



Presidents Report - 2023

2023 was a full year of recovery for the RSL after the Covid pandemic. We have come out of the fog healthier and more vibrant than ever. It was a year where we continue to provide a great "place to be" for Club members. Your Committee continued to achieve much for members.

Here is a summary of the highlights for the year 2023.

1. Anzac Day. Anzac Day is when our Club stands up and proud. Many thousands attended the dawn and morning services after the march from town centre. Last year our theme honoured all the men and women who served in Vietnam. It was very moving to witness all our Vietnam veterans and national servicemen from that era step up to be recognised. Our VP Kane Falconer managed the event very professionally and we thank all the students who spoke. Poppies adorned Emerald in the traditional manner thanks to Chris Weller and Matt Francis. The Emerald Football Club again ran two-up and barBQ on Anzac Day and also brought home the honours at the annual football match against Seville. A big thank you to the management sub-committee for making the day a great success.

2. Grants. We completed the sealing of the carpark with a \$50,000 grant from the Victorian Government. Top Cat Driveways did a great job. Made a huge difference to Club traffic flow. Thanks to Jonno Lloyd for organising the painting of the carparks. In addition, we received a grant from both Governments to repair our statue of the unknown soldier and to erect a new tri-soldier statue in the Anzac Place gardens. Applications have been made for a new modern shed to replace our existing sheds and also for the re-painting of the Clubrooms after they were repaired after termite damage.

RSL of Australia (Victorian Branch) Inc.

Emerald Sub Branch
3 Memorial Ave (PO Box 44)
Emerald Vic 3782



3. Committee. 2023 was a year of stability for your Committee. The only change was the resignation of Rob Street and Tracey Wainwright and we thank them for their service. I thank all Committee members for the hard work and contribution to Club activities. I make particular mention of the work of our new Secretary, Tanya Jogan and my wife Gabby in her capacity as Treasurer and Club operations.

4. Social Activities. Our monthly music (blues) nights continued to be a great success thanks to Chris Cullen and Paul Rothville. These nights bring substantial income to the Club. Other activities included the AFL Grand Final, the Melbourne Cup, Xmas in July and December and the annual bowls day against Cockatoo featured. Again we failed to regain the trophy.

5. Appeals and Welfare. Anzac Day badge and poppy sales on Remembrance Day was a great success - thanks to the Newsagency for their participation. Total funds raised of \$10,300 were used to provide veterans with hampers and firewood and welfare luncheons.

We were donated a mobility scooter for use by Club members. Thanks to Gary Hanlon for getting this project underway.

6. Veterans Luncheons. A new initiative is proving to be quite a success. Two lunches organised to date at Elevations. Guest speakers were Ben Kewish of Hills Physio who spoke on pain management and Lawrence Buck, the RSL advocate who provided information on pensions and welfare. These events will continue in march 2024.

7. Vale. We lost two of our members last year - club stalwart from years ago, Herbie Lamble and Julie de Haan.

8. Membership. Trevor took over this role and is doing a great job. Total membership is 192 - service, affiliate and social.

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Secretary: Tanya Jogan

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9. Footy Tipping. 43 members and families participated in the competition. Brenda Goodyear took home the biscuits. It will continue in 2024.
10. Club Operations. Chris Cullen continues to do a great job running the bar and the music nights. Welcome to Sarah our new lady behind the bar on Thursday nights. Behind the scenes Gabby Maloney made the POS system and managed stock control. The Club continues to be popular venue for community Club use for their meetings. Funeral wakes and birthdays are also quite popular. Last month we hosted Shirley, a local lady, who turned 100.
11. Combined Emergency Function. Tanya Jogan and Trevor Ireland organised this event which was a great success. All four first responder organisations attended and enjoyed the camaraderie of the night. Most likely this will be an annual event.
12. Certificate of Service Presentation. Daryl Bristowe invited Jason Wood to present certificates to relatives of those who have served our country. A great success. Thanks Daryl. This event will happen again in may 2024.
13. RSL Victoria Conference. Tanya Jogan accompanied me in attending this event at Sandown Racecourse and will do so again this year.
14. Container deposit Scheme. The Club is participating with the SES in collecting bottles and cans in a 50:50 arrangement. A 24/7 drop off has been set up in the shed at the rear of the RSL. Thanks to tanya nd Trevor for co-ordinating.
15. Life Members. Three new life members were presented with their certificates - Betty A'Vard, Chris Cullen and Marg Megarry. Congratulations to all three for their magnificent contribution to the Club over many years.

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16. PAVED Festival. The Club participated in this annual event in Emerald with a music night on the Friday night. Weather was terrible but a good time was had by those in attendance.

17. Anzac Walk Brochure. Thanks to Matt Francis for designing the new brochure advertising our Anzac Walk with a new QR code to assist visitors to Anzac Place.

18. Club Maintenance. Thanks to Clyde Pryn and Laurence de Winter for assisting in the odd jobs around the Club.

Thanks to all my Committee members and those additional volunteers who make our Club work so successfully. Particular shout out to Tanya and Gabby, for all their administrative work that has to be done for an RSL to function.

As I said last year, it is paramount for a Club such as ours to have a stable and energetic Committee and this we have - in spades.

Thank you.

Peter Maloney
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