#### **Our Supporters**

Coles Lara Woolworths Lara Bendigo Community Bank Lara Lions Club Lara Rotary Club Lara Quality Meats Bakers Delight Lara The Produce Corner Millars Cafe Annas Café Ray White Lara



#### **Open Arms**

Open Arms—Veterans and 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 enquires

1800 555 254

general enquiries @dva.govau

http://www.dva.gov.au

#### **Statement of Purpose**

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.

### **Executive Committee**

President	Marcus McEwen	president@lararsl.com.au	0455 190 679
Sr Vice President	Ian Ballantyne	iballantyne@lararsl.com.au	0447 558 970
Vice President	Roy Cook	rcook@lararsl.com.au	
Secretary	Helen Ballantyne	hballantyne@lararsl.com.au	0422 935 943
Treasurer	Andy Donald	treasurer@lararsl.com.au	0400 824 496

## SITREP Lara RSL Sub Branch

### **President Report:**



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members that attended our AGM on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. It is always good to see democracy at play, after all that is why we served our country to ensure that we can live in a democratic society!

I would also like to thank all of our newly elected committee members for nominating for their respective positions. I know that being on the committee brings about an added burden on your time and all of your efforts and dedication is what keeps the RSL running smoothly and enables us to carry out the incredibly important job of looking after all of our members.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those who haven't made it down to our regular Friday evenings and explain a little bit about the direction that I would like to take the RSL in.

I joined the RAN at the age of 17 and served as a Naval Stores sailor for 12.5 years. I did 4 years at sea on Patrol Boats, 2 years at sea on a landing craft and 3.5 years at sea on 2 different frigates. Since leaving the Navy I have worked within the prison system before moving back into the world of Logistics.

My vision for the RSL is to continue to create an environment whereby everybody feels welcome to pop in and say hi, relax amongst our friends, where people feel comfortable to share what's happening for them and most importantly, have a few laughs! As discussed at the AGM, I would like to do some work to modernize our back yard area and also have the memorial out the front of the RSL refurbished. I would like our committee to build on the relationships with other groups and organizations within the greater Lara area so that we can all support each other whilst simultaneously gaining benefits for the RSL as well. I will also be working with some of the other RSL's within our local area to see what we can do to help each other by supporting each others events and will be inviting their members to also attend our events where this is appropriate.

In finishing, I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to be the President of our RSL sub branch and I look forward to working with all of our members to get the most out of our RSL together.

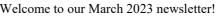
Regards, Marcus McEwer

### What's been happening?

- Australia Day Celebrations
- St Patrick's Day Celebrations
- Annual General Meeting (AGM)

ISSUE 2

2023





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#### ISSUE 2

SITREP

### **ST. PATRICKS DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Friday evening fun with a nod to St Patrick Green drinks, food and dress enjoyed with an impromptu renditions of our favorite songs in karaoke all alongside a few good Irish jokes. You never know what is going to happen on a Friday night.



#### **DISPLAY CABINETS**

This ANZAC Day we will be displaying our members memorabilia in our display cabinets in the main hall.

If you would like to share and display your service history, please come and visit the RSL and speak to Ian Ballantyne who will be able to help you with this process.

Through this initiative we will be able to learn about our own members, as well as educate our visitors about the service of our local members.

This display is for ANZAC Day and will be changed for future celebrations.



## **NEW RSL COMMITTEE**

A warm welcome to the new committee members voted in during the recent AGM.

President	Marcus McEwen
Senior Vice President	Ian Ballantyne
Vice President	Roy Cook
Treasurer	Andy Donald
Secretary	Helen Ballantyne
Minute Secretary	Kimba McEwen
Elected members:	Bob Lawson
	David Flatt
	Josh Hall
	Greg Code

**UPCOMING EVENTS** 

Neil Buttigieg

Event	When/Where	Details
Music in the Park	Saturday 25th March	Performers and Q&A
	Austin Park	All welcome
Family BBQ	Friday 31st March	All welcome.
		Games and music
ANZAC Day	25th April	Gunfire Breakfast to follow
	Lara RSL	RSL open until 9:30am
	6am Dawn Service	12pm—BBQ and music
Family BBQ	28th April	BBQ and music
	1700—onwards	Family, children and friends welcome
Black Tie Fundraiser	16th June	Wine Drive
		Wine tasting and charcuterie
		All funds raised to be donated to 'Open Arms' - looking after our Veterans mental health







#### ISSUE 2

SITREP

### **AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS**



This year members enjoyed music and a BBQ alongside a variety of Australian games such as the Aussie classics of 'Toss the Thong' and Australiana themed 'Pictionary'



#### **BOOKCASE UPGRADES**

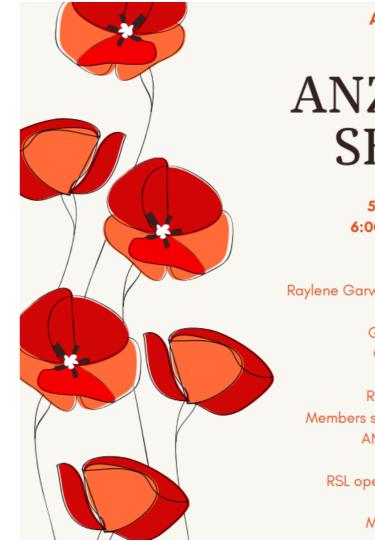


- A new bookcase has been installed in the memorial room after receiving a grant from Bendigo Bank.
- The books have been sorted and are now ready for borrowing by all members.
- All books that were not needed have gone to the Rotary Club as a donation.

#### **HMAS CERBERUS**



An early start to a big day as 25 members head off for HMAS Cerberus open day. A day filled with exhibitions and demonstrations of a working base.



Lara Sub Branch is currently waiting on approval from the RSL for members to play 'Two-Up', once an official decision has been made this will be communicated to members.

#### **APRIL 25 2023** LARA RSL

# ANZAC DAY SERVICE

#### **5:30AM GATHERING 6:00AM SERVICE BEGINS**

Guest Speaker: Raylene Garwood, Squadron Leader (Retired)

> **GUNFIRE BREAKFAST:** Gold Coin Donation

RSL open until 9:30am Members service memorabilia on display ANZAC Badges for sale

RSL open at 12:00pm for members **BBQ** Lunch Music - Forged By Fire