

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



FY2024
PRINTED MARCH 2025

FRANKSTON RSL

VALE 2024



AKAM, ALFRED
ARNOLD, JOHN
BAGLEY, LARRY
BILLING, THOMAS
BILLINGS, BARRY CHARLES
BODY, ARTHUR
BOYER, JOHN
CHARLTON, DENNIS
COUSINS, BUZZ
DAFF, RUSSELL
DEACON, JOAN
DORRELL, JEFFREY
DYER, GORDON
EDWARDS, JOHN

FAIRWEATHER, JOHN
FOWLER, GEORGE
GODBER, JOHN
HIGGINS, DOUGLAS
HILL, LAWRENCE
JAMES, THOMAS
KEELEY, DONALD
MILLER, HAROLD
MORRIS, COLIN ROBERT
NASH, GARY
OATAWAY, HAROLD
PARKER, PHOEBE
RICE, PETER
ROBBINS, EDWIN

ROBERTS, BRIAN
ROGERS, WILLIAM
RONALD, JOHN
ROSS, STEPHEN
ROSSELY, DONALD
RUXTON, DENNIS
STECUM, RONALD
STEPHENS, DENIS
STEPHENSON, DONALD
STOREY, ALAN
TONG, GEOFFREY
TREACY, GREGORY
WHITEHOUSE, BOB
WREN, VICTOR

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2

VALES 2024 & LIFE MEMBERS

4-6

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

8

RSL COMMITTEE & MANAGEMENT TEAM

9-13

TREASURER'S REPORT & FINANCIAL SUMMARY

14-15

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

16-17

ANZAC DAY OVERVIEW & ANZAC DAY APPEAL

19

COMMUNITY CLUBS VICTORIA AWARDS

20-21

REMEMBRANCE DAY OVERVIEW & POPPY APPEAL

22

VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES EXPO, VETERAN
HEALTH WEEK LUNCH

23

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK, XMAS VETERAN
WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

24-25

WELLBEING REPORT

26

VETERAN WELFARE & WELLBEING

27

HOME & HOSPITAL VISITATION TEAM CHRISTMAS
PACKS TO VETERANS, WWII MEDALLIONS
AWARDED AT VASEY RSL CARE

28

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS - ANTHONY GRICE,
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

29-31

STAFF DEVELOPMENT, QUARTERLY AND LONG
SERVICE AWARDS

32

HONOURING OUR HEROES

33

VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

34-37

COMMUNITY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

38

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS - PETER KERLEY,
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

39

MEMORABILIA

40-41

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS -
CAROL MACFARLANE, WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

41

MEMORABILIA FEATURE

42-43

SUB-SECTIONS: PIPES AND DRUMS, GOLF,
WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, BILLIARDS & SNOOKER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



KEVIN HILLIER OAM

On behalf of the Committee, it is with a strong sense of pride and achievement that I submit for your approval and adoption, my report for the 2024 year.

In this period, we saw a further consolidation of the work initiated and carried out throughout COVID-19 (2020-2021). Employee count has now reverted to normal and pre 2020 staffing levels. I am also pleased to report that Management is working well as a team, the Committee continues to serve, and our Wellbeing Department and Advocates continue to excel.

VETERAN WELLBEING

The wellbeing report will highlight and demonstrate the many areas where we continue to provide assistance to veterans and their families, some of which include financial advice, advocacy, supply of household and white goods, and two socialisation opportunities with coffee mornings at the club each Wednesday for veterans and their partners, and Fridays for veterans of all eras.

The coffee mornings have grown throughout the year, and we now have the regular attendance of up to 40 participants, in addition to the 'Women's Friendship Group' that are now providing morning tea for the Independent Living Units at Vasey RSL Care Frankston South (RSL Park).



Wednesday's veterans and partners Coffee Group



Friday's all veterans Coffee Group

The financial report will highlight the funds allocated to veterans and the community in 2024. These amounts are figures we should all be very proud of and for the benefit of our members, although a veteran does not need to be a member of the RSL to receive assistance.

"Our support to veterans has grown considerably in 2024 - and over \$500,000 was spent on veteran wellbeing, welfare, and veteran support programs".

VETERAN ADVOCACY

Veteran Wellbeing has grown from assisting 126 veterans in 2021, 206 veterans in 2022, 265 veterans in 2023, and 301 in 2024. The Veteran Wellbeing Team, comprising of Wellbeing Coordinator - Stellar, and Wellbeing Advocates and Support Officers, Tony, Carol, and Anthony, has excelled in its assistance to veterans and their families.



Wellbeing Advocates & Support Officers Anthony, Carol, Tony.



Mobility, Whitegoods, and Household Furniture Volunteer Team - repurposing donated items to veterans to the value of \$23,000 in 2024.

NEW WELLBEING SPACE IN 2025

In my 2023 report, I advised that ANZAC House had received a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to place a portable office within the car park of the club, adjoining the Pavilion. Whilst there have been building and installation challenges along the way associated with the acquisition, I am hopeful that by the time this report is printed in early 2025, our 10 Veteran Wellbeing Support Officers and ANZAC House Pensions and Compensation Advocates, who continue to do the amazing work they do with veterans and their families, will have relocated to the 72m² new Veterans and Families Wellbeing Space.

VETERAN AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT 2024

We continued to support ANZAC House in their endeavours to assist veterans around the State of Victoria, both physically and financially and to the tune of approximately \$170,000 during this period. These funds, from 10A Sub-Branches like the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, assist with the running of ANZAC House and support smaller sub-branches around the state in conjunction with the support veterans receive through Veteran Central.

Our support to veterans has grown considerably in 2024, 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 2024, 1301 residents attended these lunches and just over \$26,447 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. Over \$250,000 was contributed to our Community Support Program, and as this is a two-way street, we thank community clubs for their support to the venue.



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Changes to Service and Affiliate Membership Levels in 2024 was due to Frankston RSL Sub-Branch financially assisting Mornington RSL with the payment of their overheads. The Mornington RSL Sub-Branch was not active as a business throughout this period and membership had dwindled. At the end of 2024, the Mornington Sub-Branch returned their charter, and all members were offered membership with Frankston RSL Sub-Branch. This also means that the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Appeals will now be conducted in the suburbs of Langwarrin, Frankston, Mt Eliza, Mornington, Mount Martha, and Moorooduc. Whilst this gives us a further opportunity to raise important funds for veterans, which Peter Kerley, Appeals Coordinator and Committee Secretary successfully does, it also means our sub-branch will need more volunteers going forward to successfully run both the ANZAC Day and Poppy Appeals.

WORLD WAR II MEDALLIONS

I was also privileged to attend Vasey RSL Care Frankston South (RSL Park), and present eight World War II Medallions to surviving veterans in care.



MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS VISIT

During the year we were honoured to host the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, The Hon Matt Keogh MP, and Federal Member for Dunkley, Jodie Belyea, for a chat and walk around the club, who were most impressed with our facility and the work carried out by our Wellbeing Department.



CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Planning and future club development are under constant consideration as we continue to reduce our debt following the last renovation.



COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES

2024 saw our most successful ANZAC and Remembrance Day services, notwithstanding the ANZAC Day commemoration held in 2015 at Frankston Football Oval.

ANZAC DAY 2024

The numbers continue to grow and we held another successful ANZAC Day Commemoration at Frankston War Memorial, Beauty Park, with attendance of circa 6,000 for the Dawn service and 2,000 for the 11AM service. Afterwards, and on the completion of the service, we hosted 750 veterans and families for lunch at the club, which our wonderful staff were able to serve in 40 minutes and the 'Ceremonial Table for the Missing' once again being a highlight of the day.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2024

Remembrance Day was equally gratifying and we were proud to conduct the largest Remembrance Day service for many years with over 300 in attendance, including 20 local organisations and students from eight local schools.



APPEALS

We were fortunate to have had two successful appeals in 2024, raising over \$134,000 for the ANZAC Day Appeal, and a further \$124,000 for the Poppy Appeal.

These are record figures in the history of the club and we thank Peter Kerley, Appeals Coordinator, for the extraordinary effort he put into running both appeals and coordinating volunteers. His passion has seen the income raised from the appeals grow remarkably during the period. A special thank you also to the volunteers that make all of this happen and to everybody who purchased appeals merchandise.



VALE

We were saddened to receive the notification by families of the passing of 42 service members, and I offer them my sincere condolences. Unfortunately, we are often not advised of the passing of a service member and sometimes we are told well after the event. This is a timely reminder that deceased service members are entitled to a RSL Ritual as part of the funeral service.

THANK YOU

Finally, I thank the committee and members for their continued support as we work together to maintain our high standards of support to veterans and their families.

I thank the committee for their diligence in maintaining our corporate governance, and the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch 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 their families.

KEVIN HILLIER OAM
President 2025



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.frankstonrsl.com.au

COMMITTEE

In 2024, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch 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
Veterans' Centre
Governance:
Audit/Risk Management
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



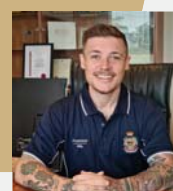
ANTHONY GRICE
COMMITTEE

Retired
Wellbeing Officer
Mobility Team
Appeals
Joined 2021



DAVID HELMAN
COMMITTEE

Retired
Community Events
Appeals
Joined 2023



ZAK CRITSILIS
COMMITTEE

Mental Health Coordinator
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

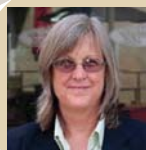


Rose VanVelzen
GOVERNANCE MANAGER
SINCE 2024

MANAGEMENT team



Mata Harawira-Tai
FRONT OF HOUSE
MANAGER
SINCE 2024



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 Lepoigneur
ADMINISTRATION
MANAGER
SINCE 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT



BRIAN HILL CSC

“I am pleased to report that once again, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Incorporated (Inc) recorded its best trading year to date. Income generated for the year was \$20,909,000, which was \$277,289 (1.34%) greater than 2023.”

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2024

It is my pleasure to submit, for your approval and adoption, the Treasurer's Report for 2024. I am pleased to report that once again, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Incorporated (Inc) recorded its best trading year to date. Income generated for the year was \$20,909,000, which was \$277,289 (1.34%) greater than 2023.

Unfortunately, increasing and ongoing cost pressures resulted in expenses for the year being \$21,353,267, which was \$717,573 (3.48%) greater than 2023 expenses. This resulted in the sub-branch trading account recording a loss of \$444,267. While this is disappointing, there were factors that contributed to this outcome. These include, but are not limited to:

- Staff wages - \$5,517,221
- Rent - \$1,224,389
- Gaming Machine Licence liability - \$562,885
- Veteran and Community Support - \$809,867

The end of year outcome in the Patriotic Fund (PF) was more favourable with the fund recording a profit of \$538,475. The PF derives most of its income from rent paid by the sub-branch, which was \$1,224,389 in 2024. The rent is used to maintain or improve the premises and service the bank loan taken out for the redevelopment undertaken in 2020. Loan repayments made for 2024 were \$1,227,885 and the outstanding loan balance at the end of the year was \$2,482,515.

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 \$261,400 was raised through the appeals and donations in 2024. A portion (50%) of this was retained by the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch to support veterans in our area.

The balance was paid to the State Branch General Appeals Account to be utilised for statewide veteran support. For 2024, \$74,563 was expended on direct support for veterans or their families. The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch is returning a further \$43,983 to the Victorian RSL State Branch (Veteran Central) to further assist in statewide veteran support.

In summary, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch had a strong trading year in 2024 and, despite the ongoing cost of living pressure, is in a sound financial position. I commend the management and staff of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch for the strong position the sub-branch is currently in, and the solid platform the sub-branch has going forward in 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee, and the Finance Team of Lynda, Jarrod, and Marion, for their assistance and on-going support throughout 2024.

BRIAN HILL CSC
Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

FRANKSTON R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH INC
A.B.N 12 643 054 953 For the Year Ended 31 December 2024
COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Frankston R.S.L. Sub Branch Inc.

ABN: 12 643 054 953

Committee's Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Your Committee members submit the financial statements of the Frankston R.S.L. Sub Branch Inc. (the Association) for the financial period ended 31 December 2024.

Committee Members

The names of the Committee members at the date of this report and during the year were:

Kevin Hillier OAM (President)
Brian Hill CSC (Treasurer)
Anthony Grice
Lyn Lynch
Zak Critsilis

John Barry (Vice President)
Peter Kerley (Secretary)
Kevin Tester
David Helman

Principle Activities

The role and objective of the Association during the financial year were to serve the interests of its members, veterans, the ex-service community and members of the Australian Defence Force. Principal activities to help achieve and fund the objectives include providing welfare, sub sporting sections clubs, bistro and bar trading and gaming activities.

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Association other than those referred to in the accounts and notes thereto.

Review of Operations and Operating Results

The loss for the year amounted to \$444,267 (2023: loss \$3,983).

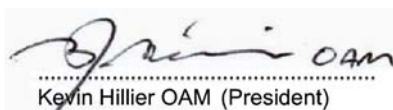
Events Subsequent to the End of the Reporting Period

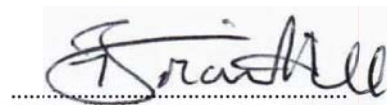
Since the end of the financial year no matters or circumstances have significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the result of its operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under the section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012* is set out on page 3.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.


Kevin Hillier OAM (President)
Dated this 19th day of February 2025


Brian Hill CSC (Treasurer)

FINANCIAL REPORT

FRANKSTON R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH INC
A.B.N 12 643 054 953 AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Frankston R.S.L. Sub Branch Inc.

ABN: 12 643 054 953

Statement of Financial Position

As At 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	2,194,927	2,662,188
Inventories	4	155,594	115,222
Prepayments		217,712	178,965
Trade and Other Receivables	5	64,958	95,895
Total Current Assets		2,633,191	3,052,270
Non Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment	6	2,092,877	1,596,570
Intangible Assets	7	3,210,469	3,629,226
Total Non Current Assets		5,303,346	5,225,796
Total Assets		7,936,537	8,278,066
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	8	1,290,640	1,102,344
Provisions	9	533,038	528,334
Other Liabilities		132,099	150,055
Total Current Liabilities		1,955,777	1,780,733
Non Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	8	3,199,432	3,267,768
Provisions	9	5,296	9,266
Total Non Current Liabilities		3,204,728	3,277,034
Total Liabilities		5,160,505	5,057,767
Net Assets		2,776,032	3,220,299
Equity			
Balance at Beginning of Year		3,220,299	3,224,282
Net (Deficit) / Surplus for the Year After Income Tax		(444,267)	(3,983)
Total Equity		2,776,032	3,220,299

FINANCIAL REPORT

FRANKSTON R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH PATRIOTIC FUND
A.B.N 12 643 054 953 For the Year Ended 31 December 2024
COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Frankston R.S.L. Sub-Branch Patriotic Fund

ABN: 69 737 849 266

Committee's Report For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Your Committee members submit the financial statements of the Association for the financial period ended 31 December 2024.

Committee Members

The names of the Committee members at the date of this report and during the year were:

Kevin Hillier OAM (President)
Brian Hill CSC (Treasurer)
Anthony Grice
Lyn Lynch
Zak Critsilis

John Barry (Vice President)
Peter Kerley (Secretary)
Kevin Tester
David Helman

Principle Activities

The principal activities of the fund during the financial year were to provide the infrastructure for the Frankston R.S.L. Sub-Branch.

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Association other than those referred to in the accounts and notes thereto.

Review of Operations and Operating Results

The profit for the year amounted to \$538,475 (2023: profit \$146,143).

Events Subsequent to the End of the Reporting Period

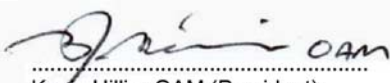
No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year that have significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the result of its operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

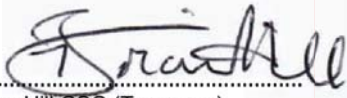
There have been no material non-adjusting events after the reporting date, nor has any information been received about conditions at reporting date that have not been included in this report.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under the section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012* is set out on page 3.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.


Kevin Hillier OAM (President)
Dated this 19th day of February 2025


Brian Hill CSC (Treasurer)

FINANCIAL REPORT

FRANKSTON R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH PATRIOTIC FUND
A.B.N 12 643 054 953 AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Frankston R.S.L. Sub-Branch Patriotic Fund

ABN: 69 737 849 266

Statement of Financial Position

As At 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	318,109	296,078
Trade and Other Receivables		-	12,761
Other Assets		75,991	11,462
Total Current Assets		<u>394,100</u>	<u>320,301</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	13,557,166	14,264,853
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>13,557,166</u>	<u>14,264,853</u>
Total Assets		<u>13,951,266</u>	<u>14,585,154</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	4	66,282	10,760
Borrowings	5	595,840	499,200
Total Current Liabilities		<u>662,122</u>	<u>509,960</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	5	1,886,675	3,211,200
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>1,886,675</u>	<u>3,211,200</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>2,548,797</u>	<u>3,721,160</u>
Net Assets		<u>11,402,469</u>	<u>10,863,994</u>
Equity			
Retained Earnings		11,402,469	10,863,994
Total Equity		<u>11,402,469</u>	<u>10,863,994</u>

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



BRETT ROWLANDS

"Every day, we strive to deliver the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch 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."

Looking back, I feel immense pride at the hospitality experience we delivered to our members in 2024. It was a very challenging year with cost-of-living pressures affecting our purchasing as well as our customers' discretionary spend. The team worked hard to continue to deliver excellence in hospitality with value to all our guests.

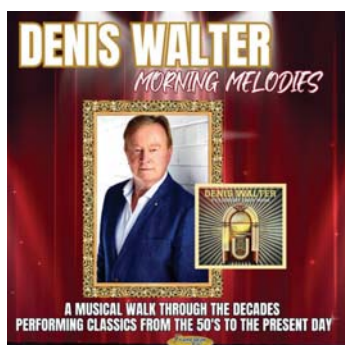
Every day, we strive to deliver the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch vision, "To support the welfare of veterans and their families. To promote pride, respect and belonging within the veteran and broader community by maintaining a welcoming atmosphere and providing outstanding hospitality and entertainment."

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES

Our commemorative days continue to grow and deliver a critical and essential service to the community. The continued improvements to Beauty Park, enhancing both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Services are pivotal to their respective success. Providing hospitality to the sizeable quantity of people who return to the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch for lunch and refreshments after the services is an honour held dear to all the staff.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment and leisure at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch continue to grow, despite the challenging macro environment. We sold over 6 700 tickets to events at the club in 2024, with some of the highlights being the delivery of Christmas Day lunch to 447 people, Birthday Week, Oktoberfest, Superbowl, and St Patrick's Day Events.



STAFF

My executive team of Colin Ross, Jodi Millar, and Rose VanVelzen provide me with fantastic support and leadership in the venue. Their combined experience, knowledge and desire to deliver for our members make this venue the envy of others in the network. Thank you for all your efforts.

Our department heads help ensure you, the member, have a great experience at the club each and every time. My thanks to Dean (BOH), Tracy (Gaming), Mata (FOH), Lynda (Finance), Anja (Administration) and Patricia (Marketing).

Our Black Line leaders ensure the venue operates on a daily basis to the high standards we expect. Jessica, Harry, Sandra, Josh, Lauren, Susan and Jarrod – thank you for helping to deliver the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch experience. To the rest of the leadership team and all staff who make this amazing venue what it is...thank you.



Staff end-of-year Christmas Party

FOOD & BEVERAGE OFFERING

Our food and beverage offer continues to grow and develop. The range and variety of craft beers alongside the continual improvements to the bistro and functions menu help us to deliver excellence in hospitality. Gaming delivered excellent results in a tough market. Our continued focus on customer service and new products is delivering great results for the venue.



FINANCIAL RESULTS

Financially, the results for 2024 across the 3 entities are pleasing. It is important to assess the entire operation of the venue across the Patriotic Fund and the Incorporated Association (INC). From those combined numbers, I would like to highlight the following key outcomes:

- Reduction in principal debt in Pat Fund of \$1.224 million
- Net profit between INC and Pat Fund of \$94 208
- Reallocation of assets between INC and Pat Fund
- \$20.9 million in total sales (an increase of 1.3% on last year)
- Over \$639 000 spent on veterans across the 3 entities
- Over \$342 000 spent on the community

The above numbers show the great outcomes this RSL delivers for veterans and the community through the provision of quality hospitality.

OPERATIONAL ADVANCEMENTS

In order to stay a step ahead in the highly competitive hospitality market we regularly update operational features at the venue. 2024 had a significant share of improvement updates, namely two new Member Rewards' Kiosks, 20 TV display screens, and numerous system and hardware advancements.

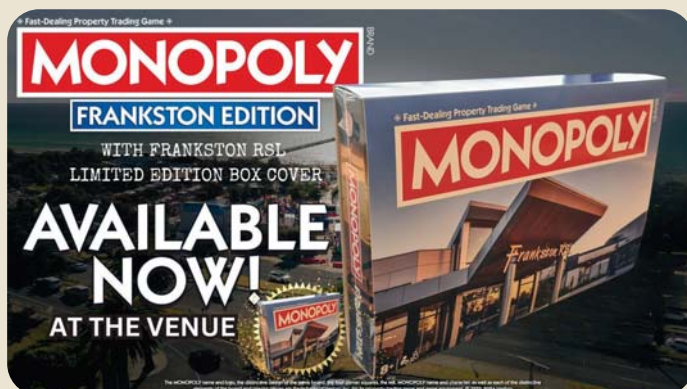
We host 350 functions, events, and tribute shows per annum, and our Functions Room received a well deserved facelift in the latter part of 2024. The refurb included a new design and very exciting AV and tech features installed, making the 350m² function space an enviable destination to hold any type of function or event on the Peninsula. The room has had an aesthetic as well as a functional upgrade with a 5m panoramic screen, copper benchtop cladding to the 8.5m² bar, copper wall lampshades and nine 1m brass chandeliers, a motorised wrap around stage curtain, and motorised sheer curtains and sun block to all windows.

Additionally, we added CP's restaurant to our function room offering, providing the venue with an additional 150m² in function space that is perfect for informal events and cocktail style functions.

Our great range of merchandise is regularly refreshed and sold at Reception, with a portion of sales going to veteran support programs.

A new permanent feature of our Bistro is our recent acquisition of a 'Gelato Van', that can also be hired for functions at the venue.

To finish off a great year, we were thrilled to feature on the limited edition Frankston Monopoly Board Game, that is a once in a lifetime opportunity.



2025 AND BEYOND

2025 is shaping up as another wonderful year for the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch. We have already delivered the Annual RSL Victoria Hall of Fame Awards Event, which was a formal black tie, three-course sit down dinner for the Victorian RSL network. We have a plethora of fantastic tribute acts coming to the venue, including The Eagles, Cocker Diamond, Creedence Clear Water Revival, Elvis and Abba. Other entertainment coming this year includes Faulty Towers, Denis Walter, Gold Logie winner John Wood, and another performance of West End to Broadway. Make sure you are signed up to receive our weekly emails and follow us on social media to stay across all the wonderful events offered at the club.

Finally, my thanks and appreciation to the committee of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch and in particular, President Kevin Hillier OAM for his continued support and tireless work in the delivering for the veterans of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.

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

BRETT ROWLANDS

General Manager





Lest we forget

ANZAC DAY 2024

2024 saw once again the public commemorating ANZAC Day, with approximately 6,000 in attendance at the Dawn Service, and 2,000 at the Commemorative and Wreath Laying Service.

We were fortunate to have Captain Adam Muckalt, RAN as guest speaker at both services on behalf of the Chief of Royal Australian Navy.

Mayor Cr Nathan Conroy, Frankston City Council, gave the opening address at the Dawn service, and Paul Edbrooke, local member for Frankston, gave the opening address at the Commemorative Service. Both services were supported by the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Chaplain, Grahame Watkinson CSM, members of the Mornington Peninsula Welsh Ladies Choir, and local cadets from both Army and Air Force.

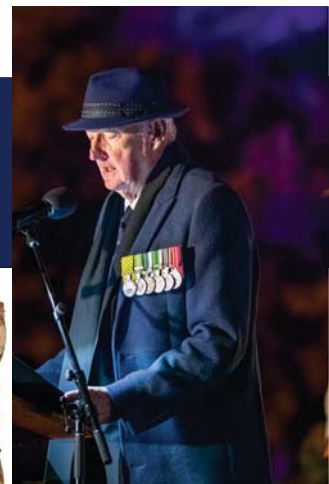
12 wreaths had been laid a day prior, by schools from the local area, and a further 30 wreaths were laid along

the memorial wall during the Wreath Laying Service on ANZAC Day.

A highlight at the completion of both services is the laying of poppies in the garden and within the memorial, by all those who attend. This becomes a feature of the Frankston War Memorial for weeks after the event.

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 her tireless work in preparing all the paperwork and on-site organisation of the event.

The lunch offered at the club, after the completion of the service, was again outstanding and enjoyed by 750 Frankston RSL Sub-Branch members and their families. We cannot thank our staff enough for the countless hours they put into organising the day, and who pay respect to our active service personnel and veterans and their families.



\$134,101
was raised by the
Frankston RSL
Sub-Branch

We are proud to announce that the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Appeals Team successfully raised in excess of \$134,101. These valuable funds go toward helping veterans and their families who are in need of financial, social, and wellbeing assistance.

Thanks to Steve Brown Photography for the images. Steve graciously gives up his time every year to capture the essence of the day and donates his photos to the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.

Contact: @steveb3199 or 0417 822 288



ANZAC DAY 2024



Thank you!

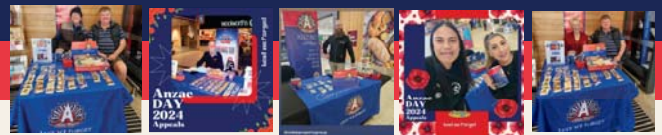
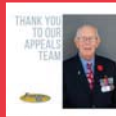
Where would we be without the assistance from all community groups, aged care facilities, committee members, as well as the 130 local businesses that help sell merchandise at their workplace?

Thank you to the army of volunteers who helped out on our appeals stalls and offered countless hours of community work, and made our 2024 Appeals the most successful in our club history. A shout out to our stalwart volunteers including the Navy Club, the Ladies Auxiliary, our Sporting Sections, and of course, the Langwarrin Girl Guides, and Air Force and Army Cadets who always selflessly offer their time, and without prompting!

The biggest thanks goes to the generosity of everybody who purchases appeals merchandise. The valuable funds raised go a long way to helping veterans in need.



A special thanks to our valued Appeals Coordinator, Peter Kerley, for his ongoing commitment and his admirable efforts to rally volunteers and manage the teams to raise record-breaking appeals funds for our veterans. As the Appeals Coordinator, over the past three years, Peter has helped raise \$608,000.



Frankston District Netball Association

The Hospitality Manager at FDNA outdid herself with baking jumbo ANZAC cookies. \$1 from each cookie sold was donated to the ANZAC Day Appeal, and a whopping \$200 was raised. The support didn't stop there, and a tray of ANZAC Day merchandise at Jubilee Park helped raise another \$200 for the Appeal.



GOODSTART – Early Learning Centre Committee Member Lyn Lynch, visited the Centre in Frankston South and spoke to the 4 year-olds about the significance of ANZAC Day. Thanks to the books - 'ANZAC Ted' and an 'ANZAC Bear', the curious minds were able to reflect before firing away questions, that were followed by an arts and crafts poppy making session.

Brooke Humphrey, cornet player in the Frankston City Band, has been integral to the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Commemorative Ceremonies since 2018. In thanks, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch and veterans gifted her with a new bugle.



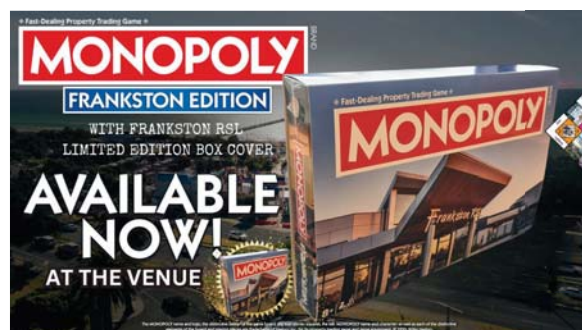
Anzac Day Spirit Medals

Club President Kevin Hillier OAM awarded 90 medals on Saturday 20th April at the FDNA ANZAC Day Round, where 180 teams competed. Every year, FDNA awards medals to one player per every game that has exemplified the ANZAC Sprit, with their Courage, Pride, and Mateship. On the day, Kevin was presented with a netball signed by the 2023 Championship team, in thanks for the 15 years of support provided by the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch to the FDNA (1988-2003).

Signature Care Langwarrin

An ANZAC Day service was officiated by Club Vice President John Barry. The residents and organisers did a wonderful job in setting up the room with ANZAC Day Memorabilia, and the high level of participation by the residents and staff ensured it was another memorable service. Mrs Elsie Forsyth sat proudly next to photos of her husband and father, and Mr Noel Smith proudly laid the wreaths.





We're on the board! *Monopoly Mania!*

... and then this happened! We are tickled pink to feature on the Frankston Monopoly Board Game and on the very prestigious property title of Bond Street.

We were thrilled to have Mr. Monopoly pay the venue a visit in July, a day before the Frankston Monopoly launch, and serve up a couple of Parmas and brew a Barista quality coffee in our Café.

The venue was buzzing with excitement and sealing off the special occasion was a Channel 7 TV film crew who interviewed Club President Kevin Hillier OAM for the 6PM news!

The limited edition Frankston board game is available for purchase at the club for \$69.99, and if purchased at the venue it comes with the limited edition Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Box Cover. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Monopoly collectors or ideal for gifting.



Intergenerational Learning & Veteran Biographies

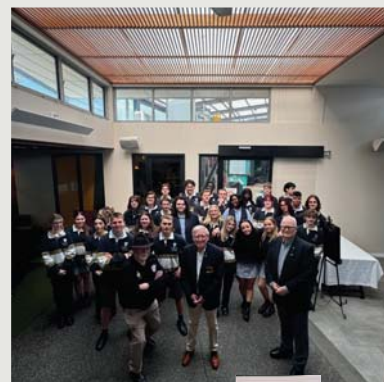
In 2024, students from John Paul College – a local Catholic co-educational secondary College in Frankston, collaborated with four veterans who are members of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, to create and compile their Biographies and publish them as a magazine.

The project was initiated by the college, as there was a desire to form a community connection between the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch and 'Year 12 VCE Vocation Major students'. The college encouraged the connection and saw it as the perfect opportunity to learn about leadership and teamwork - a course requirement for their Personal Development Skills subject.

"This was a more engaging way to cover the required course outcomes for the students - learning about teamwork and leadership from veterans who experienced these traits first-hand during their service.

We are proud of our students embarking on intergenerational learning, where connections are formed between younger and older generations - sharing their rich histories while it is still possible, and creating a record of these histories for future generations". *Nicole Scott, VCE VM and English Teacher, John Paul College*

The students presented their Veteran Biographies Project to Club President, Kevin Hillier OAM, during a lunch event at the club.



MENTAL & SOCIAL WELLBEING AWARD 2023-24

Frankston
RSL

CCV COMMUNITY
CLUBS
VICTORIA
STATE AWARDS



CCV AWARDS 2023-2024

We were honoured to have been awarded Best Mental and Social Wellbeing Program (Metro) at the esteemed Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) 2024 Gala Awards in July, and equally proud to have been shortlisted as one of the finalists for 'Best Hospitality Team'. This award is a significant achievement by our Veteran Wellbeing Team who rolled out an impressive Mental and Social Wellbeing Program for our veterans and their families in 2023.

In 2023, our Veteran Wellbeing Team offered a range of services including advocacy, financial assistance, and social activities, with 773 attendances by veterans and their families across 23 events.

The team, led by Wellbeing Coordinator Stellar, and Wellbeing Advocate Anthony Grice, rolled out an impressive Mental and Social Wellbeing Program for our veterans and their families providing over \$500,000 in support, distributed \$15,000 worth of essential items, and visited veterans in homes and hospitals to a total of 374 hours.

The efforts from our staff and committee cannot be underestimated, and we are truly humbled to have been recognised for the work we do in field of veteran mental health, welfare, and wellbeing, and a testament to our commitment and continuous development in this very worthy field.



*Nominated as finalist in two categories
- Best Metro Mental and Social Wellbeing Program
- Best Hospitality Team.*



This is an incredible celebration of our unwavering efforts that have made a profound impact on our veteran community, and to be acknowledged for our contributions in the field of Veteran Mental Health, Welfare, and Wellbeing.



At the 11th hour, 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 2024 was held at the Frankston War Memorial, and the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch was proud to conduct the largest Remembrance Day service for many years, with over 300 in attendance, including 20 local organisations, and students from eight local schools who laid wreaths in honour of the fallen.

Official guests included Jodie Belyea MP - Federal Member for Dunkley, Paul Edbrooke MP - Local Member for Frankston, Phil Cantelon - CEO City of Frankston, Inspector Melissa Rogers - Victoria Police, and Brian McMannis ESM JP from SES. We appreciated the attendance of the 406th Squadron AAFC, led by FLTLT (AAFC) Bree Nieve who provided the catafalque party, flag pole attendants, and assistance with the presentation of wreaths.

The Last Post and Rouse were provided by Brooke Humphrey of the Frankston City Band, and piping for the laying of wreaths was provided by Geoff Shaw of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Pipes and Drums Section.

Jodie Belyea MP gave the opening address, followed by Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Chaplain Graeme Watkinson with prayers. Club President Kevin Hillier OAM gave the main address and touched on the service of George Mawby INGRAM VC MM who is interred at the Frankston Memorial Cemetery.

The service concluded with what has become a tradition, with the laying of poppies within the memorial and returning to the club for a light lunch.

Thank you to everybody involved from the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch in organising the service and making it a memorable event, and to the volunteers from our Home and Hospital Visitation Team, our Wellbeing Team, and the Army and Air Force.

A service was also held at the Mornington Cenotaph by the outgoing members of the now closed Mornington RSL Sub-Branch. Going forward, Frankston RSL Sub-Branch will provide support to veterans in the Mornington area.



REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY APPEAL 2024

Thank you to everybody who purchased Poppy Appeal merchandise.

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

\$124,000

The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch 2024 Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal raised \$124,000.



Lest we Forget

Images: Steve Brown Photography (steveb3199@gmail.com)
View gallery www.frankstonrsl.com.au/remembrance-day-services





Heroes in our midst

Frankston RSL Sub-Branch committee members were actively involved in community focused endeavours, and officiated many Remembrance Day Commemorative Services in 2024.

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning. we will remember them.
Lest we forget*



Thank you to Club VP John Barry for leading the Remembrance Day service at the local aged care facility Langwarrin Community Aged Care (Signature Care), where several Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Service Members and their partners reside.

The centre excels at residents' wellbeing activities and once again they did an amazing job helping residents commemorate Remembrance Day so they could pay tribute and remember those who served our country.

REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMUNITY SERVICES



The residents at St. Pauls Terrace Aged Care Frankston were pleased as punch with Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Vice President John Barry, for leading the Remembrance Day Commemorative Service at the Centre and for his touching tribute to those who served their country. The service was followed by an afternoon of residents sharing their stories of lived experiences to commemorate Remembrance Day.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Commemorating Remembrance Day Karingal Hub



Thank you to Peter Kerley, Appeals Coordinator and Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Committee Secretary for an amazing job at conducting the Remembrance Day Commemorative Service at Karingal Hub as well as coordinating our Remembrance Day Appeal and 'rounding up' and managing the volunteers.



Thank you to Brian Hill CSC Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Committee Treasurer for leading the Remembrance Day Commemorative Service at Kingsley Park Primary School, and thank you to the school for cherishing and helping preserve our traditions by commemorating Remembrance Day.



Committee Member Kevin Tester gave a moving Commemorative Service to honour Remembrance Day. He was impressed by both the welcome he received at MACG (Carrum Downs Aged Care), and the effort made by the centre to ensure residents could pay tribute on Remembrance Day.



2024 Inaugural Veterans & their Families Expo

An incredible success is the best way to sum up our inaugural 'Veterans and their Families Expo' held in May, 2024. The family friendly Expo was held at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, attracting visitors from a range of ages. The atmosphere was buzzing with 29 exhibitors, dignitaries, and veterans, with many new faces attending.

The day's program included an opening address from Club President Kevin Hillier OAM, a Q&A session run by Committee Member Zak Critsilis, a performance by Dave Cox from 'Guitars For Veterans', as well as children entertainers - a magician, balloon artist, and face painter. There were two lucky door hamper prizes that included a \$50 venue voucher and many other goodies, plus complimentary refreshments throughout the Expo.

It was an awesome outcome to many months in the making and it surpassed all our expectations. Thank you to everybody who helped put the event together and to our incredible and staunch volunteers who are never too far away and always willing to lend a helping hand.

A special thank you to our very humble Wellbeing Coordinator, Stellar, who did an amazing job at putting the Expo together with volunteers and Frankston RSL Sub-Branch staff. We received lots of positive feedback, and the biggest takeaway was that many connections were made - at the end of the day, that's what it's all about!



Veterans Health Week Lunch !

The Veterans Health Week Lunch Event was a fabulous success, with a whopping 71 participants attending, including Brett from 'Open Arms - Veterans & Families Counselling', and MC Anthony Grice - Wellbeing Officer and Committee Member, who perfectly orchestrated the event on the day.

Participants heard from guest speaker Karen - Department of Veterans' Affairs, who spoke on ways to keep connected and shining a spotlight on the importance of social connectedness, as well as good health and wellbeing in the

everyday life of veterans and their families.

Informative hand-outs were given out, covering 'Tools for Keeping Connected', where people can create a Social Connections Map and Social Connection Goals, and take part in enjoyable and rewarding activities.

Thank you to Anthony, Tony, Stellar, and Jo from our Wellbeing Team who always do an amazing job at looking after the wellbeing of veterans and their families, and having made 'Veterans Health Week 2024 Lunch Event, another roaring success.



WELLBEING

XMAS 2024 WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

Veterans and Associated Groups

December was a very busy time for our Wellbeing Team. The month kicked off with our annual complimentary Christmas Lunch on the 5th December for veterans and our Associated Groups*. Vice President John Barry made a special presentation at the luncheon to honour and congratulate WWII Veteran Duncan Mackinnon with an Award for Long Service for 75 years of Membership to RSL Australia. It also happened to be Duncan's 101st birthday on the day so there were many reasons to celebrate. The festivities were enhanced with entertainment from Frankston Ladies Choir, a lucky door prize, and a special visit from Santa that made for an extremely successful afternoon.

Christmas Wonderland

In mid December the Wellbeing team organised two bus trips to Melbourne's Christmas Wonderland at Caulfield Racecourse. The trips were extremely well attended and fun for the many children and grandchildren of defence personnel and veterans in attendance from the HMAS Cerberus community and 'Kookaburra Kids' - a children's defence program: www.kookaburrakids.org.au/defence-program Both days were followed by afternoon tea at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, that allowed for wonderful conversations and tales of the day to be told. These moments allow for the making of special connections and precious memories.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2024

We love hosting our yearly Volunteer Lunch to celebrate National Volunteer Week, because we get to say thank you to some of the most amazing people we know! The club played host to 115 very special volunteers, who enjoyed being looked after for a change, and were treated to a wonderful luncheon, enjoyed in great company. Volunteers were entertained with a wonderful performance by the Frankston Ladies Choir, who sang a range of old favourites.

The lucky door prize winner took home two tickets to 'The Two of Us', Songs of Lennon & Mc Cartney, at the Frankston Arts Centre. The tickets were generously donated by club members Lisa and Matthew. Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Club President Kevin Hillier OAM officiated the event and talked about the array of volunteering roles on offer at the club, and that there is something for everyone to get involved in at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.

The 2024 'Volunteer Week' theme was, 'Something for Everyone' - recognising the diverse passions and talents

everyone brings to the act of volunteering.

Volunteers are the backbone of any RSL and without them the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch would find it hard to do the work that it does: helping with Home & Hospital Visitations, providing Mobility Aids and household goods to veterans and their families, yearly Appeals, Wellbeing Support, and curating our Memorabilia Collection, to list a few among the many services our volunteers provide.

The national week-long event recognises the vital support that the millions of volunteers in our country provide their communities, and encourages people to consider volunteering.

National Volunteer Week is a celebration of our power to drive change and ensure volunteering is inclusive of all members of the Australian community.

Thank you to all our Volunteers!

Anzac & Poppy Appeals, Women's Auxiliary, Billiards & Snooker, Bingo, Pipes & Drums, Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Committee, Sewing Group, Golf Sub-section, Home & Hospital Team, Memorabilia Team, Mobility Aids & Furniture Program Team, Parc Age-Strong Exercise Group, Wellbeing Team, RSL Funeral Representatives, and general volunteers.



Variety Kids Christmas Party

If this wasn't enough merriment for one month, the Wellbeing Coordinator received invitations from the RSL Victoria Wellbeing Team to the 'Variety Kids' Christmas Party' that allowed for five veterans' families to attend.

All activities, rides, carnival games, food, and children's gifts were free, which took some pressure off these families in the lead-up to Christmas. This was a highly successful day out that was enjoyed by all, and plans are already in place for the State and Sub-Branch Wellbeing Teams to partner up again and make provision to invite more veteran families to the event in December 2025.



*Associated Groups: The Auxiliary, Ex-Service Women's Association, Frankston Naval Memorial Club, Wednesday & Friday Coffee Groups, Home & Hospital Visitation Team, Legacy, Memorabilia Group, Partners of veterans Association, Vietnam veterans & the Frankston veterans & Families Hub!



WELFARE UPDATE 2024

January - December 2024 at a GLANCE

WELLBEING CASES: number of cases	76
PASTORAL CARE: number of cases	398
DECEASED SERVICE MEMBERS FRSL	44*
RSL FUNERAL REPRESENTATION Required for Service Members	12
WEDNESDAY COFFEE GROUP: FRIDAY COFFEE GROUP: cost of catering & coffees	\$15,743 \$13,198
WEDNESDAY GROUP PARTICIPANTS: FRIDAY COFFEE GROUP PARTICIPANTS	1361 not collated
HELLO PROGRAM PHONE-CALLS: Volunteer & Staff Hours	391 32.45
HOME & HOSPITAL TEAM: Monthly Visitation Hours	895.5
HOME & HOSPITAL TEAM: number of people visited	1374
MONTHLY LUNCHES: Residential Aged Care Facilities: #lunches Facilities Attended	1301 115
MONTHLY LUNCHES - Residential Aged Care Facilities: Cost	\$26,447
LAWNS: number of people assisted Home Maintenance - Lawns Cost	403 \$24,081
MOBILITY AIDS PROGRAM: value of goods re-distributed	\$27,345
PARC EXERCISE GROUP PARTICIPANTS: Tuesday Sessions x 2 Friday Sessions x 2	539 547
WELLBEING BUS: number of people assisted	440
WELLBEING BUS: number of Trips:	51
WELLBEING CAR: number of Client Visits and Transport:	90
WELLBEING CAR: errands, Client Visits and Transport KM's:	3844
WELLBEING SUPPORT OFFICERS: Number inducted:	4

Contact Us ... If you are a veteran or family member requiring support or assistance, if you want to have a chat about upcoming social and wellbeing activities, or keen on volunteering, Make an appointment today!

*Wellbeing Coordinator
Monday to Friday, 9am to 4:30pm.
Email: welfare@frankstonrsl.com.au
0492 820 743*

Support & Assistance for Veterans and Dependants

Frankston RSL Sub-Branch's Wellbeing Team is always busy assisting veterans and their families with a range of support, from free and confidential Wellbeing Advocacy, financial assistance, 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 and we have RSL Funeral Representatives to carry out the Funeral Ritual for veterans.

In 2024 there were 474 individual wellbeing and pastoral care cases, where the team provided assistance and support to 301 veterans and their families.

Wellbeing Social Connection Activities

In 2024 there were 1,508 attendances by veterans and their families across 75 activities, including lunches, bus-trips and outings, afternoon teas and our massive Veterans and their Families Expo. Our littlest attendee was 18 months old, and our oldest was 101! In 2024 we took big buses to the Melbourne Museum, Point Nepean Quarantine Station, Werribee Mansion, Old Melbourne Gaol, National Gallery of Victoria, and Williamstown Maritime Museum. But the stand-out was a music-themed bus-trip with a very fun Silent Disco at Caulfield RSL Sub-Branch! We had an informative afternoon tea on Dying to Know Day, a workshop on 'Protecting Yourself from Scams', regular outings to HMAS Cerberus for Soundwaves Concerts, as well as trips as far afield as Wandin, Nar Nar Goon, Gippsland, and Seymour.

Hello Program

In 2024 the Wellbeing Coordinator and our star Reception Team continued to make 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 support and assistance. Please don't hesitate to contact 0492 820 743 to chat with our Wellbeing Coordinator, Stellar.

Veterans and Associated Groups Christmas Party

We celebrated Christmas with a complimentary two course lunch for veterans and associated groups (Women's Auxiliary, Ex-Service Women's Association, Frankston Naval Memorial Club, Wednesday and Friday Coffee Groups, Home & Hospital Visitation Team, Legacy, Memorabilia Group, Partners of Veterans Association, Vietnam Veterans, and Frankston Veterans and Families Hub. The fabulous Frankston Ladies Choir entertained with festive carols and popular songs. WWII veteran Duncan Mackinnon was presented with RSL Australia's 75 Year-Long Service Award – and we also sang him Happy Birthday for his 101st birthday!

Veteran Health Week October 2024

The theme was 'Keep Connected' and 70 veterans and their partners attended a complimentary lunch and enjoyed a presentation from Department of Veterans' Affairs.

*Frankston RSL Sub-Branch assisted with an additional two (2) veteran funerals within the region



Age Strong Exercise Classes

We had 1,086 participants attend our fitness classes in 2024.

New members are always welcome to join the classes run by PARC, Frankston.

Location: Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Pavilion.

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

Cost: \$5 p/p.

Contact: Reception or the Wellbeing Coordinator to register (03) 8792 4427.

Requirements: A doctor's clearance certificate validating current health.



Veterans & Partners Coffee Groups

Veterans of all service types and eras and their partners are most welcome at our Coffee Mornings for hot drinks and light refreshments supplied by the club. The club holds a Wednesday Coffee Group Session, for veterans and their partners, at 10am on Table #221. The occasional informative presentation is organised by our Wellbeing Officer, Anthony Grice. The Wednesday session had 1,361 attendances in 2024. The Friday Coffee Group Session, for veterans of all eras, is increasing in numbers all the time. Meet-up is in the Sports Bar at 10am.

Home & Hospital Visitation Team

In 2024, our Home & Hospital Visitation Team well exceeded their record-breaking results, amounting an exceptional 902 hours visiting veterans and their partners across 11 local residential aged care facilities. These visits provide veterans and their families the positive benefits of social connection. Each month, the facilities also bring groups to the club for a complimentary lunch, and this year 1,301 lunches were provided to residents. At Christmas, the Team do amazing work preparing and delivering Christmas Parcels to residents and bringing some festive cheer. We are always looking for new volunteers.

Contact Us PH: 0492 820 743. 9AM-4.30PM, Monday-Friday.

Volunteers

The total amount of volunteer hours for 2024 were an incredible 18,007 hours. The theme of the 2024 National Volunteer Week was 'Something for Everyone, and 115 of our 236 volunteers attended a complimentary lunch offered by the club, with the Frankston Ladies Choir providing live entertainment. Our volunteers generously donate their time in fundraising for our appeals, providing wellbeing advocacy, carrying out home and hospital visits, in addition to assisting our Memorabilia Team. There are so many ways to give back to veterans and their families by volunteering with the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch!

Furniture, White Goods & Mobility Aids Program

The Team collected and redistributed donations of an estimated \$27,345 worth of furniture, white-goods, and mobility aids. 37 veterans and families received assistance, including two veterans being provided with complete household essentials after re-locating to the area. Thank you to all who donated to this worthy program.

Donations: (03) 8792 4400 **Email:** welfare@frankstonrsl.com.au

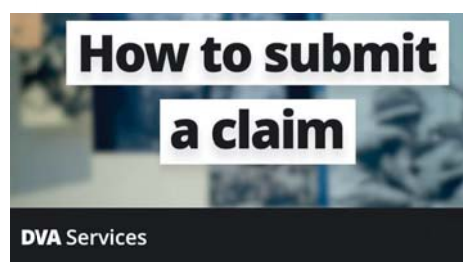
The Akeroyd Veterans & Families Hub

RSL Victoria has three Compensations Advocates to assist with submitting claims to Department of Veterans' Affairs. They work tirelessly to support veterans and their partners. For appointments, contact Veteran Central

Online contact form:

www.rslvic.com.au/veteran-support/veteran-central

Days: Monday–Friday **Hours:** 9-5PM **PH:** 1300 645 838



Funeral Assistance RSL Funeral Representatives are available to carry out a RSL Funeral Ritual for veterans.

This free ritual follows the celebrant's main ceremony and is our last way of providing recognition for the sacrifices made by veterans in their service to their country. For ex-ADF veterans, please allow a few days to order the Eulogy/Statement of Service which forms part of the service.



WELFARE



Veteran Welfare & Wellbeing

One man's trash is another man's treasure

Our 'Wellbeing Crusaders' picked up a donated fridge from one of our members, and it was repurposed to a veteran moving into Vasey RSL Care Frankston South.

\$15,000

Estimated total value of donated items that were repurposed in 2023 to veterans & Family Members



Amazing Do-Gooders got a big pat on the back when they repurposed a donated washing machine to a veteran at Vasey RSL Care. Three cheers for our superheroes!

\$23,000

Estimated total value of repurposed items so far in 2024 to veterans & Family Members



A donated mobility scooter in disrepair and destined for the tip was repurposed by newest Team Member Bob, who was instrumental in getting the scooter up to scratch and spent many hours bringing the scooter back to life for a veteran who can now get around with greater ease.



Wellbeing
Mobility Team

IN 2024 ...
\$23,000
OF DONATED ITEMS
WERE COLLECTED BY
THE TEAM,
AND REPURPOSED
FOR VETERANS &
THE COMMUNITY IN NEED.

DONATE
MOBILITY AIDS,
FURNITURE, OR
WHITE GOODS
TO A GREAT CAUSE

CONTACT
THE WELLBEING
COORDINATOR
(03) 8792 4427

Thank you!

#FrankstonRSLMobilityTeam



\$23,000

Estimated total value of
donated items that were
repurposed in 2024
to Veterans & Family
Members



VETERAN WELLBEING MOBILITY AIDS, WHITEGOODS AND FURNITURE PROGRAM

Since 2012
\$217,308
worth of
donated items
have been
repurposed
for veterans
and their
families.



Contact our Reception Team if you have any Mobility Aids, Whitegoods and Furniture items to donate.
Contact: (03) 8792 4400.

Donations Welcomed:
mobility aids,
white goods,
electrical goods,
and furniture

The dream team ...

The Mobility Aids, Whitegoods and Furniture Program has collected and redistributed \$217,308 worth of donated items to veterans and their families since its inception in 2012.

The program is run by a team of volunteers, championed by Anthony Grice Wellbeing Officer and Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Committee Member, with the assistance of 2IC's Peter Faria and Eric Bishop. At a presentation during Veteran's Health Week in 2024, two very special and

deserving awards were presented to Eric and Peter for their unwavering dedication to veterans and the program, over the many years. The team successfully repurposed \$23,000 worth of donated items in 2024.

The program provides simple household items that we take for granted, but make all the difference to the daily lives of veterans - such as an arm chair, kitchen table and chairs, or a washing machine.

Team Leader & Committee Member Anthony Grice lives by the credos,

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."



Home & Hospital Team



350 HAMPERS PACKED & DONATED

Busy Santa Helpers! Every December our 'Home and Hospital Visitation Team' busily packs 350 plus parcels, that include chocolates, shortbread, and festive treats, and distributes them to residents at nursing homes 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 Visitation Team' as they are always looking for volunteers.

Well done H&H Team!



Honouring our Veterans

WWII Medallions for WWII Veterans

In July, Club President Kevin Hillier OAM was honoured to have presented a 'Commemorative Medallion and Certificate of Commemoration' to eight WWII veterans, in honour of their service and who reside at Vasey RSL Care Frankston South.

The medallion and certificate of commemoration, produced by the Department of Veterans Affairs, acknowledges the significance of the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The medallion and certificate were made available to every living veteran of the second World War.

While Australia can never repay the debt we owe almost one

million Australians who served, this medallion and certificate are a small but meaningful way we can thank living veterans of the largest global conflict of the 20th century.

The obverse design will feature the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, wording of appreciation, and identify by name theatres of war that saw the significant involvement of Australian Armed Forces. The medallion reverse design utilises the poppy as the central symbol surrounded by the wording of 'Australia Remembers', and the beginning and end years of the Second World War.

Thank you to Ruwan Bogodaarachchige, Centre Lifestyle Coordinator, for his assistance on the day.



1. Doug Wicks
2. John Nankervis
3. Buzz Cousins
4. Trevor Freeman

5. Phyllis Ketting - Olivier
6. Veronica O'Neil
7. Doug Smith
8. Bert O'Leary



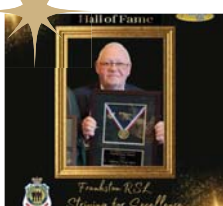


SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS: In the relentless pursuit of helping others.

Anthony Grice – or as we like to call him. ‘The Quiet Achiever’, is never in the limelight but is always the first to put his hand up and help out. Anthony is the most selfless individual you will ever meet and one who achieves much, but never boasts about it!

Anthony has been a Committee Member and Wellbeing Advocate for five years, 51 years as an RSL service member, and 22 years as a volunteer, including two years as an Appeals Officer.

In November 2023, Anthony was inducted in the RSL Victoria Hall of Fame, having being recognised for his



outstanding effort and significant contribution to the RSL network and the veteran community, and most of all for his commendable dedication to the community and the significant wellbeing support he provides veterans.

Anthony is a qualified Wellbeing Officer and Senior Wellbeing Advocate, as well as a Wellbeing Mentor and has mentored three Wellbeing Trainees, in addition to managing the team of volunteers that repurpose mobility aids, white goods, and furniture, for veterans in need - not only in Frankston, but across the RSL network of sub-branches. Through this program, Anthony has been instrumental in repurposing an estimated value of \$170,000 in goods collected over the past seven years to veterans in need. On any day of the week, and including most weekends, Anthony is out and about collecting donated items to repurpose and allocate to veterans. He goes out of his way to cheer up the day of any veteran or a war widow, and is fulfilled in the knowledge that he has helped provide some simple household comforts that we take for granted, such as a kitchen table and chairs, or a working washing machine and TV.



Anthony continually commits time and effort to other volunteer activities such as hosting the Wednesday Coffee Club at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch and that began with five attendees pre-COVID19 and has now grown to a weekly coffee club of approximately 25 veterans and their partners who get together for some great chats and social connection.

So where did this passion for helping start? After completing two years of service in the Australian Army (NSS) National Service, including a 12-month tour of duty in Vietnam and where he was far away from family and friends during his 12-month deployment for National Service, the RSL made a lasting and life-changing impression on Anthony Grice.

It all started when Anthony, along with other service men and women, appeared in a 1970 Christmas video message, which aired on television. At the time, his father was on a merchant ship in Victorian waters with limited reception and after a call with his Anthony, the officers stood up and saluted him - this was the defining moment for Anthony. Once the ship docked at Port Kembla, on the New South Wales coast, his father visited the local RSL where he was a member. He happened to mention his son, and every week thereafter, that RSL manager sent Anthony half a dozen beers to Vietnam! It wasn't so much about the beer, it was about what the RSL was doing for their members.

Settling back into civilian life had its challenges. The little-known world of mental health difficulties wreaked havoc on Anthony for a while. PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) wasn't discussed like it is today. With support from his father, who had served in World War II, led him to a 35 year career in the Merchant Navy like his father, and to supporting veterans through the RSL.

Never far from his mind was the vow he made to give back to veteran services once he retired. Anthony became a member at Frankston RSL Sub-Branch in 2001 and a few years later joined the Committee. The rest, as they say, is history.

Anthony served as the Appeals Officer for both the ANZAC and Poppy Appeals in 2018 and 2019, and helped raised \$233,500.

Anthony also commits significant hours to the Age Strong Exercise group held weekly at the club ensuring older members remain physically and mentally strong and as a means of eradicating social isolation.

Many know him as the Welfare Officer – a role that he finds immensely rewarding and priceless in its quest to help others. “We took out an electric wheelchair to a war widow...the smile on her face, that did it for me, that was good enough”, said Anthony.

During the challenging times of COVID19, Anthony's ingenuity paid off, finding ways to work around tight restrictions to continue the RSL's welfare work. “You had to think, - how can we think outside the square to do things?”, and he certainly did. From leaving groceries at front doors, to making calls, and assisting members from the RSL Hello Program. “The prime objective was that we there there to help”, says Anthony. His passion, dedication, and exemplary performance in supporting the veteran community reflects great credit on him and the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.

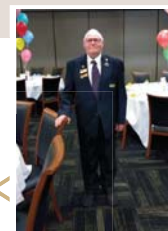
It is volunteers like Anthony that form the backbone of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch



FRANKSTON RSL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2016

Anthony won the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award - an award he is immensely proud of.

He has also helped in the running of the ‘Volunteers Week Luncheon’ held yearly at the club. According to Anthony, “Volunteers are the backbone of any RSL and without them, the RSL would find it hard to do the work that it does, from the Appeals and Wellbeing and Compensation cases, to visiting veterans and war widows in care. In 2021, RSL Victoria had approximately 16,000 Volunteers each of whom, if they'd volunteered at a token value of \$41 an hour, would have equated to \$10.8m in volunteer support to veterans.



Staff Development

Making Careers!



Investing in our staff is one of our top priorities and we are fully behind helping our employees achieve career progression. A pillar of our staff development program is to promote from within and provide our staff every opportunity to succeed. Let's acknowledge the professional growth of four individuals who have made great strides in their career.



Mata began her journey in 2007 with the Back Of House Team as a kitchen hand and moved her way up and is now Front Of House Manager.

Tracy began her journey in 2012 as a Gaming / Bar Attendant, then Gaming Supervisor, then Assistant Gaming Manager, and is now Gaming Manager.



With an MBA tucked under her belt, Anja began her hospitality journey in 2013 as a F&B Attendant, and progressed to Bistro Supervisor, Bistro Manager, Front Of House Manager, and is now Administration Manager.

Jarrold began his journey in 2015 as a receptionist and a F&B Attendant while studying for a Bachelor of Accounting. Upon graduating he moved into the role of Assistant Finance Manager.



2024 LONG SERVICE AWARDS

WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNISE AND THANK OUR STAFF ON THEIR SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT, DEDICATION, AND PASSION TO THE FRANKSTON RSL.

113 years combined !



**Congratulations to our staff
on clinching their
Long Service Awards!**

**'We are fortunate to have such a dedicated workforce,
comprising of 131 amazing individuals.
Its onwards and upwards for 2025!'**

GM, Brett Rowlands

Creating Employment Pathways



Visit Sages Cottage Monday - Sunday 8.30am-3.30pm
85 Sages Road, Baxter VIC. Ph: 0437 421 074

In April 2024, we welcomed another Wallara Open Employment client to the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch workforce. Olivia has been thriving in Nancy's Café and has proven to be a vital asset to the team by diving straight into negotiating the register on her first day, and brews up some of the frothiest coffees that have ever come out of our Café.

The goal of the joint Employment Pathways Program with Wallara is to introduce their clients, currently working at Sages Cottage Farm and Café, to the day-to-day operations of a large-scale venue. Olivia's prior experience and skills acquired at Sages Café and a local fast-food restaurant has made all the difference to her valuable input to the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Café Team.

**'DRIVING SOCIAL
CHANGE IN OUR
COMMUNITY TO
EMPOWER PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES.'**

ABOVE & BEYOND STAFF AWARDS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STAFF WHO HAVE GONE ABOVE & BEYOND THEIR 'CALL OF DUTY' AND WOWED US WITH THEIR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS & AWESOME CAN-DO ATTITUDE!

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
JAN-FEB-MAR

AWE
SOME



*Congratulations
Cherree Ann!*

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

Frankston
RSL

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
APR-MAY-JUN

AWE
SOME



*Congratulations
Mata*

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

Frankston
RSL

2024 QUARTERLY AWARDS

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
JUL-AUG-SEPT 2024

AWE
SOME



*Congratulations
Lee*

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

Frankston
RSL

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
OCT-NOV-DEC 2024

AWE
SOME



*Congratulations
Ally*

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

Frankston
RSL

ABOVE & BEYOND AWARDS

2024 MONTHLY AWARDS





HONOURING OUR HEROES

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO OUR DEAREST NEROLI!



*Happy 100th Birthday,
and thank you for all
that you have done for
the Australian Service.*



**HAPPY
100TH**
Neroli

Neroli Martindale (nee Finlay)

Australian Women's Army Service VF397276

We were thrilled to have the delightful ex-service member Neroli Martindale (nee Finlay) at the club for lunch once again this year, and this time celebrating her momentous 100th birthday!

Neroli proved to still be the spriteliest of centenarians!

Neroli served in AWAS #VF397276 (Australian Women's Army Service) in the Signals division as a telephonist, 1943-1946. She was born in Melbourne in 1924 and grew up in Morwell.

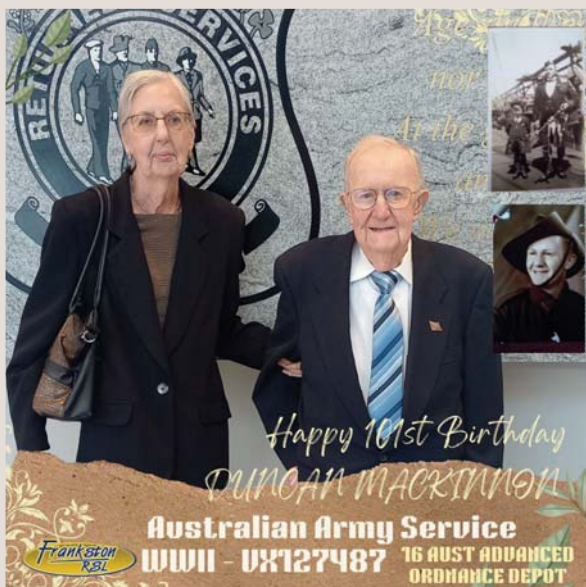
Happy Birthday dearest Neroli!

Neroli was surrounded by family and friends from Baxter Village - Robert, Shirley, and Dorothy - who were as effervescent as the young lady herself!

Club President Kevin Hillier OAM popped by for a chat and Neroli even received cards from the King and Queen of England, and Australian Government Dignitaries.

HAPPY 101st BIRTHDAY TO OUR ESTEEMED DUNCAN!

*Happy 101st Birthday, and thank you
for all that you have done for the
Australian Service.*



Happy 101st Birthday

DUNCAN MACKINNON

Australian Army Service

WWII - VX127487 16 AUST ADVANCED ORDNANCE DEPOT



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.



**WWII VETERAN
DUNCAN MACKINNON LAMONT ALSO
CELEBRATED 75 YEARS OF
MEMBERSHIP WITH RSL AUSTRALIA**



Duncan had a celebration fit for a king at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch in December 2024, with an entourage of family and friends relishing the momentous birthday.

When Duncan celebrated his 100th birthday at the club, he eagerly expressed looking forward to coming back and celebrating his 101st - and that he did!

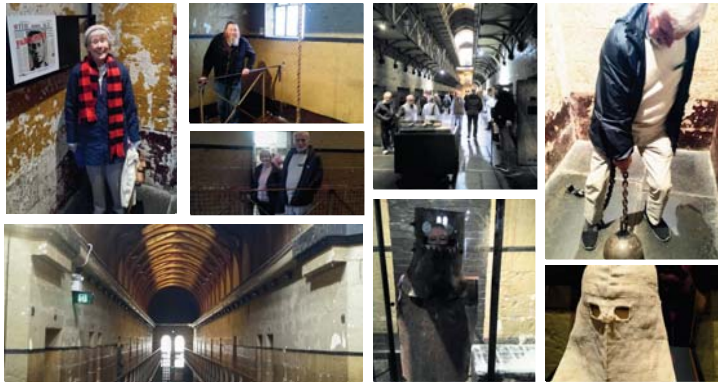




The Wellbeing Team does an incredible job at planning and organising day trips and activities, that are a wonderful socialisation opportunity for veterans and their partners. The aim is to eradicate social isolation, and encourage groups to get out and about.

Old Melbourne Gaol

In June, 47 veterans and affiliates toured the fascinating and spooky Old Melbourne Gaol. They saw Ned Kelly's death mask, and learned about the history of its most famous residents. Afterwards, they ventured to Prahran Market to visit the many eateries and bakeries of the market, plus a spot of window-shopping.



The sound of music!

In July, 50 veterans and affiliates toured the Music Vault at The Arts Centre Melbourne. The group then went onto lunch at the Caulfield RSL Sub-Branch, where participants enjoyed a 'silent disco'!



A highly attended morning tea presentation, on Wills & Powers of Attorney, was held in May. It was very successful, and 40 participants enjoyed talks by Lardners Solicitors, on Wills, Powers of Attorney and elder abuse.



Dying To Know Day... 8th August



2024

The Wellbeing Team organised an afternoon tea, with a presentation from Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Chaplain Graeme Watkinson, who spoke about the grieving process, in addition to a presentation from Department of Veterans' Affairs on their 'Planning Ahead Guide': A guide to putting your affairs in order.

All guests received a take home pack with information on dealing with grief and bereavement.

'Dying to Know Day' is a public health campaign designed to encourage all Australians to develop new knowledge and attitudes about how to deal with death, dying, and bereavement, and how to support one another at the end of life. For more information: www.proveda.com.au/community-programs/dying-to-know-day

Pharaohs Exhibition



In August, 50 veterans and affiliates toured the NGV and visited the Pharaoh's Exhibition, followed by lunch at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.



Werribee Mansion ... CAN!

In May, 51 members of the Combined Affiliate Network (CAN) went on a bus-trip to Werribee Mansion. CAN includes:

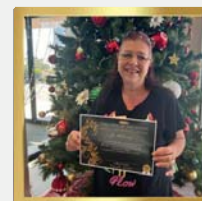


The Women's Auxiliary, Vietnam veterans, Partners of veterans Association, Legacy Mornington-Peninsula, Peninsula Ex-Service Women's Association, Frankston Naval Memorial Club. The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch subsidises three CAN outings per year so that group members can socialise and get to know each other in a relaxed setting.

The group enjoyed a lunch of sandwiches and scones at the Refectory Parlour (adjoining the Mansion), with some participants even commenting that it was better than some high teas that they had ever enjoyed! The trip along Beach Road was the icing on the cake, with lovely Bayside views for everybody to enjoy.

Welcome JO!

In April we welcomed Jo Blakeney as our new part-time Wellbeing Assistant. Jo also works with the Frankston RSL Sun-Branch Reception Team, where she has been working for almost three years. Jo provides a range of administrative support for the Wellbeing Team and organises bus-trips and lunches for veterans and their families. Jo organised her first bus-trip in July, which involved a 'Silent Disco'. Head-phones were handed out to the group after lunch, and our 52 participants simultaneously listened to the same line-up of songs, singing and dancing to their hearts content. Not only does Jo excel as a music DJ, she also contributes fresh ideas and enthusiasm to our social connection activities. Jo brings a great deal of experience from her role as a Community Service Worker in the UK. She has also previously worked as an Integration Aide, working with children with disabilities in school settings. Prior to raising three children of her own, her background was in Insurance. Please help us welcome Jo to the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Wellbeing Team.





Frankston Community Support Christmas Appeal

In December 2024 we had the privilege to see the community come together for the 34th Annual Christmas Appeal, "Community Support Frankston", and 2024 marked 56 years of dedicated service to the Frankston community.

Each year the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch donates approximately \$5000 to purchase non-perishable food to create festive hampers that will be distributed to over 2000 families and individuals in the community. Hampers are distributed to disadvantaged families, couples, and singles that would otherwise go without a festive meal or a gift at Christmas.

Well done "Community Support Frankston"!



**SUPPORTING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FRANKSTON
34TH ANNUAL APPEAL & 56TH YEAR IN OPERATION!**

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



DONATE NOW



Making a difference!

Once again, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch participated in the annual 'Frankston Life Community Christmas Lunch' and supplied the puddings and custard, which contributed to the incredibly successful 2024 Christmas Day Lunch.

Every year 'Frankston Life' put on a Free Christmas Day Community Lunch. It is thanks to donors and other support that 550 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!

The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch is proud and thrilled to be able to contribute to this amazing cause:
www.frankston.life/community

2024 Frankston Life Community Christmas Lunch



More than \$250,000 in community support 2024

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch 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 2024, the Club made donations of over \$250 000 to local sporting and not-for-profit groups.

Some of the sporting groups we supported include, Karingal FNC, Frankston YCW FNC, Frankston Blues Basketball, Frankston District Netball Association, Pines FNC, Game Face Community Footy, Langwarrin CC, Long Island CC, Sommerville FNC, Frankston Gift, Game Face Cricket, Langwarrin Soccer Club, Baxter Cricket Club, Frankston Hockey Club, Southern Umpires Association, Southern District Rugby Club, Delacombe Park CC, Skye FNC, Baxter Soccer Club, Frankston Bombers, Chelsea Calisthenics.

Within the community, we also supported Wallara-Sages Cottage, Frankston SES, Frankston Life Christmas Luncheon, C2A, Groomed to Go, Beyond Blue, Airforce Cadets, Army Cadets, Frankston Naval Memorial Club, Game Changer Mental Health, Mums Supporting Families in Need (MSFIN), Community Support Frankston, Blue Ribbon Foundation, Wranglers, Langwarrin Men's Shed, Peninsula Christian Care, Langwarrin Fire Brigade, C4FMP, Game Changer Mental Health, Our Place - Food Bank, Golf Section, Pipes and Drums Section, Australian War Memorial, Blue Ribbon Foundation, RSL Park, Frankston Naval Club, Variety Victoria Kids' Christmas Party, and the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Sections of Golf, Billiards and Snooker, Pipes and Drums, and the Women's Auxiliary.



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





COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch 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.



The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch is proud to support Mums Supporting Families in Need (MSFIN). The organisation was born out of the idea that as a community, we can ensure no family is living without their basic daily needs, and that no child should go without essentials. The organisation's busiest time of year is around December, and our financial donation goes a long way to helping our community's most vulnerable families. Locally based in Seaford, the organisation helps local families in need with gently used or brand-new clothing or footwear for babies through to seniors, as well as baby essentials, toiletries, food, and linen.

In 2024 they provided material aid to over 430 families. According to Charlotte Davies, Strategy and Fundraising Manager, "With the cost of living soaring and the known increase in family violence, more families than ever are relying on our support."



In December 2024, their aim was to provide 2000 families with Christmas hampers – more than any previous year. To achieve this and pack all the hampers and ensure they reached families by Christmas, they needed to get an enormous head start! So, they held a 'Christmas-in-July' Toy Drive to ensure no child went without. New toys can always be donated directly to their warehouse. They support children of all ages, including infants through to teenagers.

Contact: 0422 258 633

E: contact@msfin.org.au

Hours of operation:

Monday - Friday
(Wed closed)
10am to 2.30pm.



The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch once again donated to the 'Frankston Winter Shelter' (FWS) – who are affiliated with the CFMP, to go toward the purchase of sleeping bags for guests of the shelter. The Winter Shelter provide 12 weeks of care during the winter months of June, July and August, to people who find themselves homeless at this difficult time of year. The Shelter provides overnight accommodation, warm dinner, a hot shower, and breakfast for the guests. According to FWS Committee Member, Jennifer Abreu, "160 volunteers from six Frankston churches enable this program, running from Peninsula City Church three nights per week and from St Anne's Seaford for two nights per week. Once the Shelter finishes, unfortunately the guests return to sleeping rough. The Shelter provides good quality, extreme weather

rating sleeping bags for each guest at the end of the program."

www.pencc.org/wintershelter

The CFMP is a Community Support Partner of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, and in June 2024 undertook a joint advocacy visit to Parliament House in Canberra with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to discuss several shared priorities including tackling our region's housing crisis, better infrastructure, and sustainable development. The Committee presented its new Strategic Plan to several Shadow Ministers, that included the priority advocacy areas of:

- Homes and livelihoods
- Better infrastructure; better connectivity
- Sustainable Development
- Smarter people; healthy communities
- A thriving local economy and world-class destination

Read More: www.cfmp.org.au



Frankston North Food Bank

The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch has committed to providing ongoing support to the Frankston North Foodbank by way of contributing dry food and perishables – a program that runs over three days and helps 80 – 100 Frankston North families a week with food supplies. The foodbank is run by 'Our Place', who provide a vast array of community services

and have multiple sites across Melbourne. They provide a holistic place-based approach to supporting the education, health and development of all children and families in communities experiencing disadvantage.

The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch is proud to support disadvantaged families within the greater Frankston community.

Read More:

www.ourplace.org.au/our-sites/frankston-north/



The Naval Memorial Club, est. 1963, is proudly owned and operated by sailors, and serves as the HQ of the Victorian Naval Association of Australia and holds meetings at state level. A very generous donation by the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch has contributed to a custom-built new front perimeter fence and gate as well as other refurbishments that have modernised club facilities. Other works and acquisitions through funding include, a new septic system, a ride on mower, and a 432m² commercial quality shed for archiving and storage.

Naval Club Committee Members 'Dutchie' and Mark also carry out free RSL Funeral Ritual Rites for all veterans, in recognition of the sacrifices made (see pg. 25). The Club has approximately 150 services members including Vietnam Veterans and British Naval Veterans, as well as 400 affiliate members.

Club Members also regularly volunteer at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day and Poppy Appeals. The Club also holds Tuesday Coffee Mornings.

36 Barretts Rd, Langwarrin South
PH: (03) 5971 1922

Disability Without Limits | C2A

The Connecting2Ability Team (C2A) have kept the grounds of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch in an enviable and pristine condition for over a decade. We are proud to be part of an inclusive social economy and helping change perceptions held about people with disability, through the provision of meaningful employment for people with disability. Through our long-term business relationship, C2A employees gain financial independence and as a result improved living standards, in addition to a positive health impact and self-worth.



Disability Without Limits | C2A

18% of Australians have disability, and 37% of households include a person with disability. People with disability simply want the same opportunities as everyone else, and their ultimate aim is to live a fulfilling life in an inclusive society.

C2A have recently rebranded, and their new positioning statement says it all- 'Disability Without Limits'. Their new moto is to break down barriers and support clients to live their best life. There are no limits!

After 70 years, they are still providing the individualised support to people with disability across 10 locations in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. C2A employs almost 200 people with disability within seven of these sites, and the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch is thrilled to be one of those sites.

Veteran & Community Welfare & Wellbeing



Each year the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch donates circa \$500,000 in function room hire, lunches, and veteran wellbeing, welfare, and support services.

In 2024, more than \$250,000 was donated in community support.

Additionally, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch offers monthly lunches to residents of local Aged Care Facilities and Community Groups looking to spend a few hours in a social setting and in great company. In 2024, \$17,500 was contributed to these lunches, and some of the facilities include:

Meracare Carrum Downs Nursing Home
Regis Frankston - Shelton Manor
Skye Lodge (Autumn Aged Care)
Greenways Retirement Village
TLC Forest Lodge Residential Aged Care
Vasey RSL Care
Meracare Frankston Nursing Home
Langwarrin Community Aged Care
Benetas St. Paul's Terrace
The Village Baxter
Somerville Gardens Care Community (Opal)
Baptcare Peninsula View Community
Brotherhood of St Laurence
Westernport Bay Care Community Opal



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS: Taking the Appeals to the next level!



Peter Kerley— better known as ‘The Appeals Guru’, has been instrumental in growing and running our ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Appeals since 2020.

Peter has also been a member of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Committee since October 2020, and even tried retiring from his role as committee member in 2023, but couldn't stay away - and six months later put up his hand and came back to take on the onerous role of Committee Secretary, when the elected Secretary had to step down. He also served as Vice President, Treasurer, and Committee Secretary at Seaford RSL Sub-Branch, prior to joining Frankston RSL Sub-Branch. Peter has been a crucial resource during the appeals season and his drive to raise funds for veterans and their families is second to none.

His extraordinary commitment and dedication is proven by the impressive results he has achieved, in conjunction with the Appeals Teams, since taking on the appeals coordination volunteer role at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch in 2020. Peter has helped raise consecutive record-breaking funds, never experienced before at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, of more than \$608,000 - for both ANZAC Day and Poppy Appeals. He has also conducted an Appeals ‘Train-the-Trainer’ seminar at RSL Victoria HQ for 45 Sub-Branch representatives, as well as an Appeals Forum at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, as a volunteer drive.

Peter has been instrumental in getting the Appeals back to normal post COVID19. His admirable efforts include rallying volunteers, devoting countless hours working appeals stalls, through to his crucial efforts in planning and managing the appeals process - a 12 month ongoing job for just four weeks of actual selling of pins, involving sourcing merchandise, distributing material to vendors, negotiating with retail outlets for ‘free’ floor space for stalls, to working with 130 businesses, aged care facilities, community organisations, and schools, to set up appeals boxes and merchandise at each of these premises. Peter has also made improvements to the appeals process, thanks to his business background, introducing EFTPOS payments and training volunteers to operate the machines.

The hours of work that go behind the scenes throughout the year in setting up and rolling out both the ANZAC and Poppy Appeals is arduous, but you never hear one word of complaint from Peter - a request for a cup of tea with a slice of lemon is all he asks for. When not on the Golf course, Peter spends the rest of his time at committee meetings and managing Committee Secretary duties, as well as veteran wellbeing activities.

The volunteer task of Committee Secretary in a Sub-Branch such as ours, requires discipline, attention to detail, and a lot of hard work. Thanks to Peter, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch maintains an impeccable record in compliance and corporate governance, with RSL Victoria, ACNC, CAV, and the VGCCC.



So where did this passion for helping veterans start? Peter is a veteran himself, and served with 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment from 8th April 1967 to 18th March 1968, serving 346 days in Vietnam, and ending his service as Section Commander, Lance-Corporal.



When returning to civilian life he had a successful career working for Multi-Nationals as a Sales & Marketing Director and it's this experience and expertise that he uses with each new ANZAC and Poppy Appeal to ensure it's even more successful than the last. Peter is determined to help any way he can raise funds for veterans and his determination is fuelled by the knowledge that the benefits of his fundraising efforts contribute to veteran wellbeing programs and activities, that do wondrous work in helping beat social isolation amongst our veteran community, as well as help their families who find themselves in necessitous circumstances. Part of the funds raised by the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Appeals are also re-distributed to help veterans from smaller RSL Sub-Branches in the region who have limited fundraising resources.

When recently asked what keeps him going, he answered, “We want to make sure that all our veterans are going along okay and are looked after - it's the core purpose of every RSL Branch. We never forget why we are here. The human connection is what the RSL is all about, and we exist to look after veterans and their families, whether they are older or younger, because our veterans are getting much younger these days and serving in places such as Afghanistan. It's important that veterans know that there's always someone who can talk to them and look after them at any time, and we take great pride in that at the RSL”.

With an international business background, Peter has been a sounding board for General Manager Brett Rowlands, and his hard work is invaluable in the continued success of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, in addition to his fundraising efforts to raise funds for veterans.

Peter volunteers with the club in any way he can, from travelling to Canberra to hand deliver a donated tin of 80-year-old WWI biscuits to the Canberra War Memorial, to holding the Karingal Hub Remembrance Day Service for five years now. He says that what encourages him to do the Commemorative service every year at Karingal is the heartening feeling to see the turn-up of shoppers at the centre and the reverence they have for our departed.



The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch gratefully acknowledges the hard work and dedication Peter has put into the RSL community and the broader local communities. His passion, dedication, and exemplary performance in supporting the veteran community reflects great credit on him and the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch. It is volunteers like Peter that form the backbone of the
..... Frankston RSL Sub-Branch



\$608,000 has been raised since Peter took on the Appeals Coordinator Role.

MEMORABILIA

AUSTRALIA'S WOMEN DURING WW II *Service, Courage, Care*



Britain declared war on Germany in September 1939 after Nazi Germany invaded Poland; Australia and other allies also declared war. What followed was six years of conflict with Australians involved in battle fronts as close as Papua New Guinea

and as far away as the North Atlantic. Many Australian women saw a need to participate in the Second World War in any way they could with many of them involved in what had traditionally been male only occupations. Women at home faced new challenges; some of these challenges meant changes for Australian women that continued after WWII.

Service roles for Australian women

The Second World War saw new opportunities for Australian women to make contributions to Australia's war efforts. Traditional roles like nursing still existed, however the creation of volunteer organisations meant that women could take up a greater range of jobs and responsibilities related to the war.

Some of these organisations were associated with Australia's armed forces, they were known as auxiliary services, which meant that they were additional to, but not part of, Australia's Army, Navy and Air Force.

Women in these auxiliary forces were able to take on roles that might have otherwise required men. In this way, the men were able to move into roles directly related to the areas of conflict. This was significant for Australia's war effort, as it meant that essential jobs across the country could continue while Australian men were overseas fighting the enemy forces or in Australia in military defence roles.



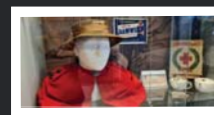
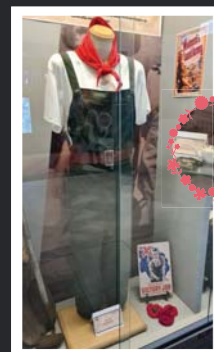
Other jobs for women



Australian women moved into a large range of specific jobs during WW11. These jobs contributed to Australia's defence, the jobs allowed our nation to keep our forces properly equipped and effective as the troops fought overseas. Many of the jobs involved



women taking on new skills and being trained in a range of military technologies and methods. Some of these technologies and methods were relatively new, so many women found themselves at the "cutting edge" of scientific and industrial developments.



Lest We Forget

Memorabilia Team Members:
Rose and Jenn.

Women on the Home Front

The absence of loved ones was a common challenge during World War II and once again women experienced the emotional pain of not knowing what was happening to their relatives and friends in the combat zones, as Australian troops were spread over more of the world than in the previous conflicts.



One major change for Australian women at home was the arrival of thousands of troops from other countries, in

particular the United States, who brought with them the customs and traditions of their own families and cultures. They also brought wealth, as they were often better paid than the Australian servicemen. Australian women were also faced with the challenge of how to react to the US servicemen and their different ways of life.

The home front also brought other changes; Australia's role in WWII meant that people at home had to consider how they could help the war effort and Australian women were often faced with impactful decisions affecting themselves and their families.

Memorabilia Team - Frankston RSL Sub-Branch

The Memorabilia Team, Graham, Pat, John, and Ross, to name a few, meticulously curate the military history displays at the venue that are regularly updated and are a wonderful way to "honour the service" of those who have enlisted in the Australian Defence Forces since Federation. The displays are an important conduit to respect and commemorate the service and sacrifices of those who have served, or, who are currently serving in our Defence Forces. The displays are curated with our Sub-Branch's memorabilia collection of items accumulated over the past 100 years.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS: 40 years of volunteerism & dedication to the community!

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." – Oscar Wilde.

Carol Macfarlane— has had a wonderful career volunteering at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch and for the local community. Affectionately known as 'Cas', Carol has been a member of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch for 40 years and she's a true volunteer in every sense of the word since the 1980's. Her involvement in volunteering was not born through a connection to the armed services, but purely for the love of volunteering.

So what makes this volunteer tick? She is a mother of two, with multiple grandchildren, has the wittiest of characters, and doesn't let anything phase her. Carol isn't shy in putting up her hand and helping out, and her 40 years as a volunteer is a testament of her commitment to Community Work and the RSL.

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in nineteen hundred and something, Carol grew up with brothers, went to school in Edinburgh, and then to Secretarial College at 16. After obtaining her Diploma she was employed by a large engineering firm as a junior shorthand typist, earning the princely sum of three pounds two and six!!!

Carol married an Australian with Scottish parents in 1965, before coming to Australia in 1968. Carol was a stay-at-home mum with two sons, until they went to kinder. Their newly built home in Karingal did not have carpets, and she was desperate to get floor covering, so back to work she went.

Carol worked at Golden Poultry (Inghams) for 10 years as PA to the General Manager, followed by a further eight years at Pilkington Australia as PA to the Plant Manager.

Her connection with the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch began in the late 70's when Carol and her family first started coming to the club for good old wholesome family entertainment - as many people did during this era. "Friday night was the best", recalls Carol. "We would come home from work, quickly get changed, and off we would go the local RSL where we would have a meal and a dance. The Frankston RSL was smaller back then, but their Friday night Dinner Dance was always thriving, and you'd be hard pressed to find a seat or a car park."

On retirement she found herself at a loss. She moved to Coffs Harbour and enjoyed the tropical life for a while, and it was during her time in Coffs that she gingerly began volunteering, joining the Community Centre as a volunteer as well as running the local Lifeline Op Shop. She loved those two jobs, and they certainly kept her busy which is how Carol loves to spend her days. Her sons got married, then of course along came the grandchildren and Carol didn't want to be so far away from them, so they sold up and exchanged the tropical life, for 'sunny' Melbourne, and settled on Frankston.

They bought a house in Lee Street, just around the corner from the club and joined the Frankston RSL Bowls Club from 2007-2016, and she became the first female Secretary of the Men's Division, and after amalgamation she stayed on as Secretary. It was a sad day when the Bowls Club ceased to exist, it had become her life and she asked herself once again, "What can I do now?"

In true Carol style, she joined the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Home & Hospital Visitation Volunteer Group, but that didn't take up too much of her time, so she tried the Ladies Auxiliary, but didn't think that was for her. Little did she know how things would pan out in a few years to come.

"I became a volunteer Flower Lady at Peninsula Private Hospital and did that for several years. I then joined Wesley Do-Care Organisation where we visited or took out a group of socially isolated people. I enjoyed this work and met some lovely people".

"I do like to volunteer, so I gave the Ladies Auxiliary another try in 2014, and much to my surprise, I found I liked it much better the second time round, and I've now been a member for 10 years. After a while I was elected to the Ladies Auxiliary Committee and enjoyed being involved in the running of this group", remembers Carol fondly.

"I felt I could be doing more to help veterans, so I asked our then President, Brent Clyne if there was more that I could do to help. He then organised for me to become a Trainee Welfare Advocate".



"The Committee and staff at Frankston RSL Sub-Branch are a great team and I have enjoyed working with most of them over the years. I always feel welcome at the venue, and for me it's a bonus being able to help veterans. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to help".

This was a huge undertaking for Carol as she didn't have any military background, and the work involved was quite overwhelming. Anthony Grice, fellow Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Wellbeing Advocate was her Mentor, and he showed great patience, and she kept at it! "It was a great feeling to pass Level 1 of the DVA accredited course to qualify as a Welfare Officer. I had achieved something!!!" , says Carol with her characteristic wry smile. "COVID19 interrupted some of my studies, but we persevered and managed to help a few veterans, and I spent quite some time delivering toilet paper rolls to veterans. It's hard to believe now how empty the supermarkets were, especially for toilet paper, baked beans, rice and pasta!" A year later, on 1st December 2021, Carol achieved her qualification of 'Military Wellbeing Advocate Level 2', and was delighted at this additional achievement. Just another volunteerism notch under her belt.

"At that time, the Ladies Auxiliary Group was in serious trouble - membership numbers were dwindling, and it became difficult to form a committee. ANZAC House Women's Council suggested we become the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Ladies Auxiliary Friendship Group - no committee required, so I was elected the Group Coordinator and have been happily doing that for the last couple of years and thriving back to recovery after a recent illness."

Carol's volunteerism doesn't end there! She also chairs the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Home & Hospital Visitation Team and has been a member for 18 years, attending monthly volunteer meetings and visits veterans and their partners in Nursing Homes in the Frankston, Tyabb, and Somerville area, as well as some people living in their own home. The group goes equipped with a bag of chocolates and provide support, as well as a smile, and much needed social contact. It's this selfless dedication to combatting social isolation among veterans and their partners or widows that makes the program a huge success. Around this time of year Carol also helps pack approximately 300 Christmas parcels and hampers full of sweet and savoury festive treats to distribute to residents at the various nursing homes regularly visited by the team. This year the group is also prepared over 100 Hampers for 'Independent Living' Residents at Vasey RSL Care Frankston South (RSL Park).

Carol also volunteers at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch every Friday night, helping sell community raffle tickets during Friday Night Raffles, as well as catching up with some of the other Auxiliary Ladies. "I love to be able to help the RSL and hope I can continue to do so for a few more years - and any ladies interested in joining the Auxiliary would be made most welcome".

The Ladies Auxiliary are avid fundraisers and throughout the year run various fundraisers, including raffling off Easter and Christmas hampers. All funds raised get pooled and divided out annually to several charities and not-for-profits or community groups that the Auxiliary selects annually. The Ladies Auxiliary also run a fundraiser raffle of their own during the club Friday night raffles, selling raffle tickets for \$1 to win a weekly \$50 Gift Card. More often than not, tickets run out and there's still a queue of people wanting to buy a raffle ticket. Carol thrives in her tireless fundraising work and being able to give back to the community, charities, and veterans and their families.

The Auxiliary members selflessly dedicate hours of work to help those less fortunate, and according to Carol, "The joy is in the giving and it's more worthwhile when it goes to such life changing organisations such as 'Mums Supporting Families in Need Inc', 'Backpack4VicKids', 'GameChanger', or 'Theodora's Cheerful Givers', to list a few that we've helped". In 2024, the Women's Auxiliary raised an impressive \$13,813!



WELLBEING ADVOCACY

MEET OUR NEWEST
WELLBEING ADVOCATE.

CAROL SUCCESSFULLY
COMPLETED HER TRAINING
AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
LEVEL 2 WELLBEING ADVOCACY
QUALIFICATIONS.

WELL DONE TO CAROL!



Carol achieved her Advocacy training and Development Program Level 2 Wellbeing Advocacy qualifications. Wellbeing Advocates are available to assist veterans and their families navigate services they need, apply for financial assistance, or give referrals to local services.

SUB-SECTIONS

Pipes & Drums



The band has had a busy year led by our Pipe Major Malcolm Sinclair. The band has continued to nurture our advancing learner pipers and drummers with Malcolm having strong support from Sam Templeton, Geoff Shaw, and Bruce McFarlane.

The band has participated in many events through the year:

- ANZAC Day Services at Frankston, Chelsea, and Rye
- Remembrance Day Service at Frankston
- Frankston Foreshore Waterfront Festival Inaugural Swim
- Police Remembrance Day on the Mornington Peninsula
- Cranbourne Masonic Lodge, where we have played for 35 years
- Mornington Peninsula Celtic Concert

The highlight of the year was leading the marches on ANZAC Day with the formation of eight pipers and six drummers. It was quite overwhelming as a learner piper to experience the emotion of the day. The march took place around Beauty Park, Frankston and there is nothing like hearing the pipes and drums on ANZAC Day.

We also led the marches at the Chelsea RSL Sub-Branch, and Rye RSL Sub-Branch Commemorative Services, where large crowds had also gathered to remember our veterans.

The band looks forward to a strong future and the generous support from the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.



MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT

President: Jan Neve

Email: frankstonrslpipesdrums@gmail.com



Golf



The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Golf Section has had another successful year in 2024, as demonstrated by the strong membership base of over 35 golfers.

Congratulations to the overall 2024 winners, A grade - Rob Witting, B grade - Dave Webster, and C grade - Debbie Rice. Throughout the year we played at some wonderful courses - which will be replicated in the 2025 program, and we were fortunate with the weather on most game days that led to a much enjoyable year. Our annual trip to Thurgoona Golf Course in March was thoroughly enjoyed by all the members who attended.

The 2025 year promises to be as eventful, including a 12-month program of games plus a weekend trip to Howlong Golf Course in New South Wales in March.

All the golf courses on the 2025 program have increased their pricing, and as a result the Golf Committee is obliged to increase match fees to \$60 per person to help cover the additional costs.

In October, we supported the Mornington Legacy Club's Navy Week Charity Golf Day by entering a team from Frankston RSL Sub-Branch members, and despite the weather turning into a monsoon it was a terrific day and a fabulous occasion.

The Golf Section also helped with fundraising for the RSL, with members selling ANZAC and Remembrance Day merchandise in addition to helping sell raffle tickets during the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Thursday night community raffles.

The Golf Section has been operating for over 30 years and we are always on the lookout for new members to keep this great club evolving and growing. 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.

We are highly grateful to the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Management Team and Committee for their continued support of the Golf Section.



Thurgoona winners
Grant G and Debbie R.



Rob W & Martin S -
Garfield Course winner.



Supporting the ANZACs.

MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT

Club Captain Grant Goodall
Secretary Tony Harris

PH: 0414 868 164

PH: 0435 240 342



The Ladies Auxiliary

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Ladies Auxiliary enjoyed a successful 2024, raising \$13,813 and our membership further increasing to a total of 27 ladies. The ladies continue to enjoy each other's company, and our customary weekly Friday night meetups at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch are a lot of fun and a wonderful opportunity to socialise.

We had another very successful Easter and Christmas Raffle, both of which did very well judging by ticket sales - namely the Christmas Raffle raising \$3000. Once again the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch kindly donated three Good Guys Gift Cards amounting to \$1000, (\$500, \$300, \$200) to go toward the hamper prizes, ensuring the fundraiser was a huge success which enabled us to donate to various organisations that support and help veterans in need.

Our Friday Night \$1 raffles tracked well throughout the year and readily sold out every Friday. During the monthly Mega Raffles nights, we consistently sell-out of four sets of raffle books, and there are still not enough tickets to go round to all patrons wanting to buy a ticket!

To this effect, in 2024, we allocated approximately \$5000 in donations, with our primary donations going to Community Services Frankston that support those who are experiencing financial hardship in the Frankston area. Our ladies collect staple goods each month, such as pasta and jars of sauce, tinned goods, toiletries and hygiene products, and more. These staples are then given to Community Services Frankston for distribution. The ladies enjoy collecting these items over the month as they know they are being put to good use.

Additionally, wreaths were laid during Remembrance Day and Vietnam Veterans Day at Frankston War Memorial in Beauty Park, and the Christmas Lunch at the club for veterans and Associated Groups was thoroughly enjoyed by the Auxiliary.

In 2024 we also took part in our first 'Friendship Bus Trip', visiting Phillip Island. This was a great day, and we all enjoyed a delicious lunch at Cowes RSL Sub-Branch. We aim to continue these bus trips throughout 2025 as it re-energises friendships and acquaintances, and brings us closer together as a group.

Our quarterly lunch meetings with the extended Friendship Group of Rosebud, Rye, and Dromana will continue as these lunches keep us connected with other ESOs on the Peninsula. On average, 50 ladies attend and enjoy the raffles, lunching, and catching up with the ladies from other RSL's. The first lunch in 2025 was hosted by us in February and at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.

Sadly, in 2024 we lost two of our long serving members. Phoebe Parker who was 105 years young, a member of Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Friendship Group since 2010, and Joyce Howden who was a member since 1999, but was unable to attend the last few years due to illness. Vale Phoebe and Joyce.

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 our activities and join the group of volunteers.

Coordinator: Carol McFarlane **PH:** 0410 134 599



Billiards & Snooker



Our AGM (January 2025) saw a changing of the guard with John van Zanden standing down as President after 18 years and Brett Porter taking the reins. A massive thank you to John for his service. Heidi Stubbs is relieving Mark Dunn of the Treasurer's role, though Mark will stay on as Secretary, and some new faces on the Committee.

2024 PENNANT PERFORMANCES

VBSA MONDAY NIGHTS

- **Season 1** In snooker, Paul Portelli's Furies finished 7th in B Grade, whilst Bill Morgan's Sea Side finished 6th in C Grade.
- **Season 2** Brett Porter's Hazards were Runners Up in Premier Billiards, a truly great effort. On the same night and at the same venue, Marty Cleasby-Jones' Diggers took off the flag in C Snooker - so close to a perfect night!



Marty Cleasby-Jones' Diggers



John McLachlan, Alan Clews, Bill Lindsay & Tony Hill

OVER 55 TUESDAYS

- Ian Gilbee's Green team were knocked out in the Preliminary final whilst Terry Woodhouse's Gold finished 7th. Ian Gilbee took off the billiards high break with a fine 93 and Peter Gilligan the snooker high break with a 31.

METROPOLITAN/SOUTHERN TUESDAY NIGHTS.

- **Summer.** Neither Frankston Metro Snooker teams made the finals.
- **Spring.** Bill Morgan's Metro Snooker team (pictured above right), took home the pennant, whilst Bill Lindsay's Southern Billiards team was knocked out in the semis.

RSL THURSDAY NIGHTS

- **Season 1.** Snooker. Julie Watson's Eagles were eliminated in the Preliminary Final. Shabbir Badshah's Hawks finished in 5th place and were out of finals.
- **Season 2.** Billiards. The Hawks & Eagles finished out of the finals.

2024 CLUB TOURNAMENT WINNERS

- **Snooker Champion:** Paul Portelli 3/1 over Ronnie George.
- **Henry Merrett Handicap Snooker:** Ronnie George defeated Rob Bowen.
- **Billiards Champion:** Brett Porter defeated Rob Davies, 272/265.
- **Norm Smith Handicap Billiards:** Heidi Stubbs defeated Shelly Ames, 195/158.
- **Pat Chung "Dumb Bastard" Cup:** Terry Woodhouse & Bill Lindsay.



Pat Chung Cup photo: Mark Dunn, Bill Lindsay, Lyn Lynch & Terry Woodhouse.

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

MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT

Weekly comps are played at the Pavilion, Frankston RSL Sub-Branch. Get in touch if you are interested in joining.

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



FRANKSTON RSL SUB-BRANCH

183 Cranbourne Road Frankston Vic 3199
PO Box 3168 Frankston East Vic 3199
(03) 8792 4400

www.frankstonrsl.com.au
reception@frankstonrsl.com.au

  @FrankstonRSL

