

## 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](mailto: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

[generalenquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:generalenquiries@dva.gov.au)

<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	<a href="mailto:president@lararsl.com.au">president@lararsl.com.au</a>	0455 190 679
Sr Vice President	Ian Ballantyne	<a href="mailto:iballantyne@lararsl.com.au">iballantyne@lararsl.com.au</a>	0447 558 970
Vice President	Roy Cook	<a href="mailto:rcook@lararsl.com.au">rcook@lararsl.com.au</a>	
Secretary	Helen Ballantyne	<a href="mailto:hballantyne@lararsl.com.au">hballantyne@lararsl.com.au</a>	0422 935 943
Treasurer	Andy Donald	<a href="mailto:treasurer@lararsl.com.au">treasurer@lararsl.com.au</a>	0400 824 496

# SITREP Lara RSL Sub Branch

ISSUE 2

2023

## President Report:



Welcome to our March 2023 newsletter!

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 McEwen

## What's been happening?

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



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## NEW RSL COMMITTEE

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

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	When/Where	Details
Music in the Park	Saturday 25th March Austin Park	Performers and Q&A All welcome
Family BBQ	Friday 31st March	All welcome. Games and music
ANZAC Day	25th April Lara RSL 6am Dawn Service	Gunfire Breakfast to follow RSL open until 9:30am 12pm—BBQ and music
Family BBQ	28th April 1700—onwards	BBQ and music 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

## 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.



## 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.



**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

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.