



ANNUAL REPORT

Reflecting on a year of growth, resilience, and innovation. 2025 marked our continued journey toward excellence and impact.



FY2025
PRINTED MARCH 2026



VALE 2025



AKIE, PETER JULIAN
ALLEN, GLENN ALBERT
ALYARI, CYRUS
ANDERSON, IAN (JOHN)
ARCHER, VICTOR GEORGE
ATKINSON, ARTHUR GORDON
BISHOP, BERYL
BLACK, JAMES
BOHR, GRAEME
BURLEY, COLIN
CALLAN, WILLIAM
CORDERY, RAYMOND
COURTNEY, WILLIAM
EKIN, KENNETH SAMUEL
EVANS, GORDON
FIDLER, ERIC
FOSTER, BRIAN GREGORY
GAGIERO, BARRY JOHN

GILBEE, LESLIE EDWARD
GILES, STEPHEN
GRALL, TRENT
GRANT, LORNA HAZEL
GREGG, KENNETH HENRY
HALE, DAVID
HAMILTON, GRAHAM
HAMMOND, NEIL
HART, GLENN
JENKINSON, CHARLES
KEAM, LEO
KERNAGHAN, MICHAEL
LEITHHEAD, WILLIAM
LETFORD, GRANVILLE
LEWIS, JANELLE PETA
MACKINNON, DUNCAN LAMONT
MCKENZIE, RODERICK
MORRISSEY, MICHAEL

MORTON, NORMAN
OSBORNE, DENIS
OTTEY, PHILIP
OWEN, DAVID
POLLOCK, ALLAN BARRY
RANDALL (NEE FULLERTON), DOROTHY
REDDAN, GEOFFREY VINCENT
RICE, JAMES PETER
ROOTH, CHRISTIAAN
SHRUBSOLE, BERNARD
SMITH, JOSEPH
STEWART, RUSSELL FRANK
SWEENEY, ANTHONY
TRIFFETT, WESLEY
WALKER, VICTOR
WEEKS, JOSEPH ERNEST
WHITE, FRANCIS
WOODS, ALAN WILLIAM

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*
R KENNEDY
W LESLIE*
F MATONS
P M LOUREY*
S C LOVELL*
R W F MCCARTHY*
C A MCKENZIE*
R H MCLELLAND
R MORRISON

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

* DECEASED

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



KEVIN HILLIER OAM

On behalf of the Committee, it is with a strong sense of pride and achievement that I submit for your approval and adoption my 10th President's Report for the 2025 Annual Report

As a Veteran-focused organisation, we are proud to provide the utmost professionalism in stewarding our Volunteer Advocates, the Wellbeing Team (Coordinator and staff), and Compensation Advocates from ANZAC House. We also seek advice and assistance from Vasey RSL Care, Frankston South, and Veteran Central to assist those in need.

This means that, along with the Frankston Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia, Legacy Australia, and the Navy Club, veterans and their families living in the Frankston area and the Mornington Peninsula are extremely well looked after.

VETERAN WELLBEING

The wellbeing report will highlight and demonstrate the many areas where we continue to assist veterans and their families, such as financial advice, advocacy, supply of household and white goods, and two socialisation opportunities, including the weekly coffee sessions on Wednesdays for veterans and their partners, and Fridays for veterans of all eras.

The coffee mornings, renamed "Welcome Post Café" in 2025, are staffed by clients of our long-time community support partner Wallara Australia Ltd., and managed by our Front-of-House Team. The sessions have become a wonderful social opportunity for veterans and their partners, and attendance has grown exponentially since their inception in 2012, with 50 attendees regularly attending both mornings. One good story, out of many, that has emerged from the sessions is that of a veteran who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, only to be re-diagnosed since he started attending the coffee mornings and interacting with other people. On his follow-up appointment, his doctor swiftly changed his diagnosis, saying in fact that he had just been too lazy to get out of his chair!

The sessions are in addition to the 'Women's Friendship Group' that provides morning tea for the Independent Living Units at Vasey RSL Care, Frankston South.

"Due to good financial stability, and a windfall extensive income payment (as per the GM and Treasurer's reports) we have been able to reduce our debt by \$1.4M."

I am proud that we continue to have a Women's Friendship Group (formerly the Women's Auxiliary), as many clubs in the area no longer have this group of volunteers. The volunteers assist with raffles on a Friday night and essential fundraisers throughout the year. Additionally, we are fortunate to have an extensive group of volunteers who visit local hospitals, homes, and aged care facilities, and we are proud of the assistance they provide veterans. We are also blessed to have the Pipes and Drums, Golf, Billiards and Snooker sub-sections, which we support, and which provide community affiliation for veterans and the local community.

VETERAN ADVOCACY

Veteran Wellbeing Support has grown over the past five years, from assisting 126 veterans in 2021, 206 veterans in 2022, 265 veterans in 2023, 301 in 2024, and 329 in 2025. The Veteran Wellbeing Team has done an excellent job supporting veterans and their families and I thank the Wellbeing Coordinator - Stellar, Wellbeing Assistant - Jo, Wellbeing Engagement Officer - Nat, and Wellbeing Advocates and Support Officers, Tony, Carol, and Anthony.



Veteran Wellbeing Team Left, & Advocates & Support Officers Right



Mobility, Whitegoods, and Household Furniture Volunteer Team - repurposing donated items to veterans to the value of \$24,000 in 2025.

VETERAN AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT 2025

In 2025, we maintained our commitment to ANZAC House as they strive to assist veterans across Victoria, both physically and financially, through the League Support Fund (LSF), amounting to approximately \$199,000. These funds, which come from 10A Sub-Branches, including the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, help with the operation of ANZAC House and provide support to smaller sub-branches statewide, in tandem with the assistance veterans receive from Veteran Central.

Our assistance to veterans has significantly increased in 2025, with over \$550,000 allocated for wellbeing, welfare, and veteran support programs. Furthermore, every week, Residential Care Homes in the region are invited to enjoy lunch at our venue, creating a wonderful opportunity for residents to maintain social connections. In 2025, a total of 1,354 residents from 136 facilities participated, with just over \$33,000 spent on these lunches.

While our support to veterans and their families has grown, so too has our community support for local charities and sporting clubs. A highlight was the \$10,000 donation to Frankston City Council’s ‘Most Accessible Beach Project’ that offers disability car parking, accessible bathrooms, beach matting, and free shaded day beds, among other services. 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 of the venue.



GIVING BACK

Our contributions to sporting clubs and community organisations were officially recognised by the Frankston City Council for the valuable impact our organisation has on the community. The Council generously donated \$10,000 to our sub-branch, from its Local Support Package Funding, to assist veterans facing challenges due to the rising cost of living. This unprecedented gesture from the Council was deeply appreciated by those we were able to help.

The funding was allocated to various veteran wellbeing programs, specifically targeting those in most need:

- \$5,000 to 20 veterans who sought our assistance with the rise in cost of living over the past twelve months.
- \$5,000 to the Christmas Hamper Packs our Home and Hospital Visitation Team prepares every year for veterans residing at the various residential aged care homes.

NEW VETERAN WELLBEING SPACE IN 2025

I am pleased to advise that the Veteran Wellbeing Hub and office space were completed in 2025, thanks to the grant ANZAC House received from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA). The grant allowed us to place a portable office, adjoining the Club’s Pavilion. Our 10 Veteran Wellbeing Support Officers and ANZAC House Pensions and Compensation Advocates have all successfully relocated to the 72m² Veterans and Families Wellbeing Hub, and continue to do amazing work with veterans and their families.

The Hub was officially opened on Thursday, 19th February, 2026, by the Honourable Patrick GORMAN MP, Member for Perth, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, Assistant Minister for the Public Service, and Assistant Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations. In addition, the local member for Dunkley, Jodie Belyea MP - a great supporter of this club and the community she serves- and Sue Cattermole, Executive Project Director at RSL Victoria, were also in attendance.

The purpose of the opening was for Minister Gorman to officially present Frankston RSL with an Australian Flag that has flown over the Prime Minister’s residence at the Lodge, and secondly, to celebrate the continued good work generated from the Veterans’ Wellbeing Hub at the Frankston RSL.

While we experienced a hectic time, establishing the building on the ground, the veteran wellbeing staff and advocates have created an essential place where veterans and families can seek well-deserved assistance. While it is not as palatial as some around the country, the work generated within the hub is what we take this opportunity to celebrate. We also thank the Minister for Veteran Affairs, the Honourable Matt Keogh, for the provision of this workplace.



CLUB DEVELOPMENT

As a business, we have progressed well under the guidance of our management team, which has grown during my tenure, and Staffing, Service, Governance, and Finances are well managed by the team. Due to good financial stability and an extensive windfall income payment (refer to the GM and Treasurer’s Reports), we have been able to reduce our debt by \$1.4M.



ANZAC DAY 2025

We held another successful ANZAC Day Commemorative Service at the Frankston War Memorial in Beauty Park, attracting around 6,500 at the Dawn service and witnessing a larger-than-ever contingent marching.

The club welcomed 750 veterans and their families for lunch, and a standout feature was the 'Ceremonial Table for the Missing'. Many visitors paused to appreciate the poignant symbolism of the table:

- A white tablecloth representing the purity of their intentions
- A red rose symbolizing the blood that was shed
- An inverted glass for the missing and fallen
- Salt representing the countless tears shed
- A slice of lemon indicating the bitter fate
- A lit candle embodying hope in memory of our Sailors, Soldiers, Air Personnel, and the missing, fallen, as well as medical and administrative support personnel.

We also extend our gratitude for the complimentary digital advertising provided annually by QMS Media, which was prominently displayed in Frankston. In total, 28 sub-services were conducted by 12 committee members and volunteers across Mornington and Frankston. Seven buglers performed the Last Post and Rouse at five sporting events, and three services were held at the Frankston War Memorial.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025

Remembrance Day was an equally gratifying service, and was held at the sub-branch with 200 in attendance,



including 20 local organisations, students from local schools, as well as the McClelland College Band playing the incidental music and the Last Post and Rouse.

APPEALS

We were fortunate to have had two further successful appeals in 2025, raising \$141,500 for the ANZAC Day Appeal - an increase of \$7,500 from 2024, and a further \$115,000 for the Poppy Appeal.

Our Appeals Team has achieved remarkable success over the past few years, raising record amounts for our veterans and attracting unprecedented attendance at our services. This achievement is thanks to our dedicated army of volunteers, which includes club members, staff, and community members, as well as the exceptional efforts of our Appeals Coordinators, Peter Kerley and our newest member, James Farquharson, accompanied by his adorable puppy, Peggy. Their collaboration with the sub-branch Administration Team has been crucial in managing both appeals and organising volunteers.

Furthermore, our presence has expanded as we take on areas formerly overseen by Mornington RSL. However, this growth also means that our sub-branch will require more volunteers to effectively manage the ANZAC Day and Poppy Appeals.



THANK YOU

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to the committee for their unwavering commitment to upholding our corporate governance, as well as to the staff at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch for their ongoing support of both the veteran community and our club members.

We are immensely thankful to our members for their patronage, which allows us to continue supporting our business and, in turn, provide financial assistance to veterans and their families.

We eagerly anticipate another successful year in 2026, as we maintain our support for veterans and the community, along with our dedicated club members and their continued membership.

Kevin Hillier

KEVIN HILLIER OAM
President 2026



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.

www.frankstonrsl.com.au

COMMITTEE

In 2025, 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



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



KEVIN TESTER
COMMITTEE
Retired
Community Events
Appeals
Joined 2021



ANTHONY GRICE
COMMITTEE
Retired
Wellbeing Officer
Mobility Team
Appeals
Joined 2021



DAVID HELMAN
COMMITTEE
Retired
Community Events
Appeals
Joined 2023



JULIANNE CASEY
COMMITTEE
Retired
Community Events
Wellbeing Officer
Joined 2025

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



Patricia Russo
MARKETING &
PROMOTIONS
MANAGER
SINCE 2021



Tracy Vrana
BAR & GAMING
MANAGER
SINCE 2022



Dean Edwards
EXECUTIVE CHEF
SINCE 2022



Anja Lepoigneur
ADMINISTRATION
MANAGER
SINCE 2023



Mata Harawira-Tai
FRONT OF HOUSE
MANAGER
SINCE 2024



Jarrod Broben
FINANCE
MANAGER
SINCE 2025



TREASURER'S REPORT



BRIAN HILL CSC

“ In total, \$268,834.22 was raised from the 2024 Poppy Appeal and the 2025 ANZAC Appeal, with \$134,417.11 retained by the Sub-Branch to support veterans in our community. During 2025, \$92,207 was expended providing wellbeing support for veterans and their dependents. Additionally, \$42,210 is being returned to RSL Victoria for statewide veteran support”

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2025

It is my pleasure to present the Treasurer's Report for the year 2025. At the time of preparing this report, our new auditors, SW Accountants and Advisors, had not finalised the Financial Statements for 2025. Consequently, the information provided in my report is based on the auditors' draft Financial Statements. While minor adjustments may be made in the final statements, they will not significantly impact the financial position of the Sub-Branch at the end of 2025.

Once again, the Sub-Branch had a strong trading year, generating \$22,660,905, a \$1,641,614 (8%) increase over 2024. The amount includes a one-off recovery of historical charges for gas supply of \$1,197,498. The recovery was achieved through excellent work by the General Manager and staff.

While the Sub-Branch Trading Account saw an increase in turnover, expenses also rose during the year, totaling \$22,601,170. This represented a cost increase of \$1,643,802 (7.8%). Consequently, the net result for the Sub-Branch Trading Account for the year was a surplus of \$59,735. Although this was lower than anticipated, several factors contributed to this outcome, but are not restricted to, including:

-Employee benefits:	\$6,906,257
-Gaming tax:	\$4,897,063
-Rent:	\$1,211,360
-Donation to the Patriotic Fund	\$750,000

The end-of-year outcome for the Patriotic Fund (PF) was more favorable, with the fund recording a profit of \$1,137,405. This profit was primarily due to the payment of rent by the Sub-Branch for the use of the premises, which for 2025 amounted to \$1,211,360. In addition to the rent, the Sub-Branch also donated an additional \$750,000 to assist with the repayment of the loan taken out in 2021 for the last redevelopment.

A total of \$1,530,000, including \$126,057 in interest, was applied toward the loan repayment. The outstanding balance for the loan is \$1,078,572. The PF also allocated \$142,057 to support various social activities aimed at benefiting veterans and their families.

The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch serves as an agent for the RSL State Branch General Appeals Account. Appeals monies are primarily generated through the ANZAC Badge and Remembrance Day Poppy Appeals. In total, \$268,834.22 was raised from the 2024 Poppy Appeal and the 2025 ANZAC Appeal, with \$134,417.11 retained by the Sub-Branch to support veterans in our community. During 2025, \$92,207 was expended providing wellbeing support for veterans and their dependents. Additionally, \$42,210 is being returned to RSL Victoria for statewide veteran support.

In summary, 2025 was a strong trading year for the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch. The Sub-Branch concluded the year in a good financial position and is well placed going forward for 2026.

Committee Members, as well as the General Manager and Finance Team—Jarrod, Lynda, and Marion—for their invaluable assistance and ongoing support.

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 2025 COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The committee members present their report on Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Inc. (the "Association") for the financial year ended 31 December 2025.

Information on committee members

The names of each person who has been a committee member during the year and to date of the report are:

Kevin Hillier OAM	President
John Barry	Vice President
Brian Hill CSC	Treasurer
Peter Kerley	Secretary
Anthony Grice	General Committee
David Helman	General Committee
Julianne Casey	General Committee
Kevin Tester	General Committee
Lyn Lynch	General Committee

Committee members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of the report unless otherwise stated.

Principal activities

The principal activity of Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Inc. during the financial year was to provide welfare and charitable activities in respect of its members and returned servicemen.

The surplus of the Association amounted to \$59,737 (2024: Restated Surplus \$61,923).

The table below, which represents non-IFRS financial information is to provide a reconciliation to show the normalised operating deficit for the year.

	2025 \$
Statutory surplus	<u>59,737</u>
<i>Less:</i>	
- Historical gas recoveries	(1,197,498)
- Reimbursements from RSL VIC	(79,355)
<i>Add:</i>	
- Consultancy costs incurred in historical gas recoveries	274,486
- Cash contribution to Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Patriotic Fund	750,000
- Asset contribution to Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Patriotic Fund	246,496
Normalised surplus	<u>53,866</u>

Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Association during the year.

Events after the reporting date

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

Future developments and results

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

FRANKSTON R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH INC
A.B.N 12 643 054 953 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Environmental issues

The Association's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory of Australia.

Proceedings on behalf of the Association

No person has applied for leave of court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Association or intervened in any proceedings to which the Association is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Association for all or any part of those proceedings.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

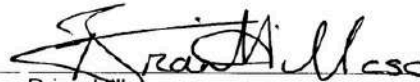
The lead auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 31 December 2025 has been received and can be found on the following page.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.

 DAM

Kevin Hillier
President

Dated: 11 MAR 26



Brian Hill
Treasurer

11 MAR 26

FINANCIAL REPORT

FRANKSTON R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH INC
 A.B.N 12 643 054 953 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
 STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	21,357,639	20,836,558
Other income	1,303,266	44,515
Total revenue and other income	<u>22,660,905</u>	<u>20,881,073</u>
Cost of sales	(8,896,959)	(8,624,517)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(894,407)	(783,653)
Finance costs	(175,019)	(212,553)
Employee benefits expense	(6,906,257)	(6,752,691)
State Branch contribution	(180,489)	(172,552)
Rental and occupancy expenses	(1,764,474)	(1,872,632)
Other operating expenses	(2,787,067)	(2,400,552)
Contributions to Patriotic Fund	(996,496)	-
Total expenses	<u>(22,601,168)</u>	<u>(20,819,150)</u>
Surplus before income tax expense	59,737	61,923
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus for the year	<u>59,737</u>	<u>61,923</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u><u>59,737</u></u>	<u><u>61,923</u></u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

FRANKSTON R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH INC
A.B.N 12 643 054 953 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,620,480	2,577,600
Trade and other receivables	75,788	62,576
Inventories	164,079	155,594
Other assets	177,215	217,712
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>3,037,562</u>	<u>3,013,482</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	2,344,129	2,320,318
Intangibles	2,791,712	3,210,469
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>5,135,841</u>	<u>5,530,787</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>8,173,403</u>	<u>8,544,269</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	1,737,440	1,657,419
Provisions	532,656	533,038
Contract liabilities	203,303	145,208
Borrowings	568,337	568,337
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>3,041,736</u>	<u>2,904,002</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	9,266	9,266
Borrowings	2,062,758	2,631,095
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>2,072,024</u>	<u>2,640,361</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>5,113,760</u>	<u>5,544,363</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>3,059,643</u>	<u>2,999,906</u>
EQUITY		
Retained surplus	3,059,643	2,999,906
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>3,059,643</u>	<u>2,999,906</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

FRANKSTON R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH PATRIOTIC FUND A.B.N 69 737 849 266 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The committee members present their report on Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Patriotic Fund (the "Fund") for the financial year ended 31 December 2025.

Information on committee members

The names of each person who has been a committee member during the year and to date of the report are:

Kevin Hillier OAM	President
John Barry	Vice President
Brian Hill CSC	Treasurer
Peter Kerley	Secretary
Anthony Grice	General Committee
David Helman	General Committee
Julianne Casey	General Committee
Kevin Tester	General Committee
Lyn Lynch	General Committee

Committee members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of the report unless otherwise stated.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Fund during the financial year was to provide welfare and charitable activities in respect of its members and returned servicemen.

Operating results

The surplus of the Fund amounted to \$1,137,405 (2024: Restated \$278,452).

Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Fund during the year.

Events after the reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Fund, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Fund in future financial years.

Proceedings on behalf of the Fund


No person has applied for leave of court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Fund or intervene in any proceedings to which the Fund is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Fund for all or any part of those proceedings.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* is set out immediately after this director's report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.


Kevin Hillier OAM
President


Brian Hill CSC
Treasurer

Dated: 11 MAR 26

FINANCIAL REPORT

FRANKSTON R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH PATRIOTIC FUND
 A.B.N 69 737 849 266 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
 STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Rent from Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Inc.	1,211,360	1,224,389
Contributions received from Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Inc.	750,000	6,258
Asset contribution received from Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Inc.	246,496	-
Assets sold to Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Inc.	-	443,818
Interest income	6,028	-
Other income	7,265	7,452
	2,221,149	1,681,917
Expenses		
Depreciation	(7 29,8 65)	(1,002,515)
Professional fees	(11,530)	(35,700)
Repairs and maintenance	(73,368)	(76,205)
Welfare costs	(142,039)	(103,601)
Finance costs	(126,682)	(175,837)
Other expenses	(260)	(9,607)
Total expenses	(1,083,744)	(1,403,465)
Surplus before income tax expense	1,137,405	278,452
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus for the year	1,137,405	278,452
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,137,405	278,452

FINANCIAL REPORT

FRANKSTON R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH PATRIOTIC FUND
A.B.N 69 737 849 266 AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	179,376	318,109
Other	47,884	1,978
Total current assets	<u>227,260</u>	<u>320,087</u>
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	13,151,154	13,371,160
Total non-current assets	<u>13,151,154</u>	<u>13,371,160</u>
Total assets	<u>13,378,414</u>	<u>13,691,247</u>
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	19,987	66,282
Borrowings	526,910	595,840
Total current liabilities	<u>546,897</u>	<u>662,122</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	551,662	1,886,675
Total non-current liabilities	<u>551,662</u>	<u>1,886,675</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,098,559</u>	<u>2,548,797</u>
Net assets	<u>12,279,855</u>	<u>11,142,450</u>
Equity		
Retained surplus	<u>12,279,855</u>	<u>11,142,450</u>
Total equity	<u>12,279,855</u>	<u>11,142,450</u>



VISION

Connecting communities

Connecting the veteran community with services and camaraderie

Connecting the broader community with experiences through customer first hospitality



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.”

Every day, we diligently work toward fulfilling the Frankston RSL vision: “To support the welfare of veterans and their families while fostering pride, respect, and a sense of belonging within both the veteran and broader community by offering a welcoming atmosphere and delivering outstanding hospitality and entertainment.” I genuinely believe that in 2025, our team embodied this vision, providing both members and guests with a hospitality experience to be proud of.

ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day are the most significant dates on our calendar. It is always uplifting to see the dedicated efforts of our committee, volunteers, and staff in making these days a success.

DEDICATED LEADERSHIP

Our department heads work diligently to ensure that each of you has a fantastic experience at the club during every visit. I want to express my gratitude to Dean (BOH), Tracy (Gaming), Mata (FOH), Jarrod (Finance), Anja (Administration), and Patricia (Marketing) for their hard work and commitment to the RSL's mission.

Our Black Line leaders oversee daily operations at the venue, maintaining our high standards. A heartfelt thank you to Jessica, Harry, Zane, Josh, Elana, Susan, and Lynda for their contributions to delivering the Frankston RSL experience. Additionally, I appreciate the rest of the leadership team and all staff members who help make this venue exceptional.

The executive team - comprising Colin Ross, Jodi Millar, and Rose VanVelzen - provides outstanding leadership and support for the entire venue team. Their experience, knowledge, and dedication to our members elevate this venue within the network. Thank you all for your hard work throughout 2025.



DIVERSE ENTERTAINMENT OFFERINGS

In 2025, our entertainment lineup featured an incredible variety of performances, showcasing some of the finest acts in Melbourne. From Single Income on the first Friday of each month to shows like Faulty Towers, Denis Walter, Ramble Tamble, and SOS, not to mention The Eagles and the interactive dinner show Confetti & Chaos. We also enjoyed hosting captivating true crime nights with Charlie Bezzina and Vicki Petraitis, among other remarkable storytellers.



THEMED EVENTS

Our team excelled at organising themed events throughout the year, including Christmas Day, Birthday Week, Oktoberfest, Mother's Day, Super Bowl, and St. Patrick's Day, all of which garnered positive responses



EVOLVING HOSPITALITY EXPERIENCE

Our commitment to delivering a customer-first hospitality experience is continually evolving within our kitchen team. Under the leadership of Executive Chef Dean and Head Chef Josh, the team has been enhancing the quality of their offerings. We also celebrated Ally's achievement in completing her apprenticeship after four years, which was a wonderful milestone.

Fostering the growth of our team is a top priority. Throughout the year, Jackie Booth delivered Ignite Leadership training to ten key leaders, yielding remarkable outcomes for both the participants and the venue. In addition, we provided learning experiences across all areas of our business. Investing time in enhancing our team's knowledge empowers us to deliver exceptional service to our members daily.



Tainui, Will, Ally (Apprentices), Cosimo (Trainer & Chef), Sam (Apprentice)

FINANCIAL RESULTS

I am very proud of our financial achievements for 2025. If you would like to review the complete financial results, they are available at reception. Here are the key highlights from the 2025 report:

- A reduction in principal debt in the Patriotic Fund of \$1.403 million
- A trading surplus of nearly \$1.2 million between the INC and the Pat Fund
- Total Sales of \$21.3 million, reflecting a 2.5% growth
- Over \$735 000 spent on veterans across the three entities (an increase of 13.9%)
- More than \$420,000 invested in the community across the three entities (up 23.7%)
- Successful realisation of the Veterans Hub project

These highlights illustrate the dedication and effort of our entire team in delivering for the RSL. These figures are a source of pride and reflect the high-quality hospitality we provide here at Frankston RSL.

OPERATIONAL ADVANCEMENTS

Enhancing the venue for our members to guarantee an exceptional hospitality experience is essential. Several key initiatives took place throughout the year that deserve recognition. The refurbishment of the gaming room has resulted in a cleaner, brighter, more spacious, and inviting atmosphere in this part of the club.

The rebranding of our venue, featuring our new logo, has refreshed the Frankston RSL and brought it into 2025 with a clean and appealing aesthetic. The effort involved in a rebrand is immense, and I extend my gratitude to Patricia and Rose for their hard work in this endeavor. Additionally, we have implemented new back-of-house systems to streamline and automate our processes. Tools like Wirely and Function Tracker will enhance our hospitality operations, and the entire team has played a crucial role in facilitating this transition and implementation.



2026 AND BEYOND

I am enthusiastic about what 2026 has in store for our members, featuring fantastic entertainment options like Tom & Tina, the Taylor Swift Show, The Eagles Show, Confetti & Chaos, and Denis Walter, just to name a few. Be sure to follow us on social media (Facebook and Instagram) to stay informed about events at your RSL. We have already sold out four entertainment shows this year, and you won't want to miss out!

Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Frankston RSL committee. A special acknowledgment goes to President Kevin Hillier OAM and Vice President John Barry for their unwavering support and tireless efforts on behalf of the veterans of the Frankston RSL.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your General Manager.

B Rowlands

BRETT ROWLANDS

General Manager





Lest we forget

On ANZAC Day, 25th April, a march was conducted at dawn and a commemorative service was held in both Frankston and Mornington. The Mornington services were run by the ex-committee of Mornington RSL Sub -Branch, and we thank them for their input.

Frankston's Dawn Service was phenomenally well attended, with an estimated 6,500 paying their respects at the early service.

Captain Natasha Williams RAN, on behalf of the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AM RAN was the guest speaker at the three services held on the day and tailored her speeches to suit each event, including the student service, and the dawn and commemorative services.

The opening address at the Dawn service was given by Mr. Paul Edbrooke MP, Local Member for Frankston and the Mayor of Frankston Mr. Kris Bolam JP opened the Commemorative Service.

All three services were ably supported by Frankston RSL Chaplain, Graeme Watkinson CSM.

While the RSL is apolitical, we had in attendance Jodie Belyea MP, Federal Member for Dunkley, Mr. Paul Edbrooke MP, Local Member for Frankston, Senator Jane Hume, Liberal Senator for Victoria, Mr. Nathan Conroy, representing Annemarie Herman MP, Upper House Member for Southeast Metropolitan and Acting Superintendent Melissa Rogers, Victoria Police.

On Thursday 24th April, seven schools laid a wreath at the Frankston Memorial, and on ANZAC Day a further 30+ wreaths were laid in memory of the fallen.

Overall, there were 28 services held in Mornington and Frankston. They were represented by 12 committee members and volunteers. Seven different buglers performed the Last Post and Rouse at five sporting events, and three services were held at the War Memorial.

Lunch for 750 guests was served at the Frankston RSL and veterans received a letter written by students from John Paul College, thanking them for their service.

The Frankston RSL Committee and Management would like to thank all the staff involved in the organisation of ANZAC Day and the spectacular luncheon that was perfectly orchestrated. Everybody involved should be very proud of having played a pivotal role in the day's success.



The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch 2025 ANZAC Day Appeals Team successfully raised \$141,500. These valuable funds go toward helping veterans and their families who require financial, social, and well-being assistance.

\$141,500 was raised by the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch



Thank you!

The Committee and Management would like to thank our army of volunteers for their selfless hours of community work and helping sell ANZAC Appeal merchandise. Volunteers include committee members, community groups, club members, aged care facilities, schools and the 130 local businesses that happily display our Appeals Merchandise Boxes at their workplace. Also, a special thanks to everybody who purchased pins, as our Appeals would not be possible without your generosity. A shout-out to our stalwart volunteers who show up every appeal, including the Navy Club, Ladies Auxiliary, our Sporting Sections, and of course, the Langwarrin Girl Guides, Air Force and Army Cadets. The valuable funds raised go a long way to helping veterans in need.

We are highly indebted to the commitment and extraordinary efforts of our Appeals Officers Peter Kerley and newcomer James Farquharson, and puppy Peggy, in addition to the the sub-branch Administration Team. 2025 was Peter's fifth consecutive year in managing the Appeals, and in five years has helped raise over \$960,000.



Volunteers come from all walks of life!

We are grateful to this amazing veteran and volunteer, who 'killed two birds with one stone'. As part of a weekly motorbike trip from Baxter to Tooradin, he seized the opportunity to sell ANZAC Day merchandise halfway through the ride and on the beachfront in Tooradin. He managed to raise \$320 for the appeal.



GOODSTART - Early Learning Centre
Committee Member Lyn Lynch spoke to children at Goodstart Early Learning Centre, Frankston South as well as Guardian Childcare & Education, Mt Eliza, about the significance of ANZAC Day. The book 'ANZAC Ted' and an 'ANZAC Bear' helped to get the creative minds ticking, and for lots of questions to be asked.

Twenty-two Year 9-12 VCE VM students from St Paul John College, a local school, composed heartfelt appreciation letters for veterans. These letters were distributed during the ANZAC Day luncheon at the club, with the aim of brightening the day for the veterans.



On April 26-27, the Frankston District Netball Association hosted an impressive weekend of netball, featuring 197 teams. Additionally, the Peninsula Waves organized the Casey Demons Round 6 VNL game on Sunday at Jubilee Park Stadium.

The President of Frankston RSL Club, Kevin Hillier OAM, presided over the ceremonies throughout the weekend. In his address, he highlighted the history of Australian women during wartime. He also presented 95 Anzac Day Spirit Medals, which umpires award to one player in each game who embodies the ANZAC Spirit of Courage, Pride, and Mateship on the court.

Signature Care Langwarrin

Aged care facility Signature Care Langwarrin, held a moving service, led by Club Vice President John Barry. Navy veteran and resident 'Norm' (image 3 L to R above), proudly read a poem, and the residents and organisers did a wonderful job setting up the room with ANZAC Day Memorabilia, proudly brought in by resident Mrs. Elsie Forsyth - whose husband and father were veterans. The high level of participation by the residents and staff ensured it was once again a memorable service.



Accessibility & Inclusivity

As we continually aim to adopt best practices and strive to be inclusive of everybody, our website has had back-end modifications, ensuring it offers increased accessibility and screen readability to content on our site for those who may have varying degrees of vision loss, including colour blindness, low vision, complete blindness, and more. We sought the advice directly from Vision Australia on what these best practices should be, and what options were available.

The improved user functionality is accessed through a 'Sticky Person' icon, located on our horizontal menu 'Contact Us'. The accessibility feature is for anybody with a low percentage of vision and ensures users have a logical flow of content, and that all elements are easily comprehensible and easier to read.

The back-end changes to the website also offer an improved 'screen reader' experience to those who are 100% visually impaired. The feature reads out aloud, accurate and relevant information to users and eliminates the frustration of reading out aloud content that doesn't provide meaningful information like 'Icon, headers, sub headers, and main body content.

"Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works." Steve Jobs.



Take a few minutes to try the 'sticky person' on our website for a greater appreciation of the daily challenges visually impaired user. Take a few minutes to try the 'sticky person' feature on our website to gain a better understanding of the daily challenges faced by visually impaired users when navigating the internet. Visit www.frankstonrsl.com.au, when navigating the internet.

Accessibility refers to the design of products, devices, services, or environments for people with disabilities. It ensures that individuals can gain access to education, employment, transportation, and other essential services. In technology, accessibility involves creating tools and resources that empower everyone to participate fully in activities, whether at work or play.



Read more on the challenges, and how the technology works: www.accessibud.com/blog/accessibility-visually-impaired

'Frankston has Australia's most accessible beach!'

THE AGE MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025



FRANKSTON RSL DONATES \$10,000

The club was thrilled to be part of the wonderful initiative that has helped Frankston earn the title "Australia's Most Accessible Beach" by summer 2025-2026.

Frankston RSL contributed \$10,000 to the project through its Community Support Program, which donates up to \$250,000 each year to a vast array of local sporting groups, charities, not-for-profit, and local community organisations.

Frankston's rollout is unparalleled by anything that's been tried in Australia. It includes free, bookable, and shaded daybeds, and dedicated staff to help beachgoers in and out of the water.

There are another 15 beaches in Victoria considered accessible, offering disability car parking, accessible bathrooms, beach matting, and a beach wheelchair available.



Making Connections

In February 2025, we held an inaugural Giving Day and celebrated our \$250,000 yearly donation to local sporting clubs, charities, and community organisations.

Currently, 55 recipients receive a share of the Community Support Fund. The aim of the event is to build deeper relationships with the recipients, in addition to creating new partnerships and growing our great Community Network.

Once such partnership that was newly formed as a result of the event, is the collaboration between Frankston District Netball Association (FDNA) and Mothers Supporting Families In Need (MSFIN).

Thanks to the connection, FDNA collected donations of new 'socks & underwear' for MSFIN. MSFIN helps families in crisis, including people leaving family violence so that they have the items they need to start again with dignity. They provide quality, clean, and appropriate items for the whole family, from babies to teens and parents, and they currently have a major shortage of new socks and underwear.

Photo L to R: *Miranda Castles, GM - FDNA and Jubilee Park Stadium, Christie L, FDNA Community Partnerships, Charlotte Davies, Strategy and Fundraising Manager – MSFIN, and Brett Rowlands - GM - Frankston RSL.*

Frankston City Council's Local Support Package Funding

\$10,000 allotted to Veterans in need

Frankston RSL was one of several entities identified in 2025 by Frankston City Council as worthy recipients of a \$10,000 Frankston City Council's Local Support Package Funding. The donation was awarded in recognition of the valuable work our club contributes to the community, especially during a time when cost-of-living pressures are widely impacting so many.

The funding received will be distributed across various veteran wellbeing programs and will go toward assisting veterans most in need: -\$5,000 was distributed to 20 veterans who have sought our assistance with the rise in cost of living over the past twelve months. -\$5,000 went towards the Christmas Hamper Packs our Home and Hospital Visitation Team prepares every year for veterans residing at various residential aged care homes, which Frankston RSL supports.



Main Photo Left-Right:

- Paul Edbrooke MP State Member for Frankston
- Frankston RSL Club President Kevin Hillier OAM
- Wayne Holdsworth CEO Frankston Basketball and Frankston City Council, 2025 Citizen of the Year

Insert: Recipients of Frankston City Council's Local Support Funding.



Intergenerational Learning & Veteran Biographies

Students from John Paul College – a local Catholic co-educational secondary College in Frankston, once again collaborated in 2025 with four veterans, who are members of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, and created and published a magazine with veteran biographies.

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 teach leadership and teamwork - a course requirement of the 'Personal Development Skills' subject.

"This was a more engaging way to cover the required course outcomes for students - learning about teamwork and leadership, from veterans who experienced these traits 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 in September 2025.

Pick up a copy of the magazine at the venue.



2025 RSL VICTORIA HALL OF FAME AWARDS | MELBOURNE

ANNUAL
HALL OF FAME
AWARDS DINNER
Recognising Dedication and Impact
FRANKSTON RSL SUB-BRANCH



Recognising Dedication and Impact



The prestigious RSL annual Hall of Fame Awards provides a symbolic opportunity to celebrate the important work of the Victorian RSL network, and recognises the outstanding efforts of many individuals who make a significant contribution to the success of RSL sub-branches.

Multiple awards of distinction are awarded on the night, and we were proud as a club, and as a team, of staff members Mata and Susan, who were recognised with the Achievement and Recognition Award for their significant contribution to their respective fields.

The award acknowledges all personnel who have been involved, at an operational level, in ensuring the success of their particular By-law 10A Sub-Branch during the year. The award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding

commitment and dedication to assist in the ongoing development and success of their RSL sub-branch, who demonstrated team work and dedication, and supported the values, mission, and ongoing development of their sub-branch.

LET'S CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENT & RECOGNITION AWARDS



Mata Harawira-Tai: Front of House Manager

Mata was a highly deserving recipient of the award for her significant contribution since joining the sub-branch 18 years ago, and the exemplary career progression she has made within this time.

Mata commenced as a Bistro Attendant, rising through the ranks of the heart pumping adrenaline seeking world of hospitality, to Bistro Front-of-House Manager in 2024.

Mata contributes and leads our Front-of-House team as they continue to set the gold standard for exceptional service. She ensures every team member plays a vital role in delivering memorable experiences that make our guests, members, and veterans feel like family.

Our values and mission are built on collaboration, trust, and a shared passion for excellence, and Mata brings this unique skill set to her work every day.

Mata's open communication, mutual respect, and a team-first mindset ensures every

shift runs smoothly—no matter the challenge.

In 2025, led by Mata, our Front of House and Kitchen teams collaborated to launch a successful food and beverage pairing initiative that reignited a shared passion across departments.

Mata also helped form the 'Welcome Post Cafe', an idea that the Frankston RSL could become a place of learning and opportunity, a training ground for individuals with disabilities to build skills in hospitality, supported by a caring environment. Mata led her team, in collaboration with Wallara's Open Employment & Disability Inclusion Program, and joined forces to make the dream become a reality.

Beyond the venue, Mata volunteers and ensures her team members also volunteer during Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day Appeals.

Mata encourages and sets the standard with her team on knowing personally our regular veterans, members, and guests, by name.

We've enjoyed watching Mata grow day by day, week by week, year by year and the success of the Frankston RSL Front-of-House Team is a testament to Mata's dedication and passion for the hospitality industry.



Susan Donovan: Functions Coordinator

Susan Donovan began her journey with Frankston RSL in February 2018, and has held several roles during this time - most recently and significantly, as the Functions Coordinator.

Susan ensures the teams she works with are delivering a personalised and exceptional experience for every member, veteran, and guest, who attend our functions, shows, or events.

The past three Hall of Fame Events held at Frankston RSL have been a wonderful success with Susan at the pinnacle, and she meticulously analysed and delivered on every detail at those functions.

During events, Susan keeps the Functions kitchen running smoothly while also maintaining a high level of service from a front-of-house perspective, and plans, coordinates, and runs each event from start to finish with pride and attention to detail.

Susan's communication, attention to detail, and problem-solving skills are second to none and she faces any challenge head-on and always finds a solution.

Supporting the mission, values, and development of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch is ingrained in everything she does, and she

demonstrates pride and willingness to go above and beyond every single day.

The feedback we receive frequently highlights Susan's warmth, attentiveness, and willingness to go the extra mile.

Continuous development is a cornerstone of all our team's strength, and Susan is no different. Susan is always seeking opportunities to complement her already seasoned skillset and continually updates and shares new procedures and efficiencies that improve the delivery of our functions and events.

Susan is also a noteworthy instigator of our team-building activity days, and knowledge-sharing workshops, that help us grow individually and together, while creating an environment of ongoing improvement, strength, and pride in our work.

The success of the Frankston RSL events, functions and shows, is a remarkable testament to Susan's dedication and professionalism, and her passion for the hospitality and event industry.

Susan is a kind, compassionate, dedicated, patient, organised and strong individual. We are incredibly proud of Susan, and honoured she won the Achievement & Recognition Award.

LET'S CELEBRATE HALL OF FAME 2024 INDUCTEE AWARD*



Peter Kerley: Veteran, Committee Secretary, Appeals Officer

Peter Kerley was our highly deserving inductee to the RSL Victoria Hall of Fame in 2024. Peter was recognised for his outstanding service to the RSL network and commendable dedication to the Community, and Armed Forces.

Peter has been a member of the Frankston RSL Committee since October 2020, and also served as Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary at Seaford RSL Sub-Branch, prior to joining Frankston.

He is a Vietnam Veteran, having served with 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment from 8th April 1967 to 18th March 1968, and ending his service as a Lance-Corporal in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Better known as 'The Appeals Guru', he has been instrumental in raising record funds and normalising the Appeals process, post COVID19, when he took on the volunteer role in 2020. Since then, our sub-branch ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Appeals have grown significantly.



Peter continues to be a crucial resource for the annual appeals, and with the help of a dedicated team of volunteers, has raised \$960,000 over the past five years for veterans and their families.

Peter also conducted an Appeals Forum at the Frankston RSL, and an Appeals 'Train-the-Trainer' seminar at RSL Victoria HQ for 45 sub-branch representatives, to drive volunteer numbers.

He takes everything in his stride, and his admirable efforts in rallying volunteers, dedicating countless selfless hours of volunteering at 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 merchandise per year.

Determined to help anyway he can raise funds for veterans, he is fuelled by the knowledge that the benefits of his fundraising efforts contribute to Veteran Wellbeing Programs and Activities, that do wonders in helping beat social isolation amongst our veteran community.

Frankston RSL was honoured, at the 2024 RSL Victoria Hall of Fame Awards, to have two individuals recognised for the substantial difference they have made to the Frankston RSL and the greater community.

Peter Kerley, Committee Secretary and Appeals Officer, and Stellar Raymond, Wellbeing Coordinator, were deservedly recognised and awarded for their achievements.

**Due to the RSL Vic 2024 Hall of Fame Awards Event being held in February 2025, we were unable to include the announcement of these two awards in the 2024 Annual Report, and are therefore being included in the 2025 Annual Report.*

2024 ACHIEVEMENT & RECOGNITION AWARD*

SELFLESS DEDICATION TO OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Stellar, the Wellbeing Coordinator at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, has been honoured with the Achievement and Recognition Award for her unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of veterans, their families, and dependents. Since joining the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch in March 2020, she has consistently demonstrated remarkable growth and plays a crucial role in uniting the wellbeing team. With a heart of gold, Stellar prioritises veterans' wellbeing above everything else, using her expertise to empower veterans to become resilient and proactive.

Stellar organizes regular outings, with buses consistently filled to capacity with veterans and their partners, who eagerly anticipate these day trips. These excursions serve as an essential opportunity for connection and camaraderie.

The countless hours Stellar commits to her role exemplify true dedication. We are in awe of her loyalty and devotion to improving the lives of all veterans and their families. Stellar's support encompasses a wide range of services, including:

- Welfare Advocacy
- Pensions and Compensation Advocacy
- Information and referral to local services
- Connecting veterans and their families to local organisations and activities
- Veterans' Coffee Sessions
- Home and Hospital Visitation Team
- Exercise Groups

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Stellar for her exceptional work as our Wellbeing Coordinator.



AHEAD OF HER TIME MEMORIAL TO JESSIE VASEY, OBE CBE



Jessie Mary Vasey OBE CBE
18 October 1897 - 22 September 1966

On their last evening together George told Jessie, "Stick to the war widows and when I come back you shall have every atom of help I can give you."

In a cruel twist of fate, George was killed in a plane crash near Cairns in March 1945. The war widows' cause became her crusade.

Mrs Vasey set up the War Widows' Craft Guild in every state and the ACT. Her goal was to enable widows to learn craft skills to earn money to supplement their pensions, which were well below that of a serviceman.

Mrs Vasey was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1950 and a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1963 for her service to war widows. She died on her way back from visiting Guild members in NSW and is buried in Lyttelton cemetery, Melbourne.

At the same time, Mrs Vasey lobbied for an increase to their pension, arguing that it was not charity but a statutory right, being



"It is no mean destiny to be called upon to go on for a man who has laid down his life."

Jessie Mary Vasey was born in 1897 in Sorrie, Queensland, the eldest of three daughters of Joseph and Jessie Halbert, farmers and graziers.

The family moved to Melbourne in 1911 and in 1921 she married George Alan Vasey, an army officer. They had two sons, George and Robert.

Mrs Vasey put all her energy into supporting the war effort and became heavily involved in the financial and emotional burdens of war widows.

Mrs Vasey put all her energy into supporting the war effort and became heavily involved in the financial and emotional burdens of war widows.



Frankston RSL Sub-Branch has had a long and valued relationship with Vasey RSL Care in Frankston South - an aged care home and rental units that provide year round services and accommodation to approximately 900 veterans, as well as their widows/widowers. The centre is proud to 'Serve Those Who Served' and is highly appreciative of the support they receive from the sub-branch and its staff.

In April, the centre installed a memorial dedicated to Mrs Jessie Mary Vasey OBE CBE (1897-1966), who founded Vasey Housing after the death of her husband, Major General George Alan Vasey, during World War II.

Jessie Vasey is highly deserving of this memorial in recognition of her tireless advocacy for war widows, and the creation of the War Widows' Guild in 1945 that lobbied the creation of government pensions for widows. Additionally, she offered essential and practical support to war widows and brought them together to support one another and learn crafts to supplement their meagre pensions.

The memorial provides a summary of her life and works, and was officially unveiled in the presence of residents and staff by Chair Mike O'Meara OAM, and CEO Janna Voloshin.



Thanks to Ted's idea!

The idea for the memorial came from Ted, a resident and a Vietnam Veteran. Ted noted the importance of Mrs Vasey in caring for veterans' families and suggested a memorial to ensure her contribution was known to all those living and working at the centre.

Pictured: (from left) resident and veteran, Ted, Peter Holz - President/Welfare Officer of TPI Victoria Inc and his wife Kaye, and Vasey RSL Care Board Chair, Mike O'Meara OAM.

Reference: www.vaseyrslcare.org.au/news-and-events/memorial-to-mrs-vasey

After the passing of her husband, and with the memory of his promise to help her provide adequate housing for war widows upon his return, Jessie carried on with the work and was tenacious in advocating and achieving improved housing and other benefits for war widows. She was well known for taking delegations of women to see politicians and journalists alike, and put forward their case for increased pensions to.

In the 1950s, and as President of the guild, "she worked with a national housing scheme to build flats for elderly widows. She also started a small craft guild so that the like-minded widows could come together, and not just sit around and pat each other on the back, but be creative and constructive with weaving and looming, and selling their wares for funds to support themselves".

'So Jessie started the housing with \$1,000 they did from a raffle. They bought the house in Brisbane somewhere, and now it's a \$100 million enterprise'.

Grand-daughter Liz Koschitzke



Read More: www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/inspiring-leader-jessie-vasey-cbe-obe-founder-war-widows-guild-australia



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025

107TH YEAR ARMISTICE

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

Remembrance Day is a time to reflect on those who have served not only our nation, but also those who have served our allies. Whilst it signifies the armistice of the First World War, 107 years ago, we also reflect on the end of World War II, 80 years ago, and the Vietnam Conflict, 50 years ago.

Remembrance Day Service was held at the Frankston RSL, followed by lunch with 200 attending, and the Mornington service was held at Mornington Memorial Park.

We thank the attendance of local politicians at both services, highlighting their ongoing commitment to supporting veterans and the wider community, including Frankston City Council Mayor Cr Kris Bolam, Jodie Belyea MP, Federal Member for Dunkley, and Ann-Marie Hermans MP, State Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region. Among others at the Frankston service were Bobby Thompson, Deputy Mayor of Mornington Council, and Chris Crewther MP Member for Mornington, at the Mornington Service.

The Frankston service was also supported by Victoria Police, Brian McMannis ESM JP from SES, SES Volunteers, Frankston Vietnam Veterans' Association, Legacy groups and members, in addition to several schools.

We also appreciate the attendance of the 406th Squadron AAFC, led by FLTLT (AAFC) Bree Nieve, who provided the catafalque party. The McClelland College Band performed the incidental music, and Eric Budd, Head of Music at McClelland College, played the Last Post and Rouse.

Once again, we thank Geoff Shaw of the Frankston RSL Pipes and Drums for piping during the laying of wreaths.

Vice President John Barry emceed the service, and Mayor Cr Kris Bolan JP gave the opening address, which was followed by prayers from Frankston RSL Chaplain Graeme Watkinson.

As guest speaker, Air Vice Marshal Schmidt gave the Remembrance Day address, and Club President Kevin Hillier OAM led the commemorative service in memory of those from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Matty McLeary, former committee person of the Mornington RSL, led the service at the Mornington Cenotaph.

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY APPEAL 2025

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.

\$115,000

The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal raised \$115,000 in 2025.



Lest we forget

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



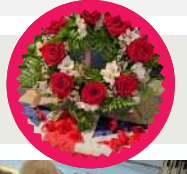
Heroes in our midst

Frankston RSL Committee members and veterans are actively involved in community-focused endeavours and are commended for their commitment and dedication, and generously volunteering their time to serve the community.

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



REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMUNITY SERVICES



Honoring Remembrance Day at Langwarrin Community Aged Care
Vice President John Barry of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch led the Remembrance Day service at Langwarrin Community Aged Care (Signature Care), where numerous Frankston RSL Service Members and their partners reside.

The center is exceptional at organising activities that promote resident wellbeing. Once again, they excelled in helping residents commemorate Remembrance Day, honoring and remembering those who served our nation.

Residents of St Paul's Terrace Aged Care in Frankston were privileged to have John Barry, the Vice President of Frankston RSL, lead the commemorative service at their center. His heartfelt tribute to those who served deeply resonated with everyone present. Following the service, an afternoon filled with sharing personal stories and experiences ensued. The residents expressed their gratitude for the event and appreciated John's presence, as well as the time he dedicated to conversing with each of them.

Commemorating Remembrance Day Karingal Hub



Mark Kinder, Veteran and Frankston Naval Memorial Club Member, gave the Remembrance Day Commemorative Service at Karingal Hub Shopping Centre. We extend our thanks to Karingal Hub Centre Management for their ongoing support with our Appeals.



On Friday, November 7th, Club President Kevin Hillier OAM delivered a poignant service at the Derinya Primary School Remembrance Day Assembly. He shared insights about the Last Post and Rouse, explaining their significance as essential components of military traditions, representing the conclusion of daily activities and the summons to duty. His granddaughter, April, a student at the school, proudly recited the Ode.

Additionally, a Grade 2 class read excerpts from "Lest We Forget" by Kerry Brown. The book, narrated by a five-year-old boy, begins with the line, "My granddad says there are two types of days: those you want to remember and those you want to forget." The narrative alternates between the boy's life and his grandfather's experiences during the war.



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





Home & Hospital Team

350 HAMPERS PACKED & DONATED

Busy Santa Helpers!

Our Wellbeing Home and Hospital Visitation Team packed 300-plus parcels laden with festive Christmas treats and distributed them to residents at residential aged care facilities in December 2025.

A special Christmas Hamper was also put together for the 'independent living residents' at Vasey RSL Care, filled with Ham, Crisps, Nuts, Mince Pies, Chocolate, and Shortbread. Parcels are also distributed to Vasey RSL Nursing Home for their annual Christmas party.

Three cheers to the team and the amazing work they do. Their selfless dedication to combating social isolation among veterans and their partners or widows is commendable. The team regularly visits countless residents in varying facilities, bringing a smile and much-needed social contact to the veteran community.

Where would our veterans be without the care and love this team brings them each month?

Well done H&H Team!

WELCOME POST CAFÉ LAUNCH & WEEKLY VETERAN COFFEE SESSIONS



We were delighted to announce the establishment of The Welcome Post Café in 2025, representing an expansion of our 'Creating Employment Pathways Program' in partnership with Wallara Australia Ltd., a long-time supporter of our community. This initiative, which began in early 2023, provides meaningful job opportunities for Wallara clients at the Frankston RSL, helping them enhance their workplace skills.

As we sought to further develop our open employment and disability inclusion program, we also aimed to improve our popular Wednesday and Friday veteran coffee sessions by securing a larger space at the venue and adding more staff. These veteran coffee groups, which started 16 years ago, were inspired by the vision of Committee Member and Wellbeing Advocate Tony Grice.

Many great ideas are born over a cup of coffee and a chin wag, and soon enough, our Front-of-House Team and People and Culture Manager came up with the idea of combining both initiatives into one. Both are deeply connected by a shared purpose: community, inclusion, and service - and that's how 'The Welcome Post Café' was born.



Head to CP's Restaurant & Function Space, Wednesdays & Fridays from 10am

Where once a group of 10 veterans and their partners regularly met on Wednesday mornings back in 2012, we now have 50 attendees, enjoying and thriving on the social interaction and beating any social isolation blues. The Welcome Post Café is going from strength to strength, and to date, nearly 1,800 participants have attended these marvellous Wednesday coffee sessions that are getting 'rowdier' by the week.

Equally, attendance at our Friday coffee sessions for veterans of all eras, ages, and

service types has also blossomed to 50 in attendance most weeks.

The Welcome Post Café is more than a place to enjoy a coffee. It's a living expression of what this community stands for – minimising social isolation among our veteran community, and ensuring no veteran or family member feels alone or disconnected.

Additionally it is providing job opportunities for minority groups.

Veterans turn up, not just for themselves, but for each other. The Coffee groups are a space where stories are shared, friendships are formed, and unconditional support is offered.

Read More: www.frankstonrsl.com.au/welcome-post-cafe

Welcome Post Café is a space where veterans are honoured, and individuals of all abilities are empowered and shine. It's where service continues, not in uniform, but in spirit.



Lest we forget

Volunteer for our Appeals !

The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch raised record sums during the 2025 appeals.

With the closure of Mornington RSL Sub-Branch, Frankston RSL now covers an extensive area, including Frankston, Mt Eliza, and Mornington. This means the club is on the lookout for more volunteers to cover the additional selling points. Volunteers are welcome from the entire RSL Membership base to help out: Life, Service, Affiliate, and Social Members. In addition to any members of the public who would like to help sell merchandise.

Selling booths offer pins and merchandise at 14 Retail Outlets, 56 Schools, and over 100 different types of businesses and workplaces in the area.

Badge sellers work alone or in pairs, for a 3-hour shift at the designated retail selling point of their choice: 9am-12pm, 12pm-3pm, 3pm-5.30pm.

Schools form a large part of sales, and these sales have the benefit of also educating our children on Australia's Defence Force - Army, Navy, Air Force, and the involvement of nurses during two major world wars and other extensive conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and Malaysia, together with peacekeeping assistance in many countries.

Small business operators, from cafes, cake shops, golf clubs, and bakeries, through to auto repairs, newsagencies, and sporting clubs, do a vital job helping sell badges on their premises. Frankston RSL Sub-Branch staff also get involved and volunteer their time, often seen selling merchandise at retail locations.

EFTPOS and cashless payments are important in our appeals efforts these days and represent 40% of our payments. EFTPOS machines are easy to use and come with an easy step-by-step manual.

We couldn't do what we do without our dedicated badge sellers who volunteer their time working our stalls in major retail outlets, such as Bunnings, Mornington Central, Bentons Square, Karingal Shopping Centre, and Gateway Plaza, in addition to smaller teams and often singlehanded sellers in outlets like IGA supermarkets. Thanks to the Local Air Force and Army Cadets, in addition to the Girl Guides, who regularly help.

Community Support

Words cannot express our gratitude when the community rallies behind us and volunteers. Local Business Auto Plus in Frankston sold ANZAC Day merch and also ran a raffle, that raised \$100 for the Poppy Appeal.



Community Partner Frankston District Netball Association (FDNA) regularly sells merchandise and displays information flyers at Jubilee Park Stadium, in addition to a cookie sale that always raises additional funds.

If sales aren't your forte, we'll need assistance a few months before the Appeals period begins with packing and delivering merchandise sales trays. After each Appeals cycle, we seek volunteers to help with the scheduled pick-up and return of trays from all locations and outlets.

Meet our new Appeals Officer, James Farquharson and his mate "Peggy".

James was a member of Mornington RSL Sub-Branch and is an instrumental addition to our Appeals Team. James is responsible for coordinating the Volunteers in Mornington and Mt Eliza..



How to Volunteer

Our Appeals run two weeks prior to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. There are various volunteer roles available: tray filler, site manager, badge seller, stockist, or delivery person. To volunteer, please register your interest in joining our Appeals Team, in any of the following ways:

Website: www.frankstonrsl.com.au/appeals

Contact: Appeals Coordinators

Peter: 0450 568 138 (Frankston Area)

James: 0439 431 247 (Mornington Area)

Email appeals@frankstonrsl.com.au

Thank you!

Friendly reminder! All monies raised go towards assisting veterans and their families, locally and throughout smaller RSL's in Victoria. Every \$ collected (100%) is used to assist veterans and their families in need.

Volunteers and retailers are fully insured under RSL policies.

NEW BRAND IDENTITY!

Frankston RSL was thrilled to launch and showcase a refreshed Frankston RSL Brand Design on the 1st of April 2025.

The new design features the Nautilus as the primary graphic. We are passionate about explaining why we have incorporated the Nautilus in our design, its symbolism, and metaphors, when representing the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.



Say hello to our 'new look'!

The Nautilus & Frankston RSL Logo

YOU MAY BE WONDERING 'WHY THE NAUTILUS?'

The Nautilus is a symbol of nature's grace in growth, expansion, and renewal. As the nautilus grows, it does so in direct proportion to its needs and with geometric precision. It is also a symbol of order amidst chaos, as reflected in its spiral precision.

HISTORY & TRADITION

The Nautilus is a symbol of longevity and strength because it has been around for 450 million years and can withstand very high pressures in the ocean by diving up to 800 metres before its shell will implode.

The RSL stands for tradition, history, and withstanding the test of time, of mateship - a bond that goes on forever.

MULTIFACETED

The nautilus lives in a beautiful, spiralled shell divided into increasingly larger chambers. As it grows, it moves into the next largest space in the shell and builds a wall to seal off the old chamber.

The many chambers of a Nautilus can be likened to the various pillars of our multifaceted organisation - veterans, community, membership, and entertainment. The multiple chambers also visually represent the community aspect of our organisation, and the myriad of community groups we support.

EVOLUTION & RESOURCEFULNESS

The nautilus is constantly evolving and is known to regenerate and build up to 30 different chambers during its adult life. Once it outgrows its current chamber, it seals it off and creates a bigger chamber to adapt to its growth. It is also resourceful and uses the older chambers to either fill with gas to control its buoyancy or with water to dive to the bottom of the sea.

The RSL has evolved from its founding origins and core traditions since the early 1900's. It has been resourceful and self-sufficient as a not-for-profit by adopting new business models to sustain its financial longevity for over 100 years, thereby always honouring its origins and supporting the veteran community.

SEASIDE CONNECTION

The nautilus is a cephalopod, a type of mollusc, like clams, oysters, and other shelled invertebrates that live in the sea.

The symbolism of the Nautilus in the logo also represents the Bayside locality of the venue.



Club Management Magazine

'Branding Beyond the Fit-Out'

Vol.4 No.2 / Spring 2025

Frankston RSL was profiled in a Brand feature in the September 2025 Issue of Club Management Magazine. The feature discusses the importance of branding in hospitality.

Scan the QR code to read the full story on pages 52-54 of the magazine, or read the excerpt below that explains the rationale behind Frankston RSL's new brand design, and how building renovations may change the physical appearance of a venue, but branding is what changes perceptions



Frankston RSL's rebrand came after three separate renovations of its Bistro, Café, Function Room, and Gaming Area, as well as a change in management and a business restructure.

In April 2025, the club unveiled a new logo featuring a gold-accented nautilus, symbolising its Bayside location and continuous growth. The logo is wrapped by the club's tagline, honour, service, community, with the brand pillars circling the logo in a quasi-protective shield reinforcing what we value most.

Frankston RSL's Marketing and Promotion Manager, Patricia Russo, who came up with the design and concept, explained the logo pairs perfectly with the the Club's current colour scheme and fit-out, featuring a combination of neutral tones and hues of blues.

"The old logo felt outdated by way of design and colour palette. We were looking for a new logo and brand identity that would have a long shelf life, a high brand recall, and greater top-of-mind brand awareness," she said.

Russo explains, "the previous logo was a yellow spheroid with no interesting connection to relate to our legacy or product and service offering, nor something tangible that the club could be remembered by".

"The old logo didn't have a story to tell, and wasn't supported by a rationale that could explain, 'what does your logo represent and why have you chosen that design to represent you?'" she added.

Alongside the new logo, the club refreshed its staff uniforms 12 months ago, featuring a mix of grey and charcoal shades, broken up by fine white pinstripes. Russo said the darker palette was an intentional choice, helping staff stand out against the lighter, softer tones and textures of the club's interiors. For Russo, rebranding is about more than visuals. "It's also about an internal renewed mindset that helps to reinforce a company's values and raison d'être, as much as it leads to enhanced brand recognition to drive long-term growth and business success".



"Whether you're a family-friendly sports club or delivering a premium hospitality experience, staff presentation sets the tone," Rodgers said.

Colours, cuts and finishes can mirror your club's brand colours and personality, while embroidery or accessories can create distinct points of difference between outlets and roles. When styled well, a uniform becomes a moving brand touchpoint that unifies your crew." Rodgers has worked with many clubs, including Crowville RSL, and noted that most want to look professional without slipping into corporate stiffness. She noted there's a strong demand for modern styling mixed with relaxed, smart-casual styles.

"Pieces like the Smith Oxford shirt and the Taylor suit jacket in navy are go-to choices, they're sharp yet easy to move in. Along with earth tones, clean lines and fabrics that hold up to long shifts are key," she said.

For her, the best uniforms are versatile. "Uniforms that transition from day to night, and that staff enjoy wearing, are driving preference," Rodgers said. "It's all about creating a polished, consistent look from front to back that aligns with the club's hospitality offering and enhances the guest experience from first glance."

Her advice for clubs looking to update their staff uniforms is to define the atmosphere they want to create first.

"Is it premium, relaxed, (or) coastal? Then consider practicality, fabric durability, comfort, fit for different body types and ease of laundering. An additional consideration can also be to engage team stakeholders to be part of the decision-making process. They are the ones wearing the uniforms, so including them in the uniform journey can greatly increase employee satisfaction and adoption of your new uniforms in the long-term."

Rodgers also encourages clubs to think beyond aesthetics. "How will your crew feel wearing this uniform daily?" she said. "At Cargo Crew, we help clubs map uniform choices to each role, from bar to reception to events. Brand alignment is crucial, so we also offer styling guidance and logo application to ensure the final look enhances your club's identity and performs under pressure."

Marketing the makeover

Meanwhile, CSI Club Southport has completely overhauled its marketing and brand strategy to match the completion of its \$10 million renovation at the end of last year. This included rolling out strategic campaigns across digital, print, and in-club channels, and delivering behind-the-scenes glimpses of the renovation, which helped build anticipation and excitement.

"From the outset, a clear narrative was crafted to highlight not just the physical changes, but the broader vision behind them, emphasising community, innovation, and a commitment to delivering exceptional experiences," general manager Blair Sleeman said.

The club's updated interiors, enhanced amenities, and revitalised spaces have all contributed to a brand that Sleeman describes feels more "vibrant, welcoming, and dynamic".

"Where the club was once seen as a traditional community



"Uniforms aren't just about function anymore, they're a key part of how a brand shows up."

Felicity Rodgers, Cargo Crew founder and chief creative officer



"At the end of the day, we all serve schnitzel and sell beer, but it's about the story you tell."

Bradley Bishop, Crowville RSL operations manager

venue, it now presents a fresh, contemporary image that reflects both modern aesthetics and a renewed focus on inclusivity," he said.

"This evolution has allowed the club to reposition itself as a destination for both long-standing members and new visitors and families, while still honouring its heritage."

The rebranding and marketing initiatives, according to Sleeman, have had a noticeable positive impact on foot traffic.

"Membership numbers have risen, with increased interest from both returning and new members," he said.

"Brand awareness has grown, as evidenced by higher engagement on social media, more enquiries, and greater attendance at club events."

"Community engagement has also deepened, with more local partnerships, collaborative events, and a stronger sense of belonging among members. Overall, the switch in branding and marketing has positioned the club as a forward-thinking, inclusive, and vibrant hub for the community."

The new brand has also attracted a more diverse demographic, from younger professionals and families, as well as newcomers to the area.

"This shift is a direct result of both the modernised facilities and a refreshed brand image that appeals to contemporary tastes," Sleeman said.

"To connect with this new group, branding and marketing efforts have shifted to highlight the club's versatility, social atmosphere, and family-friendly offerings. Messaging has become more inclusive, with a focus on experiences, events, and amenities that cater to a broader range of interests and lifestyles."

The story ahead

Like CSI Club Southport, Frankston RSL's rebrand followed a period of three renovations across its bistro, café, function room, and gaming areas, as well as a change in management and a business restructure.

In April, the club unveiled a new logo featuring a gold-accented nautilus, symbolising its bayside location and growth. The logo is also wrapped by the club's tagline: honour, service, community.

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VETERAN HEALTH WEEK LUNCH

An enthusiastic bunch of veterans and their loved ones attended the annual Veteran Health Week Lunch in October. The theme was 'Staying Active', and what a surprise guests received when our Wellbeing Team whipped out headphones and invited everybody to get up and 'boogie' to a silent disco! Congratulations to our star dancer, Kathleen, for her enviable dance moves on the day and relishing in her Best Dancer Award!

Our Front-of-House team was supported by clients of Wallara who also worked the service on the day, and did a smashing job. The team from Wallara works side by side with our staff on designated work days as part of our open employment and disability inclusion program.

\$10,000 DONATION!

This is one of the reasons why we do what we do at the Frankston RSL. The Club donated \$10,000 to go toward Frankston City Council's Accessible Beach Project that will ensure Frankston has "Australia's Most Accessible Beach" by summer 2025-2026.

The contribution will help deliver:

- disability car parking
- accessible bathrooms
- beach matting
- a beach wheelchair
- free, bookable, and shaded daybeds
- dedicated staff to help beachgoers in and out of the water



SENIORS GET EMAIL SAVVY!

Thanks to a government grant, the Frankston RSL was able to host a workshop on managing emails safely, which was offered to all Frankston RSL Members. Eager attendees listened to the Guest Speaker, Stef Tipping, E-Safety Commissioner, who presented online.

Our tech wizard and Wellbeing Advocate, Tony D, was on hand afterwards to help participants with questions they might have about their computers or phones.

Participants who submitted feedback at the end of the event, on the Good Things Foundation website, went into the draw to win a prize. Congratulations to Trevor on winning a \$50 Venue Voucher.

Feedback from participants:

"It was very informative, and I learnt a lot".

"This was a comfortable and relaxed environment to learn new things about using emails".

"We will come along to the next presentation".

If you would like to brush up on your digital skills, look up the government-funded website www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au and build your digital skills, confidence, and safety online with their free learning content and computer classes.



Be Connected is an Australian government initiative committed to building the confidence, digital skills and online safety of older Australians. Whether you want to pick up new skills or dive into a new topic, you can access their free learning resources online or join one of the thousands of community organisations running free computer classes across Australia.



CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2025

Volunteering transcends all borders, and volunteers come from all walks of life, but no matter their background, they all share the same traits and qualities - kindness, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to help.

If not for the dedication and countless hours devoted by our volunteers, the Frankston RSL would not be what it is today, and would struggle to do the work that it does in the areas of Veteran Wellbeing Advocacy, Home & Hospital Visitations, Mobility Aids & Furniture Program, Appeals, and the Memorabilia Collection, to name a few.

Hosting a yearly Volunteer Lunch to celebrate National Volunteer Week puts a spring in our step because we get to say thank you to some of the most amazing people we know.

Staff got to fuss over 114 special volunteers who came for lunch and who enjoyed being looked after for a change. Our MC for the event was Frankston RSL Club President Kevin Hillier OAM, and the lucky door prize winner took home a \$50 Venue Voucher and a scarf.

Volunteers make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. They commit to giving up their time, which is their most precious resource. In 2025, our volunteers travelled over 59,000 kilometres and spent over 18,000 hours assisting, visiting, and supporting our veteran community. This would be the equivalent in value of almost \$908,000.

Volunteers are not paid. , Not because they are worthless. But because they are priceless. Volunteers make the place a better world. True Kindness is helping someone without expecting anything in return.

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time —they have the heart. Elizabeth Andrew

The national week-long event recognises the vital support that millions of volunteers in our country provide their communities, and encourages people to consider volunteering. The theme this year was 'Connecting Communities', recognising the spirit of connection and the incredible power volunteers have in contributing to thriving and inclusive communities.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

ANZAC & Poppy Appeals Volunteers
Frankston RSL Committee

Women's Auxiliary
Memorabilia Team
Billiards & Snooker
Pipes & Drums
Bingo
Golf

Frankston RSL Wellbeing Team
Home & Hospital Visitation Team
Mobility Aids & Furniture Program Team
Parc Agestrong Exercise Group
Sewing Group
RSL Funeral Representatives
and general volunteers.



A day in the box !

Being a Frankston RSL member comes with some amazing perks, such as ample opportunities to enter members' only giveaways and a chance to win an annual share of \$300,000 in cash and prizes.

Five lucky Members won a 'money can't buy experience' at the MCG, and experienced the Geelong vs Essendon game on the 14th of June 2025 from the Asahi Beverages Corporate Hospitality Box.

Members received an entry ticket each time they purchased two schooners of Carlton Draught tap beer in Huey's Sports Bar, from March to June 2025. If you missed out, don't despair, as the Frankston RSL will also run this promotion and giveaway in 2026. Follow us on our socials and subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter to stay in the know.

Whilst the result of the game was very one-sided, it didn't detract from the experience, and participants were treated to some gourmet catering, in addition to the customary half-time party pies, sausage rolls, and scones. Asahi Beverages provided a great selection of drinks on the day, and they can proudly boast to be the only Corporate Box serving Carlton Draught on tap!

If you are not a member yet, sign up today and speak to our team at Reception, who can take you through all the benefits of becoming a member at the Frankston RSL, including receiving \$20 in points on your membership card and redeemable during your birthday month, as well as up to 10% off Food and Beverages and function room hire fees.



Go For Gold Promotion

The 'Go For Gold' Members Gala Night in March was a fantastic success and our winner, Jeanette took home the one ounce gold Bar worth over \$4,000. The special promotion ran in June, September, and November. Members who attended the venue and swiped their membership card during the promotion period were entered into the competition. Four winners were drawn each night and received an invitation to attend the Gala Night. Twelve members overall were drawn on the Gala Night, and one of the lucky 12 won the One Ounce Gold Bar!



When Jeanette collected her prize, a quirky story ensued. In 1986 Jeanette was crowned Clayton Sub-Branch, RSL Princess. She then attended the RSL State Pageant Ball with pageant winners from other sub-branches and remembers parading in her 80's ball gown and curtsying for the judging panel, including RSL Life Member, Sir Weary Dunlop!



In November, we hosted our Beers Vs Bucks Gala Night that marked the end of the 6-week long promotion. It was a wonderful night, and we congratulate our winner, Sally-Ann who went home 250,000 cents richer!

Members who swiped their members' card at the kiosk during the promotion period (22nd October - 2nd November) and between 8pm-10pm, were automatically entered into the draw. Every night, four winners were randomly drawn, and each received an invitation to attend the Gala Night for a chance of winning the Major Prize. Twelve members in total received an invite.



The winner could choose from winning 250,000 cents or 1,000 beers! The remaining 11 didn't leave empty handed and each received \$50 worth of RSL Rewards points.

Follow us on our socials or subscribe to our e-newsletter to hear about our promotions. Every year, Frankston RSL gives away \$300K in prizes.





BEST BISTRO/RESTAURANT AWARD 2024-25

COMMUNITY CLUBS VICTORIA STATE AWARDS



CCV AWARDS 2024-2025



Frankston RSL was recognised as one of Victoria’s top-performing venues, taking home the coveted Best Metro Club Bistro-Restaurant award at the 2025 Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) Awards Night, held on Saturday, 05 July.

The prestigious event, which honours excellence across more than 1,000 licensed clubs throughout Victoria, awarded our venue the accolade for our standout achievement in the hospitality industry.

This award is a testament to the invaluable dedication and hard work of all our staff and this accomplishment would not have been possible without their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment. Staff are known for their professionalism, and personalised attention—welcoming guests by name and ensuring every visit feels special.

The Front-of-House Team delivers a friendly and community-focused dining experience while the Back-of-House Team offers guests a diverse menu with locally sourced ingredients crafted by our Executive Chef Dean Webster and his Team.

Diners regularly enjoy seasonal specials and a monthly food and wine pairing special, as well as signature favourites like Chili Squid Stir Fry, premium steaks, house-made desserts, and the popular Wednesday ‘Parma Night’

Last but not least, thank you to our members and guests, for their continued patronage and support.



Nominated as finalist in two categories
- Community Collaboration Award
- Metro Best Club Bistro - Restaurant

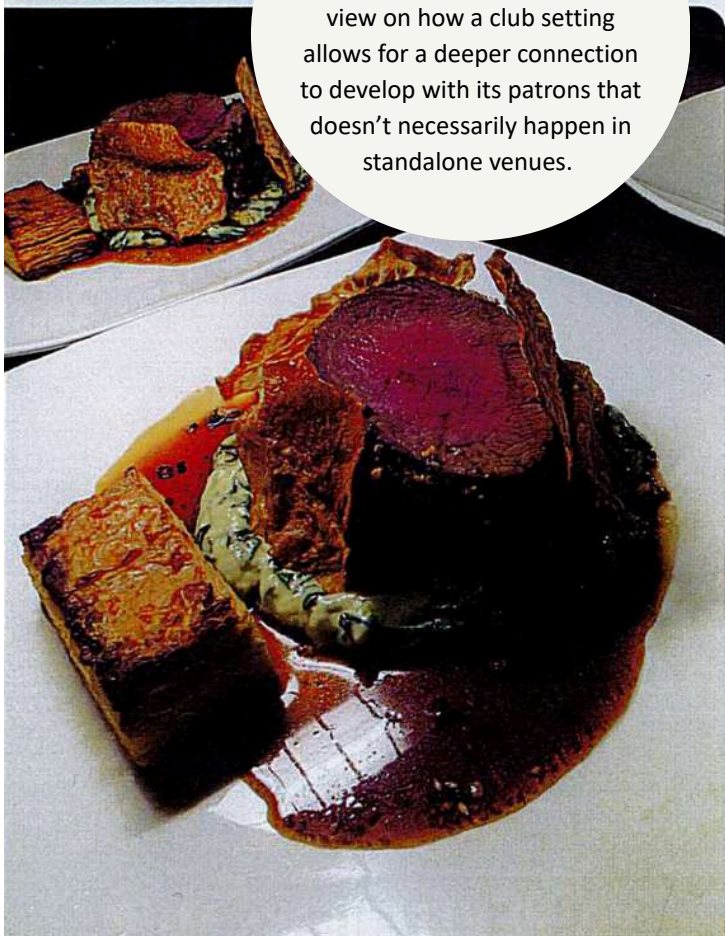


“This award is a celebration of our teams’ unwavering efforts to consistently provide our members and guests, culinary innovation and service excellence within our dining experience.” Brett Rowlands, General Manager



F&B / Chef Profile

Read about Dean's career progression and philosophy in the kitchen, in addition to his view on how a club setting allows for a deeper connection to develop with its patrons that doesn't necessarily happen in standalone venues.



Frankston RSL Executive Chef Dean Webster featured in the September Issue of the industry magazine "Club Management", right off the bat from Frankston RSL Bistro being crowned this year's 'Best Community Clubs Victoria Metro Club Bistro/Restaurant.



Bold ambitions

With nearly three decades of experience in the kitchen, Frankston RSL's executive chef Dean Webster is still chasing new flavours and fresh ideas.

WHEN FRANKSTON RSL was crowned Best Metro Club Bistro/Restaurant at this year's Community Clubs Victoria Awards (read more about it on page 94), it marked a major milestone for executive chef Dean Webster and his team.

"It was a huge honour," he said. "To be awarded Metro Club Bistro/Restaurant is an amazing achievement and great recognition of the work that has been put in over a long period of time with both the back-of-house and front-of-house teams."

Webster's path to executive chef at one of Victoria's largest RSLs began nearly three decades ago in Sydney, sparked by a household love for food.

"I always had an interest in cooking while growing up, as both my parents shared the cooking. Dad was the 'wannabe' chef and that triggered my appetite for exploring cooking."

That early interest evolved into a career when he began his apprenticeship, working across fine dining, function venues, clubs and restaurants. He earned his Certificate III in Commercial Cookery in 2000 and followed it with a Certificate IV in 2010. But for Webster, learning didn't stop in the classroom.

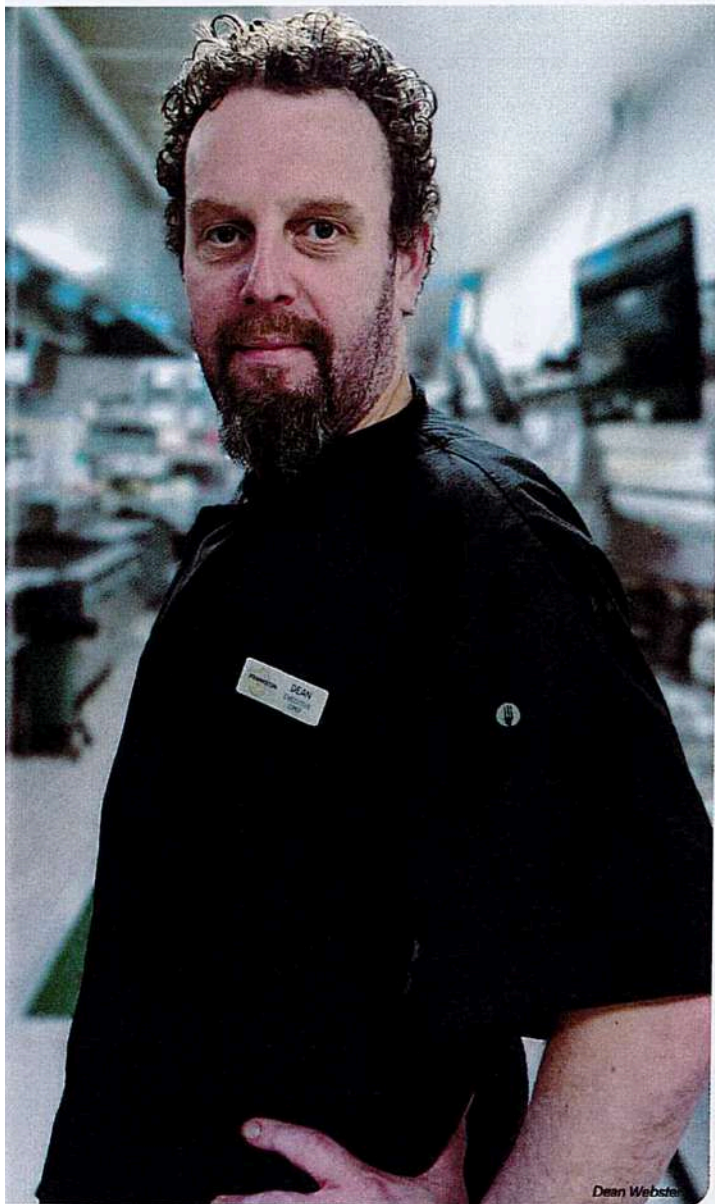
"Cooking is something that's intuitive and you develop a passion for. Sometimes the best 'cooking school' is daring to push boundaries and experimenting; you nail it most of the time, but it's also important to have misses, as this only spurs you on to get it right and create something you are truly proud to serve."

A pivotal influence during Webster's early career was executive chef Paul Hamilton, who he worked with at Revesby Workers' Club in Sydney.

"Paul taught me so many valuable lessons in my younger days and always believed in what I could achieve," he said.

"He moved on to greater things, including group executive chef of a company that owns multiple restaurants and cafes – so he still is a great inspiration for me."

Webster's career gained new momentum when he relocated from Sydney to Melbourne. There, he continued to hone his skills across different kitchens before landing his first head chef role at Ringwood RSL, where he remained for 10 years. After a decade, Webster took the leap to Frankston RSL, a move driven by a desire to take on a larger challenge.



“Clubs give you greater connection with your customers ... you get to know them as people.”



“I knew it would be a big challenge but one I felt ready for. Every day I look forward to continuing to drive the Frankston RSL and my team onto bigger and better things by producing quality food and putting my stamp on the business with new and exciting seasonal menus.”

Philosophy on a plate

Webster describes his food philosophy as a mix of innovation and responsiveness, balancing modern trends with the comfort classics that club diners still crave.

“Old favourites are a must on a bistro menu, as are dishes currently trending. You need to appeal to a wide gamut of diners in a club setting.”

When asked what dishes he's most proud of, Webster's passion is clear.

“I am proud of all the dishes that I create. When I set out on updating a seasonal menu, I keep in mind not only to make the menu innovative, but at the back of my mind is the thought of consistently achieving customer satisfaction and keeping them coming back to an eatery that's high on their list of dining out options,” he said.

“I love cooking Italian food, as I did a large part of my apprenticeship in an Italian restaurant, but I also love cooking

Middle Eastern food as you can get some beautiful intense flavours from all the spices. Personally, I could eat spicy food all day every day – the hotter the better!”

Club connection

For Webster, working in a club setting offers something different from standalone venues.

“Working in clubs give you greater connection with your customers, as a lot of them are club members and are at the venue quite often, so you get to know them as people, which is something not always possible working in other food establishments.”

As dining expectations continue to shift and club menus evolve, Webster sees opportunity, not pressure.

“People expect more. As diners become more open-minded and knowledgeable about food, their expectations grow higher in terms of quality and variety.”

Looking ahead, Webster is keen to explore more global flavours and bring fresh ideas to the bistro menu.

“Global street food is a big trend these days,” he says. “Working with these ideas, and implementing them into our menu, is an exciting possibility which will offer something new to our bistro offering.” **CM**



"I flew with him. I was like the ocean in his words. He was a youngster wanting to fly and he didn't always abide by the rules and regulations, but, that's what I liked about him."

In an era that is moving faster than what seems to be the speed of light, and that has lost the appreciation of beautifully penned letters – the good old fashioned kind where we put ink to paper, and the keeping of hard copy diaries, we thankfully have a busy team of octogenarians and nonagenarian transcribers in our midst who fervently interpret and transcribe documents written in cursive, to a digital format, and thereby safeguarding our past, as our computer-reared generations fail miserably at the task! Never having turned on a computer in her life, and despite self-doubt creeping in, Ethne progressed in leaps and bounds and mastered her new DELL computer in no time - and has learned to work off two screens at that! Having easily demonstrated her aptitude with the AWM Research Team, the projects just kept coming in. Her 'maiden voyage' began with transcribing the manifests of all ships that came and went from Japan after WWII, as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) that included transcribing soldiers' boarding cards of their embarkation and disembarkation on a spreadsheet. She proudly 'boasts' that she picked up an unexplained irregularity in the boarding records, "I got a soldier on a ship, but he never got off it". Ethne deduces that a love story must have been involved in the mystery, rather than the possibility that he may have 'unexpectedly' left the service.

A modern day transcriber, preserving the past.

Sharp as a tack and quick as a whip, this unassuming and soon to be 93-year-old grandmother has been on TV and in newspapers. Ethne Rodgers is ferociously passionate, sentimental, and as dedicated as they come when preserving the memories, dreams, and loves of the young men and women who dutifully served their country. She's also a Frankston RSL member and one of the Australian War Memorial's (AWM) most trusted and respected volunteer transcribers.

So, how did the South Australian born ex-nurse and ex-Army Corporal of the Defence Signals Branch of the Women's Army Corps (WRAAC) 1952, who also worked on complex intelligence projects, encrypting and decrypting messages during the Korean war in 1954 as a civilian and for the British government, become an indispensable modern-day transcriber for the AWM in Canberra?

The new 'career' path began in 2021, when COVID-19 hit us like a meteorite and, unimaginably, created an abundance of time for us all during lockdown. Sitting around idly was not something Ethne was accustomed to, nor an idea she entertained. Having recently downsized from the family home in Mt Eliza - her 'cottage' as she calls it, to a much smaller three-bedroom unit in Mornington - her 'new cottage', Ethne found herself twiddling her thumbs once the unpacking and decorating were done.

It's thanks to her youngest son – John, who works in IT at the AWM, who affectionately said to her, "You are going to drive us all mad if you don't do something. Why don't you speak to the Research Centre at the AWM to see if you can volunteer and help with transcribing handwritten documents into digital format?". She responded with, "What's a transcriber?" One thing led to another, and so began Ethne's new purpose in life, which included learning how to use a computer at the age of 87!

What makes Ethne so apt as a transcriber, apart from an uncanny ability to read everybody's handwriting, is her ability to form a bond with her 'subjects', albeit on paper. This skill helps her get to know them on a deeper level, and this *quasi* embodiment gives her an extra edge and assistance when she's not able to decipher the writings.

She affectionately calls her subjects by their first name, often talks about them in the present tense, and tells their stories like they are family. Skilled at interpreting people's emotions, aspirations, and personalities through words, written in the millions of pages of wartime documents - including love letters, diaries, and postcards- she has become a valued transcriber of documents and records written in cursive, which the AWM museum has been digitising and making available online for the past 20 years. However, the scanned letters and diaries are written in 'longhand', as well as sometimes hastily written on the frontline, and by people of varying educational backgrounds and writing skills. The issue is, therefore, the handwriting, and this is where Ethne's knack for understanding cursive writing comes in very handy, having learned to write in cursive at school. She doesn't flinch at the sight of pages and pages of 'calligraphy' like writing, and is astonished at times how she can easily interpret everyone's terrible handwriting



One of her most memorable transcribing jobs was working on the diaries and letters of the renowned Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel, an Australian Army nurse and heroine, who had 'terrible handwriting'. It was Ethne that deciphered all the letters that Bullwinkel and her mother wrote to each other during the three years when she was a prisoner of war in Japan. Once back home, Bullwinkel compiled all the letters and donated them to the AWM Archives herself in the year 2000. Ethne amazes herself at being able to decipher Bullwinkel's almost illegible handwriting and considers this project her 'best work' yet. "I was engrossed in her notes and the story she was telling, ... just so brave, she is a survivor of the sinking of the SS Vyner Brooke and the only nurse to survive the Bangka Island Massacre, where 21 other nurses and a large group of men, women, and children who had made it ashore at Radji Beach on Banka Island were killed by the Japanese. They were all shot, but Vivian pretended to be dead until the Japanese soldiers left, and she managed to escape with a fellow soldier, the only other survivor of the massacre. They spent 12 days hiding until they were captured by the Japanese. Vivian became a prisoner of war for the next 3 ½ years.

Ethne works for about two hours a day, usually between 6.00 pm and 8.30 pm, doing her best work in the evenings. She works on two screens, with the original AWM scanned pages on the left, and a Word document on the screen to her right, where she transcribes the content that is later proofread before being published.

When asked how many transcription projects she's worked on in the four years she's been transcribing, she pauses and does a quick mental calculation, responding that it's at least 19 projects, but hastens to add that some projects include multiple volumes, and cover potentially 40 subjects. With immaculate handwriting herself, she keeps a simple log of her 'jobs' in a standard A4 exercise book and no 'liquid paper' in sight or crossings out! While showing us her notes, she digresses into anecdotes and stories about her subjects, and it's clear that some of them have made a significant impact on her.

Another of her favourite 'subjects' is 'Garth Clabburn', a debonair-looking 25-year-old pilot who was posted to North Africa during WWII. She spent three months transcribing his diaries. Through the transcripts, she also learned that it was hard to enter the Air Force, and Garth sat the mathematics exam three times before passing and getting in! She instantly gravitated to Clabburn for his defiance and free spirit. As she read through his diaries, she learned that he had to deliver an aircraft to another base.

"He was feeling down in the dumps because one of his friends had just died, and in his defiance, he decides that instead of flying directly there, he would fly over the pyramids. He described this amazing feeling of freedom in his diaries, of being up in the skies, and then *wooshing* down through the pyramids." It's thanks to this diary that we get to know Garth's personality and discover that he was a risk-taker.

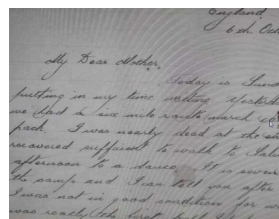
"He was supposed to do something, but he decided, while he had the opportunity, to forget about the war and veer off course to do something that gave him so much pleasure. While transcribing his story, I flew with him. I was like the ocean in his words. He was a youngster wanting to fly, and he didn't always abide by the rules, but that's what I liked about him. He said to himself, I'm here, I'm going to fly regardless of the consequences".

As Ethne retells this story, she stares dreamily ahead, flying with him in her thoughts.



"He drives through mine fields, and bargains with the 'Bedouins'. He eats bags of biscuits and pickles and sardines and tomato juice. ... In May 1942, he is shot down by three enemy aircraft and crash lands in the desert. He tricks the enemy pilots by taking off his overalls, laying them on the sand nearby and hiding under his aircraft. ... When night came, he emerged and began walking through the desert before meeting Allied troops, who helped him return to his squadron". *

Through the power of these scribes, we are fortunate to have these insights that feed into our imagination and allow us to visualise what life was like during WWII.



No sooner does she finish describing Garth, she excitedly retells the story of John Dodds, a World War II radio operator during, in the four-engine bomber planes, the Lancasters, and a fervent diary writer, which provides insight into his operational life and the challenges he faced.

“He’d make punchy diary entries with so much enthusiasm and dedication, and when he’d complete his mission, he would loyally make a diary entry retelling his adventures on where he’d been and what he’d done. He’d write about the crew and how much he liked them, or that they’d have to sneak back to England via Holland because there were too many German fighter planes in the area. His writing was so vivid, and it felt like I was with him on his adventures in the sky, as if he was telling the story just to me. When John was not on the radio, he had a secondary role as a gunner, and he’d describe putting on the white suit to *man* the ‘dome’ – that’s where the gunner would position himself to accurately help guide the aircraft as to where to drop bombs”, she says.

Ethne remembers typing away each of his diary entries with so much gusto, until she got to an unusually short entry that said, “haven’t got time, have to go on an emergency mission, taking the place of a sick crew member, I’ll finish this entry when I get back”. But after that, there were no more entries. He never made it back from the mission and went down over Germany. It was well known that there was only a 50% survival rate flying the Lancasters, and Dodds was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his skill and dedication in the face of danger.

It was hard, and it broke her heart, she says, to be the last person to read his final words and to transcribe them for future generations to read. This is the hard part of being a transcriber, and she almost gave up transcribing after this project. “You become part of their lives, through the good and the bad. It can be emotionally draining and sad”, she adds, “but it is a privilege to have finalised the words for him”.

After training in Australia as a nurse in 1949-1950, the Korean War soon followed, and so did the enlistments. She volunteered to do nursing in the army and finish her training, but it was during her interview that an all-male panel asked her to change her mind and join the Signals Division of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC), which she did in 1952, and then went on to do more complex intelligence projects with the British Government and as a civilian until 1954. In 1955, she met her ‘dashing’ husband and lifelong partner, Noel William Rodgers, who was also a serviceman. Her heart flutters as she remembers their meeting at a Military Tattoo concert at Flemington Racecourse, Melbourne. While on duty, she attended the event with her friends and saw a ‘bunch of soldiers performing tank demonstration and ‘Evil Kinevil’ type motorbike stunts through rings of fire - none of them in protective clothing but rather just wearing flimsy white overalls and tennis shoes! She thought, ‘What the hell are they doing? They were introduced, and soon enough, she’d fallen under the spell of her serviceman and ‘quasi stuntman’, and married that year. Once the children came, she left the Army, and they bought their first home in Cheltenham, where they brought up their three children. It’s what you did back then. You gave jobs to those who needed them most. It was hard times. Noel had a meager pay, and they needed to be frugal. They grew their own vegetables, she cooked, cleaned, mended, and fixed things herself.

Her husband stayed on in the army and was initially based at Maralinga South Australia. Nuclear tests were conducted in Maralinga by the UK between 1956 and 1963, and involved seven atomic bomb detonations. Those tests and the radiation poisoning ultimately caught up with his health. He retired at 65, rising to Officer Commanding (OC), after a lifelong career in service, at various postings, including Rockbank in Mentone and Victoria Barracks.

While transcribing, she delves into their stories through their words, emotions, and feelings, and then the story comes alive. She says she’s proud of the work she does, but doesn’t want to be in the limelight, nor detract any attention from ‘them’ – her subjects. She says, “it’s about ‘them’ and what they did, and not about me, ... we are just bringing them back”.

She’s very grateful to the families who have donated these documents and signed over the writings of their loved ones to the AWM so that we can all continue to enjoy reading their stories. She’s honoured and humbled to be working as a Transcriber, and is amazed her kids are so proud of her, adding that she doesn’t understand all the fuss that’s made when people find out what she does.

Ethne acknowledges that most people in her shoes are enjoying retirement and not transcribing 100-year-old documents most evenings. The pull of knowing how ‘meaningful’ her work is - to the families, to future generations, to all the AWM transcribers and researchers, to her, and to the young men and women who gave up so much, far outweighs any plans to give up transcribing anytime soon!



If you are interested in transcribing documents at the AWM, please visit the AWM website for further information: www.transcribe.awm.gov.au

Sources: Interview with Ethne Rodgers. *Good Weekend Feature, Lives on the line’ The Age, by Tim Elliott. Documents and photographs from AWM Archives.



VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

18TH AUGUST 2025

The Frankston District Vietnam Veterans' Association (VVA) held a Commemorative Service on Sunday the 17th of August 2025 at the Frankston RSL - commemorating those who lost their lives during the Vietnam War conflict as well as the service personnel who have since died. There were over 100 guests in attendance.

Guest speaker on the day was Mr. Brendan Kinkade OAM, and current Vice President of the Victorian Branch, Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia since 2017.

Brendan spoke about his military service from enlisting at 20, and serving the compulsory 2-year National service from 1967-1969 in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, 1st Australian Reinforcement Unit, 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, and the 9th Battalion during the Vietnam War Conflict.

He has received the Order of Australia Medal for service to veterans and their families and is also on the Member Advisory Commemorations Committee, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, 2015-2016. Additionally, he has been actively involved in Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise, and has been a volunteer Pensions Officer, at Noble Park RSL 1998-2008.

In attendance was Frankston City Council Mayor Cr Kris Bolam, and Paul Edbrooke MP State Member for Frankston, in addition to Pastor Janette Bolland for giving the service, and Frankston VVA President Cheryl Myers as MC on the day. As customary, Army and Air Force Cadets provided the Catafalque Party, and helped with wreath laying and flag raising duties on the day. We thank them for their loyal and continued support.



Members of the Frankston VVA also attended the official Veterans' Day Commemorative Service at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, where State VVA President, Mr Bob Elworthy AM highlighted in his address the 50th Anniversary of one of the key actions from the Vietnam War Conflict and spoke about Operation Babylift.



Vietnam Veterans Museum

In late November, the Wellbeing Team and 39 Veterans and their partners enjoyed a day out to explore the National Vietnam Veteran Museum in Phillip Island, followed by lunch at Phillip Island RSL.

The Frankston RSL Team regularly organises day trips and excursions as part of the Social Connections Program, designed to eradicate social isolation and get veterans active and out and about in an inclusive and friendly environment.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

INVESTING IN PEOPLE PROGRAMS

In 2025, Frankston RSL Sub-Branch began the journey of empowering our leadership team by enlisting the expertise of Business & Leadership Coach and Facilitator, Jackie Booth, to facilitate the "Ignite Leadership Program". Jackie has 20+ years of experience across all facets of the hospitality industry.

The Ignite Leadership Program is a 6-month "professional development journey to awareness, clarity, and confidence in leadership."

"The training program provides staff the opportunity to develop within their leadership roles, and most importantly within themselves, by offering an engaging, informative, energising, and transformational journey to unlock their full potential, and build the skills needed to effectively lead high performing teams."

Jackie Booth, Business & Leadership Coach

Leadership
Coach & Facilitator



Safety within the workplace

2025 continued to highlight the importance of safety within the workplace and broader community, and Frankston RSL Sub-Branch committed and invested in the personal and professional development of staff across essential training in the areas of:

- First Aid & CPR training
- Fire Warden & Extinguisher training
- Leadership training
- Mental Health First Aid training

Our First Aid, CPR, and Fire Warden & Extinguisher training is facilitated by Adam Holt, Essentials Training Manager at Commercial Fire Group.

Adam comes with 20+ years of experience as an active CFA firefighter and assists the sub-branch in all areas of Emergency Management, including safety, evacuation planning, drills, and specialist training.

The Commercial Fire Group customises all training programs to address venue-specific risks and equips staff with the necessary skills to respond promptly and effectively to on-site emergencies.

The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch currently has 25 Fire Wardens, who are capable of safely handling a fire extinguisher, proceeding with safe and effective evacuations, and acknowledging and responding to potential threats across the venue. The venue also currently has a fully trained Chief Warden and Deputy Chief Warden, as well as Area Fire Wardens.



FIRST AID TRAINING

Frankston RSL Sub-Branch has 30 staff trained in administering First Aid and CPR, with 10 acknowledged as first responders.

MENTAL HEALTH - FIRST AID TRAINING



'listen, connect, and offer support when it matters most.'

The venue has 20 Accredited Mental Health First Aid Officers (MHFA's) including some of our cherished volunteers who have undertaken training. Our Mental Health Training Program equips MHFA's with the skills to confidently listen, connect, and offer support to those experiencing mental health problems, as well as provide initial support until professional help is received, or the crisis is resolved.



Our MHFA officers are trained and accredited through Mental Health First Aid Australia, additionally we continue to network with Black Dog Institute.



2025 LONG SERVICE AWARDS



Jarrod Broben
10 years



Stellar Raymond
5 years



Sharon Crockett
5 years



Janet Kerry
10 years



Sue Boulton
5 years

Congratulations to our staff for clinching their Long Service Awards! 35 years combined!

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated workforce comprising 105 amazing individuals at the Club. It's onwards and upwards for 2026!
GM, Brett Rowlands

IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING DEDICATION & LONG-STANDING SERVICE, COMMITMENT, AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE FRANKSTON RSL.

Creating Employment Pathways



In 2025, we continued the expansion of our 'Creating Employment Pathways Program' for clients of our long-time community support partner, Wallara Australia Ltd.

The program began in early 2023 and offers clients of Wallara meaningful employment at the Frankston RSL, in addition to expanding their workplace skills.

While the club was exploring ways to expand on the open employment and disability inclusion program, we were also looking for ways to improve and support our ever-growing Wednesday and Friday veteran coffee sessions with additional staff.

The team works bi-weekly at the veteran coffee sessions, held at the Welcome Post Cafe in CP's Function Space. The team also supports our Front-of-House Team during wellbeing functions such as Veteran Health Week Lunch and the Affiliated Wellbeing Group's Christmas Lunch.

Read more on The Welcome Post Cafe on page 49.



At Frankston RSL, we are always on the lookout for superstars to join our team. As people come and go through the natural ebb and flow of life, we welcome open applications and expressions of interest for employment at any time of the year. This ensures we always attract great talent and enthusiastic individuals. We are proud to invest in our people, culture, and to prioritise our investment in the professional development of our staff.

BE PART OF OUR FAMILY!

CAN WE INSPIRE YOU?

AS ONE OF THE LEADING RSL CLUBS IN VICTORIA WE HAVE 125 STAFF AND OVER 14,000 MEMBERS - OF WHICH 4,000 ARE SERVICE AND AFFILIATE MEMBERS. THE VENUE WAS NEWLY RENOVATED IN 2020, AND OFFERS 3,000M² OF SPACE, 500 SPACE CAR PARK, 2 RESTAURANTS AND 3 CHILDREN PLAY AREAS, AS WELL AS A CAFÉ, A SPORTS BAR WITH A 6M SCREEN, ALFRESCO DINING, KENO, TAB FACILITIES, & A 350M² FUNCTION ROOM WITH 250 SEAT CAPACITY.

AWARDS

THE FRANKSTON RSL WAS AWARDED BY COMMUNITY CLUBS VICTORIA, AND SELECTED FROM OVER 1,000 CLUBS IN METRO & REGIONAL MELBOURNE
BEST METRO BISTRO/RESTAURANT 2024 -2025
BEST METRO MENTAL & SOCIAL WELLBEING 2023 -2024
BEST COMMUNITY CLUB OF THE YEAR 2022-23

EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR GREAT TALENT. WE OFFER AN INCLUSIVE & TEAM ORIENTATED WORK ENVIRONMENT WITH A FOCUS ON WORK LIFE BALANCE. SEND YOUR RESUME TODAY!

JOB ADS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.FRANKSTONRSL.COM.AU/JOBS



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Knowledge Is King! Staff Learning Academy

In a swiftly transforming landscape where industries evolve, technologies progress, and cultures blend, one fundamental truth remains: knowledge is paramount.

Our "Staff Learning Academy" is committed to the continuous professional growth and on-the-job training of our team members. This initiative aims to equip our staff with essential product knowledge, thereby enabling them to serve our patrons more effectively.

This approach transcends one-time training sessions; it provides our staff with a platform for ongoing skill enhancement, knowledge exchange, and cross-functional learning through continuous up-skilling, knowledge sharing, and cross-functional learning. These opportunities are facilitated via workshops, mentoring, and both in-house and off-site product training experiences.



GABS Craft Beer Festival
Staff from various departments attended the GABS Craft Beer Festival (Great Australasian Beer SpectAPular) in search of new craft beer offerings to offer at the venue. Staff got to taste test limited-edition craft beverages and make selections for a new craft beers coming in 2026 in our Sports Bar.



Nelson Wine Co. Tasting
The best school in life is to experience it first hand! That's exactly what our team did at Nelson Wine Co. when they went in search of a next sparkling wine to add to our drinks offering.



Never Never Gin Tasting
Thanks to Never Never Gin Distillery for our recent in-house Tasting Session that demonstrated the evolution of gin and the current trend of enhancing the spirit through the addition of botanicals, citrus fruits, juniper, and oyster shell!



Kiandra, Brand Ambassador Never Never Gin provided the most insightful look into forward thinking distillery with new age distillation methods and flavours.



All abilities café - Amstel club
Collaborative ideas are often the best ideas. Front-of-House Supervisors and People and Culture Manager visited "Everyone Café" at Amstel Club, to gain insights and ideas on making our in venue Café more inclusive for staff of all abilities.



Campari Academy
Hard at work or hardly working? Our Bar Team experienced some hands-on Aperol Spritz in-house training with our friends from Campari Academy. How else can you aptly upsell an Aperol Spritz?

Coinciding perfectly with our Aperol Spritz \$15 Happy Hour. Saturdays and Sundays in Huey's Sports Bar 2pm-4pm.



Hospitality Training Restaurant
FOH Team Members visited the Holmesglen Glen Waverley Training Restaurant - Zest, to observe and pick up pointers from a patrons' perspective with a view to enhancing our service level, as well as picking up plating ideas for our special events, functions, and our ever popular Mother's Day High Tea sessions. The training restaurant is an opportunity for apprentices to practice their knowledge and skill set, or for FOH and BOH staff to up their game and inject new ideas at the venue.



Beverage Trends Day
Staff from different areas of the venue attended a Beverage Trends Day at Box Hill RSL, and explored the latest insights shaping the future of hospitality beverages. The course was centred on discovering the latest insights shaping the future of the hospitality beverage industry. It was an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge across categories, including soft drinks, beer, wine, and spirits, while networking with industry peers.



Service Excellence & Making Careers!



A round of applause for Ally Gorin, who completed her apprenticeship! This bubbly junior chef was still trying to work out what she wanted to be when she joined the Frankston RSL in May 2021. Within 12 months and working with the Back-of-House Team, Ally's passion for cooking grew exponentially, and she decided to undertake an apprenticeship through Holmesglen College. Throughout the four years of on-the-job training, she was supported by her Chef Instructor Cosimo Biviano - affectionately known as 'Cosi', who also happens to be a chef at the venue. Ally holds Cosi in high regard and says, "He is patient and calm and knows how to get me to relax so I can learn the skills he is teaching. I have learned so much from him". Fast forward to October 2025, Ally has completed her studies and is now a qualified chef! "I love the fast pace and hecticness of the RSL. Everyone works well as a team. It has been great for me to be able to learn in a venue where we have a varied and quality menu. We have functions, we have events, and we have great leaders who are happy to share their knowledge and teach. It's just a great environment," says Ally. Her next goal is to join the Army as a chef. "Working here I've learnt a lot about the Service, and it's now my next career goal". Congratulations, Ally, on completing your apprenticeship at the Frankston RSL. We wish you every success in the future!

On the job training

Kill two birds with one stone they say! Meet Cosi, our workplace training manager from Holmesglen Tafe, who has been training our apprentices for 11 years now, as well as working as a chef with us on a casual basis for the same amount of time! Cosi conducts workplace training in our kitchens for up to four hours once a month with our apprentices who range from 1st year to 3rd year students.

Training is part of an apprentice's practical and theory assessment that tests their skills and competencies to achieve their Cert III in commercial cookery. The apprentices are also trained on specialised cooking techniques such as smoking food, sous vide, dessert making and pastry baking - as part of their 25 units of study over three years.



Meet Mata

Where Front-of-House & Back-of-House Converge
Managing a team of 29 is no small feat, but our Front-of-House (FOH) Manager takes it in her stride and makes it look effortless - it's not! Mata puts in 100% effort into her role, to ensure everything runs smoothly. She did have big boots to fill after all, taking over from Wendy in October 2024, who had previously been in the role for 18 years! Since her promotion, Mata has gone from strength to strength with innovative ideas, as well as implementing new team-building initiatives and driving service improvement strategies. Her journey at the Frankston RSL began in 2007 within the Back-of-House Team as a kitchen hand, and she steadily learnt the ropes and moved to the FOH team as a casual, then to Bistro Supervisor, Bistro Manager, and now FOH Manager.



Investing in our staff is one of our 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 give our staff every opportunity to succeed.

One of Mata's most recent ideas that she's successfully brought to fruition (and they are in abundance) is the monthly 'Food & Beverage Pairing Special'. Each month, a member of the FOH and BOH Teams is matched up to craft a Bistro special.

The initiative was set up to bridge the gap between FOH and BOH Teams that commonly occurs in hospitality venues. "By teaming them up, it strengthens communication, gives each team greater appreciation of what each department does, and provides a creative outlet from their regular daily duties", says Mata. "The Teams have done an outstanding job this year in thinking up new pairings each month, and have really gotten behind the collaborative project. The objective is about celebrating collaboration and strengthening communication. The pairings have brought fresh ideas to the table and created memorable experiences for our guests, which is a testament to the dedication and passion of our staff and showcases the talent within our venue. Above all else, it provides our Bistro clientele, and particularly our regulars, with a fresh alternative to enjoy throughout the month," says Mata.

Mata says, "Working at the Frankston RSL has allowed me to be part of a community, and serve those who served us. Being a team leader and manager, I have learnt that communication is about being adaptive in how I communicate, ensuring the message is received, understood and adopted."

November 2025
Pairing Special: 'Elotes' char-grilled Mexican street corn with Chipotle mayonnaise and chili lime seasoning, coated in Mexican cheese, paired with a Passionfruit Margarita.



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!

2025 QUARTERLY AWARDS - QUARTER 3

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
JUL-AUG-SEPT 2025



Congratulations
Nicole

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

OVERALL QUARTER 3 WINNER

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
JUL-AUG-SEPT 2025



Congratulations
Nick

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
JUL-AUG-SEPT 2025



Congratulations
Ray

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
JUL-AUG-SEPT 2025



Congratulations
Stellar

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

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!

2025 QUARTERLY AWARDS - QUARTER 4

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
OCT-NOV-DEC 2025



*Congratulations
Liz*

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
OCT-NOV-DEC 2025



*Congratulations
Joanne*

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

OVERALL QUARTER 4 WINNER

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
OCT-NOV-DEC 2025



*Congratulations
Laney*

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT

QUARTERLY WINNER
STAFF AWARDS
ABOVE & BEYOND
OCT-NOV-DEC 2025



*Congratulations
Anthony*

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT,
YOU CAN DO IT



Wellbeing Support & Advocacy

January - December 2025 WELFARE at a GLANCE

WELLBEING CASES: number of cases	88
PASTORAL CARE: number of cases	436
DECEASED SERVICE MEMBERS FRSL	59
RSL FUNERAL REPRESENTATION Required for Service Members	12
WEDNESDAY COFFEE GROUP: FRIDAY COFFEE GROUP: cost of catering & coffees	\$21,814 \$17,690
WEDNESDAY GROUP PARTICIPANTS: FRIDAY COFFEE GROUP PARTICIPANTS	1732 1404
HELLO PROGRAM PHONE-CALLS: Volunteer & Staff Hours	411 74
HOME & HOSPITAL TEAM: Monthly Visitation Hours	631
HOME & HOSPITAL TEAM: number of visits to individual residents	1061
MONTHLY LUNCHESES: Residential Aged Care Facilities: #lunches Facilities Attended	1354 136
MONTHLY LUNCHESES - Residential Aged Care Facilities: Cost	\$33,033
LAWNS: number of lawns mowed Home Maintenance - Lawns Cost	383 \$25,846
MOBILITY AIDS PROGRAM: value of goods re-distributed # of veterans and their families assisted	\$22,795 42
PARC EXERCISE GROUP PARTICIPANTS: Tuesday Session Friday Session	628 558
WELLBEING: SMALL BUS-TRIPS: number of people assisted number of trips	323 39
WELLBEING CAR: number of Client Visits and Transport:	115
WELLBEING CAR: errands, Client Visits and Transport KM's:	3662
WELLBEING SUPPORT OFFICERS: # inducted / retired	8/7

Speak to our Wellbeing Coordinator if you are a veteran or family member requiring support or assistance, or wanting to chat about upcoming social and wellbeing activities, or keen on trying your hand at volunteering.

Make an appointment today!

Monday to Friday, 9am to 4:30pm.

Email: wellbeingteam@frankstonrsl.com.au

Phone: 0492 820 743

Support & Assistance for Veterans and Dependants

In 2025, the team provided assistance and support to 329 veterans and their families.

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 meaningful Funeral Ritual for veterans.

Wellbeing Social Connection Activities

In 2025, there were a total of 4,385 attendances by veterans and their families across 172 activities, coffee mornings, lunches, bus-trips and outings, and information sessions. Participants ranged in age from 6 months old to 101!

A coach full of participants was whisked off to the Melbourne Skydeck, Melbourne Flower Show, Werribee Zoo, Pentridge Prison, Fox Classic Car Collection, Art Vo, and the National Vietnam Veterans Museum. We also had small bus-trips to see Torvill & Dean, Beleura Mansion and Gardens, and Soundwaves Concerts at HMAS Cerberus.

We held digital skills sessions, where participants could learn how to use their smartphones and devices, and we joined the BeConnected program. We were also lucky enough to have Peninsula Community Legal Centre provide free outreach legal appointments in December.

2025 saw the return of our Saturday Veterans & Families Lunches, with 73 veterans and their families attending four lunches across the year. We also extended invitations to the Cerberus Community Hub to join us for complimentary family-friendly events and lunches across 2025.

Hello Program

In 2025, the Wellbeing Team and our awesome volunteer, Richard, made 411 phone calls to 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 for support and assistance.

Contact our Wellbeing Engagement Officer, Natalie on PH: 0493 440 375.

Veteran Health Week October 2025

71 veterans and their partners attended a complimentary lunch and afterwards enjoyed a Silent Disco, which brought a lot of laughter and fun to proceedings! While some got up and boogied the afternoon away, others enjoyed good conversations and a catchup around the tables.

Veterans and Associated Groups Christmas Party

We celebrated Christmas with a complimentary two-course lunch for Veterans and Associated Groups. In total, 123 veterans and members of the Auxiliary, Ex-Service Women's Association, Frankston Naval Memorial Club, Coffee Groups, Home and Hospital Visitation Team, Legacy, Memorabilia Group, Partners of Veterans Association, Vietnam Veterans Association, and members of the Frankston Veterans & Families Hub attended a leisurely Christmas lunch.



Age Strong Exercise Classes

We had 1,186 participants attend our fitness classes in 2025. 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 & Register: Natalie 0493 440 375

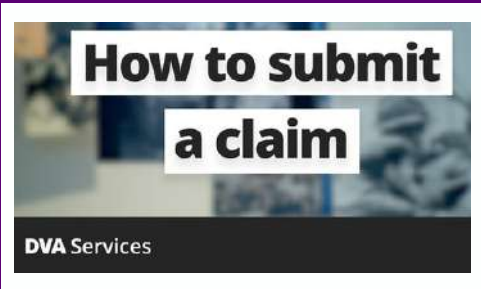
Requirements: A doctor's clearance certificate validating current health. Pick up a Medical Clearance form from Reception for your doctor to complete.



Veterans & Partners Coffee Groups

Veterans and their partners meet at the Welcome Post Café on Wednesdays at 10am, with coffee and light refreshments supplied by the club. Stay tuned for the occasional informative presentation arranged by Committee Member Tony Grice. The Wednesday Coffee Group had 1,732 attendees in 2025.

The Veterans Coffee Group meets at the Welcome Post Cafe on Fridays at 10am, and approximately 1,404 veterans attended in 2025. Veterans of all service types, gender, and eras are most welcome.



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.

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

Days: Monday-Friday **Hours:** 9pm-5pm **Phone:** 1300 645 838



Furniture, White Goods & Mobility Aids Program

The team successfully gathered and redistributed donations valued at approximately \$22,794, which included furniture, white goods, and mobility aids. A total of 42 veterans and their families benefited from this assistance. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this commendable program.

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



Home & Hospital Visitation Team

In 2025, our dedicated and cheerful Home & Hospital Visitation Team spent over 631 hours visiting veterans and their partners across 12 local residential aged care facilities. These visits provide social connection to our older veterans and their partners. Each month, the facilities bring groups to the club for a complimentary lunch, and in 2025, 1,354 lunches were provided to residents. At Christmas, the Team prepares and delivers Christmas Parcels to over 300 residents, bringing some festive cheer. These visits provide veterans and their families with the positive benefits of social connection. We are always looking for new volunteers.

Phone: 0492 820 743. **Days:** Monday-Friday **Hours:** 9AM-4.30PM



Volunteers

An astounding 20,086 volunteer hours were recorded; a significant increase from 2024 (18,007). In May 2025, the National Volunteer Week theme was 'Connecting Communities'. Of our 220+ volunteers, 114 attended a complimentary lunch. Our volunteers generously donate their time across a wide range of areas, such as carrying out Home & Hospital visits, fundraising for our Appeals, assisting our Memorabilia Team, and providing Wellbeing Advocacy. There are many ways potential volunteers can give back to veterans and their families by volunteering with the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch!



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.

VETERAN WELLBEING

Beating social isolation among our veteran community is high up on our agenda, and the Frankston RSL Wellbeing Team does an amazing job at regularly designing interesting and suitable outings and day trips for individuals and groups to get out and about. These excursions are a wonderful social opportunity for participants to meet new people.

ArtVo



In October, 35 Veterans and their partners visited the ART-VO Immersive 'trick-art' Gallery, at Melbourne Docklands. Needless to say, the bus was full!

Participants stepped into a world of optical illusions and took hundreds of photos against the most unbelievable scenarios. The imagination and sense of humour were both heartwarming and amazing.

To complete the day, lunch was enjoyed at Father's Office Café in the CBD, where many conversations were had with much laughter about what was seen and done.



The team also runs free talks throughout the year, on topical subjects such as organising a power of attorney or navigating My Aged Care Packages.

Get in touch with our Wellbeing Department if you are a veteran or family member and are interested in coming to the next excursion or talk.

Contact: 0493 889 029

Email: wellbeingteam@frankstonrsl.com.au

Fox's Classic Car Museum

wellbeing excursion recap

Fox Collection - Classic Car Museum

FRANKSTON



A day trip in August to Fox's Classic Car Museum, had a bus brimming with 46 eager veterans and their partners.

Set within the historic walls of the Queens Warehouse in Melbourne's Docklands, the museum and collection were an opportunity to explore a sparkling array of the world's rarest and most prestigious vehicles.

It was then onto the Caulfield RSL for lunch, and of course the conversation topic was which car was everybody's favourite!

Belleura House and Gardens

wellbeing excursion recap

Beleura House & Gardens



In the spectacular backdrop of the Beleura House and Gardens Estate, and set on five hectares on the Mornington Peninsula, the Wellbeing Team and 20 veterans and their partners enjoyed a wonderful day out. The day began with a short minibus ride to the Gate House, where everybody enjoyed a morning tea, freshly made on the premises, while the tour manager provided an engaging chat about the property's history, its influences, and past residents.

The participants then split into smaller groups, visited the majestic property and gardens, all the while enjoying the good fortune to have amazing volunteer guides share their passion and extensive knowledge of the house and gardens.

Gourmet sandwiches were on the menu for lunch, enjoyed over lots of chatter about what the different groups had seen on their tours.

Coffee Mornings - Free Legal Talk

Veterans and Partners ...

Wednesday Coffee Mornings at the Frankston RSL

In August, participants enjoyed a FREE TALK & SESSION ON LEGAL SERVICES OFFERED BY PENINSULA COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

Enjoy a coffee and a chat and the occasional Free Talk. 10AM every Wednesday in the Atrium. Bookings not required. Enquiries: 8792 4400



Our Wednesday veterans and their partners' weekly coffee session was overflowing in August, with over 40 participants enjoying a free legal talk by the amazing Peninsula Community Legal Centre, who touched on a vast array of legal issues from wills and the ins and outs of inheritance, dispute resolution, through to identifying scams and 'dodgy' operators.

Peninsula Community Legal Centre (PCLC) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that has been providing free legal services since 1977 and is one of the largest community legal centres in Australia. They do incredible work, and they are there when the everyday person needs help navigating the complexities of the legal system.

Contact PCLC for Free Legal Services:

Phone: (03) 9783 3600 or Email: pclc@pclc.org.au



VETERAN AND COMMUNITY WELFARE

Since 2012, The Mobility Aids, Whitegoods and Furniture Program has collected and redistributed household essentials and mobility aids to the value of \$256,000 to veterans and their families.

Volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes and across weekends. Their actions directly improve the quality of life for many veterans and their families. Additionally, club members, patrons, and the amazing community of people in our network, who donate or are happy to help on weekends with the collection and drop-off of donated items, have all made a difference to the lives of so many veterans over the past 14 years.

Donations welcomed for mobility aids, white goods, electrical goods, furniture. For enquiries or donation drop off contact - Phone: 8792 4400 Email: agrice@frankstonrsl.com.au



The Team met up with the wife of a veteran in Chelsea, to provide her with bathroom aids to help her husband recover at home after surgery.



Our Superheroes were able to help a veteran with a clothes dryer to just make life a bit better for him.



The team delivered a re-purposed Mobility Scooter to a veteran living in Chelsea, who unfortunately had to recently relinquish his driving licence. His wife lives close by, in residential aged care, and relies on his daily visits. Thanks to the kind donation of a Mobility Scooter, the veteran is now able to continue to visit her every day and make the short journey on his scooter.



The Team helped a war widow residing at Vasey RSL Care in Frankston South with a repurposed washing machine, as her old one had washed it last load! The program is run by an extraordinary team of volunteers, championed by Tony Grice Wellbeing Officer and Frankston RSL Committee Member, with the assistance of super heroes and 21C's Peter Faria and Eric Bishop.



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

In 2025, 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. Last year, \$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



TLC Xmas in July lunch

Residents and Carers from TLC Aged Care enjoyed a wonderful Christmas in July lunch with a traditional roast lunch and pudding!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

*More than \$225,000 donated
in 2025 in Community Support.*

Each year the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch provides over \$250,000 in cash, to our Community Support partners - local Community Clubs, Charities and not-for-profits, and Community Organisations.

In 2025, we held our first Giving Day. The objective of Giving Day is to bring all the recipients of our Community Support Fund together and celebrate Frankston RSL and the relationship we have with each of the groups. Additionally, it is also an opportunity to showcase our vast array of services that we, as a venue, along with Community Groups, offer the wider community.

We are in a unique position to help connect our Frankston Community, and the inaugural Giving Day Event provided the opportunity to work towards building deeper relationships, form new partnerships, meet new individuals and committees, and to enable the continued growth of our great Community Network.

Guest speakers included:

- Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Branch of the Returned Services League, Sue Cattermole.
- Tim Bearup, Manager of Community Strengthening at Frankston City Council, representing the Mayor, Frankston City Council.
- Mr John Barry, Vice President of Frankston RSL and Chair of our Community Support Committee
- Steve Rose (Community Facilitator) from Our Place, Food Bank.

Read More:

www.frankstonrsl.com.au/community/sponsorship

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 2025, the Club made donations of over \$250 000 to local sporting and not-for-profit groups.

Sporting Clubs we support:

Karingal Football Netball Club, Frankston YCW Football Netball Club, Frankston Blues Basketball, Frankston District Netball Association, Pines Football Club, Frankston Peninsula Cricket Club, Langwarrin Cricket Club, Long Island Cricket Club, Somerville Football Netball Club, Langwarrin Soccer Club, Baxter Cricket Club, Frankston Hockey Club, Frankston Gift, Southern Umpires Association, Southern District Rugby Club, Delacombe Park Cricket Club, Baxter Soccer Club, Frankston Bombers, Frankston Pines Soccer Club,

Peninsula Strikers Soccer Club, Frankston Softball Association, Heatherhill Cricket Club, Frankston Football Club, Frankston Tiger Sharks Club, Chelsea Calisthenics.

Within the community, we also support:

Game Changer Mental Health, Our Place - Food Bank, Wallara- Sages Cottage, Airforce Cadets, Army Cadets, C2A, Community Support Frankston, Frankston SES, Frankston Life Christmas Luncheon, Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Sections of Golf, Billiards and Snooker, Pipes and Drums, and the Women's Auxiliary, Dressed for Success, Australian War Memorial, Blue Ribbon Foundation, Vasey RSL Care, Variety Victoria Kids' Christmas Party, Mums Supporting Families in Need (MSFIN), Frankston Naval Memorial Club, Langwarrin Men's Shed, Wranglers, CCV Golf, Peninsula Christian Care, Ringwood RSL Veterans' Games, Peninsula North Baxter Men's Shed, C4FMP





COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

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

SES FRANKSTON



The volunteer members of Frankston SES responded to over 1000 requests for assistance in 2025. They provided service to the community from storm and flood response, to general and domestic rescue, as well as road crash rescue. Their 140+ members are always prepared and available.

We all owe a lot to the SES and Frankston RSL is proud to continue to support this amazing organisation and wonderful volunteers. Our sponsorship has contributed to their 'operational preparedness program' and through our donation, every member of their team has access to an 'alerting and readiness app'. The app enables the Unit to keep track of available members, their

qualifications, as well as managing real time requests for assistance from the local community.

"We are grateful to the Frankston RSL for their ongoing support of Frankston SES Unit and helping us stay operationally ready and better equipped to serve our community."

- Brooke Bird, Controller - VIC SES Frankston unit.

Additionally, the unit celebrated their 60th anniversary in July at the Frankston RSL with 110 guests. It was a momentous occasion with numerous medals being awarded to extraordinary individuals, including National Service Medals, Unit Service Medals, and Unit Life Membership Medals.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS[®] VICTORIA



Dress for Success Victoria actively empowers women in our community to achieve economic independence and rebuild their lives, and Frankston RSL is honoured to back this inspiring not-for-profit.

The sponsorship they received in 2025 from the club is helping fund two vital initiatives.

The Care Pack Program provides clothing, shoes, accessories, and toiletries to women escaping family and domestic violence. When women flee, they often leave with only essentials for their children. These packs help them regain dignity and stability

until they are ready to visit the centre for a full styling session.

Additionally, the Career Pathways Pilot Program works with Year 10–12 students to prepare for employment, through styling sessions and job-readiness workshops that build confidence and professional presentation skills.

"Thanks to the Frankston RSL's generosity, 23 women received vital support and renewed confidence to move forward in 2025. Having the support of the Frankston RSL means so much to us. It shows the power of community coming together to lift women up, restore confidence, and create real opportunities for a fresh start. Their generosity helps us change lives."

Samantha Gowan, CEO, Dress for Success Victoria



Supporting local sporting clubs and strengthening connections within the Frankston community is high on our Community Support Agenda, and we are proud to sponsor a pillar of local sport - Frankston District Basketball Association (FDDBA).

Each year, FDDBA host two major Frankston Blues functions at the Frankston RSL, creating special opportunities to bring players, families, and supporters together.

A highlight of their calendar is the annual ANZAC Round, where the Frankston RSL associates, and veterans assist with the ceremonies, adding great meaning to this occasion.

Our funding proved invaluable during a challenging period for the association, as their Stadium underwent a significant redevelopment in 2025. The support has allowed the FDDBA to maintain smooth operations, while working remotely, and has ensured the continuation of its programs, community initiatives, and coaching development without disruption.

"The invaluable partnership with the Frankston RSL is helping FDDBA manage day-to-day operations but also ensuring we can continue delivering quality programs across all levels. We are truly grateful for the RSL's commitment to community sport and the next generation of basketballers." - Wayne Holdsworth, CEO, FDDBA

Sages Cottage Cafe and Farm



It's wonderful to see the fruits of our ongoing yearly donation to 'Sages Cottage Café and Farm'. In 2025, the team busily worked on a landscaping project to support the garden area surrounding the Basketball Court - the latest addition to their clients' wellbeing facilities.

The natural elements provide shade and beauty, and encourage social interaction, with seating areas designed to offer a comfortable place for people to gather, rest, or engage in conversations.

By making the space fully accessible, it can be enjoyed by everyone, regardless of ability. This project reflects their commitment to create environments that are inclusive and aligned with Wallara's values of community, creativity, and client-focused service.



The project enhances the overall environment by incorporating trees, garden beds with native plants, and accessible pathways, that promote relaxation, connection with nature, and wellbeing for all clients and staff.





Frankston Community Support Christmas Appeal

In December 2025, we had the privilege to see the community come together for the 35th Annual Christmas Appeal, "Community Support Frankston", marking 57 years of dedicated service to the Frankston community.

Each year, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch donates approximately \$5000 to create festive hampers distributed to over 2000 families and individuals in the community that would otherwise go without a festive meal or a gift at Christmas.

Well done "Community Support Frankston"!



Making a difference!

Once again, the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch participated in the annual 'Frankston Life Community Christmas Lunch' and supplied puddings and custard, which contributed to the incredibly successful 2025 Christmas Day Lunch.

Every year, 'Frankston Life' puts on a free Christmas Day Community Lunch. It is thanks to donors and other supporters that 450 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 130 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 to contribute to this amazing cause: www.frankston.life/community

2025 Frankston Life Community Christmas Lunch



CELEBRATING OUR HEROINES



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY RUTH HAZEL KIRBY (NEE OSBORNE)



Born in Orange, NSW, 7th November 1925, Ruth was still at school at the outbreak of World War II. After attending the Orange East Public School, she studied secretarial studies at Orange District Rural School until she was 15 in 1940. By the time she was approaching 18, she was looking forward to enlisting in the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS). Ruth did her 'rookies' course at Ingleburn, with the Operations Branch being her first appointment, and later went to 'A' Branch.

By late 1945, after HQ had disbanded many units under its command, AWAS was winding down. In January 1946, she transferred to Melbourne, living at Camp Pell, working firstly at the War Graves Branch in Albert Park and later at Supply and Transport, Victoria Barracks before returning to Sydney in June for discharge. In the 1990's, Ruth moved to the area and became a member of the Frankston RSL, as well as the Frankston and Peninsula Ex-Service Women's Group.

Happy 101st Birthday Neroli Martindale

This young lady just keeps impressing us with her zest for life and proving to still be a delightful conversationalist!

We were elated to have the delightful ex-service member Neroli Martindale (nee Finlay) at the club for lunch once again in 2025, and this time celebrating her 101st birthday!

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.

Her loyal friends from Baxter Village Residential Aged Care - Robert and Shirley helped her celebrate, and were as bubbly as the young lady herself.

When Club Vice President John Barry popped by for a chat, he discussed growing up in Caulfield, and Neroli - sharp as a tack, recounted street names and junctions in Caulfield remembering where her aunt lived 50 years ago!



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

FRANKSTON RSL SUB-BRANCH PRIDES ITSELF IN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES/DEPENDANTS.

VETERANS INCLUDE THOSE WHO SERVE OR SERVED IN AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCES (ADF), NATIONAL SERVICE, RESERVISTS, ALLIED, AND COMMONWEALTH FORCES, AND WITH OR WITHOUT OVERSEAS SERVICE. VETERANS DO NOT HAVE TO BE MEMBERS OF FRANKSTON RSL SUB-BRANCH TO RECEIVE SUPPORT.

THIS SUPPORT MIGHT INCLUDE:

- Wellbeing Support & Advocacy
- Provide Information and Referrals to local community services and organisations
- Financial Assistance to those in necessitous circumstances
- Support navigating aged care services
- Referral to Compensation Advocacy Team (RSL Victoria)
 - RSL Funeral Representatives for funerals of Veterans
 - Home & Hospital Visitation Team
- Hello Program: phone calls to Senior Service Members
- Mobility Aids, White goods & Furniture Program
- Welcome Post Café: Wednesday Coffee Group (Veterans & Partners), 10am
- Friday Coffee Group (Veterans from any era, age, or gender) 10am
- Social Connection Bus-trips, BBQ's, Information Sessions, Lunches & other activities
- PARC Agestrong Exercise Classes Tuesday & Friday, 8am, \$5
- All Wellbeing and Compensation Advocacy Services are free, private, and confidential.

CONTACT

Frankston RSL Wellbeing Team: Monday to Friday, 9AM to 4:30PM.
 Contact: Stellar Phone 0492 820 743 Email: wellbeingteam@frankstonrsl.com.au
 Compensation Advocacy Team (RSL Vic): Monday to Friday 9AM to 5PM
 Contact: 1800 645 838
 Website: www.rslvic.com.au/veteran-services/military-compensation-advocacy



VETERANS CARD - VICTORIA

The Veterans Card is available to all past and present ADF members residing in Victoria, including those on active duty, veterans and Reservists.

More Information:

www.service.vic.gov.au/services/veterans-card-victoria



*James Joseph Curry
Australian Army Ordnance Corps*

Frankston RSL Memorabilia: ensuring no medal or memory is left behind.

While working on a kitchen renovation of her home in Langwarrin, a woman came across some medals lying in the back corner of one of the cupboards.

The medals were badly stained and rusted over. Given the condition of the medals, it was not clear if they belonged to the previous owner or someone from decades before.

Conscious the medals may have been of great significance to someone, she handed them over to reception at Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.

Graham Wilson heads up the Memorabilia Committee at Frankston RSL, a team of about five volunteers. The Committee is regularly faced with small mysteries, like these abandoned medals which have no clear owner or history.

"The medals in themselves were not particular significant," Graham Wilson said. "We recognised them as ordinary service medals from the Second World War, given to everyone who served in Australia."

At their fortnightly meeting the task of finding the rightful owner of the medals was given to Bruce Buchan, a retired police officer who had only recently joined the group. Bruce is an affiliate member of the RSL with great uncles who had served in the 4th light horse and 39th battalions, the latter on the Kokoda track.

"It is really important for people bringing in medals to give us as much information as possible," Bruce said.

"In this case all we had was the last name of the veteran and their service number, both of which were engraved on the edge of the medals. The service number started with VX which meant the veteran was from Victoria. The woman who had handed the medal in had not provided her address or any information, other than they had been found in a kitchen cupboard during renovations."

"Sometimes there is really not enough to go on," Graham said. "But in this case Bruce was determined to find out who they belonged to."

"If we wanted to find someone in the police force, we had databases which made it easy to find someone when we needed to," Bruce said. "But being a civilian now, I needed to rely on things like ancestry.com and even things as basic as a Google Search."

From the service number, Bruce was able to find and download the veteran's service file from the National Archives of Australia website.

"If we wanted to find someone in the police force, we had databases which made it easy to find someone when we needed to, but being a civilian now, I needed to rely on things like ancestry.com and even things as basic as a Google Search."

The soldier was James Joseph Curry, born in Melbourne in October 1917, who had enlisted in the military in February of 1940 in the Australian Army Ordnance Corps. A fitter and turner by trade, he worked in the 107th Brigade Infantry Workshop until transferring to the Australian Infantry in 1943, who sent him to Darwin, where he worked testing weapons.

Bruce then went to the Supreme Court website and looked through applications for probate, in the hope that someone with the last name Curry, perhaps a son or daughter, might be on their lists.

"An application for probate was listed with someone with the same name, and I was fortunate that it mentioned the address of the deceased, not in Langwarrin but in Carrum Downs. Unfortunately, it did not list the name of the executor."

It wasn't much to go on, but Bruce looked up the property address on real estate websites and found it had been sold in December 2024.

"I called the real estate agent who had listed the property and told him that I worked for the RSL and was looking to locate the owner of rightful owner of medals that had been handed in to our Sub-Branch."

The Real Estate agent provided Bruce with the contact details of the executor. Bruce called the executor, who told him she was the best friend of the deceased. Through her, he was able to confirm the deceased had previously owned a property in Langwarrin and was the son of the man who had been awarded the medals.

The executor was not aware of the existence of the medals and did not know why they had been left behind in the Langwarrin property.

The medals were technically not part of the estate and were not listed under probate as items for the executor to distribute because they had not been in the possession of the deceased when he died.

"Our policy is that the medals should go to the closest living relative of the deceased," said Frankston Sub-Branch President Kevin Hillier OAM. "So, in this situation, they would not be given to the executor. It is up to us to either find the closest living relative or donate them to the Shrine of Remembrance or the Australian War Memorial."



Graham Wilson and Bruce Buchan, Frankston RSL Memorabilia Team, and Club President Kevin Hillier OAM of Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.

The executor came to the RSL in person, asking that the medals be given to her. When the team at Reception said this was not possible, lawyers for the executor sent a letter to the Sub-Branch asking for the medals to be delivered to the executor.

Kevin Hillier contacted the executor by email and explained that the medals would only be provided to the family of the deceased. "Once the executor understood our position, and why we had to be satisfied that the medals would go to the right person, she passed on the contact details of the next of kin, who was living in Brisbane," said Bruce. "Her name is Merrill Curry."

Merrill Curry is the granddaughter of James Curry. She had known James well before he passed away in 1993, when she was twelve years old.

"My father and I would visit my Pop regularly. He was living in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, in Hadfield."

Since her father passed away in December 2024, she had been thinking a lot about her grandfather. On ANZAC Day her four-year-old son went to the local Dawn Service for the first time.

"My son's first ANZAC Day made me think about when I was a child at my grandfather's house. I remembered how I used to sit on the floor and play with the medals. So, to be contacted by the RSL and be told they had been found was incredible."

Merrill did not know much about her grandfather's time in the army during the Second World War.

"My auntie told me that he had been posted to Darwin about the time when she was born. All I knew was that he had been very good at what he did and had worked testing guns and other weapons. It wasn't something he talked about a lot."

Merrill does not know why the medals were left behind in the Langwarrin house but is thankful for the work of Bruce Buchan and the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch in tracking her down.

"It means we have something tangible to remember Pop by," she said. "There is a direct connection between these medals and him. He is part of our family story and it is a story that I can tell my son about, so he has a sense of our history and so can his kids one day." Merrill plans to have the medals cleaned and restored and then framed with a photo of her Pop.

To Bruce Buchan, the fact that they are standard issue medals given to all Second World War veterans is beside the point. For him, and the other members of the Memorabilia team at Frankston RSL Sub-Branch, the important thing is that the medals are important to someone.

Their work in tracking down the people who remember the veteran, and who want to ensure that the veteran is never forgotten.



Story Credit: Steven Baras-Miller RSL Victoria
www.rslvic.com.au/news/how-rsl-volunteers-ensure-no-medal-or-memory-is-left-behind/



A special thanks to our Memorabilia Team, who curated the display at the venue in August 2025, commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

The display included various original items ranging from an embroidered welcome home banner, peace stamps issued to commemorate the end of WWII, through to objects soldiers had made from wartime objects - that were known as "Trench Art" and displayed in homes as a reminder of those times. Visit the venue and take in the display.

Many Australians marked the end of the war as the dawn of peace after years of hardship, sacrifice, and uncertainty. As news of the surrender spread, relieved communities celebrated, crowds gathered in the streets waving flags, embracing each other in joy, and dancing.

At the RSL, we honour those who served their country, and the team of Memorabilia volunteers does an extraordinary job at ensuring we remember significant historic events, understand artefacts, and appreciate the sacrifices made by our forebearers, through wonderful themed displays throughout the year.



Meet some dedicated members of the Memorabilia Team: Graham, Pat, John, and Ross. They diligently curate our memorabilia display at the venue with great care and attention to detail. The collections are regularly updated throughout the year, showcasing military history as a meaningful way to "honour the service" of those who have enlisted in the Australian Defence Forces since Federation. These displays serve as an essential means for our members and guests to

respect and commemorate the sacrifices made by those who have served, or, who are currently serving in our Defence Forces - and also ensure our community remembers the fallen. The displays are 'themed' to commemorate a significant event in our military history and are changed periodically. Our Memorabilia Volunteers curate the collections and work with items accumulated over the past 100 years since the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch first formed.

Quilts of Valour Australia (QOV) aims to award quilts to veterans, service personnel of the Australian Defence Force, and our Allies, as well as the immediate family of veterans and defence personnel who have passed. These symbolic awards are in recognition of the recipients' Service, Sacrifice, and Valour.

In 2025, there were two Quilts of Valour awarded to two very worthy recipients associated with the Frankston RSL:

Frankston RSL Chaplain, Graeme 'Padre' Watkinson, and Tony Grice, Veteran, Frankston RSL Committee Member, Wellbeing Advocate, and Volunteer Extraordinaire received a quilt. Their surprise was priceless, and their humility endearing!



The Quilts are original one-off pieces and are handmade with love from fellow Australians to wrap recipients up in warmth and care -The top of the quilt, with its many colours, shapes, and fabrics, represents the communities and the many individuals that are involved behind the scenes at QOV.

-The wadding, the filler, is the centre of the quilt. It represents hope that this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace, and healing to recipients.

-The backing is the strength that supports the other layers and represents the support of communities and our nation.

-Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude and sometimes the tears of the maker.

Read more here, or if you'd like to get involved: www.quiltsofvalour.com.au



Citizen Military Forces 1942 - 1943

Australian Imperial Force 1943 - 1946

Corporal, Storeman

Service Number: V150761, VX127487 (Merchant Navy)

Postings

- 2 Brigade Group 22nd January 1942
- 55 Division Ordnance Field Park 15th February 1942
- 4 Ordnance Stores Company 3rd April 1942
- 1 Australian Base Ordnance Depot 20th September 1943
- 16 Australian Advanced Ordnance Depot 24th July 1944

Honours and Awards

- Pacific Star War Medal 1939-45
- Australia Service Medal 1939-45
- Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp 'PNG'
- Returned from Active Service Badge



Duncan Mackinnon Lamont was one of our most esteemed World War II veterans, having enlisted in the Australian Army aged 19. He discharged as a Corporal in 1946, 16 Aust. Advanced Ordnance Depot.



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

Duncan celebrated a wonderful 101st birthday at the Frankston RSL in December 2024, surrounded by family and friends, relishing the momentous occasion.





SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS: Stan Stoneman

Volunteer



Stan - The Heart of Monday Bingo!

Stan Stoneman, affectionately known as 'Stan the Bingo Man,' is a fitting title for someone who has dedicated 18 years to volunteering at Frankston RSL's Monday Bingo. Often referred to as the 'Cheery Face of Monday Bingo,' Stan became a member of the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch in 1980, enjoying the club's social atmosphere like many others.

Inspired by his wife's love for Bingo, Stan soon discovered his own enthusiasm for this lively activity, which he continues to participate in and volunteer for even after 27 years. His commitment to service was recognised in 2016 when he received a nomination for the 'Volunteer of the Year' Award.

In April 2007, after retiring from his distinguished career in printing and publishing, he began to visit the club more frequently. He chuckles as he reminisces about Bingo taking place in the Pavilion building within the car park while the club underwent its initial major renovations.

Once the renovations were finished, Bingo was moved to the Simpson Room, where it continues to be held faithfully every Monday at 11am and Thursday at 7pm.

After enjoying some time playing social Bingo, Stan was approached by Ian, a fellow Bingo volunteer and club member, who was leading the Monday morning 'Big Bucks' segment and was looking to retire.

Without a moment's hesitation, Stan agreed and smoothly stepped into Ian's role in no time.



Stan says he owes much to Sandra (as does the Frankston RSL), a fellow Bingo volunteer who has been calling Thursday night Bingo for 30 years, and who patiently taught and guided Stan. He reiterates, "I've enjoyed every Monday Morning for the past 18 years, and I will continue to!"

Stan remembers when he began volunteering for Monday Big Bucks Bingo, the attendance was just a little over 60 participants, with house winnings at \$30. Nowadays, Monday Bingo regularly attracts more than 100 attendees, offering \$50 houses, while the Big Bucks Jackpot often exceeds \$400 each week. He shares that the greatest thrill comes from rewarding participants for their significant wins.



Prior to retiring in 2007, Stan enjoyed an illustrious career primarily in the printing and publications industry that began in the UK, working in newspapers and magazines for Chatham Chillingham News in Rochester, while living in Medway Towns, Kent.

With a trade that was very much in demand, Stan was sponsored to migrate to Australia in 1969, and as many did during this era, he travelled with his wife and young son to Melbourne, settling in Frankston – where he has lived since. He was later blessed with two daughters who were born in Australia.

Having set himself up in Frankston, he worked as a Compositor between 1969 – 1977, employed by the Standard Newspaper in Cheltenham for many years, and in 1971 he was promoted to production manager, then worked at the Rosebud Gazette, and then at the Sunday Press as a Paste Up Artist in the 1980's, as well as the publishing firm McKay's. The printing and publishing industry, like many others at this time, were evolving due to the onset of automation and the digital era. Forced to reinvent himself and backed by hands-on knowledge in printing and publishing, he became Production Supervisor at Leigh Marden, where he created production manuals for car manufacturers like Ford and Holden. In the latter part of his career he worked as a Sales Rep for Independent Newspapers, based in Hastings, between 1993-2007 and until retirement.

Stan always enjoyed 'helping out' and volunteering his time, and in the early 70's - while his children attended Ballam Park primary school, he sat on the school committee and helped in working bees on weekends.

In the early 80's and when the neighbourhood watch initiatives were at the height of community safety, he created Frankston United Neighbours Connect (FUNC) with a bunch of neighbours. Together they reported crime incidents to the police and council, who were very responsive with handling petty crime in the area. Forever intertwined with Bingo, Stan remains a familiar face and name at Frankston RSL's Bingo. "I truly enjoy Monday mornings and having a great time with the people," he shares, his distinctly British accent still strong after 55 years in Australia.

It's dedicated volunteers like Stan who form the backbone of this club and foster the community spirit that attracts many to join. Our heartfelt thanks go to Stan and all the Bingo volunteers who have contributed over the years – we are endlessly grateful.



NOMINATED FRANKSTON RSL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2016



In 2016, Stan was nominated Frankston RSL 'Volunteer of the Year', in recognition for his stoic volunteering efforts and extraordinary services and dedication to Bingo activities at the Frankston RSL. A mere handful of volunteers - seven or eight at most, were shortlisted for the then annual event and for the much coveted title - all of whom were very worthy.



SPOTLIGHT ON Sarah Archibald

volunteers



Meet Sarah! A powerhouse of a veteran, volunteer, motivational speaker, disaster relief worker, and parent.

Where do we start with this modern-day heroine who can be described with double digits positive adjectives and qualities? Resilient, tenacious, dedicated, selfless, charismatic, empathetic, disciplined and team player are just a few that come to mind. Sarah was born in 1980 and raised in Bayswater, Victoria. She attended Aquinas College in Ringwood and enlisted in the Army just after completing Year 12 at the tender age of 18. She always wanted to go to university to study Youth Work but before she could get a chance to enrol into full-time studies, she saw an advertisement for the military service and that was when her life changed.

Growing up in a family with a deep-rooted military tradition, and where the values of duty, honour, perseverance and resilience were instilled in her from a young age, it was inevitable she would pursue a military career. Sarah is the fourth generation in her family who has served including her uncle who served in Vietnam, her dad was national serviceman, and her grandfather served in World War II and her great grandfather in World War I. It was because of these distinct role models that Sarah dreamed from a young age of joining the Australian Army and felt a strong desire to follow in their footsteps and make them proud. These early lessons shaped her character and fuelled her desire to serve her country. Her determination never wavered, and her dream finally became a reality.

She served 15 years as a Military Police Officer in Townsville and undertook a 7-month deployment to Iraq in 2006 to help the American forces. Her favourite part of her job was the comradery; she loved how everyone had the same goals and interests and worked as a team. However, Sarah's exceptional military career came to an unexpected end when she was medically discharged with PTSD. After her service, Sarah struggled with trauma and adjusting to everyday life. Her experiences, both in Townsville and on

deployment, shaped her into the person she is today and deepened her appreciation for the sacrifices made by those in uniform.

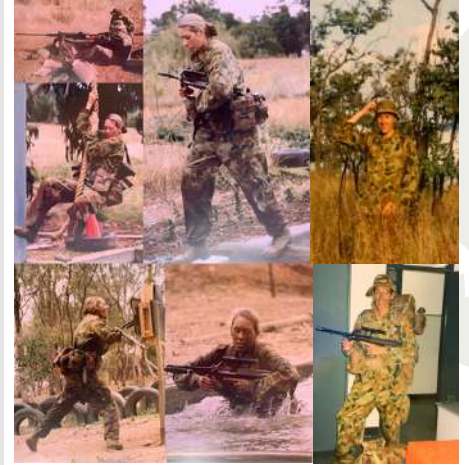
As a result, Sarah remained dedicated to supporting veterans since leaving the military and having witnessed first hand that many veterans find it hard to find work and adjust back to 'normal life'. Since 2018 she actively volunteers and participates in RSL activities through the Frankston RSL, initially helping organise events for veterans and speaking at schools and events mainly around ANZAC Day. She then volunteered helping older veterans who didn't have external supports and were struggling to maintain their gardens. She mowed lawns, weeded gardens, and cleaned gutters for some very grateful veterans, and she always made time for a cuppa and a chat.

These days she helps raise awareness on PTSD issues affecting veterans by speaking at events and talking openly about her struggles with PTSD. Sarah continues to volunteer and support veterans through the Frankston RSL Wellbeing Hub ensuring veterans have access to the support they need to adjust back to civilian life and particularly those suffering PTSD. She does this by organising the 'Younger Veterans and Families Lunches' at the club, engaging with veterans and supporting them in accessing services they may need. This demonstrates her ongoing commitment to her community and peers. The luncheon is aimed at veterans, current and ex-serving service personnel, who may not be able to attend the club's weekday wellbeing activities due to work or family commitments. The objective is to enhance veteran wellbeing and for like-minded veterans, and their families, to get together in a social and inclusive environment.



Sarah is presently employed part-time as a Peer Navigator at Wellways - Frankston Mental Health and Wellbeing Local. This complimentary service is designed to assist individuals who are facing challenges with their mental health. In her role, she draws upon her own lived experience with mental health to provide support to others on their path to recovery.

Military life was intense, with initial training comprising of 14-hour training days, seven days a week. As a female in a mostly male environment, Sarah faced many challenges but refused to give in to setbacks.



During her time in the army, she served as a Military Police Officer and commanded her own section comprising of 15 personnel. When Sarah was deployed to Iraq in 2006, she worked at the Australian Embassy in Baghdad for the Australian Ambassador.

Being a female Military Police Officer brought its challenges, and it was sometimes a tough road to follow, feeling as though she had to work harder to gain the respect of her peers that were 98% male and especially in a leadership role. As part of her deployment in SECDET X, Sarah was one of two females among 110 male troops, and she needed to demonstrate leadership and not let her emotions get in the way and above all work doubly hard to keep up with the men and even go above and beyond at times. She never let anything get in her way or slow her down. The experience tested her in ways she never imagined, pushing her both physically and mentally. But through the chaos and intensity of war, she found strength, resilience, and a sense of purpose. Looking back, she realised how those tough moments forever changed and shaped her. Even when she saw a young girl who had stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED), who later died. Breaking the news to her mother was probably one of the hardest things she's ever had to do and appreciates the event even more so now that she is a mother.

On a lighter side, she says that one of the things that made it worthwhile was the food. The Americans that she fought with brought their own McDonalds, Subway, and Starbucks and set up these fast-food buildings in the middle of the base at the staging area in Kuwait.



She continued to serve her community during her military career by helping with domestic disaster relief efforts, including helping clean up after Tropical Cyclone Larry hit Cairns in 2006 and the floods in Katherine in 2001 - demonstrating her dedication to service, both abroad and in her home country.



During her career she received the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM), Iraq Medal and Infantry combat badge for her deployment to Iraq and received a commendation for her service and support of deployments to Timore Leste in 2004.

To add to her long list of achievements, Sarah is also the winner of two Invictus Gold Medals for a driving challenge and road cycling event awarded to her by Prince Harry at the inaugural Invictus Games held in London in 2014.



There's no doubt Sarah is a trailblazer and is giving other females hope and determination that anything is achievable when you put your mind to it. She excelled in a leadership role in a challenging, male-dominated field through dedication and tenacity and continues to inspire by volunteering her time and working to support veterans in their hour of need.

The discipline and values she learned shaped how she raises her children and approaches life after service. Her perspective changed after Iraq, instead on focusing on the little things, she now focuses on the bigger picture and what is truly important in life. After having witnessed buildings crumbling around her and people walking for days just to find food and water, Sarah doesn't take anything for granted.

When asked if she would recommend enlisting straight out of high school, Sarah responded, "I firmly believe that the army offers invaluable experiences, discipline, and opportunities that can shape a person's future in ways they may never expect."



While Sarah was in service, she met her husband Mark Archibald in 2003 - a fellow serviceman who is now a police officer, who is her rock and sounding board. He stood firmly by her side during Sarah's most difficult times and together they have two resilient teenage daughters, and lives on the Peninsula since 2014. When asked how she is doing today, Sarah says, "I'm living my best years!"



"I firmly believe that the army offers invaluable experiences, discipline, and opportunities that can shape a person's future in ways they may never expect."



Find out more about Sarah in the Podcast: produced by Gianna Lucas.

[A Walk With Sarah Archibald](http://www.giannalucas.com/podcast/episode-56)
www.giannalucas.com/podcast/episode-56

The Frankston RSL gratefully acknowledges the hard work and dedication that Sarah has contributed to the RSL community and the broader local communities over her time. Her passion, dedication, and exemplary performance in supporting veterans and the greater community, reflects great credit on her and the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.

It is volunteers like Sarah that form the backbone of the Frankston RSL.



SPOTLIGHT ON Margaret Graham

volunteers



Let's shine the spotlight on our relentless volunteer, Margaret Graham. Affectionately known as 'Marg', she lives by her motto 'It's what you do', and ends most of her sentences with this credo. She's been a member of the Frankston RSL for 51 years and has served as a member on the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch General Committee for two years, as well as a member of the Women's Auxiliary since 2000. The Frankston RSL gone through many changes since Marg joined the club in 1974, and so too has Marg in her lifelong quest to always help where she can, remain busy and social, and stay connected to her community – because 'it's what you do'.

Her connection with the armed forces stems from when she was married at 21 years of age to an Army Medic, Keith Buddle, in Liverpool NSW. Two years later Buddle was transferred to the Royal Australian Navy, and they relocated to the HMAS Cerberus Naval Base in Crib Point. As a medic, he would be off for two-three-month patrols around Australia aboard the *Melbourne*, the *Torrents*, or the *Hobart*, while Marg reared her two children and continued her philanthropic work. In time, Buddle became Chief Medic and served for seven months from 1990 to 1991 in the Persian Gulf, during the Gulf War, on the US hospital ship *The Comfort*, along with 30 other medics. During the early years as a Navy wife, Marg remembers in 1978 being invited to Hawaii for nine days, with 70 other Navy wives, while their husbands were involved in friendly training exercises. She chuckles as she retells that while visiting the vessels at Waikiki beach, the original *Hawaii-Five-O* film crew asked if they wouldn't mind being extras, and so it was that they all appeared in the backdrop of an episode.

Never one to remain idle, Marg busily worked two jobs and raised two children, while also 'making' the time to join and volunteer with the Frankston RSL Women's Auxiliary. As part of the Auxiliary, Marg actively helped in any way she could with fund raising efforts and selling Women's Auxiliary raffle tickets on Friday nights at the club, as well as driving volunteers and group members to events or excursions. In fact, she is still the designated mini-bus driver these days taking groups to day trips or the monthly Navy Soundwaves Concert Series at HMAS Cerberus, or the Frankston RSL Pipes and Drums troupe to ANZAC Day performances! When asked where she gets the motivation and will power to volunteer her time rather than enjoy her retirement and stay comfortably at home, she responds, "I could stay home and sit around and stare at the four walls, or I could be out socialising and enjoying life in good company". It's a no brainer for Marg, and it's what fuels her sense of being and purpose in life, - "It's what you do", she says, when questioned about any of her volunteering activities and community work.



This sense of community and strong work ethic was unequivocally ingrained in her from when she was a young girl and the eldest of nine siblings. Growing up in Cooma, NSW, she saw some of the rough side of life and experienced the rural ethic of helping the community. Additionally, both her parents were significant role models who paved the way for how she has lived her life. Marg's mother Gladys, cared for nine children under the age of ten and worked full-time at the Fielders Bakery in Glenfield, NSW, while also running the household. Her father, William Alexander, a decorated police officer, was also a significant influence in her life, if not the greatest. With an illustrious career in the Police Force, rising to Sergeant First Class, his achievements certainly drove her sense of duty and community spirit. He was awarded

the British Empire Medal, and received the National Police Medal, as well as the King's Medal Award for bravery - demonstrated in a shootout in Cooma, and the Police long service and good conduct medal. She fondly recalls that her father would always say to her, "Be nice to people, and people will be nice back, be a mongrel and nobody will be nice to you".

Marg was four when the family transferred to Gunning, NSW, and her father was Gunning's Police Sergeant. She remembers living in the police accommodation, that was at the rear of the police station along with the lock up cells, and she would help hose and tidy up the cells by the time she was nine, in preparation for the next detainee - "It's what you did back then" she says.

Marg attended night school at TAFE in Kogara NSW, and laughs remembering that she was the only female in the woodwork course. When a friend came to Gunning and asked her if she wanted a job, she jumped at the chance to do something else and head to the city, and went on to work the next four years as an office junior at the Standard Waygood Transformer in Villawood, Western Sydney.



Marg could never just 'sit on her hands', even at a young age. Backed by her strong ethics, she joined the girl guides at seven years of age – "it's what you did back then", says Marg, and received the Guides Duke of Edinburgh Award at 21 years of age, which was the highest Girl Guides Youth Achievement Award. The Duke, now King Charles, bestowed the award himself! Marg has been a Girl Guide Leader for 50 years, right up to 2020, regularly taking Guides out camping, and participating in Girl Guides Jamborees in VIC, QLD, and NSW. Her son and daughter naturally followed in her footsteps, and both were in the Scouts and Girl Guides, respectively.



Marg has been a Girl Guide Leader for 50 years, and led Girl Guide up until 2020 - at Jamborees in VIC, QLD, and NSW

My father used to say, "Be nice to people, and people will be nice back, be a mongrel and nobody will be nice to you".

Marg was awarded 2003 Frankston Citizen Of The Year



Marg proudly boasts her family is a fourth-generation emergency services worker. As a police officer, her father worked on the aftermath of the Granville Train Disaster of 1977, her son is a firefighter, her grandson is a volunteer fire fighter, and Marg has been an active SES Volunteer since she joined SES Liverpool NSW in 1971— that’s a whopping 54 years as an SES volunteer. After volunteering 38 years, she proudly received the SES Life Membership Medal in 2003, and this month was recognised for her 40 year’s of service. Needless to say, she has dutifully, and without fail, marched at 54 Frankston SES ANZAC Day marches.

To this day she still volunteers with the SES and regularly works in the office filtering calls and managing call outs, as well as visiting schools or local festivals, educating curious minds on what the SES does. In her ‘spare time’ she rolls up her sleeves and prepares meals for SES volunteers training on boats at weekend courses at Patterson Lakes, Victoria.

Marg has also completed multiple courses through the SES. She holds a licence to operate chainsaws and the hydraulic rescue tool *Jaws-of-Life*, that she’s used during many rescues. Marg is also licenced to drive 43-seater buses and medium body riggers, that she put to good use while working for Avis - regularly returning rental trucks from Frankston to Mildura. She’s proud to tell you, “it’s what you do”.

The story doesn’t end there! Marg worked two days a week as a First Aider at Karingal Heights, from 2001-2002 while bringing up her two children, in addition to a part-time job with Frankston City Council for 23 years - driving buses and ferrying kids around during school holiday programs.

When funding was pulled for the Frankston school bus routes, she worked as a bus driver for nine years at Flinders College, until 2024.

It was while working at Karingal Heights that the kids and the school chose a Local Volunteer to honour in the community, and so it came to be that she was nominated. The children made a 6ft tall cut out of her, that travelled to Canberra as part of the 100 year’s of Federation celebrations in 2001.



We found Mrs Graham, standing tall and surviving all the elements

While she may not wince at the sight of blood at road trauma, she’s squeamish being in the spotlight and receiving accolades, including being awarded 2003 Frankston Citizen Of The Year and having a ‘Star’ at Karingal Hub named after her for her contribution to Community Work. As if that’s not enough, she also had her name recently added to the Frankston Boardwalk along with other Frankston Volunteers!

In 2022 Marg was also awarded Dunkley Pandemic Hero by the Principal at Flinders College, for her assistance during COVID lock down and managing the 60 children of essential workers who attended school.

Marg helped in any way she could, including conducting rapid antigen testing, coordinating the children during breaks, and wiping down doors and tables, among other duties to keep the children safe at the school.



Dunkley Pandemic Hero 2022

When she wasn’t camping with the guides she was attending car accidents, participating in rescues, helping animals out of trees, and meeting lots of people. “You do it because you like it. It’s the satisfaction you get out of helping”.

Margaret has also been on an advisory board for Vic Roads, and as a result has been instrumental in making our roads safer.

And with such a busy schedule, Marg makes time for her two children, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren, who are proud as punch of her!



2003 Citizen Of The Year, Frankston City Council.



2001 Frankston Local Hero Award. 100 year’s of Federation Celebration, Canberra



35 year Certificate of Service with SES



Emergency & Recovery Response 2007 Medal, Hunter & Central Coast Storms



Karingal Local Hero Award 2010, and Walk of Fame Star in her honour, for her contribution to Community Work



Receiving the 15 year SES National Medal



Marg has marched at 54 ANZAC Day marches.



The Frankston RSL gratefully acknowledges the hard work and dedication that Marg has contributed to the RSL community and the broader local communities over her time.

Her passion, dedication, and exemplary performance in supporting veterans and the greater community, reflects great credit on her and the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch.

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



“It’s what you do”.

SUB-SECTIONS

Pipes & Drums



The Pipes and Drums have had a busy year with engagements. Our Pipe Major, Malcolm Sinclair, has worked hard to have the band performance ready and was ably assisted by Bruce McFarlane and Geoff Shaw. The drumming section, led by our Drum Sergeant, Linda Packham and tutor, Sam Templeton, have challenged the drummers with new drum scores. We also were visited by two well respected pipers who gave their time to fill our ranks at times and assist us.

The band participated in many events throughout 2025:

- ANZAC Day Services at Frankston, Chelsea, and Rye
- Remembrance Day Service at Frankston
- Mornington Peninsula Celtic Concert
- Cranbourne Masonic Lodge - annual appearance for over 35 years
- Frankston Foreshore Waterfront Festival Inaugural Swim
- Police Remembrance Day on the Mornington Peninsula
- We also had solo pipers play at several engagements

The highlight of the year was leading the marches on ANZAC Day with the formation of eight pipers and six drummers. We proudly represent Frankston RSL Sub-Branch on this day of remembrance at three locations, including leading the marches at the Chelsea RSL Sub-Branch, and Rye RSL Sub-Branch

It is always incredibly fulfilling to have large crowds gather at Commemorative Services, and remember our veterans.

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



Golf



The Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Golf Section has had another great year, maintaining a membership base of over 30 golfers, and playing at some great courses, which will be replicated in the 2026 programme.

Congratulations to our three overall 2025 winners:

A grade - Nigel McKee, B grade - Dave Martin, and C grade - Geoff Stargatt. Throughout the year, we played at some wonderful courses, which will be replicated in the 2026 program, and we were fortunate with the weather on most game days; we didn't have to postpone or shorten games, which led to a very enjoyable year.

We tried a new destination for our annual trip away in March 2025, and Howlong Golf Course in NSW proved to be a great success and was enjoyed by all the members who attended. Congratulations to the overall winners, Rob Witting and Kath Ferry.

The 2026 year promises to be as eventful as last year, with an amazing 16 games scheduled. This is a credit to the Captain for arranging this and achieving the best deals possible, to ensure the cost to members is kept as affordable as possible. There is also the weekend trip back to Howlong Golf Course in February, so a great year of golf in 2026 is planned.

As in previous years, we supported the Mornington Legacy Club's Navy Week Charity Golf Day in October by entering a team of Frankston RSL Sub-Branch members. Additionally, our chairman, Rob Witting, joined members of the Sub-Branch Executive Committee in representing the RSL at the Centenary Park Golf Club open day.

The Golf Section also helped with fundraising for the RSL. Members sold ANZAC and Remembrance Day merchandise in addition to helping sell raffle tickets at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch's 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.

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



Overall A, B, C grade winners - Nigel, Dave, & Geoff

Howlong Golf Course Annual Trip Winners Kath & Robin.

MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT

President: Jane Neve

Email: frankstonrslpipesdrums@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT

Club Captain Grant Goodall

PH: 0414 868 164

Secretary Tony Harris

PH: 0435 240 342



The Ladies Auxiliary

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Ladies Auxiliary enjoyed a successful 2025, raising \$17,037.09. We welcomed four new members to our lovely group of ladies, ending the year with a total of 28 members. The ladies continue to enjoy each other's company, and our customary weekly Friday night meetups at the Frankston RSL Sub-Branch are very popular and a lot of fun, making it a wonderful opportunity to socialise.

Our two main raffles for the year, namely Easter and Christmas, were a big success, with the Christmas Raffle raising \$3,740 and the Easter Raffle raising \$2528. Once again, Frankston RSL Sub-Branch kindly donated \$1,000 that went towards the purchase of three Good Guys Gift Cards (\$500, \$300, \$200) that were added as hamper prizes. This added prize value ensured the popularity of the fundraiser, which enabled us to donate to various organisations that support and help veterans in need.

Our main source of income is the Friday Night \$1 raffles. Tickets sell well, and the ladies enjoy interacting with members as they make their way through the venue, selling the tickets.

In 2025, we allocated approximately \$5000 in donations to Community Support Services. The services support those who are experiencing financial hardship in the Frankston area. In addition, our ladies collect staple goods each month, such as food, toiletries, beanies, and hygiene products. 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. We also donated \$3,000 to the Partners of Veterans' Association (PVA), and funds were used on Christmas Events, Hampers, and social activities.

In 2025, we also supported residents at Vasey Care Independent Living with a fortnightly morning tea, which is steadily growing each month. We also donate \$100 each month, which goes towards a BBQ or special event they organise. These events are proving very successful, and we will continue to support them throughout the year.

Wreaths were laid during ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, and Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Services by one of our volunteers. The annual Christmas Lunch at the club for veterans and Associated Groups was thoroughly enjoyed by all members of the Women's Auxiliary.

Our group has enjoyed bus trips, lunches, and meetings, and we hope to have many more successful events throughout the year, as each get-together 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 ESO's on the Peninsula. The first lunch in 2025 was hosted by us at Frankston RSL Sub-Branch in February, and 60 members attended, including the State President and State Secretary of the Women's Council.

Membership & Contact

The Auxiliary helps raise funds for veterans and community groups, and is a great way to be social and meet new people. Find out more about our activities and join the group of volunteers.

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



Billiards & Snooker

2025 WEEKLY PENNANT RESULTS

VBSA MONDAY NIGHTS

- **Season 1** Paul Portelli's B Grade Furies snooker team was knocked out in the semi-finals finished 7th in B Grade, whilst Ron Batrouney's Hazards billiards team propped up the ladder, finishing 14th of 14.

- **Season 2** Ron Batrouney's C Grade Chargers snooker team went all the way and took off the flag. *Pictured Right.* Derryl Adams C Grade Fireflies had a lean season, finishing at the other end of the ladder.



OVER 55 TUESDAYS

- Ian Gilbee's Green team tasted success with a controversial win in the Grand Final. See the image below with Peter Gilligan, Brian Esnouf, Ian Gilbee, Tony Hill, Marty Cleasby-Jones and Bill Morgan. Arthur Holmes Gold finished off the pace.



METROPOLITAN/SOUTHERN TUESDAY NIGHTS.

- **Summer** Bill Lindsay's snooker team was runner-up in a very close final. Bill Morgan's snooker team finished mid-ladder.

- **Spring** Bill Lindsay's billiards team was eliminated in the semi-finals. Bill Morgan's snooker team finished mid-ladder.

RSL THURSDAY NIGHTS

- **Season 1 Snooker** Gareth Griffith's Eagles had a terrific season, just going down in the Preliminary final. New lads, Vasu and Will, had great 1st seasons. Shabbir Badshah's Hawks finished 6th.

- **Season 2 Billiards** John van Zanden's Hawks finished out of the finals.

2025 CLUB TOURNAMENT WINNERS

• **John van Zanden Club Snooker Champion:**

David Heath over Martin Cleasby-Jones.

Pictured right.

• **Henry Merrett Handicap Snooker:** Ronnie George over Martin Cleasby-Jones.

• **Mark Dunn Club Billiards Champion:** Ian Gilbee defeated Darren Royle. *Pictured Right.*

• **Norm Smith Handicap Billiards:** Rob Davies defeated Brett Porter.

• **Pat Chung "Dumb Bastard" Cup:** Terry Woodhouse & Bill Lindsay.

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



John van Zanden Club Snooker Champion



Mark Dunn Club Billiards Champion



