I would like to thank the Memorabilia Team, for their support over the past 12 months, particularly Arnold Warburton who sits down with me every Thursday and guides me through the mountain of memorabilia that is stored away. Arnie has been doing this for over 26 years. On behalf of the Memorabilia Team I would like to thank all the front reception staff who do an excellent job of receiving memorabilia items for us, bringing visitors down to the office, issuing and returning keys, and handling and passing on messages. Also over the past 12 months, the memorabilia team has had excellent support from General Manager Grant Tarrant and RSL staff, President Bob Wilkie and RSL Committee, and RSL members who have become interested in what the team is doing. The Team is also looking forward to future new renovations.

Mark Stephens OAM

Memorabilia Coordinator

Shepparton RSL Sub Branch



SHEPPARTON RSL SUB-BRANCH INC

LIST OF MEMBER VALES FOR THE YEAR 2022

*GEOFF WILSON, JULIAN BOURKE, JOE CLARKE, ALEXANDER FARROW,
HELEN MCKENZIE, JOHN FURLOW, FREDERICK MURLEY, VIV PARRY, JOHN
MCCARTNEY, SHIRLEY BAKER, JOHN PERRY, TREVOR GREENING, MICHAEL
NEWTON, ROBERT STEWART, KEPPEL TURNOUR, ARTHUR MCKENZIE, MAURICE
DAVIS, STEVEN WALLACE, RALPH PRIDEAUX, MERVYN COWLAND.*