

# ANNUAL REPORT



Frankston  
RSL

# 2023



FY2023  
PRINTED MARCH 2024

FRANKSTON RSL

# VALE 2023



Allen, Annie  
Anderson, Peter  
Azzopardi, Eddie  
Bailey, Ronald  
Bowell, Maxwell  
Bradley, Arthur  
Bull, Edward (Ted)  
Burrows, Fred  
Colquhoun, Bruce  
Connelly, Bernard  
Davis, Fletcher  
Deery, Alan  
Duncan, Harvey  
Echberg, David  
Ellis, Brian  
Elson, Peter  
Emerson, John

Fleming, Archibald  
Gavin, Stewart  
Hanisch, Robin  
Henderson, Alan  
Higgins, Robert  
Hinds, Coral  
Laxton, Paul  
Ling, Robert  
McKinley, Geoff  
Muir, James  
Neil, Norman  
Newman, Arthur  
Notman, Gary  
Perryman, John  
Power, Sidney  
Renwood, Brian  
Richardson, John  
Rudelbach, Martin

Sealey, Robert  
Shepperd, Robert  
Sherratt, Ronald  
Shrume, John  
Stewart, Glenn  
Thompson, Michael  
Thurlow, Russell  
Van Der Lugt, Jan  
Visser, Dick Elshout  
Walton, Mark  
Westley, David  
Whelan, Christine  
White, Michael  
Whitehead, Frederick  
Wight, William  
Woods, Donald

## RSL LIFE MEMBERS

J F AKEROYD AM\*  
F ANDERSON\*  
J W ARNEY\*  
E BARRETT\*  
K BETTLES\*  
P A BRISCOE\*  
R G BROWN\*  
H CAMERON\*  
F C CAREY\*  
F CLAYTON\*  
A COLE\*  
REV V COLLINS OAM\*  
B CLYNE  
J P DEIGHTON AM MC\*  
T L DICKMAN\*  
DH FOWLER\*  
A C GARDINER\*  
H R GILHAM\*

E J GOLDSMITH\*  
B HICKMAN  
K HILLIER OAM  
A F HOLMES\*  
A M HORSBURGH OAM\*  
E M HUGHES\*  
W G INDIAN\*  
B JOHNS\*  
A JOHNSON\*  
P R KENNEDY\*  
W LESLIE\*  
P M LOUREY\*  
S C LOVELL\*  
R W F MCCARTHY\*  
C A MCKENZIE\*  
R H MCLELLAND  
R MORRISON

A C MURPHY\*  
D F NICOLL\*  
D A PATTERSON\*  
A PAXINO\*  
E C PEARCE\*  
J L PRATT\*  
S PRENDERGAST\*  
W R PULLING\*  
F A SEWELL\*  
A SHOUT\*  
J SLATTERY\*  
J SMITH\*  
L W STREETS OAM\*  
L V SWANSON\*  
C L THURKLE\*  
G M WALKER\*  
S U WALKER\*  
R W WHEELER OAM\*  
A WHITWORTH\*

\* DECEASED



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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



KEVIN HILLIER OAM

On behalf of the committee, it is with a strong sense of pride and achievement that I submit my report for the 2023 year for your approval and adoption.

We have had a year of consolidation with our new management structure in place, although there have been ongoing concerns following COVID19 with maintaining staff in other relevant areas.

Financially we continue to have a solid base and although our figures will show a loss, we have spent more on our core values of supporting veterans than any previous year. The Treasurer's report will explain in greater detail how the different financial entities support both veterans and the business.

## VETERAN WELLBEING

Our Wellbeing Coordinator, Stellar, has been inundated with requests for support and to the point that we have had to employ an assistant. With bus trips, tours, and general veteran and wellbeing assistance, it is a task that is being done better than in the years gone by and for the benefit of veterans and families.



Melbourne Museum and Highett RSL Lunch Trip, October 2023

*"It goes without saying that we are forever grateful to our members for their patronage and who continue to support the business which in turn enables us to financially assist veterans and families in need".*

## VETERAN WELLBEING

Veteran Wellbeing has grown from assisting 126 veterans in 2021, 206 veterans in 2022, and 265 veterans in 2023. The Veteran Wellbeing Team, comprising of Wellbeing Advocates, led by Tony, Wellbeing Support Officers - led by Carol, and Wellbeing Coordinator - Stellar, has excelled in its assistance to veterans and families.



Wellbeing Advocates & Support Officers Tony G, Carol M, Tony D.

## FRANKSTON RSL MOBILITY TEAM REPURPOSING DONATED ITEMS TO VETERANS



Wellbeing Mobility Team - repurposing donated items to veterans

## NEW WELLBEING SPACE IN 2024

We have continued a close relationship with ANZAC House and provided support to their endeavours. This includes supporting the Veterans Hub which is manned by ANZAC House employees and volunteers. ANZAC House were successful in receiving a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and during 2024 a portable office space will be located next to the pavilion to provide a quiet place for veterans seeking compensation or wellbeing support.



## VETERAN AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT 2023

Our support to Veterans has grown considerably in 2023 - and over \$500,000 was spent on wellbeing, welfare, and veteran support programs.

Additionally, each week Residential Care Homes in the area are provided with lunch at the venue, making for a wonderful opportunity for residents to stay socially connected; in 2023, 845 attended and just over \$17,000 was spent on the lunches.

While our support to veterans and their families has grown, so too has our community support to charities and sporting clubs within our region. In total \$225,000 was contributed to our Community Support Program, and as this is a two-way street, we thank community clubs for their support to the club.



## ASSOCIATIONS USING THE CLUB FACILITIES

It is always pleasing to see other veteran organisations using the Frankston RSL facility, such as the Frankston Vietnam Veterans Association, Partners of Veterans Association, Ex-service Women's Association, Women's Auxiliary Social Group, and Legacy. Included in these are the coffee groups and the Saturday lunch group which have grown throughout 2023; both coffee groups, which meet on a Wednesday and Friday, have grown to over thirty attendees each week and 971 overall in 2023, and the Saturday lunch group – aimed for contemporary veterans and families, has seen a steady growth as they meet bi-monthly.



## CENTENARY OF LEGACY RAISED \$2,000 AS TORCH BEARER

In September 2023 I was honoured to have participated in the Legacy Torch Relay on the Mornington Peninsula leg of the relay. On behalf of legacy, thank you members, staff, family, and friends who donated towards the walk, "Legs for Legacy". We raised \$2,000 for Legacy - who support the widow/ers and families of our veterans, and funds were donated to supporting veteran wellbeing programs and helping veterans and their families who find themselves in necessitous circumstances!

The Frankston RSL donated a plinth for the Frankston War Memorial, in recognition of the support Legacy give to the widows and children of deceased veterans.

The torch relay commenced on the 23rd of April in Pozières, France and commemorates the Centenary of Legacy - an organisation the Frankston RSL works with closely.



## RSL VICTORIA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Congratulations to Committee Member Tony Grice on being inducted into the RSL "Hall of Fame" in November 2023 at the RSL Victoria Awards and we thank him for dedication to the network; 8 years Committee Member, 51 years service member, 12 years wellbeing advocate, appeals officer, volunteer, team leader mobility aids, 5 year's indoor bowls sub-section, and more.



Hall of Fame Inductee - Tony Grice, Committee Member, Wellbeing Advocate, Volunteer - RSL VIC Awards 2023





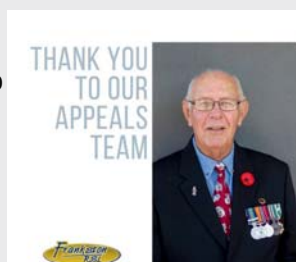
## ANZAC DAY 2023

Our commemorative events have continued to grow in 2023 with record attendance levels. We held another successful ANZAC Day Commemoration at Frankston War Memorial, Beauty Park, with attendance of circa 5,000 for the Dawn service and 2,000 for the 11AM service. Afterwards, 450 members and their families enjoyed a sit-down lunch back at the club, with the 'Ceremonial Table for the Missing' once again being a highlight of the day.



## ANZAC DAY & POPPY APPEALS

We were fortunate to have had two very successful appeals in 2023, where over \$100,000 was raised during ANZAC Day commemorations, and a further \$63,000 for Remembrance Day. These are record figures in the history of the club and we thank Peter Kerley, Appeals Coordinator and Committee Member, for the extraordinary effort he put into running the ANZAC and Poppy Appeals. His passion has seen the income grow remarkably during the period. A special thank you also to Robert Taylor for his coordination of the Poppy Appeal and a very special thank you to the volunteers that make all of this happen. Further to this is the passion of our reception staff, led by Jodi, in providing ever changing merchandise stock for purchase throughout the year. A portion of the funds from these sales also go toward the support of veterans.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

Remembrance Day was equally gratifying with a wonderful turnout given that weather conditions were not favourable. A decision was also made to move the 2023 Remembrance Day services back to the Frankston War Memorial in Beauty Park due to it becoming too dangerous to hold the service at the memorial garden and parking area at the venue - with so much vehicular traffic around the club.



## COMMITTEE CHANGES

The committee have continued to work well together and the only change through the year was the standing down of our Secretary, Kelvin Park, and I thank Kel for all his support to the veteran community. In turn, I thank Peter Kerley for returning to the committee to fill the position of Secretary.

## VALES

To the family members of our 53 deceased Service members, I offer my sincere condolences. This is a timely reminder that deceased service members are entitled to an RSL Ritual as part of the funeral service. We are unable to provide this service if we are advised after the funeral.

## THANK YOU

I thank the committee for their diligence in maintaining our Corporate Governance, and the Frankston RSL staff for their support to the veteran community and general club membership.

It goes without saying that we are forever grateful to our members for their patronage, and who continue to support the business which in turn enables us to financially assist veterans and families in need.

Finally, but more importantly it is the support I, and the committee, receive from our club members. A smile is always greatly appreciated.

**KEVIN HILLIER OAM**  
**President 2024**





# **OUR MISSION**

**To support the welfare of veterans and their families.  
To promote pride, respect and belonging within the  
veteran and broader community by maintaining a  
welcoming atmosphere and providing outstanding  
hospitality and entertainment.**

## **VISION**

**Connecting communities**

**Connecting the veteran community with services and camaraderie**

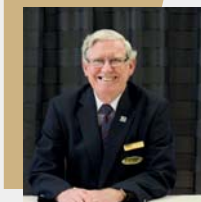
**Connecting the broader community with experiences through customer first hospitality**

**[www.frankston.rsl.com.au](http://www.frankston.rsl.com.au)**



# COMMITTEE

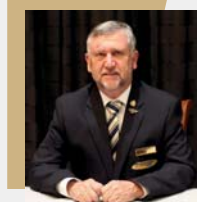
In 2023, the Frankston RSL committee comprised of nine members following the AGM - Four Executive and Five Committee Members.



**KEVIN HILLIER OAM**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**Retired**  
Finance &  
Development  
Governance Veterans  
Centre Events  
Joined 2008



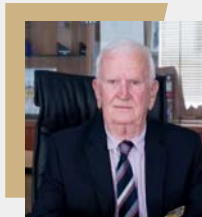
**JOHN BARRY**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**MFB Fire-Fighter**  
Governance  
Community  
Events Volunteers  
Joined 2015



**BRIAL HILL CSC**  
**TREASURER**  
**Retired**  
Finance & Development  
Governance  
Audit/Risk Management  
Veterans Centre  
Sub-Groups  
Joined 2018



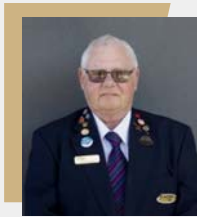
**PETER KERLEY**  
**SECRETARY**  
**Retired**  
Appeals  
Coordinator  
Joined 2021



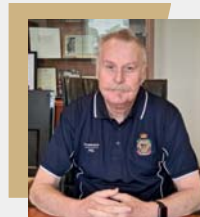
**KEVIN TESTER**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**Retired**  
Community  
Events  
Appeals  
Joined 2021



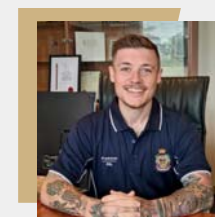
**LYN LYNCH**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**Laboratory Assistant**  
Community  
Events  
Appeals  
Sub-sections  
Joined 2014



**TONY GRICE**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**Retired**  
Wellbeing Officer  
Mobility Team  
Appeals  
Joined 2021



**DAVID HELMAN**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**Retired**  
Community  
Events, Appeals.  
Joined 2023



**ZAK CRITSILIS**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**Statewide Coordinator,**  
**Mental Health Victoria**  
Commemoration MC  
Young Veterans  
Coordinator  
Joined 2023

## EXECUTIVE team



**Brett Rowlands**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**  
**SINCE 2022**



**Colin Ross**  
**OPERATIONS**  
**MANAGER**  
**SINCE 2022**

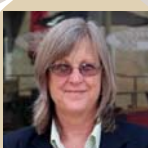


**Jodi Millar**  
**PEOPLE & CULTURE**  
**MANAGER**  
**SINCE 2023**

## MANAGEMENT team



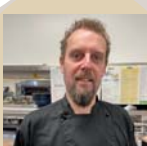
**Wendy Broks**  
**FRONT OF HOUSE**  
**MANAGER**  
**SINCE 2006**



**Lynda Leverington**  
**FINANCE**  
**MANAGER**  
**SINCE 2007**



**Tracy Vrana**  
**BAR & GAMING**  
**MANAGER**  
**SINCE 2012**



**Dean Edwards**  
**EXECUTIVE CHEF**  
**SINCE 2022**



**Patricia Russo**  
**MARKETING &**  
**PROMOTIONS**  
**MANAGER**  
**SINCE 2021**



**Anja Lepoigneux**  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
**MANAGER**  
**SINCE 2013**



# TREASURER'S REPORT



**BRIAN HILL CSC**

*"In summary, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch had a strong trading year in 2023 and is in a sound financial position with good end of year cash at bank, and a solid equity position. These outcomes put the Sub-Branch in a good position going forward in 2024."*

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023

It is my pleasure to present the Treasurer's Report for 2023. I am pleased to report the Frankston Sub-Branch Incorporated (Inc.) recorded its best trading year to date. Income generated for the year was \$20,631,711, which was \$1,612,287 (8.47%) greater than 2022 and the first time the Club has recorded more than \$20,000,000 in sales.

Unfortunately, we were not immune from the current cost of living pressures, and expenses for the year were \$2,427,932 (13.33%) greater than 2022 expenses. This resulted in the Sub-Branch trading account showing a loss of \$3,983. While this is disappointing, there were several factors that contributed to this outcome. As mentioned, the cost of living has increased our costs for goods and services across the board. A key area that saw an increase was wages, which totalled \$5,595,244 for the year, which was an increase of \$733,220 (15.08%) in 2022. This is an area that will continue to increase, but must be incurred to maintain the current level, and quality, of service. Another expenditure that affected the end of year outcome was the payment of \$558,342 for the Gaming Machine Licence liability. This is a State Government licence fee for the gaming machines, with payments being made over seven years, 2022 - 2029.

The end of year outcome in the Patriotic Fund (PF) was more favourable, with the fund recording a profit of \$146,143. The PF is the owner of the Sub-Branch's land, building, and all other fixed assets. The Sub-Branch as user of the premises pay rent to the PF, which for 2023 was \$1,191,400.

The rent is paid from the Sub-Branch General Trading Account and used to maintain or improve the premises and service the bank loan taken out for the last redevelopment. Loan repayments made for 2023 were \$499,200, and the outstanding loan balance at the end of the year was \$3,721,160.

Frankston RSL Sub-Branch acts as an Agent of the RSL State Branch General Appeals Account. Appeals monies are primarily raised through the Annual ANZAC and Remembrance Day Poppy Appeals. A total of \$157,986 was raised through the appeals in 2023, of which \$78,993 (50%) was retained by the Sub-Branch to support Veterans in our area. The balance was paid to the State Branch General Appeals Account to be utilised for Veteran support statewide.

In summary, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch had a strong trading year in 2023 and is in a sound financial position with good end of year cash at bank, and a solid equity position. These outcomes put the Sub-Branch in a good position going forward in 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee members and our Finance Team, Lynda, Jarrod, and Marion, for their assistance and on-going support.

**BRIAN HILL CSC**  
Treasurer



# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



**BRETT ROWLANDS**

As I contemplate the year 2023, I reflect on a year of challenge, growth, and development. Personally, 2023 was my first full year at the helm of this organisation. It is with immense pride that I reflect upon some of the highlights that we have been able to deliver to you, the member. The increased services and events for our Veterans is what drives us to achieve more every day.

The delivery of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day commemoration Services are the highlights of every year. Hosting Remembrance Day at the War Memorial was especially poignant this year, and a great turnout to both events shows the importance of this task we undertake for the community.

From an entertainment and leisure perspective, some of my personal highlights include the 50-year commemoration dinner for the exit of Vietnam; the introduction of Single Income to Mega Fridays; Denise Drysdale selling out back to shows, the improvements to the Bistro ambience and comfort, successful Christmas, and New Year's Eve celebrations; The Oktoberfest event in CP's, and of course, hosting the RSL Victoria Hall of Fame Dinner in November.



*Our vision: "To support the welfare of veterans and their families. To promote pride, respect and belonging within the veteran and broader community by maintaining a welcoming atmosphere and providing outstanding hospitality and entertainment."*

## STAFF

In 2023 we welcomed Jodi Millar to the Executive Team, as our People and Culture Manager. Along with Operations Manager Colin Ross, their tireless dedication to deliver for the Frankston RSL helped us achieve great things in 2023. I thank them for their professionalism, work ethic, and dedication to their roles.

Our Department Heads deliver each and every day. Wendy (FOH), Tracy (Gaming), Dean (BOH), Lynda (Finance), Patricia (Marketing), and Anja (Administration) - all have my sincere thanks and appreciation for what they deliver in their area of expertise.

Our Black Line Leadership Team of Susan, Jess, Harry, Mata and Jesse provide amazing support to the Department Heads. From the entire team and I – Thank You. Our Red Line Managers and Team Leaders who ensure that our members enjoy all aspects of their RSL, thank you.

Finally, to every single member of the Frankston RSL Staff – Thank You. You help deliver a hospitality experience that is the envy of every other venue in the area. We continue to strive to achieve excellence at every opportunity.





## STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS 2023

The committee and the executive spent two days in May developing a Strategic Plan for the future of the Frankston RSL. This body of work is continuing to develop and evolve.

## COMMUNITY CLUB OF THE YEAR 2022-2023

Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) is the peak body for licensed and not for profit clubs. They represent the needs of nearly 1500 clubs of all sizes around Victoria. In July, at their Gala Dinner and Awards Night, Frankston RSL was named Community Club of the Year. It is fair to say the party went well into the wee hours that night! More on page 17.

This amazing recognition from our industry body was tremendous validation for the hard work we all do. The staff still proudly wear badges celebrating this achievement, and it is something every member should take pride in as well.



## FINANCIAL RESULTS

Whilst the end of year result is far lower than last year, there are a lot of positives to be taken from our 2023 results. Over \$500,000 was spent on Veterans across our three entities, a greater amount than we have ever had before. We also spent over \$340,000 on the community through various endeavours, including our Community Support Fund. We continue to pay down the debt on our loan from the 2020 major renovation, with almost \$500,000 in reduction of the principal taking place in 2023, plus another \$560,000 paid against our Gaming Machine Entitlement Liability. Our top line sales figures are also the highest ever achieved, with the club achieving over \$20 million in sales for the first time.

Our food costs have been increasing at an alarming rate. We have strived throughout the year to continue to provide a value offering, but the cost of living increases has effected our bottom line. We have all witnessed the increases in the cost of our weekly shop over the last year, and we are not immune to that in a commercial setting. We continue to evolve our offer and meet the needs of our customers at a fair price for a quality product. A small increase in bar sales in 2022 is pleasing, however our volume is virtually stagnant. Our increased gaming revenue in a declining market is also a positive sign.

We enter 2024 cognisant of the challenges we face in providing a profitable hospitality operation, and will continue to provide our members with the best experience we can.

## OPERATIONAL ADVANCEMENTS

The world is moving faster than we all would like to admit, and with that comes the need to update and stay on top of the technological advances available to a hospitality offering such as ours. 2023 was a big year for us in terms of updating our main server, installation of a cash recycling machine, Power BI functionality in the gaming section, and numerous system and hardware advancements to improve our efficiency.

We also gave our Bistro a much needed facelift in December. Carpet, paint, lights, chairs, and the improved greenery have given the Bistro a new lease of life - one, I am sure you will agree, it has earned. During the year we became the first Club to have Carlton Draught Tank Beer installed in Australia. This magnificent unpasteurised beer gives us a real point of difference to other venues in area. Plus, it tastes amazing! We also updated our staff uniforms and began selling a greater range of merchandise at Reception.

## 2024 AND BEYOND

The plans for 2024 are being executed as I write, already having hosted a massive Superbowl event, Elvis, Comedy nights and Nashville. Our calendar is full with amazing entertainment events and functions plus the regular raffles, bistro offerings, Sports Bar, CP's, bingo and more. Stay in touch with our socials for all the upcoming entertainment and great offers we have.

Finally, my sincere thanks and appreciation to the entire committee. Your counsel and guidance help us achieve the great outcomes we have as a club. In particular, thank you to President Kevin Hillier OAM, for his continued support and tireless work in the delivering for the Veterans of the Frankston RSL.

Thank you for allowing me to be the General Manager of your RSL.

## BRETT ROWLANDS

General Manager







*Lest we forget*

# ANZAC DAY 2023

It was great to see us back at our pre-covid numbers at our services this year with many young ones at the Dawn Service and double the amount of people marching at the Commemoration Service. We were fortunate once again to have a representative from the Chief of Navy Office in Commander Wesley Heron.

Also, nice that Wesley attended Overport Primary School and Mt Eliza High School before joining the Navy at the age of 15 years. We were also grateful to have the opening addresses given by the Mayor, Nathan Conroy address at the Dawn Service and Federal member for Dunkley, Peta Murphy at the Commemoration Service.

A special thanks to our local council workers for the way they present the War Memorial on these special occasions. Also, a special thanks to Lisa MacGregor from Scarlett Mac Events for the tireless work she puts in preparing all of the paperwork, ordering, and on-site organisation of the event.

The lunch provided back at the club was again outstanding and I cannot thank our staff enough for countless hours they put into organising the day to pay respect to our active service personnel, and our veterans and their families.

We look forward to meeting up with many at our next commemoration on the 11th of November for Remembrance Day.



**\$97,058.35**

*was raised by the Frankston RSL Sub Branch*

We are proud to announce that the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Appeals Team succeeded in raising \$97,058. These valuable funds will go toward helping Veterans and their families who are in need of financial, social, and wellbeing assistance.



# FRANKSTON RSL ANZAC DAY 2023





## Frankston RSL



# ANZAC APPEAL 2023

Through the tireless work of our army of Volunteers who manned our ANZAC Appeals stalls, and the countless, selfless hours of community work rendered by them - Committee members, Club members, community organisations, aged care facilities, businesses, and schools, raised a staggering \$97,058.35. Well done, and thank you to all involved. The valuable funds raised go a long way to helping Veterans in need. The Committee and Management would also like

to thank our much valued Appeals Officer, Peter Kerley who has now stepped down from this role, and thank him for his extraordinary commitment and dedication to both the ANZAC and Poppy Appeals, and the significant results he achieved over the last few years in getting the Appeals back to normal - post Covid, and his admirable efforts to rally volunteers and manage the teams to raise consecutive record breaking Appeals funds for our Veterans at the Frankston RSL.

Thank you to our amazing Volunteers who sold ANZAC Day merchandise and an even bigger thank you to everybody who purchased Appeals merchandise, as this would not be possible without your generosity.

A special thanks for the volunteer assistance from all community groups, and aged care facilities such as Forest Lodge, Baxter Park, and newbie Blue Hills, as well as the 100 local businesses such as Pear Tree Cafe, and Lemon Tree Café. We are always on the lookout for new businesses to place our Appeals 'Boxes'. A big shout out to our stalwart volunteers 'Dutchie, George & Di, Kelvin and Shirley, Eric and Peter from Mobility Team, Brian Hill & family, and of course, the Langwarrin Girl Guides, Airforce Cadets, and Army Cadets, who have selflessly offered their time over the years - and without prompting. Thank you!!!



A custom we hold to our heart is the 'Ceremonial Table' for the Missing - displayed at the club, yearly on ANZAC Day.

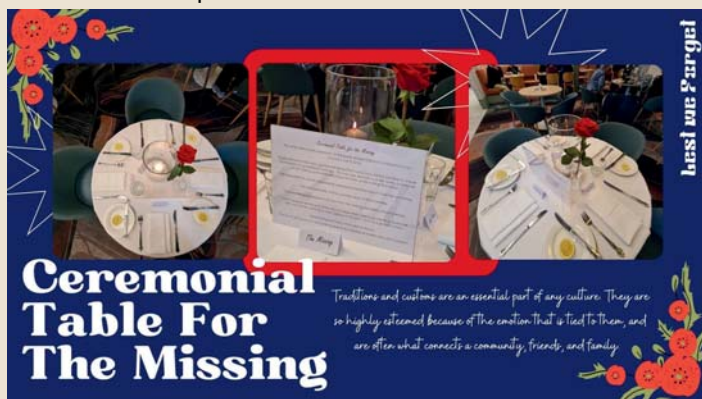
The white table cloth is symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to our country's call to arms. A single red rose in the vase signifies the blood that many have shed. An inverted glass represents the fact that the missing and fallen cannot partake. The salt is symbolic of the countless tears shed by the families. The slice of lemon represents the bitter fate of those lost or missing. The lit candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home. Three settings for our Sailors, Soldiers, and Air personnel. The fourth setting, an empty chair, represents the missing, and fallen, and those that worked in the background such as nurses, doctors, and administration personnel.



## Never too young to volunteer!

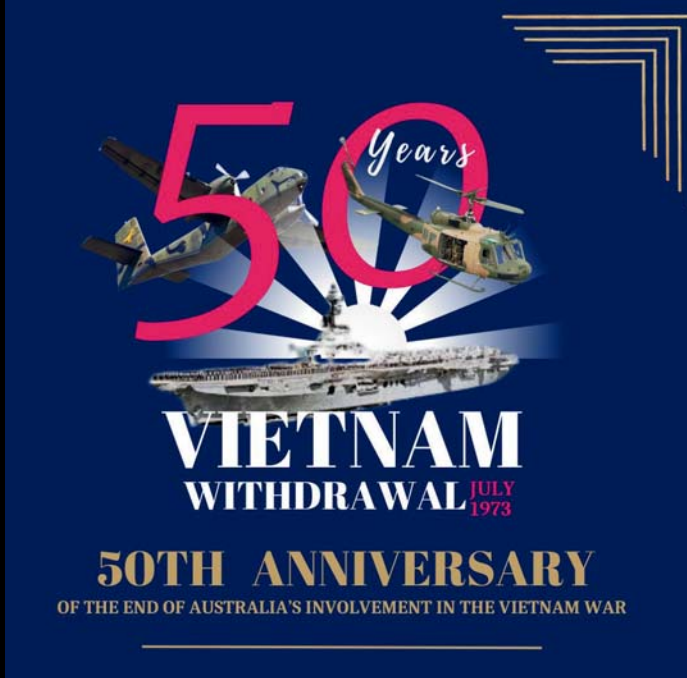
Grandkids of our regular Appeals volunteers George and Di Barker, along with their cousins, managed to raise an amazing \$38.50 for our ANZAC Day Appeals through a 'bake-sale-stall'. We thank Isabelle and Archer, and their cousins Eliza and Alex, for their cooking and selling prowess! Anzac biscuits and gluten free brownies were tenderly prepared and enthusiastically sold - even managing to 'sell-out'.

They were recognised during the Frankston RSL's Volunteer Week luncheon with appreciation certificates, however, they weren't able to accept them in person due to school commitments!



As per every year, QMS Media showcase an impressive digital sign 'Supporting Veterans in Need' during our ANZAC Appeals week. The sign is prominently displayed on the Quest building, Frankston.





## 50TH ANNIVERSARY END OF THE VIETNAM WAR CONFLICT

This July marked the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War Conflict and Australia's withdrawal of Australian Troops from the Vietnam War in July 1973. To mark this milestone, the Frankston RSL Sub-branch held a ticketed Commemorative Dinner Dance at the venue, with guests that included active service personnel, veterans, and partners from four Vietnam Veterans Associations across Melbourne, in addition to our Sub-branch Committee.

Guests enjoyed a 5-star menu and dinner service - care of our Executive Chef, Front-of-House, and Functions Teams, in a beautifully decorated space with all-round silver service trimmings, and staging from our Memorabilia Team.

We were honoured to have had as guest speaker General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove (Retd.), who attended with Lady Cosgrove, and The Royal Australian Navy Band performed throughout the evening.





## AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE

HON. DENNIS CHARLTON  
KOREAN WAR VETERAN



KOREAN  
WAR



70 year Anniversary  
-the end of the Korean War 1953



## Korean Peace Medal, Awarded to Hon. Dennis Charlton

One of our esteemed Service Members, Dennis Charlton, who fought in the Korean War, was awarded the Korean Peace Medal at a Commemorative event at the Melbourne Shrine, Thursday 27th July. The wreath laying event honoured the service and sacrifice of those who served in the Korean War.

Dennis' daughter reached out to the Frankston RSL Veteran Wellbeing Team who were more than happy to help organise transport for Dennis and members of his family to attend the event. Thanks to Peninsula Transport Assist for providing the return transport. His daughters were immensely honoured for his recognition, and thankful to have been able to participate in the event with their father.

The 27th of July marked the 70th anniversary of the armistice that brought the Korean War to a halt. Around 17,000 Australians served in Korea between 1950 and 1953, of which 340 were killed, over 1,500 wounded and 30 taken prisoner. A further 16 lost their lives during armistice enforcement operations. We will remember them.

### Read more here:

[www.shrine.org.au/korean-veterans-association](http://www.shrine.org.au/korean-veterans-association)

A shout out to Peninsula Assist Transport – who are a local community transport organisation that services the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula region, transporting clients with mobility issues and helping combat transport disadvantaged individuals and helping beat social isolation.

# Quilt of Valour

## PHOEBE PARKER

Our esteemed service member Phoebe was presented with a "Quilt of Valour" in December 2023 from Quilts of Valour Australia for her Service, Sacrifice and Valour in the Australian Service. Phoebe is 104 years young, she served in the Signals Division of the Australian Women's Army Service AWAS from 1942-44. Congratulations Phoebe!

Quilts of Valour have awarded quilts to Defence personnel who have been touched by their service and to the immediate families of fallen soldiers since 2012. The quilts are awarded with a covering letter, a certificate, and the quilt is a powerful gift of love. The top of the quilt - with its many colours, shapes, and fabrics, represents the communities and the many individuals we are. The wadding, the filler, is the centre of the quilt, its warmth. It represents our hope that this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace, and healing to the recipient. Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude and sometimes the tears of the maker.

[www.quiltsofvalour.com.au](http://www.quiltsofvalour.com.au)







## COMMUNITY CLUB OF THE YEAR 2022-23

CCV COMMUNITY CLUBS VICTORIA STATE AWARDS



# CCV AWARDS

2022-2023

We are thrilled to announce that the Frankston RSL was awarded the prestigious Community Club Award (Metro) at the Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) 2023 Gala Awards on Saturday, 29 July.

The Frankston RSL was nominated as finalists across three categories, and ultimately winning Community Club of the Year Award. The club was selected among 1,000 plus licensed clubs across metropolitan and regional Victoria, acknowledging our continued contributions to veterans, staff, and the wider Frankston community.

Some of the initiatives that we were recognised for include assistance to our community support partners and local not-for-profit organisations, an employee skills development program, and a

plethora of veteran welfare and well-being initiatives.

It is an honour to receive recognition from our industry in winning such a prestigious award across a variety of categories - community partnerships, sustainability, entertainment, social impact, and community well-being. The efforts from staff, committee, and countless volunteers cannot be underestimated in helping to deliver our service offering to members.

We are truly humbled to have been recognised for the work we do in veteran welfare and wellbeing, supporting the greater community, and our hospitality offerings to club members and guests.



*Nominated as finalist in three categories*

*Community Club Award  
Best Sustainability Initiative  
Best Club Bistro Restaurant*

This is an incredible celebration of our unwavering efforts that have made a profound impact on our local communities and to be acknowledged for our contributions to the social and economic well-being of our community.





# REMEMBRANCE 105TH YEAR DAY 2023 ARMISTICE



On the 11th day of the 11th month, we honour and remember the sacrifices made by selfless Australians who fought for our freedom.

Remembrance Day 2023 was held at the Frankston War Memorial, and over 120 people attended the service. We thank everybody involved from the Frankston RSL team in putting the service together and making it a successful and memorable event.

Thank you also to the wonderful volunteers from our Home and Hospital Team, our Wellbeing Team, the Army and Airforce, the students from Frankston High School, and the Pipers from our Pipes and Drums sub-section. It was a wonderful turn out for our inaugural service at Beauty Park.

The service was led by committee member Zak Critsilis, with Paul Edbrooke MP giving the opening address, and David Garnock of Mornington Peninsula Legacy giving the Remembrance Day Address. Prayers were provided by our own Chaplain, Graeme Watkinson. The service was also attended by Mayor of Frankston Nathan Conroy, and Peta Murphy MP, Federal Member for Dunkley.

The proceedings ended with a light lunch and refreshments at the Frankston RSL, that were enjoyed by all.



Thank you to our Photographer Steve Brown for capturing the essence of the day.

Images: Steve Brown Photography  
([steveb3199@gmail.com](mailto:steveb3199@gmail.com))

To view the full gallery of images head to our website:  
[www.frankstonrsl.com.au/remembrance-day-services](http://www.frankstonrsl.com.au/remembrance-day-services)

A special thanks also to our committee members John Barry, Brian Hill CSC, and Frankston Naval Memorial Club representative Mark Kinder for their commitment and dedication to our community and leading the Remembrance Day services at various of our community groups, aged care facilities, schools, and sporting partners: Frankston Peninsula Cricket Club, Kingsley Park Primary School and Pearcedale Primary School Assemblies, Langwarrin Community Aged Care, and St. Pauls Terrace Aged Care Frankston.

It was wonderful to have our veterans and so many community groups, associations, schools, volunteers, Anzac House, and local council representatives attend and share this very honourable day with us.

We are very appreciative of everybody who purchased Poppy Appeal pins, as the valuable contribution will go a long way in helping veterans and their families in need and without your support this would not be possible.

*Lest we forget*

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**\$62,250**

2023 Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal funds counted to date. The final amount raised by our Sub-Branch will be communicated once all collection tins have been received.

Valuable funds are raised to aid our Veterans and their families who find themselves in necessitous circumstances.

Thank you!

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# WE WILL REMEMBER THEM





## Heroes in our midst

Thank you to John Barry for leading the Remembrance Day service at the local aged care facility Langwarrin Community Aged Care (Signature Care), and where several of Frankston RSL Members reside - including Marjorie Ramsay who turned 100 this year and is still a staunch volunteer with the Frankston RSL Women's Auxiliary, and Dennis Charlton, a Korean War Veteran, who was awarded the Korean Peace Medal in August, 2023.



The residents were thankful for the beautiful service and highly appreciative of John's attendance and his personal chats with them. The centre excels with all their wellbeing activities for residents and did an amazing job in helping residents commemorate Remembrance Day at the centre.

Frankston RSL Committee members are actively involved in many community focused endeavours and we thank them all for their commitment, dedication, and generously 'donating' their free time to the community.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMUNITY SERVICES



The residents at St. Pauls Terrace Aged Care Frankston were pleased as punch with Frankston RSL Vice President John Barry leading the Remembrance Day service at the Centre. The residents were thankful for the service and appreciated John's attendance and the time he took to chat to everybody.

We thank all our Frankston RSL Committee members for their commitment and dedication to community wellbeing activities. They participate in many community focused events throughout the year and generously volunteer their free time to the community.

## Commemorating Remembrance Day Frankston Peninsula Cricket Club



Thank you to Brian Hill CSC Frankston RSL Committee Treasurer for leading the Remembrance Day service on Saturday 11th November, at Frankston Peninsula Cricket Club, and thank you to the Cricket Club - a long time Community Support Partner of the Frankston RSL for commemorating Remembrance Day prior to Round #4, v Dandenong Cricket Club.





## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Where would we be without our amazing Appeals Volunteers? Thank you to our army of Volunteers that give up their time and contribute countless hours of selfless volunteering and man our Appeals stands and sell Poppy Appeal merchandise - from members of the club, to committee members, and staff. In 2023 our sub-branch volunteers raised a staggering \$62,250+ selling Badges, Keyrings, and Pens, at Bunnings, Bayside Centre, Karingal Hub, The Gateway SC, and Langwarrin Plaza. The valuable funds go to support our veterans and their families who find themselves in necessitous circumstances.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY APPEAL 2023



### Cooking up a storm!

Well done on members of our Admin Team who volunteered their time and ran a sausage sizzle outside Aussie Disposals Frankston. The team helped raise \$300 for the 2023 Poppy Appeal. Great job, team!



*Thank you to everybody who purchased Poppy Appeal merchandise.*



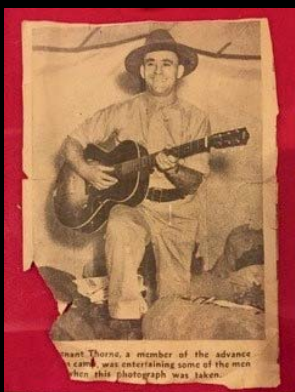




## MEMORIAL SERVICE, REMEMBRANCE DAY GORARI VILLAGE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Dr. Di McGreal MAPS, a club member and granddaughter of Major Edward Thorne was invited this year to a Remembrance Day memorial Service at Gorari village in Papua New Guinea to say some words about her grandfather who died there along with 32 other Australian soldiers at the Battle of Gorari, 4th - 11th November 1942.

*Among the tidbits of information Di imparted about her grandfather was that he loved to keep his men's morale up with music and the Cemetery and his grave are extremely well curated by the villagers.*

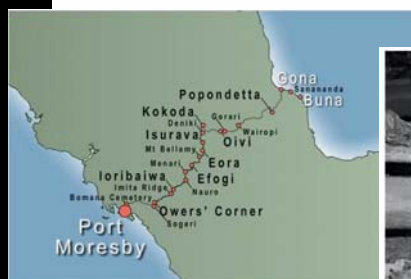


Major Edward Thorne was sadly killed on the final day of the battle. The villagers have erected a plaque in the village of Gorari and hold a service every Remembrance Day. The villagers walked Di 100 metres into the jungle to the spot where her grandfather was shot.

The Frankston RSL donated a bronze figurine statue for Di to take to PNG and leave with the citizens of Gorari, in appreciation for remembering the battle every year. She also took 33 red poppies to place in the shape of a cross in memory of the soldiers who lost their lives.

The battle of Gorari, a small village on the Kokoda Trail, was the last major engagement on the trail. The soldiers came up against well entrenched Japanese defenders from the South Seas Detachment who were intent on stalling the Australian advance towards the sea. Hand-to-hand fighting resulted in heavy casualties on both sides before the Japanese withdrew East.

*Lest we Forget*



Wounded soldiers from the battle for Gorari were placed on makeshift stretchers. (Supplied: Australian War Memorial)





# LEGACY Centenary 2023

## CLUB PRESIDENT RAISED \$2,000 AS TORCH BEARER

Club President Kevin Hillier OAM, participated in the Torch Relay on Wednesday 27th September on the Mornington Peninsula leg of the relay and that travelled 12.5km from Mornington Pier and ending at Frankston War Memorial. On behalf of Legacy, thank you members, staff, family, and friends who donated towards his walk "Legs for Legacy", on Wednesday 27th September.

Kevin raised \$2,075 for Legacy - who support the widow/ers and families of our veterans. Funds will be donated to supporting veteran wellbeing programs and helping veterans and their families who find themselves in necessitous circumstances!

The torch relay commenced on the 23rd of April in Pozières, France and commemorates the Centenary of Legacy - an organisation the Frankston RSL works closely with as they support the widows and families of our deceased veterans.

For more information:  
[www.legacytorchrelay.com.au](http://www.legacytorchrelay.com.au)



In the lead up to the Centenary of Legacy 2023 and the Torch Relay, the Frankston RSL donated a plinth, that was installed at the Frankston War Memorial in recognition of the support Legacy give to the widows and children of deceased veterans.

## Why Pozières?

The Torch arrived in Pozières, France on Sunday April 23, 2023 and began its six-month journey to its destination, travelling 50,000km as part of the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023.

Pozières, a small village in the Somme valley in France is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth. It was also the scene of bitter and costly fighting for the 1st, 2nd and 4th Australian Divisions in mid 1916.

In seven weeks of fighting, Australia suffered 23,000 casualties. Of these, 6,800 men were killed or died of wounds. It was a loss comparable with the casualties sustained by Australia over eight months at Gallipoli in 1915.

The Battle of Pozières marks the birthplace of Legacy. It is on this battlefield where one digger made a Promise to another - to "take care of the missus and kids". Since then, Legacy has supported countless veterans' families, honouring the Promise made on that battlefield.





# RSL VICTORIA 2023 HALL OF FAME AWARDS



*Frankston RSL is pleased to host*  
**ANNUAL**  
**Hall of Fame**  
**AWARDS DINNER**

**NOVEMBER 25, 2023 | FRANKSTON RSL**

*Striving for Excellence*





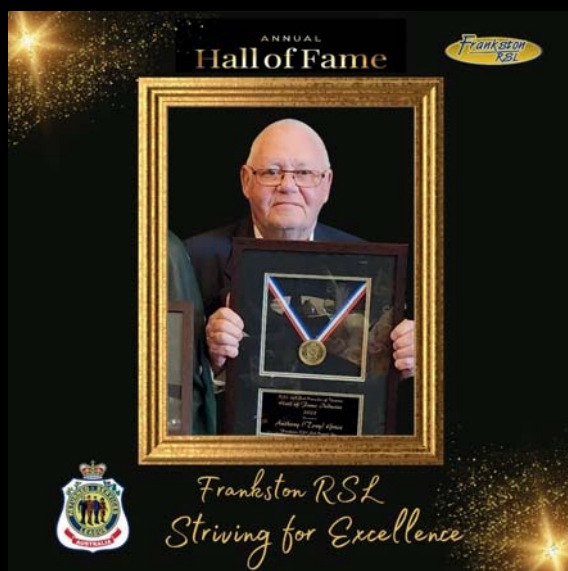
The Frankston RSL was once again entrusted with hosting the RSL Victoria Annual Hall of Fame Awards Dinner for a second year running, on Saturday 25th November. It provided us with another opportunity to flaunt our wonderful venue to 220 participants and representatives from metropolitan and regional RSL Sub-Branches in Victoria.

We would like to thank our wonderful staff for seamlessly hosting a perfectly orchestrated evening, where our function room was a breath-taking shimmer of gold, spectacularly themed with fresh Spring flowers, and paired with a 5-star menu, delectably executed by our Executive Chef and his team.

The Hall of Fame Awards Night provides a great opportunity to not only showcase the great work of the Victorian RSL network but also to recognise the outstanding efforts of many individuals who have made a significant contribution to the success of RSL Sub-Branches.

We are proud and fortunate to have two such individuals that have made a substantial difference to the Frankston RSL and the community, and that they were recognised and awarded for their achievements. Anthony Grice, Committee Member and Volunteer for 51 years, and Anja Lepoigneur, Administration Manager, who has been with the club for 10 years.

## LET'S CELEBRATE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE AWARD



### TONY GRICE - COMMITTEE MEMBER 5YR WELLBEING ADVOCATE, 51 YR SERVICE MEMBER, 22 YR VOLUNTEER 2YR APPEALS OFFICER

Anthony Grice was our highly deserving inductee to the RSL Victoria Hall of Fame, having been recognised for his 51 years of outstanding service to the RSL network and commendable dedication to the Community, and Armed Forces through numerous volunteer activities over the past 22 years, particularly support to veteran welfare and wellbeing and has been a Service member of the RSL for 51 years. He completed two years in the Australian Army (NSS) National Service, including a 12-month tour of duty in Vietnam.

Tony is a qualified Wellbeing Officer and Senior Wellbeing Advocate, and Wellbeing Mentor. In addition to providing significant wellbeing support to veterans,

Tony has mentored three Wellbeing Trainees and continually commits time and effort to other volunteer activities including managing the team of volunteers that acquire and repurpose mobility aids, white goods, and furniture to veterans in need, not only in Frankston, but across the RSL network through redistribution to other RSL Sub-Branches.

The estimated value of goods collected and redistributed over the past seven years is more than \$170,000.

Tony was also the Sub-Branch Anzac and Poppy Appeals Officer in 2018 and 2019 and through his efforts raised \$233,500. Tony also commits significant hours to the Age Strong Exercise group at the Club, and hosts a Wednesday morning coffee group for veterans and partners that has grown from six attendees pre-COVID to 20 or more attendees every week these days. His passion, dedication, and exemplary performance in supporting the veteran community reflects great credit on him and the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.

## ACHIEVEMENT & RECOGNITION AWARD

### FROM FRONT OF HOUSE (FOH) TO MANAGEMENT TEAM IN 10 YEARS !

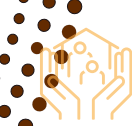
Anja Lepoigneur, Administration Manager, won the Achievement and Recognition Award, having been recognised for her 10 years of dedication with the Frankston RSL.

Anja is well respected by all veterans, members, and staff for her hard work throughout the years. She has risen internally, through every rung on the ladder to the level she is today. Her leadership, attention to detail, and understanding of what customer service means has helped the Front of House Department go from strength to strength.

Her continued growth within the RSL lead to a new role as Administration Manager and she has relished the chance to plan, organise, and execute the 'back end' operations of the business. She has also taken on the additional role of Assistant to the Committee Secretary. Her attention to detail, understanding of Operations, and work ethic are second to none. She is heartily worthy of this accolade.







## Support & Assistance for Veterans and Dependents

The Wellbeing Team is forever busy with the provision of services and activities to veterans and their families, from bus trips to managing queries about social activities, food vouchers to transport options, aged care information, or just to have a chat.

In 2023 there were 439 wellbeing and pastoral care cases, an increase of 131 since 2022, where the team provided assistance and support to veterans and their dependents. Sadly, we saw an increase in cases of veterans and dependents at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness from six in 2022, to 19 in 2023. Our Wellbeing Advocates worked diligently to assist with housing options.

### Get in touch ...

Frankston RSL's Wellbeing Team provides a range of support, from free and confidential Wellbeing Advocacy, financial assistance to those in need, help applying for medals, or support navigating My Aged Care and Veterans Home Care. We can provide information and referrals to social and community organisations. We have RSL Funeral Representatives available to attend the funeral of veterans and carry out the RSL Funeral Ritual, which is our last important way of providing recognition and respect to veterans. Contact us if you require assistance on the above.

## Wellbeing Social Connection Activities

We aim to provide positive social connection activities to current and ex-serving veterans of all eras, service types, genders, along with their partners or war widow/ers. In 2023 we had outings to Simpson Barracks Light Horse Museum, High Tea at the Queenscliff Ferry Terminal, HMAS Cerberus, and Melbourne Museum. We also had morning teas and informative presentations from the Frankston Mental Health & Wellbeing Local and Frankston City Library. In early December we had a massive Family Fun Day at the Naval Club for veterans and families, with a BBQ, jumping castle and live music. In 2023, there were 773 attendances by veterans and their families across 23 activities, including lunches, bus-trips and outings, a BBQ, and morning teas.

## Hello Program

In 2023 two Wellbeing Support Officers and the Coordinator were busy making phone-calls to our Service Members over the age of 80. The Hello Program is a good opportunity to check in on our veterans' and connect them with our Wellbeing Team if they need information, connections to services, a home visit, or other support and assistance. If you are an older veteran, please don't hesitate to pick up the phone and dial 0492 820 743 to chat with our Wellbeing Coordinator, Stellar.

## Veterans and Partners Outings

Our small Welfare Bus was also busy taking participants to a variety of places, such as the Soundwaves Concerts at HMAS Cerberus, Melbourne, Dandenong's, Gippsland, Belmont and across the Peninsula. All our activities are heavily subsidised by the sub-branch to ensure that veterans and their families have access to affordable (or free!) social activities.

## Power Saving Bonus

The Team assisted 67 clients complete their \$250 Power Savings Bonus applications, helping achieve \$16,750 in Power Savings.

*Contact Us ... If you are a veteran or family member requiring support or assistance, or if you want to have a chat about upcoming social and wellbeing activities or volunteering, contact our Wellbeing Coordinator for an appointment on 0492 820 743, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4:30pm.*

## Jan - December 2023 WELFARE at a GLANCE

WELLBEING CASES: number of cases	71
PASTORAL CARE: number of cases	368
DECEASED SERVICE MEMBERS FRSL	51
RSL FUNERAL REPRESENTATION Required for Service Members	14
WEDNESDAY COFFEE GROUP: FRIDAY COFFEE GROUP: cost of catering & coffees	\$13,540.48 \$12,707.66
WEDNESDAY GROUP PARTICIPANTS: FRIDAY COFFEE GROUP PARTICIPANTS	971 1400
HELLO PROGRAM PHONE-CALLS: Volunteer & Staff Hours	41.75
HOME & HOSPITAL TEAM: Monthly Visitation Hours	374.75
HOME & HOSPITAL TEAM: number of people visited	793
MONTHLY LUNCHES - Residential Aged Care Facilities: # facilities attended	824
MONTHLY LUNCHES - Residential Aged Care Facilities: Cost	\$16,481.87
LAWNS: number of people assisted Home Maintenance - Lawns Cost	411 \$23,606
MOBILITY AIDS PROGRAM: value of goods re-distributed	\$15,150
PARC EXERCISE GROUP PARTICIPANTS: Tuesday Sessions x 2 Friday Sessions x 2	601 515
WELLBEING BUS: number of people assisted	503
WELLBEING BUS: number of Trips:	58
WELLBEING CAR: number of Client Visits and Transport:	81
WELLBEING CAR: errands, Client Visits and Transport KM's:	2312





## Age Strong Exercise Classes

We had 1,116 participants attend our fitness classes in 2023, and we always welcome more participants to the classes run by PARC.

**Location:** Frankston RSL Pavilion.

**Classes:** 8am (1hr) Tuesdays & Fridays. Except Public Holidays.

**Cost:** \$5 p/p. Contact (03) 8792 4400 to register.



## Veterans & Partners Coffee Groups

Veterans (of all service types and eras) and their partners are welcome at our Coffee Mornings and light refreshments supplied by the Club.

New faces are always welcome. We hold Wednesday Veterans & Partners Coffee group (10am, Table 221) and Friday Coffee Group meeting in Huey's Bar (10am) which is open to all Veterans. Our Wednesday Group had 971 attendances in 2023, and our Friday Coffee Group is growing in leaps and bounds. These sessions were joined by the bi-monthly Saturday Veterans & Families lunches in CP's which were well attended.



## Home & Hospital Visitation Team

In 2023, our Home & Hospital Visitation Team spent a record-breaking 374 hours visiting veterans and their partners in 12 local residential aged care facilities. The facilities also have a monthly invitation to bring a group into the Club for a complimentary lunch and this year we made 824 lunches for residents. At Christmas, the Team did an excellent job, preparing and delivering over 330 Christmas Parcels to residents, which were much appreciated.

## Volunteers

Total volunteer hours for 2023 was an incredible 12,441. In May 2023 the National Volunteer Week theme was 'The Change Makers'. We celebrated our volunteers with a complimentary lunch, live music, and presentations. Our volunteers provide invaluable assistance, from visiting older veterans and their partners in aged care facilities, to cataloguing memorabilia, to selling badges for our Appeals to delivering donated furniture to veterans in need. There are so many ways to give back to veterans and their families by volunteering with Frankston RSL!



## Furniture, White Goods & Mobility Aids

Our Wellbeing Officer, Tony Grice, and a hard-working team of volunteers continued to assist veterans by collecting donations of an estimated \$15,150 worth of furniture, white-goods, and mobility aids. The goods have been redistributed to appreciative veterans and their families in need. **Donations:** (03) 8792 4400 **Email:** welfare@frankstonrsl.com.au

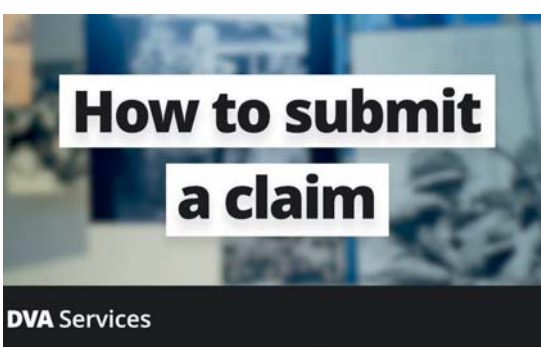


## Veteran Health Week October 2023

Nearly 50 veterans and family members attended a complimentary lunch and enjoyed a presentation from Open Arms Veterans & Families Counselling Service on the theme of 'Mental Wellness Matters'.

## Veterans and Associated Groups Christmas Party

122 veterans and members of all the different groups, such as the Home & Hospital Visitation Team, Partners of Veterans Association, Auxiliary Friendship Group, and Legacy Mornington-Peninsula, enjoyed a meal with a surprise visit from Santa.



## The Akeroyd Veterans & Families Hub

The Hub has four Compensations Advocates to assist with submitting DVA claims. The Hub is located at the Frankston RSL, and works closely with Veteran Central in ANZAC House to ensure veterans and their partners are supported. Contact the Hub's Wellbeing Coordinator:

**Mon-Fri 9-4.30PM PH 0450 442 644 or (03) 9960 3619**





# WELFARE

## Wellbeing Mobility Team

Where would we be without our Super Heroes from the Frankston RSL Welfare Mobility Team? Championed by our 'crusader' and Committee Member, Tony Grice and his 2ICs -

Eric and Peter, the team often works behind the scenes and across weekends collecting and repurposing donated mobility aids and household items for those in need. We are forever thankful for their generous spirit. Their actions directly improve the quality of life of many Veterans and their family members through the repurposing of donated items they may not be able to afford.

A huge shout out also to club members who are happy to help on weekends with collection and drop-off of donated items, or by simply donating items rather than reselling.

The Team comes to the rescue to help our Veterans, or their family members, with basic comforts we take for granted, such as household furniture or white goods.

The Frankston RSL Wellbeing Mobility Program was in full swing on the 27th July and accomplished a hat-trick of good deeds, repurposing donated mobility aids and household goods, as well as collecting items to pay forward next time.

Stop 1 - First stop on their route was taking a Recliner Chair to a veteran residing at Vasey RSL Park in Frankston. The recliner will come in very handy and not to mention add a lot of comfort to the veteran while reading his paper or watching the TV.

Stop 2 - At Vasey RSL Park they supplied another veteran with a walker and the veteran is highly appreciative and already racking up miles being a lot more mobile.

Stop 3 - On the way back they picked up a TV that was donated to the Frankston RSL Veteran Wellbeing Program which will be passed on to a veteran in need once it has been tested and tagged.

In August the team repurposed a donated TV and gave it to a veteran - as his had just broken down, as well as a walker to help him get around. A friend of his was able to pick these items up for him, and we thank Sue - who is also married to a Veteran, with her assistance.

Donations welcomed:  
mobility aids, white goods,  
electrical goods, furniture  
Contact : 8792 4427  
Mon-Fri 9-4PM



SHARE THE *Dignity*  
IT'S IN THE BAG

## Partners of Veterans Australia

The Frankston Partners of Veterans Australia (P.V.A.) supported the wonderful program, "Handbags for Charity – Share The Dignity" and collected 66 donated handbags plus copious amounts of cosmetics and personal items and placed them in the bags. They were then taken to a drop off point at Bunnings Frankston, to be donated prior to Christmas for those in need.



## Home & Hospital Team



### 350 HAMPERS PACKED & DONATED

Busy Santa Helpers! Every December our Wellbeing Home and Hospital Visitation Team busily pack 350 plus parcels, including chocolates, shortbread, and festive treats, and distribute them to residents at nursing homes that they regularly visit throughout the year.

A special Christmas Hamper is also put together for the independent living residents in Vasey RSL Park by Wellbeing Advocate Carol, and volunteer Wendy. - The 100 packs are filled with Ham, Crisps, Nuts, Mince Pies, Chocolate, and Shortbread. More parcels are also distributed to Vasey Nursing Home for their annual Christmas party.

Well done to our Home and Hospital Visitation Team for their selfless dedication to combatting social isolation among veterans and their partners or widows. Each week they visit countless residents, and bring a smile and much needed social contact. Please consider joining the 'Home & Hospital Team' as they are always looking for volunteers.

*Well done H&H Team!*

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2023

We love hosting our yearly Volunteer Lunch because we get to say thank you to some of the most amazing people! The Frankston RSL Volunteers, from the many sub-groups, enjoyed a well-deserved luncheon at the Frankston RSL, to celebrate National Volunteer Week 2023.

100 Certificates of Gratitude were handed out to express our thanks and appreciation – in recognition that volunteers are the backbone of any RSL and without them, Frankston RSL would find it hard to do the work that it does. A few of the many services they provide include, helping with Household Goods, Mobility Aids, Appeals, Wellbeing and Compensation Cases, visiting Veterans and War Widows in care.

Three cheers to all our Volunteers!

*THANK YOU!*



### *Let's ponder on these Facts!*

Volunteers are not paid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. Volunteers make the place a better world. True Kindness is helping someone without expecting anything in return. Volunteers do not necessarily have the time—they have the heart.





## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS: Cheryl Myers, OAM

**Cheryl Myers** – I can proudly claim that I have lived in Frankston my entire life! As a child I attended Overport Primary School and continued to Frankston High school. I was a keen sports person and played hockey for several years for a Frankston team and even made it to state try-outs - but 'did my knee', and that was the end of that! I've also successfully owned and run a driving school in the Frankston area, with my husband Les and I've been a member of the Frankston RSL for 15 years - so you could say that I have 'Frankston' in my blood.

But that's enough about Frankston and onto why I became a volunteer. My interest in volunteering began when Les, a Vietnam Veteran, became unwell and was unable to work. Les was a national serviceman, who signed up in 1970, served in Vietnam as a private, and was wounded on the 30th of December 1970. The only thing left for me to do was sell our driving school business and start caring for him.

This is when I became aware of the Veteran Community and we both joined the Vietnam Veterans Association (V.V.A). I was talked into becoming 'temporary secretary', that soon turned into 14 years. Nothing temporary about that!

At the same time as joining the V.V.A, I found out about the Partners of Veterans Association (P.V.A), which is a support group for Veterans' partners from any conflict. I have now been a member of the P.V.A for over 14 years, and more recently became the State President for Victoria, and Vice President at Frankston, as well as being on the National Board.

I am also involved in Legacy – the Ex-Service Personnel Women's Association, - a volunteer group supporting partners of ex-service personnel.

During this time, I became involved with welfare work for veterans and their families, and found this emotionally fulfilling, especially when there are positive outcomes affecting veteran wellbeing. – But I must come clean and admit that one of the most pleasurable things that I get to do when I have my Veteran Wellbeing hat on is drive the Frankston RSL minivan around the Mornington Peninsula and the Dandenongs area - transporting the different Ex Service Groups and War Widows out and about, while also looking for the best cafes serving scones!

I have been fortunate to have been supported by a very good team of people that have acted as a robust sounding board on many occasions. They have selflessly offered their time and assistance, and their support has allowed me to continue with my veteran wellbeing work for many years.

After 14 years as the Secretary of the V.V.A and then Assistant, I felt I had accomplished what I wanted to achieve and decided to take a step back from the V.V.A. A few members from the V.V.A suggested I stand as President and as I was weighing up the pros and cons, I was told by officials that it wasn't possible! That's when I thought, 'why not' and after following State Guidelines I put myself forward as a candidate and have since become the first female, and non-serving person, to become V.V.A President in Victoria, and possibly Australia.



# Volunteers



## AWARDS

I have been fortunate with awards through the years and received:

- Frankston Citizen of the Year
- OAM - Order of Australia Medal
- The Peter McLellan Award by the Frankston Veterans
- The Les Farren Award (a Vietnam veteran of the year award and not normally given to females).
- Life Membership Frankston Veteran Association
- Frankston RSL Volunteer of the Year



In my spare time I restore antiques and spend as much time as I can in the garden. We have a cat named 'Shadow' who is 8 years old and still thinks she is a kitten, and a Service dog – 'Pepper', who thinks she is human.



# Staff Development

## INVESTING IN STAFF - COURSES & TRAINING



**"listen, connect,  
and offer  
support when it  
matters most."**

The Frankston RSL now has six Accredited Mental Health First Aiders who successfully completed training by Mental Health First Aid Australia.

Similar to physical first aid courses, participants learn the skills to recognise and respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis, until professional help is received.

**We will continue to engage in ongoing training to refresh and expand on the skills and knowledge of the Leadership Team and staff, as we are committed to building a positive and inclusive workplace culture where everyone feels safe and supported to talk about mental health, and to reach out for support early.**

*"The first step to managing your stress is recognising when you are stressed, and confiding in a friend, colleague, family member or your partner. Sometimes, just saying it out loud will help you feel lighter and less stressed".*  
- Amanda Gordon

## LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2023

IN RECOGNITION AND THANKS FOR YOUR  
SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION  
TO THE FRANKSTON RSL.



**Jessie  
15 years**



**Anja  
10 years**



**Susan  
5 years**



**Jacinta  
5 years**



**Genevieve  
5 years**



## Creating Employment Pathways



**March 2023** Fifteen department managers and team leaders attended a client immersion day at Sages Cottage Farm, run by Wallara.

The day involved educating and preparing Frankston RSL staff for an employment pathways partnership with Wallara - a Community Grants Partner since 2013.

The aim of the program is to offer Wallara clients with meaningful employment once they graduate. "This is a wonderful opportunity for Wallara clients to expand their workplace skills and provide a sense of purpose and an opportunity to exercise their independence", said Carolyn Bloch, Wallara Open Employment Advisor.



**June 2023** We were thrilled to welcome Wallara client Jacqui as our first Frankston RSL employee. Jacqui has been thriving since working with the Kitchen and Café team.

The club is excited to employ two more Wallara clients before the end of September.

**April 2023** The immersion day was followed up by a reciprocal orientation day at the Frankston RSL. Wallara Clients were introduced to the day-to-day operations of what it would be like working at the venue and to match their prior experience and skills to the different areas of the business: Kitchen, Café, Reception, and Meet & Greet.



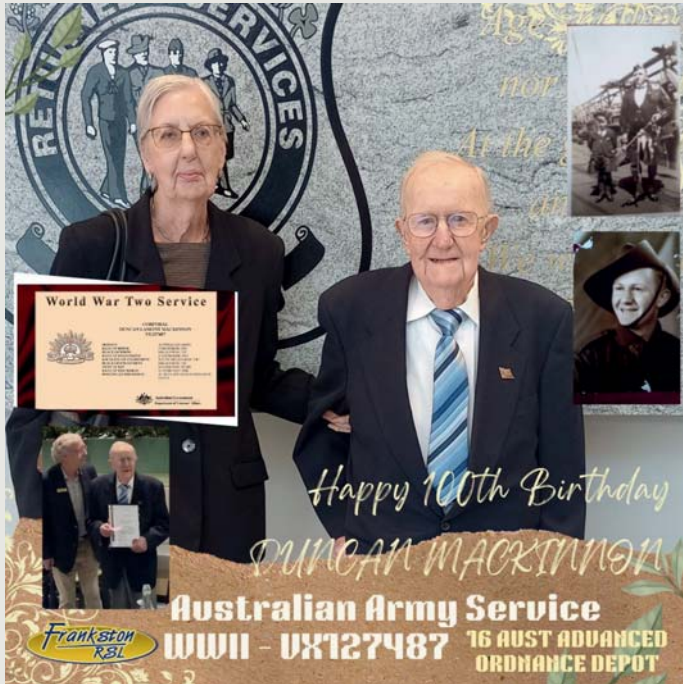
*"Driving social change in our community to empower people with disabilities."*



## WELFARE



## HONOURING OUR HEROES

HAPPY 100TH  
BIRTHDAY TO OUR  
ESTEEMED DUNCAN!WWII VETERAN DUNCAN MACKINNON LAMONT  
CELEBRATED HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY  
AND 75 YEARS MEMBERSHIP FROM RSL AUSTRALIA

Duncan Mackinnon Lamont is one of our esteemed World War II veterans, having enlisted in the Australian Army aged 19. He discharged as a Corporal in 1946, with his posting at discharge being the 16 Aust. Advanced Ordnance Depot.

Duncan was fortunate to have had a celebration fit for a king at the Frankston RSL in December 2023, with an entourage of family and friends relishing the momentous birthday. When Duncan celebrated his 99th birthday at the club he eagerly expressed looking forward to coming back and celebrating his 100th birthday - and that he did!

*Happy Birthday Duncan!  
We are proud to have you  
in our midst.*



*Happy Birthday Beryl, and thank  
you for all that you have done for the  
Australian Service.*



## WWII VETERAN BERYL HAGGAR

Congratulations to Beryl Joy Hagggar on turning 100 on the 28th of May. Beryl celebrated her birthday lunch with her family, at the Frankston RSL.

Beryl was born in Bairnsdale, Victoria, and enlisted in Sarsfield Victoria, going on to serve in the Australian Women's Army Service between 1943-1946, rising to the rank of Corporal, 3 Base Ordnance Depot.

Happy Birthday Beryl from the Frankston RSL Committee, Management, and staff. We thank you for all that you have done for the Australian Service, and we were thrilled you chose to celebrate your day at the club.



## HAPPY 100TH BERYL





*VALE - In Memory of Marjorie Ramsay who sadly passed away in 2024 - eight months after turning 100 in 2023.  
14.06.2023 - 16.02.2024*

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY STAUNCH VOLUNTEER TURNS 100!



Marjorie was born in East Malvern in 1923 and lived in Mentone, Drysdale, and finally settling on the Peninsula in 2005. At 16 she started working for Myer Melbourne in the homewares department and back again in 1973 looking after the Royal Doulton range.

Marjorie's connection with the RSL and her impetus to volunteer with the Women's Auxiliary came about as a result of her marriages to John Baker in 1944, Royal Australian Navy, Teleg., HMAS Stuart, and in 1956 to David Ramsay, Sergeant, 14th Battalion Australian Army, who also served in the Royal Australian Air Force as Leading Aircraftman, in 79 Squadron.

Marjorie became a member at the Drysdale RSL, then moved to Mentone RSL, and ultimately a became a member of the Frankston RSL in 2006 and where she remained for 18 years. She volunteered with the Drysdale RSL Women's Auxiliary from 1994-2005, and sat on the Frankston RSL Auxiliary Committee for eight years from 2010-2018. She received both her Silver and Gold Service Star Awards in 2015, and December 2022, by the RSL Women's Council of Victoria in recognition of her years of Faithful and Meritorious Services rendered to the Women's Auxiliary and to the League.

Marjorie regularly participated in all Women's Auxiliary meet-ups and volunteered on many fund raising activities in her 30 years with the Frankston RSL, where all funds are allocated to local community groups and veteran wellbeing services. Most recently, she helped raise \$20,000 in funds for not-for-profit community groups that the Auxiliary supports, such as Gamechanger, MSFIN, Backpacks4kids, and Theodora's Cheerful givers.

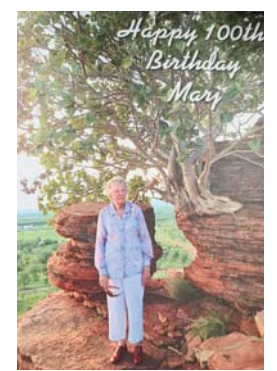
An honorary centenarian, Marjorie Ramsay was one of our dearest members and staunch 30 year volunteer with the Women's Auxiliary.

For her 100th birthday in 2023, the Frankston RSL Women's Auxiliary helped Marjorie celebrate with a festive morning tea that included a trio of Broadway medley singers - 'Encore', plus bunches and bunches of flowers, oodles of birthday cards, and tasty treats.

If that wasn't special enough, Marjorie received personalised birthday cards and letters in recognition of her milestone

birthday from King Charles III and the Queen Consort, the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, The Hon. Premier Daniel Andrews, The Hon. Matt Keogh -Veterans Affairs MP, Paul Edbrooke MP, and the late Peta Murphy MP to name a few!

Up until a few years back she was still enjoying playing Lawn Bowls and Golf, and even trekked in Kununurra National Park, WA, in her 90's. Marjorie will be sadly missed by many.







## Frankston Community Support Christmas Appeal

In early December 2023 we had the privilege to see the community come together for the 33rd Annual Christmas Appeal, "Community Support Frankston". Each year Frankston RSL donates approximately \$5000 of lollies and cordial to be placed in the 1200 hampers put together by our Wellbeing team and "Community Support Frankston". Hampers are then given to local families, couples, and singles that would otherwise go without a festive meal at Christmas. Well done "Community Support Frankston"!

OVER 2,000 DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS FROM THE FRANKSTON COMMUNITY RECEIVE FESTIVE FOODS AND GIFTS FROM THE FRANKSTON COMMUNITY APPEAL

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FRANKSTON

FRANKSTON RSL

FESTIVE TREATS ON THEIR WAY

33RD ANNUAL FRANKSTON COMMUNITY APPEAL

FRANKSTON COMMUNITY APPEAL

DO NOTATE NOW



## Making a difference!

Once again, the Frankston RSL participated in the annual 'Frankston Life Community Christmas Lunch' and supplied the puddings and custard, which contributed to the incredibly successful 2023 Christmas Day Lunch.

Every year 'Frankston Life' put on a Free Christmas Day Community Lunch. It is thanks to donors and other support that 385 guests and community volunteers come together at the Frankston Arts Centre on Christmas Day to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas. The day includes all the festive trimmings, a great meal, lively entertainment, and gifts for everyone.

The true reality is, that were it not for this wonderful initiative, most of the guests would spend Christmas alone or deprived of experiencing Christmas Day in this way. Thank you to Frankston Life, the many donors, and the 135 enthusiastic volunteers who planned, organised, set-up/packed down, cooked, served, and entertained, in the lead-up to the event - not to mention the fact that they gave up their Christmas Day!

## 2023 Frankston Life Community Christmas Lunch



The Frankston RSL is proud and thrilled to be able to contribute to this amazing cause.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.frankston.life/community](http://www.frankston.life/community)





## More than \$225,000 in community support 2023

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

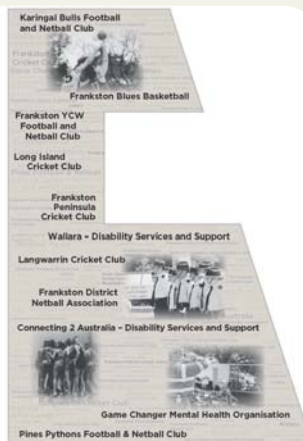
The Frankston RSL takes its place as a pillar of the community earnestly and proudly. Our commitment to the community is best explained through our Community Support Program. In 2023, the Club made donations of over \$250 000 to local sporting and not for profit groups.

Some of the sporting groups we supported included Karingal FNC, YCW FNC, Frankston Blues Basketball, Frankston District Netball Association, Pines FNC, Langwarrin CC, Long Island CC, Game Face Community Footy, Sommerville FC, Frankston Gift, Game Face Cricket, Langwarrin Soccer Club, Baxter Cricket Club, Frankston Hockey Club.

Within the community, we also supported Wallara Sages Cottage, Frankston SES, Frankston Life Christmas Luncheon, C2A, Groomed to Go, Blue Ribbon, Beyond Blue, Airforce Cadets, Army Cadets, Frankston Naval Memorial Club, Game Changer Mental Health, Mums Supporting Families in Need (MSFIN), Community Support Frankston Christmas Hampers, Blue Ribbon Foundation, Wranglers, Langwarrin Men's Shed, Peninsula Christian Care and Langwarrin Fire Brigade



**FRANKSTON RSL**  
*Providing much valued support of our veterans and wider community*





# COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

The Frankston RSL is committed to supporting the local community and currently provides funding to a vast array of local sporting groups, charities, community organisations, and not-for-profits.



Game Changer is a dedicated suicide prevention initiative in our local sporting clubs that provides awareness, education and support in the prevention of suicide.

As a major partner, the Frankston RSL strongly supports Game Changer and the amazing programs they roll out. "The support the club provides is essential in helping educate and save young lives throughout the Mornington Peninsula", said Chris Hoegel, Sales Executive, Game Changer. Through their contribution of \$10,000 in 2023, the Frankston RSL are enabling sporting clubs to have access to a variety of suicide prevention support services, such as:

- Crisis response
- Mental health first aid kits
- Welfare survey tools and statistics
- Ongoing awareness campaigns
- Welfare officer development programs
- Community development & awareness workshops
- Support counsellors
- Mental health policies
- Online education tools
- Induction programs.

**Cricket for a Cause**

**CLUB REGISTRATION**  
Register your club to participate in GameChanger round to receive the following inclusions:  
• 12 x GameChanger Playing Caps  
• 2 x GameChanger Wide Brim Umpire Hats  
• GameChanger coloured field cones  
• Mental Health First Aid Kit (see inclusions below)  
• Team photo template  
• \$50 voucher to purchase sausage sizzle supplies  
• 1 x Coin-Operated Tin

**Cost to clubs = Free**

**INDIVIDUAL PLAYER REGISTRATION**  
Players can also nominate themselves to participate as a 'GameChanger'.

**Player donation pledge**  
• Every run = \$1  
• Every four = \$2  
• Every six = \$3  
• Every wicket = \$5  
• Every catch = \$5  
Major GameChanger partners will match every donation raised dollar for dollar.

**Donation = \$20 + Game Incentives**

**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID KIT**  
You will receive the following in your MHFAK when your club signs up:  
• 50 GC posters for your clubrooms  
• Welcome video  
• Booklet with information about GameChanger  
• Crisis response plan

The very successful fundraising event 'Cricket for a Cause', organised with Cricket clubs from across the Peninsula raised a mammoth \$5000 for GameChanger. "Thanks to the Frankston RSL's contribution, 22 clubs were able to register and participate in the day", said Chris Hoegel.

#### For more information:

[www.gamefaceon.com.au](http://www.gamefaceon.com.au)  
[www.gamechanger.org.au](http://www.gamechanger.org.au)



## SES Frankston

Where would we be without the amazing SES volunteers? A wonderful donation of \$6500 worth of rescue equipment was made to the Frankston SES.

Funds were jointly donated from the Women's Auxiliary 2022 fundraising efforts (\$3000) and from the Frankston RSL sub-branch (\$3,500).

The equipment was greatly appreciated by the volunteers and will be put to vital use for the SES to undertake storm damage, casualty handling and road rescue techniques for the community.

Equipment included:

**Beluga Kit** Windscreen removal tool for Road Accident Rescue (\$2,500.00)

**Trauma Mannequin** for Road Accident Rescue Training. (\$2000.00)

**2 battery operated chainsaws** (\$2000.00)

**\$6,500 IN EQUIPMENT DONATED TO THE FRANKSTON SES**

**\$3,000 + \$3,500**

Proudly supported by the Women's Auxiliary & Frankston RSL

Thank you to everybody who voted for us as 'Best Community Organisation' and helped us win \$500 from the Commonwealth Bank Karingal Branch.



On behalf of the Committee, Management, and Staff, thank you to the Commonwealth Bank Karingal, and to everybody who voted.

The funds will be added to the Frankston RSL Sub Branch Appeals funds raised and go toward helping Veterans and their families who find themselves in necessitous circumstances as well as going toward the organisation of social and wellbeing activities to help prevent social isolation among our veterans.



**GAME CHANGER PROVIDES SPORTING CLUBS WITH MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES, AS WELL AS OFFERING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO GAME CHANGER WELFARE OFFICERS, IN ADDITION TO DEVELOPING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AND EDUCATION SESSIONS.**



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND



On Saturday 14th October, Frankston City Council along with special guests, Peta Murphy MP, Paul Edbrooke MP & Mayor Nathan Conroy, officially opened Jubilee Park Stadium.

The Frankton RSL played a significant role in supporting FDNA during the stadium's construction, and Club President Kevin Hillier OAM attended the opening along with current and former FDNA presidents Corinna Harvey, and Ailsa Kenney.

The opening of the venue and the new construction will have a significant impact on the local sporting community and the broader community.



We would also like to thank FDNA for supporting our Poppy Appeal and selling badges at the stadium as well as advertising the Appeal on their digital signage screens.



## Groomed to Go Fundraiser

Our Community Support Partner and not-for-profit, Groomed To Go, raised an incredible \$20,685 on their one day 'Giving Day' fundraiser held at the Frankston RSL on the 16th of November.

This was 143% of their original goal and we matched all donations up to their original goal of \$14,000.

It's thanks to the generosity of our members, the community, and corporate sponsors that they were able to achieve such a great result. Vital support will be provided to those that need it over the next 52 weeks – such as those fleeing domestic violence or recently released for correctional facilities, or job seekers needing the simple essentials to make a great appearance.

**We are fully behind this wonderful charity and we strongly believe in the work they do in showing someone in the community they are worth it.**



The Frankston RSL has once again provided support in 2023 as a sponsor for the Karingal Bulls and has played a pivotal role in the club's success, helping the club provide a thriving environment for its athletes to develop their skills, build lasting friendships, and foster a sense of community. This support has contributed to Player Development, Community

Engagement, Equipment, Uniforms, and Youth Programs.

"It's thanks to the Frankston RSL, and through this support, that we've been able to achieve significant milestones both on and off the field in 2023", said Sara Burke, KFNC President.



## Langwarrin Men's Shed

The Frankston RSL Community Support Fund donated a new CNC Laser Engraver/Cutter to the Langwarrin Men's Shed that will provide the stimulus to inspire members to learn a new software package and control a modern-day computer-controlled machine. The Langwarrin Men's Shed should

be congratulated for their community involvement in supporting Men's Health and providing a venue that is safe and welcoming for the men of Langwarrin and surrounds. The Frankston RSL look forward to the opportunity to work with the Langwarrin Men's Shed for the benefit of the community.





## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS: Doris Nisbet

**Doris Nisbet** – also known as Dotti to close friends, is an active volunteer at the Frankston RSL. She has been a Wellbeing Support Officer for 33 years, and with the Frankston RSL Home and Hospital Visitation Team. She has also been involved with Legacy for 25 years, and since 1996 has been an active member of the Women's Auxiliary, and strongly invested in their fundraising activities.

Doris is acutely fond of the social and welfare work she does for veterans and their widows in the Home and Hospital Visitation Team, that currently visits veterans and widows in approximately 12 Aged Care facilities. The team brings selfless dedication to combatting social isolation among veterans and their partners or war widows. Each week they visit countless residents, bringing chocolates, a smile, and much needed social contact. Doris has provided this support to Veterans at various facilities over the years, such as Milpara, Forest Lodge in Seaford- where she visited some 30 veterans and war widows a month, and since 1996 at Baxter Village. Doris has distributed an estimated 40,320 chocolates in her time and vows she has never eaten one destined for veterans and war widows!



When Doris moved to Baxter Village in 1995 she continued her veteran wellbeing support work. With other helpers at the facility, she was able to visit 60 war widows and veterans that lived at the Lodge, the Manor, and homes within the Village. Today she still visits 25 veterans or widows per month at the facility, and in 2002 and 2004 Doris undertook several full-day courses at Frankston and Rosebud, to gain her credentials as a Wellbeing Support Officer for Veterans and the RSL.

Her journey as a Wellbeing Support Officer and volunteer far precedes her work with the Home and Hospital Visitation Team - and began as far back as when she married her late husband Douglas Nisbet in 1950 - a returned serviceman who served two years in Balikpapan, Borneo. Doug was a staunch community minded individual that spent most of his life volunteering and going above and beyond. As an ex-serviceman, Douglas joined the Frankston RSL in 1951, back in the Thompson Street premises, with the aim to connect with fellow veterans in the area. Doris joined when women were first allowed in 1976 - and so began Doris' connection with the RSL.

They conducted social work in the area, picking up veterans and driving them to go shopping or to their appointments among other community work at the Frankston RSL. In fact, you would be hard pressed to come by two more highly regarded volunteers and stoic community workers that contributed so much to social welfare and community work - from Cranbourne and down the Peninsula.

When the club relocated to its current location on Cranbourne Road, Doug would call bingo on Thursday nights, and Doris sold raffle tickets for the Friday night raffles - and did so right up until Covid hit in 2020. The club had three lawn greens and a small shed that acted as a clubhouse. Doris learned how to play bowls in the 1970's - under the guidance and tuition of the late Shirley Prendergast - a founding member and long-time volunteer of Frankston RSL. Doris sat on the lawn bowls committee for 12 years and is still an active bowler after 25 years!



# Volunteers

In these early days the club didn't have a bowler's pavilion for social gatherings, so Doris helped prepare food for the smorgasbord dinners in the club's kitchen. She later acquired her Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate, and volunteered in the bar during ladies' day and at Friday night dances. She also played golf for 10 years at Centenary Park, when ladies were allowed to join in the early 1980's - and even got a hole in one in the Foursomes Championship.



## THE EARLY YEARS:

Doris was born in Port Melbourne, and once married she moved to her uncle's dairy farm in Cranbourne South - opposite Cruden Farm. Doris and Doug forged an innate passion and selfless drive to 'help and volunteer' for so many causes and social groups.

Doris and her family are extremely proud of the legacy Douglas left behind; Cranbourne Citizen of the Year 1989, President for 13 years of the Lloyd Park Langwarrin Sports Centre- that he established from grass roots in 1968, Group Officer for the CFA's Region 8, and his 34 year career as the Chief Health Officer at Cranbourne Council - implementing health-related programs on secondment to countries such as Ethiopia, Tonga, Vietnam, Cambodia.

Although Doris has a busy social and family life - with her two children, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, she still often attends meetings at the Frankston RSL - discussing upcoming wellbeing and welfare activities for the various groups she is affiliated with.

It is volunteers like Doris that form the backbone of the Frankston RSL



# going green

## REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT!



Frankston RSL is committed to minimising its carbon footprint with 3 current recycling best practices

### 3 best practices



Recycle responsibly by separating cardboard, glass, and the use of comingled bins for plastic containers.



Proactively reviewing and continually assessing our energy usage against previous benchmarks and taking consultation to better improve our carbon footprint.



The use of our "Pulpmaster" food waste recycling system in the kitchen diverts food waste generated in the kitchen from becoming landfill. The pulp generated from the Pulpmaster is used by commercial composters to generate organic fertiliser, and the pulp can also be utilised to produce biogas - an excellent fuel for the generation of green energy.

As an organisation we have a key role to play in reducing our pollution by revisiting our actions, choices, and habits. At the Frankston RSL, and as a responsible business, we are working hard to reduce the impact we have on our environment by minimising the trace we leave behind from our business and operational practices. An external advisory consultant is assisting us with the process, and various eco-friendly initiatives are currently in place as well as others being explored.

### New initiatives!



Deposit return systems for beverage container recycling help keep valuable resources in a continuous loop of use and reuse.

We have a "Return It Reverse Vending Machine" unit at the RSL as a collection point/pay station for patrons.



We are in discussion with Tesla for the RSL to have supercharger parking bays for electric vehicles.



Exploring the use of our huge roof space for solar panels. Whilst it would not supply all the venue's needs, it would reduce the amount of mains power we require.



We have introduced co-mingled recycling and a commercial 'Return It' program to further reduce our carbon footprint.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! We love this motto and aim to repurpose as much as we can at the Frankston RSL. We also love partnering up with Community Groups and Charities and doing what we can. These 'hand-crafted' Santa Sacks have been painstakingly remodelled by hand from our calico banking bags into these stunning Santa Sacks.

The 230 or so sacks were dropped off to Backpacks for Vic Kids - an Australian charity providing essential material aid to displaced children. 45,000 Australian children are in an out-of-home care placement such as foster care and around 4000 are placed in homes each year in Victoria alone.

Beryl, Angie, and Amanda - volunteers and members of the club and or the Frankston RSL Women's Auxiliary and the Wellbeing Home and Hospital Visitation Team, not only volunteer their time but have been invaluable and instrumental in the design and sewing of these wonderful Santa sacks over the past few years.

Our staff have been saving the bags throughout the year and they have been washed, dried, ironed, and a hand-crafted cloth Christmas design has been cut out and individually sewn onto each sack. Three cheers to the sewing team and all the staff involved, and an even bigger round of applause to Back Packs For Victorian Kids (B4VK).

[www.backpacks4vickids.org.au](http://www.backpacks4vickids.org.au)



## Reduce Reuse Recycle



**sustainability**  
repurposing & saving our planet  
What are some examples of sustainability in fashion & textiles?  
clothing swaps, minimalism, local production and recycled materials!







## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS: 38 years of selfless dedication to the RSL & Community!

**Kaye Jordan** – Ladies Bowls, Bingo and Appeals Volunteer, and RSL Welfare Officer extraordinaire!

Kaye has had a momentous career volunteering at the Frankston RSL and for the local community, having had many fingers in many pies, and all the while taking it in her stride and always with a smile. Affectionately known as 'Sunshine Lady', Kaye has been a member of the Frankston RSL for 40 years! She joined in 1983 as an affiliate member with her late husband Noel - a World War II Veteran who served with the Royal Australian Airforce. They were married for 58 years before he sadly passed away in 2007. She is a mother of two, with three grandchildren, and a great grandmother. Kaye is the spriteliest of our volunteers – quick off her feet and enjoys witty banter. Kaye is not shy in putting up her hand and helping out and her 38 years as a volunteer is a testament to her commitment to Community Work and the RSL.

In 1985 Kaye signed up to be part of the Women's Auxiliary and assisted in fundraising for the Welfare arm of the Frankston RSL. While on the Auxiliary, Kaye was part of the Committee that volunteered every year on ANZAC Day to make the hundreds of sandwiches for our Veterans' Luncheon - this was one of Kaye's favourite events to volunteer with, serving sandwiches and drinks to the 'fellas', and she remembers it to this very day with fond memories.

Another significant contribution she made to the Auxiliary was volunteering in the canteen at RSL Park during the 90's, where she enjoyed meeting and becoming friends with many new servicemen and women. Kaye is still currently a member of the Frankston Women's Auxiliary which puts her at a total of 33 continuous years volunteering for the Women's Auxiliary. A truly amazing effort!

1985 also saw Kaye join the Lawn Bowls section, and in 1989 she joined the Committee of the Frankston RSL Bowls Section, where she held a continuous position on the Board in as General Committee, Secretary, and President. She also managed to slip into her already busy schedule, umpiring and coaching 24 years for the Bowls Club, and sat an exam to qualify as an Official Lawn Bowls Coach and Umpire. Kaye was recognised and honoured in 1999 with Life Membership to the Bowls Section.

Kaye has also been part of the RSL Welfare Section since 1989 and to execute this role, Kaye has had to attend training courses through the DVA to qualify as a Welfare Officer. The welfare role amongst other things involves Hospital Visitations, which is not always the easiest of roles to volunteer for. Visiting people who are unwell and sometimes feeling very low is not something everyone can do easily, and Kaye has now been visiting our Veterans and Members at the Local hospitals for over 29 years.

Between 2005-2007, Kaye volunteered as a Pensions Officer, assisting veterans with how to apply for pensions and coordinating intake - completing accreditation courses in Melbourne as a Pensions Officer.

Kaye also volunteered at Bingo for 17 years - first as a 'call-back attendant' but now as a 'controller'. Just another notch of volunteerism under her belt. And if all this is not enough, it's not uncommon to see 'Sunshine Lady' every now and then selling community raffle tickets Friday Nights with the Women's Auxiliary.



## AWARDS

- 2001 awarded the Centenary of Federation medal for Volunteerism
- Nominated for Frankston RSL Volunteer of the Year Award
- Awarded the Silver, and Gold, Service Star Badge Award - granted by RSL Women's Council of Victoria in recognition of her 20 and 25 years of Faithful and Meritorious Services rendered to the Auxiliary and to the League.



We are in awe of everything Kaye has achieved, and what can we say – other than thank you Kaye for all that you have given to the RSL and the Community.



# MEMORABILIA

## 81 year old WW2 RAAF airman's leather gauntlets

These spectacularly preserved RAAF leather gauntlets, photos, and pictured items belonged to RAAF Sergeant Maurice Saul Lewis, and have been tenderly stored by his daughter, Heather - a dedicated Frankston RSL Women's Auxiliary Volunteer. Lewis trained as a Fitter and Turner before enlisting in 1940 in Point Cook, VIC, and training as a pilot in Tocumwal, NSW. He was deployed to Darwin and served in the Darwin Mobile Force - a resilient and tight-knit fighting force that fiercely defended the city of Darwin under siege from the Japanese; February 1942 - November 1943. His Fitter-and-Turner skills were heavily capitalised on to repair Australian aircraft damaged during the air raids in Darwin, and Papua New Guinea. Maurice rose to the rank of RAAF Sergeant, before being discharged in February 1946.

The leather RAAF gauntlets (pattern 1933) are an Australian manufactured variant of the British early war gauntlets. They are made with the Australian zips brand 'Lightning ZIPP' that edge and retain the leather puller tabs. The gauntlets have three raised ridges stitched down the back of each hand and a leather adjustment strap on the back of each wrist. The gloves are lined with dark brown leather and sheep fur, and the stiff cuffs have an expanding gusset at the bottom. There is also his brass belt buckle that was used with dress uniform, his hat pin, medals, and medal ribbons.



The Bombing of Darwin, also known as the Battle of Darwin, on 19 February 1942 was the largest single attack ever mounted by a foreign power in Australia. There were 243 allied deaths, 11 ships sank, 30 aircraft destroyed, as 188 bombs were dropped by the Japanese. It was the largest Japanese attack since Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, 1941. The Japanese also launched an attack on Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, but the Australian troops helped defeat them and stop their advance across the Pacific. Darwin was seen as a key defensive position for Australia against the Japanese who had entered World War II with the attack on Pearl Harbour.



The men also enjoyed some downtime, and Barramundi fishing was high on the list of social activities.



*Thank you. Heather for sharing this memorabilia -*



Meet a few of the Memorabilia Team, Graham, Pat, John, and Ross - who painstakingly and meticulously curate our memorabilia display at the venue. The collections are updated throughout the year and display military history which is a wonderful way we can "honour the service" of those who have enlisted in the Australian Defence Forces since Federation. The display of memorabilia is an important way for the Sub Branch, and our members, to respect and commemorate

the service and sacrifices of those who have served, or, who are currently serving in our Defence Forces - ensuring that our community remember the fallen. The displays are 'themed' to commemorate a significant event in our military history and changed periodically.

The displays are curated by our Memorabilia Group, volunteers who work with the collection of memorabilia items accumulated the past 100 years since the Frankston RSL Sub Branch first formed.



# SUB-SECTIONS



## Pipes & Drums

The band participated in the Community, and this year competed again after a long absence, led by our Pipe Major Deborah Clark. We have also been in larger events partnered with Warragul RSL Pipes and Drums, a newly started Pipe Band in regional Victoria.

It is with enthusiasm we see our Learner Pipers and Drummers participating in our marches and playing music.

- ANZAC Day Services at Frankston and Rye
- Remembrance Day Service at Frankston
- Frankston Waterfront Festival and Inaugural Swim
- Daylesford Highland Gathering - FRSLPAD were appointed Duty Band for the Gathering
- Bunnings Frankston, where we annually return to play a mix of traditional and Christmas tunes
- Frankston RSL Whiskey Tasting Event
- Cranbourne Lodge, where have played 35 years consecutively; and
- Hampton Concierge to Aged Care Residents

A highlight of 2023 was Frankston RSL Pipes and Drums joining the formation of more than 200 Pipers, Drummers, and Dancers, and performing at the annual Melbourne's Tartan Festival - a salute to Scottish culture.

The march off commenced from Treasury Gardens, with our band's best attendance to date, as our Pipe Major Deborah Clark led our Pipes and Drums Corp down Collins Street, with the finale raising the Dome of Block Arcade.



### MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT

**President:** Deborah Clark

**Email:** frankstonrslpipesdrums@gmail.com

## Golf



The Golf sub-section has had an incredible year in 2023, playing in golf courses all around the Mornington Peninsula as well as new courses. such as Ringwood and Garfield Golf Clubs. We even gave indoor simulated golf a try one Sunday during the depths of winter.

Frankston RSL Golf Section has been operating for over 30 years and we are always on the lookout for new members. We have members of all abilities from those who can really hit the ball a mile to others who just can't fathom the intricacies of a good golf swing. The Golf Section is extremely fun and a very enjoyable way to play a round, or be introduced to the grand old game of golf.

In 2024 we will be playing at 15 different golf courses, including some very prestigious ones on the Mornington Peninsula, as well as our annual trip away to Thurgoona NSW. Our membership base has been steadily growing and we always have a sizable turnout for golf days.

The cost to join is \$60 per annum, and this contributes to subsidising games and an end of year presentation. A current RSL Membership is required, in order to join the sub-section.

Join us in friendly competitions, where the focus is fun and enjoyment. We welcome all new members, of all abilities from beginners to pros. Our group has both male and female members, with a wide range of handicaps that are divided into three grades (A, B & C). We play at least once a month on a Sunday, and after the game we meet back at the Frankston RSL Pavilion for a BBQ lunch and presentations - you'd be hard pressed to find better golfing company. All games are \$50, regardless of green fees for the course.



### MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT

**Club Captain** Grant Goodall

**PH:** 0414 868 164

**Match Day Contact** Dean Rice

**PH:** 0413 976 685



# The Women's Auxiliary

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We welcomed five new members during the year and now have a very happy group of ladies. The new Friendship Group format with no committee has been in operation for a year and is working really well.

We had a very successful Easter and Christmas Raffle, both of which did very well - namely the Christmas Raffle raising \$2,400. The RSL generously donated two \$500 Good Guys vouchers for our Christmas Raffle, which was very much appreciated and this donation enabled us to have four very exciting prizes. A big congratulations to the winners.

Our Friday Night \$1 raffles are doing well and are our main source of income at the moment as the Ladies enjoy Friday night ticket selling while getting together with other members. Many thanks to all who purchase tickets.

In 2023 the group raised circa \$13,500 through various fund raising activities and have donated money to community groups such as "Game Changer" (suicide prevention in young adults). Wreaths were also laid during Remembrance Day at the Frankston War Memorial in Beauty Park.

An enjoyable Christmas Lunch was provided by the RSL and included ADF groups and volunteers across the RSL sections. Additionally, the group has enjoyed bus trips visiting varying areas around Melbourne, organised and subsidised through the RSL and other RSL network organisations.

The group also meets every quarter with Rosebud, Rye and Dromana, and Red Hill ladies for lunch, taking turns at hosting. These gatherings have been very successful, and the ladies enjoy the raffles, lunching, and catching up with the ladies from other RSL's.



## MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT

The Auxiliary helps raise funds for Veterans and Community groups, and is a pleasant way to be social and meet new people. Find out more about upcoming activities or if you would like to join the group of volunteers.

**Coordinator:** Carol McFarlane **PH:** 0410 134 599  
or Cheryl Bishop **PH:** 0408 934 667



# Billiards & Snooker



Our AGM saw the election of the "usual suspects" plus a few new faces.

- 2023 Pennant performances:
- VBSA Monday nights.
  - Season 2. We won the C Grade snooker premiership. Our Billiards team did not make the finals.
- Over 55 Tuesdays. No flags.
- Metropolitan/Southern Tuesday nights.
  - Season 2. We won the snooker premiership. Our Billiards team did not make the finals.
- RSL Thursday nights. No flags.



2023 saw the following members qualify as Referees – John van Zanden, Blaise Northey, and Chris Coyne. Pictured is John with Victoria Director of Referees, Larry Eforagan.

## 2023 Club tournament winners:

- Snooker Champion: Bill Lindsay
- Henry Merrett Handicap Snooker: Ron Phillips
- Billiards Champion: Ian Gilby
- Norm Smith Handicap Billiards: Rob Davies
- Pat Chung "Dumb Bastard" Cup: David Harder & Bill Lindsay.



Finally, an enormous thank you to the Management and Team Members of the Frankston RSL for their ongoing support.

## MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT

Weekly comps are played at the Pavilion, Frankston RSL. We are always keen on hearing from new players. If you are interested in joining billiards or snooker at Frankston RSL, please get in touch. Juniors and ladies are very welcome. Coaching can be provided free of charge.

**Treasurer:** Mark Dunn **PH:** 0422 304 052





## FRANKSTON RSL SUB-BRANCH

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