

SITREP

News From Lara RSL Sub Branch - Spring Edition - Volume 7, No. 3



From the President

Welcome to the Spring edition of our SITREP (newsletter).

As, we venture towards the end of the year, I wanted to thank all the members and volunteers who have supported our RSL throughout some of the difficulties that COVID and its restrictions placed upon us.

Now that restrictions have eased, our welfare team and I can provide home visits and face to face support.

Remember I am only a phone call away if you need to communicate with me.

Now that a lot of restrictions have eased, it is time to reconnect with family and friends and of course it's a great time to reconnect with our club and fellow members.

As of 29th October we are open again for our Friday night get together and our first Friday of the month information sessions.

Just a reminder that the main restriction we have in entering the club is that you have to be double vaccinated and you must produce evidence to support your QR code in.

This newsletter contains a list of upcoming events such as our "Thank you for your Service day" BBQ Sunday and the Werribee Zoo bus trip which was postponed due to COVID.

I would like to Acknowledge all our Service members and the war Widows especially those who cannot physically attend the club room. You are our purpose and our motivation to continue and succeed.

Thank you all once again for your ongoing support to our Service Veterans.

Kind Regards,

President Lara RSL



COVID Safe Update

Further to the Victorian Premier's most recent announcement, restrictions were eased across Victoria with effect from 2359 Thursday 18 November 2021. Accordingly, the following applies when visiting Lara RSL:

- Gathering limits, capacity and density limits no longer apply
- Masks are not required.
- Members and their guests are required by the Victorian Government to be double vaccinated and to check in using the available QR code or signing in on the form in the foyer.

For more information or for assistance, don't hesitate to approach anyone on the committee. Additionally, the following Victorian Government information is available:

- <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorias-roadmap>
- <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-settings>

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Next Meeting

2pm, Friday 3 Dec
2pm, Friday 4 Feb
2pm, Friday 4 Mar

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

What tastes better than it smells?

~Answer next issue

Last Month: What has to be broken
before you can use it?

An egg.

In History

Nov 18, 1916: Somme campaign ends after 4 months and more than 1.2 million casualties from both sides.

Nov 03, 1918: Armistice with Austria-Hungary signed.

Nov 11, 1918: Germany signs armistice that ended fighting on the Western Front. The First World War ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

Nov 11, 1941: Opening of the Australian War Memorial, two years into the Second World War.

Nov 19, 1941: HMAS Sydney [II] sunk with the loss of entire crew of 645 under circumstances that remain controversial to this day.

Nov 12, 1943: Last Japanese air raid on Darwin, it was the 64th raid on Australia since February 1942.

Nov 23, 1948: Formation of the Australian Regiment.

Nov 10, 1964: Selective conscription introduced for 20-year old males by ballot under the National Service Act. The National Service Scheme saw 15,381 young men serve in Vietnam.

For more information on any of these events, and others can be found here; <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar/nov>

RSL VICTORIA HERE FOR YOU

RSL Victoria is here to provide assistance and support to past and present service personnel and their families.

Importantly you do not have to be a member of the RSL to receive assistance from RSL Victoria; you only have to be a current or former member of the Australian Defence Force, our Allies, or a dependent of either group.

Explore our support services below or contact [Veteran Central](#) for direct support.

Veteran Central is a place for Victorian veterans to interact with Ex-Service Organisations and get the support they need to maintain their wellbeing. Our **1300 MILVET** (1300 645 838) number is staffed by Case Navigators who will work directly with you to find and link you to supports that are available. This might be within RSL programs, our Ex-Service Organisation community in Australia, or help navigating the DVA system or Commonwealth aged care system.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any veteran or family member of a veteran is welcome to speak to us. RSL defines a veteran as anyone who has served within the Australian or an Allied Defence Force, including reservists. We know there are different eligibility criteria for different DVA and ESO services; we can help you navigate these.

COMPENSATION SUPPORT

[If you are thinking of submitting a claim to DVA for an injury or illness, we recommend that you use an advocacy service to help the claims process.](#)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT

[RSL Victoria provides a number of services to ensure that the ex-service community are receiving the right health and wellbeing support when in need](#)

MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

[RSL Victoria has partnered with Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling to provide suicide intervention and mental health literacy workshops across the State.](#)

FINANCIAL WELFARE

[RSL Victoria is committed to helping veterans access the support they need and providing emergency benevolent support when it is required.](#)

VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

[Our employer partners are seeking to attract top veteran talent like you. Let us connect you.](#)

RSL ACTIVE

[RSL Active is a program from RSL Victoria designed to support the physical health and wellbeing of veterans and their families.](#)



Returned Service Personnel Parking Permits

If you have served Australia in Active Military Service you may be eligible for a Returned Service Personnel Parking Permit.

Council has adopted a parking permit system to acknowledge the people who have **served Australia in active military service** in recognition of such service.

The parking permit waives any fees associated with parking in Central Geelong. The permit holder is still required to adhere to the applicable time limits.

Returned Service Personnel Parking Permits are:

- Issued to current City of Greater Geelong residents who have **served Australia** in active military service in the theatre of war recognised by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- For the purpose of the scheme active military service be defined as that of being involved in the theatre of war, which is recognized by;
 - Australian Acting Service Medal - 1939-1945
 - Australian Active Service Medal – 1945-1975
 - Australian Active Service Medal - 1975 onward
 - Veteran's Affairs Gold Card - includes War Widow's Gold Card

The following proof of eligible criteria is required:

- Presentation of medals or Gold Card for verification when lodging application
- Drivers License/Photo ID
- VicRoads vehicle registration certificate/s
- Proof of residency in City of Greater Geelong (that is: rates notice, utility bill)

Forms are available at any of our customer service centres;
<https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/contact/default.aspx#location>

Completed applications can be lodged at any of our customer service centres or mailed to:

City of Greater Geelong
 Community Laws & Compliance
 PO Box 104
 GEELONG VIC 3220

Remembrance Day

This year we raised approx. \$7600 from poppy sales, badges, donations etc. In the context of the discussions I have on an on-going basis with the team at ANZAC house, I can say that for the size and nature of our sub-branch, we regularly bat well above our weight in terms of fund-raising on both ANZAC day

and Remembrance Day (over \$20,000 this year alone). We have a fantastic community in Lara, and the level of patriotism they show is evident in the amount raised alone, but it isn't enough without the efforts from our members who sell the poppies, so a huge thanks to Jason for your leadership and to everyone else for your efforts in the leadup to Nov-11, your dedication does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

~Treasurer



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK

"Thank you for your Service Day"



Saturday 4 December 2021



Lara RSL **Rotary**

This years "Thank You for your Service Day" will commence at 11am with an Open Day of the R.S.L. Lara, a Walk and Talk with a Veteran followed by a BBQ lunch.
 At this event we will acknowledge and thank our Veterans for their Service, commitment, sacrifice and courage in ensuring the safety of our community and country. We will also acknowledge their families for their support.

We welcome current and retired members of ADF including Reservists and Cadets, Victoria Police, Australian Federal Police, Protective Services Officers, Border Force, Prison Officers, CFA, MFB, Ambulance and SES. Family members welcome.



**Medals to be worn.
 Awards will be presented to deserving recipients.**

**Further details: contact Vic Robb, President Lara RSL:
vrob@lararsl.com.au**



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.

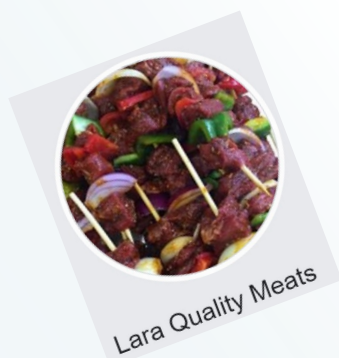
Membership Fees

Members may have noticed that membership fees for 2022 have been kept at the reduced amount of \$20. For many, 2021 has been another difficult year, and we would hope this is just one way in which we can thank members for their continued understanding as we navigate our way around these ongoing challenges.

Coming Up

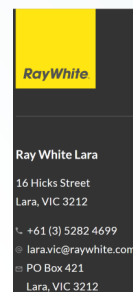
3 December	RSL Information Session, 2am, Lara RSL
4 December	Veterans Health Day, 11am Lara RSL
11 December	RSL Christmas Lunch (limit 50). Let Karen know if interested.
31 December	New Years Eve Celebration, 6pm - 1am, Lara RSL (BYO food)
January 2022	Bus Trip, Werribee Zoo, Date/Time TBA
2022	Lifestyle and well being activities, more info coming

Our Supporters



5 Waverley Road
Lara VIC 3212
Ph: (03) 5282 6430

Operating Hours
Mon-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm
Sat 9:00am-12:00pm



Executive Committee

President	Vic Robb	president@lararsl.com.au	0409 184 532
Senior Vice President	John Ockwell	seniorvicepresident@lararsl.com.au	0409 520 974
Vice President	Ian Jane	vicepresident@lararsl.com.au	0423 973 404
Secretary	Karen Robb	secretary@lararsl.com.au	0437 388 556
Treasurer	Andy Donald	treasurer@lararsl.com.au	0400 824 496