

RSL of Australia (Victorian Branch) Inc.

Emerald Sub Branch

3 Memorial Ave (PO Box 44)

Emerald Vic 3782



Presidents Report - 2022

2022 was a year of consolidation for the Emerald RSL after 2-3 years of Covid upheaval. It was a year where we continued to develop the Club's facilities and provide a great "place to be" for members.

These are a few of the highlights for the year:

1. Anzac Day was a great success with the theme being the Afghanistan War and its effects on our veterans. Again big crowds were welcomed in our traditional Emerald way. Matt Cocks passed the co-ordinating reins to Kane Falconer after 13 years at the helm and we congratulated Matt by awarding him with a Club Life membership during the service. Again we adorned Emerald with poppies thanks to Chris Weller and Matt Francis. This is now a tradition that Emerald looks forward to each year. We continued to join with the Emerald Football and Netball Club in the annual Anzac Day match which was won this year by Gembrook. Thanks to Mark Pedder and his crew who also co-ordinate our Two-Up game at the Club on Anzac Day. Organising Anzac Day is a mammoth task and big thank you to the organising Committee. And a big shout out to our perennial service support man behind the scenes, Daryl Bristowe.

2. Grants continued to roll in from the Federal, State and Local governments. We received \$50,000 from the Victorian Government to seal the carpark - a great improvement, nearly completed. We also received funds from the Federal government to buy new chairs for the Club rooms and also more fridges from the State Government. For the kitchen and bar. In addition, we received funds to add 7 new plaques on Anzac Place to remember the conflicts after WW2. Cardinia Council continued to financially support Anzac and Remembrance Days. The main job left to be undertaken on Anzac Place

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in 2023 is the repair of the base of the Unknown Soldier. Grant funds have been applied for and this will be undertaken in the coming months.

3. Our Committee had a few changes during the year. We lost our Secretary, Maggie Walsh who, as you all know, died suddenly late last year. Matt Cocks, Chris May and Marion Donders said goodbye and we welcomed, Rob Street, Tracey Wainwright, Gary Hanlon, Krystal Brown, Tanya Jogan and Trevor Ireland. Tanya will step up into the Secretary's role which will be confirmed at today's AGM.

4. On the social side, we continued our monthly music nights which is very popular with Club members and Emerald residents. Thanks to Chris Cullen, Paul Rothville, Rob Street and Tracey Wainwright for organising these very popular nights. A stage has been erected in the Club rooms thanks to Lyn Hilder who also built our "Welcome to Emerald" sign which is pride of place at the Club's entrance. The annual Bowls Day against Cockatoo RSL again took place and we again failed to bring home the shield. More practice needed for next year but a great Club day at the Cockatoo Bowls Club. Thanks Marty Cattanach. Our Christmas dinners in December and July continue to be packed out.

5. Appeals. Our badge and poppy sales were again quite successful with money raised put to good use assisting our veterans with firewood, Club membership and Christmas hampers. We also provided financial assistance to an army serviceman who was in need of support.

6. Footy Tipping continued to be popular with Mark Pedder taking home the chocolates. 40 Club and family members participated.

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7. Bar and Kitchen. Chris Cullen continues to do a mighty job managing the Bar with assistance from Gabby Maloney and barman, Camden Agius. The “Square” eftpos machine is proving a hit with members. A big shout out to Betty A’Vard and Gabby Maloney for organising Club meals every week.
8. Emerald Secondary College. The Club resumed its support of the ESC presentation Night with a donation of \$500.
9. Club Merchandise. We initiated a range of Club T-shirts, hoodies, jackets and caps for members and these are available on an on-going basis.
10. Club Membership has stabilised around 170 veteran affiliate and social members. Apart from Maggie Walsh we also said farewell to George Pryke and Roland (Roly) Britton. Recently we said a sad farewell to Julie de Haan, a stalwart of the Club and who was a regular at the Club music nights and other music nights in the Hills.
11. Club Maintenance. Thanks to Lyn Hilder, Ron A’Vard and Laurence De Winter for doing all the fix-it jobs around the Club that never seem to go away.

I thank my Committee for their contribution during the year especially my wife, Gabby, who essentially managed day to day operations of the Club. It is paramount for a Club to have a stable and energetic Committee and this we have, in spades.

Thank you.

Peter Maloney
President

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