

Your local Club Ringwood RSL



October/November 2022 Newsletter

Remembrance Day 2022

The annual Remembrance Day Commemorations will be conducted this year at the Clock Tower Memorial and in the Ringwood Town Square starting at 11:00 hours with the sounding of the Last Post to remember the sacrifices made by our service men and women. Following these ceremonies light refreshments will be served in the VC Room at the Sub Branch. With the increasing instability in the World, this is an opportunity for us to not only remember those who gave all but also the show appreciation for the current members of our Defence Force who stand ready to defend us and also to provide that emergency assistance so vital to rebuild lives following natural disasters.



Remembrance Murals

The Sub Branch has been allocated a Victorian Government grant to refurbish the murals under the Wantirna Road railway bridge. Since these are now regarded as heritage items, we have had to engage a conservator to detail how the work should be undertaken. Once the report has been completed the Sub Branch has been asked to apply for a further grant to do the actual refurbishment.

Heritage Walk

The Maroondah Council has completed the installation of the heritage markers around the Station precinct. More information on this initiative will be provided in the next newsletter.

Membership Issues¹

There has been some ongoing discussion concerning membership of the League and the Sub Branch. One of our members has been erroneously advised by an employee at the State Branch office "that the Sub Branch has separated from the Returned Services League Victoria". No such decision has been made by the Ringwood Sub Branch Committee and the Committee has not and has no plans in the future to initiate any action to separate or disaffiliate from the League. All our service and affiliate members are and remain members of the League and all categories of members enjoy access to and reciprocal rights from other Sub Branches.

What the Ringwood Sub Branch Committee has decided is that the Sub Branch will not subscribe to the new state membership system. This decision is about the way the administration of RSL Victoria members is carried out not whether Ringwood Sub Branch members are or are not Victorian members of the League. It is based on two major factors;

¹ This item is repeated from the previous edition due to its importance and impact on our service and affiliate members.

1. **Gaming Operations:** The new membership system is a component of the IGT gaming system which the State Branch has adopted to manage its gaming (i.e. poker machine) services and by which it also manages its “RSL Rewards” promotions. The view of the Committee is that the State Branch office should not become a gaming services provider but should instead focus on the central purposes for which the League was established (i.e., advocating and providing wellbeing support for veterans and their families). The Committee had also decided some time ago to withdraw from this rewards system believing a local sub branch-based rewards promotion would be of greater benefit to its members.
2. **Cost:** The Sub Branch has committed to continue to pay affiliation fees (League Support Fee - LSF) to RSL Victoria. These fees for 2023 are set at some \$138,000 and are projected to increase by inflation in 2024 and 2025. The State Branch has set its fee for the membership system at some \$14,000 (in addition to the LSF) system. The State membership system is incompatible with the sub branch systems and to fully integrate it would mean a complete replacement of these that would cost the Sub Branch in excess of \$160,000 initially with ongoing licence costs of another \$22,000 per year plus additional costs to replace/reprogram point of sale registers etc and retrain staff. The Committee did not feel it could justify the expenditure of members funds for this.

The Sub Branch is in discussions with the State Branch on how to administer Ringwood based League members and has proposed alternatives that we hope will provide a basis for the future administration of its members and be accepted by the State Branch. Never the less Sub Branch members are being issued with a card that is fully operable within the premises and we expect the continued issue of the Victorian RSL card by State Branch to all League members (service & affiliates) will occur.

Reciprocal rights are part of the State by-laws and administration of these is up to each sub branch. For example, the Ringwood Sub Branch can be accessed with a State RSL card but it will issue a “visiting RSL member” card to League members visiting the sub branch whose State issued card is incompatible with our systems to enable the access to member benefits including discounts.

Want to become more involved.....



Please consider how you can be involved and help the work of the Sub Branch by volunteering. We are always on the lookout for veterans and members with organisational and management skills who could contribute to the running of the Sub Branch either as part of the committee or in an advisory capacity. As well there is always scope for assisting with the various member’s programs such as helping with the two major appeals (ANZAC & Poppies), the Veteran Fitness Engagement Program, Women’s Auxiliary, assisting the conduct of the Friday night board and Oculus games, the “Friendly Friday” social connection

program, Hospital & less mobile veterans visiting program, Tuesday mobility class and of course the sporting sub sections can always do with assistance in organising their events.

Volunteers are needed and your involvement is always welcome.