

SITREP

News From Lara RSL Sub Branch - Autumn Edition

Apr 2021
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From the President

As the newly elected president of the Lara RSL Sub Branch, I would like to introduce myself.

We still have quite a few members who are unable to attend the RSL but still support us and are connected to us through correspondence such as our newsletters and mail outs.

I was an operational police officer for 28 years during which times I was also seconded to peacekeeping missions in East Timor, the Solomon Islands and South Sudan.

Independent to my police service, I served over 10 years in the Australian Army and had two years experience as a Prison Officer at Pentridge Prison and Geelong Jail Victoria.

I have been the recipient of the following awards:

Police Service Medal	United Nations Medal (East Timor)
National Medal	United Nations Medal (Sudan)
National Police Service Medal	Police Star Medal
Police Overseas Service Medal (Timor, Solomon Islands & Sudan)	Timor Leste Solidarity Medal Law Enforcement medal (Solomon Islands)
Defence Service Medal	National Emergency Medal
Defence Long Service Medal	

Since the Covid 19 pandemic, the RSL like other businesses was effected, however due to good luck, great Management of Executive/Committee and the amazing support from our membership we have managed to continue providing welfare and fellowship to our veterans.

We are currently in a strong position financially and moral and camaraderie is at an all-time high.

Our treasurer Andy Donald has done an amazing job keeping the books balanced, even though he also has full time employment, he always manages to meet his RSL volunteer commitments.

Andy is also responsible for our newsletter so I would encourage anyone to forward suggestions, articles or any information they think maybe relevant to our membership.

Our newsletters are a great way to keep connected and give a sense of belonging to those members who are unable to actively visit our club or to be involved physically for our planned functions.



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Next Meeting

2pm, Friday 7 May
2pm, Friday 4 June
2pm, Friday 2 July

Useful Links

news@lararsl.com.au —
Newsletter contributions, photos, articles, etc. —
feedback@lararsl.com.au —
Suggestions, feedback etc. Is it just too big for the suggestion box?

Riddle Me This

David's father has three sons:
Snap, Crackle and?

~Answer next issue

Last Month: The more you take,
the more you leave behind. What
am I? *Footsteps.*

cont. pg 2.

In History

Apr 20, 1915: First half-flight, Australian Flying Corps, sailed for the Baghdad expedition in what was to be the first use of Australian aircraft and crew in war.

Apr 25, 1915: Australian, New Zealand, British and French troops land at Gallipoli. While the campaign was a military failure involving the loss of over 46,000 allied troops, (Turkey lost 65,000) the day is a national day of commemoration in both Australia and New Zealand.

Apr 07, 1916: Australians reach the Western Front. First Australian units of 2nd Division arrived at, and introduced to fighting on the Western Front in a quiet area known as the “nursery sector” around Armentieres, France.

Apr 04, 1918: First action at Villers-Bretonneux. Overlooking the Somme, and within range of Amiens, Villers-Bretonneux was a primary objective in early April when the German Spring offensive was in its dying stages.

Apr 24-25, 1918: Second battle of Villers-Bretonneux, Western Front. Having captured the town three weeks earlier, the Germans were driven out by Australian and British troops in a daring night attack that resulted in 1469 casualties.

The Lara RSL Book and Film Club

The group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Lara RSL between 10am and 12 mid-day. Any members or friends can join, although, due to Covid restrictions the group is limited to 10 people.

Each month three books from Goodreads best seller list from the previous twelve months is submitted. The group chooses one book which becomes the book to read for the next month gathering. Only books twelve months old are selected so that only up-to-date books are read.

Members of the group are directed to the cheapest source of purchasing the book, usually an e-book for around \$5, although those desiring a hard copy can obtain it through Geelong local library, if not available, they are directed to the cheapest source to purchase the book.

Time is taken during the meeting to discuss the previous month read and look at choosing the next month read. We also discuss any good movies others have watched on streaming, DVD or the movies.

Anyone wishing to join, contact Margaret Challoner on 0413 555 451.

Lara RSL Sub Branch Museum

There has been a hive of activity over the last few months putting our Victoria Cross display together in our new cabinets. We continue to have ongoing grants to purchase archival material and supplies to meet museum storage standards.

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I would like to take this opportunity to remind our membership and our wider veteran community that they are always welcome to attend our Friday night happy hours and scheduled social events such as BBQs and bus Trips.

To our veterans, please contact us or reach out to us if you require any welfare assistance. If we cannot help you ourselves, we will certainly direct you in finding a pathway for assistance.

Our past president Bob Schouten who has worked hard over the years securing grant money has transformed the RSL into a modern place where members can relax in a safe and comfortable environment.

His grants have also assisted our museum staff for them to enhance and display the extensive military memorabilia and exhibits that they have been cataloguing.

I would like to acknowledge Bruce Challoner and his team for their commitment and vision moving forward with the museum and education centre for veterans and the younger generation of Lara residents.

Bob is staying with the committee, playing an active supporting role and will continue to pursue more grants in the future for the benefit of our club and membership.

Covid 19 has been difficult for all and at this point we have no guarantees of what is in store for the future, however as a club we will continue to stay positive, plan for a bright future ahead and continue to provide our core focus which is in support of our veteran community.

This support for our veterans is made possible through all our generous volunteers and the hours they put in. The support and generosity from all our members who attend our Friday nights and social functions, your attendance, fellowship and friendship are what makes our club so special and makes me proud to be elected as the president representing you all.

Kind Regards
Vic Robb

Our group of dedicated helpers spend every Thursday 9-3pm at the RSL updating our material electronically. Everything is online through Victorian Collections for the world to see. To get an item online is a tedious exercise as a photo needs to be taken and the item recorded. It then has to be stored away in our safe in archival material. It also needs researching, which in some cases can take days.

Take the opportunity to drop in on any Thursday for a cuppa and look at our new display. You may have some memorabilia from a relative that you would like to donate to the RSL or loan to us. There are many precious military items that end up in the tip instead of an RSL.

We also have an extensive military library. Any military books can be donated to the RSL.

Social Inclusion

"Social inclusion" is part of our framework in providing welfare to our members and supporting their mental health and wellbeing.

Therefore, we are endeavouring to provide more opportunities for a get together and socialising.

As well as our regular Friday night happy hours, we will be hosting BBQs, excursions and special events in addition to our traditional Anzac and Remembrance days.


We currently have a bus trip organised for the 9th of April 2021 to attend Fort Queenscliff followed by a lunch at the Geelong RSL. Although this trip is booked out some members are pulling out so if you would like to be on the standby list please contact Vic Robb 0409 184 532.

There is another bus trip booked for the 23 July to go to the Werribee Zoo with lunch provided at the zoo (sandwiches). You can start requesting an expression of interest.

We also have another trip booked but destination has yet to be decided.:

If any service members or veterans have any transport difficulties getting to these events let us know as we may be able to assist with taxis in some circumstances

**INAUGURAL
PRE ANZAC DAY
BLACKTIE DINNER**



**VETERANS
BLACK TIE DINNER**
MINIATURE MEDALS APPROPRIATE
WED 21ST APRIL 2021
GEELONG RSL 5.30 FOR 6PM
COST \$50 /HEAD
3 COURSE MEAL - DRINKS @ BAR PRICES

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
DVA KRISTOPHER O'BRIEN-SUTHERLAND.
OPEN ARMS COMMUNITY & PEER ADVISOR -
COUNCILLOR ED KONTELJ COGG VETERANS OFFICER
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL— DAVID WILSON davidwilson8@outlook.com
GEELONG TPI WELFARE & SOCIAL CLUB INC.,

ANZAC DAY Dawn Service - Lara RSL, 6AM, 25 April 2021

**ANZAC DAY
DAWN SERVICE
25th April - 6am
LARA RSL**
See inside for further details

Please note that in accordance with State Government Covid19 protocols this event may be cancelled at a moment's notice.

To-date we have State Government approval to hold the 'Dawn Service' as a Tier Three Event (up to 1000 people).

We have allocated within our 'boundary' an area we can manage, as our responsibility under Covid19 restrictions, for 400 persons to include Lara RSL members and families, current serving and retired members of the Australian Defence Force and families and invited guests. Should this number not be reached, Lara residents are invited to attend given that they must register on entry (sign in or QR code), socially distance and wear a mask. Other space outside our designated area may be available given larger numbers may be expected.

There is no parking on site (please use the train station car park). There will be limited seating for the elderly and disabled. Wreath presenters are requested to hold their wreaths until called forward to be laid. Portable toilets will be available on site.

At the conclusion of the 'Service' a 'soldier's' tea or coffee together with an ANZAC biscuit will be served free of charge.

RATS of TOBRUK 80th Anniversary

Open Arms

Open Arms—Veterans & Families Counselling Service
 ☎ 1800 011 046
 ✉ openarms.coord@dva.gov.au
<http://openarms.gov.au>
 At Ease Website:
<http://www.at-ease.dva.gov.au>

DVA General Enquiries
 ☎ 1800 555 254
 ✉ generalenquiries@dva.gov.au
<http://www.dva.gov.au>

Editor

Are there any supporters missing from this page. Do you know anyone who should be on this page or would be interested in supporting us. Support comes in many ways, from vouchers in our weekly raffle to substantial grants that permit the renovations seen in the last 18 months.

Do you have a suggestion but don't know how to approach it, who to see? We have a suggestion box in the main lounge, and all feedback is welcome. Too big for the suggestion box? Send an email to; feedback@lararsl.com.au. Committee meet once a month and will review all submissions.

References:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/>

Coming up

9 April	Fort Queenscliff, bus to and from. Includes lunch at Geelong RSL. Currently full, if interested there is a standby list. See Vic.
15 April	Book & Film Club, Lara RSL, 10am - 12pm.
21 April	Veterans Black Tie Dinner, Geelong RSL, 5:30pm
25 April	ANZAC Day, Lara RSL, 6:00am start.
7 May / 4 June / 2 July	Monthly Info Meetup, Lara RSL, 2pm
23 July	Werribee Open Range Zoo, bus to and from. Includes lunch. Time: 8.30 depart returning by 3pm. See Vic to RSVP.

Our Supporters



Lara Quality Meats



Rotary Club of Lara District



THE PRODUCE CORNER



Mileers LARA - VICTORIA



coles



Ray White

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Executive Committee

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