



Please join us in commemorating 2024 ANZAC Day.

10 am: the March will commence at corner of Baylis and Morgan Streets.

10:30am: Commemorative Service will begin at the Cenotaph in the Victory Memorial Gardens.

12.30 pm: Luncheon at the Wagga RSL Club.

Sub-Branch Monthly Meeting - second Wednesday night of each month

Held downstairs at the Wagga RSL Club at 7 p.m. Have your say in the operations and activities of the sub-Branch and keep up to date with sub-Branch events, followed by a social gathering upstairs.

BBQ Lunch - second Wednesday of each month

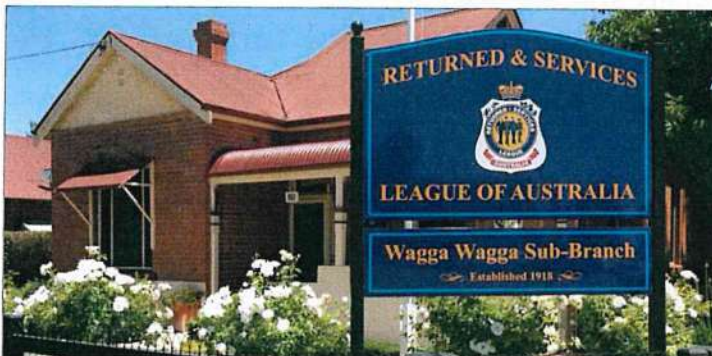
The sub-Branch BBQ lunches are becoming more popular and are attended by members and local current serving personnel. We ask that RSVPs are submitted the Monday prior, to 02 6921 3528 or admin@waggarslsubbranch.com.au

2024 ANZAC Day Luncheon

The ANZAC Day Luncheon will be held at 12.30 pm downstairs at the Wagga Wagga RSL Club.

The ticket prices are below:
Sub-Branch Members: \$20
ADF Members: \$25
Non-Members: \$35
Children under 12 years: \$15

Call the sub-Branch now on 02 6921 3528 to secure your tickets.



2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7.00 pm Wednesday 13 March 2024

The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Wagga Wagga RSL sub-Branch was held on Wednesday 13 March at 7 pm in the Mirage Room of the Wagga RSL Club. See President's Report following.

Have you renewed your Membership with the Wagga RSL sub-Branch for 2024? Membership is free and can be updated by calling the sub-Branch on (02) 6921 3528, emailing us on admin@waggarslsubbranch.com.au or visiting the sub-Branch located at 26 Dobbs Street.

Call into the sub-Branch for a cuppa and a chat, we would love to see you.



ANZAC Day Services Guide

✚ DAWN SERVICE

- ✚ Commencing at 5:30am conducted by Wagga Legacy at the Wagga Cenotaph in the Victory Memorial Gardens, corner of Baylis and Morrow Streets.

✚ WAR CEMETERY SERVICE

- ✚ Commencing at 6:30am at the Wagga War Cemetery on Koorungal Road.

✚ BREAKFAST

- ✚ Commencing at 7.00am organised by the Wagga RSL Club Ltd and held at the Wagga RSL Club corner of Kincaid and Dobbs Streets, a Buffet style Gunfire breakfast, includes rum and milk.

✚ ANZAC DAY MARCH

- ✚ Groups assemble at 9.30am at the corner of Baylis and Morgan Streets.
- ✚ Main March commences at 10.00am, moving down Baylis Street to the Cenotaph at the corner of Baylis and Morrow Streets, followed by a Commemorative Service.

✚ ANZAC DAY Lunch

- ✚ Commencing at 12.30pm hosted by the Wagga Wagga RSL sub-Branch at the Wagga RSL Club corner of Kincaid and Dobbs Streets.
- ✚ Tickets available at the sub-Branch 02 6921 3528 from Monday 25 March 2024.

✚ ANZAC DAY SUNSET SERVICE

- ✚ Commencing at 5:30pm conducted by the Wagga Wagga RSL sub-Branch and held out the front of the Wagga RSL Club corner of Kincaid and Dobbs Streets.

For further information call (02) 6921 3528

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

I bid all a warm and sincere welcome to the Wagga Wagga sub-Branch's 105th Annual General Meeting (AGM).

It is hard to believe a year has come and gone since our last AGM and the election of our Executive and Committee Officers. 2023 has been a year of many challenges particularly with an increased emphasis on compliance, governance, and due diligence across our operation and administration processes.

The sub-Branch is the sum of many parts and there are many different groups and individuals who contribute. Some members contribute sparingly, some generously, some humbly, some with a louder presence, some more hands on, and some delve into plans and ideas. All are contributing to help the sub-Branch meet its charitable purpose in support of Veterans, serving personnel and their families.

The Executive, Trustees and Committee officers have worked productively throughout the year and again, this commitment and use of time by busy people is appreciated and acknowledged.

My tenure as President commenced at last year's AGM and I am very aware of how much I and the sub-Branch are indebted to the generous and considered contributions by all elected office holders, as well as our many volunteers who freely give up their time.

We have had a busy year and have run a very full agenda. This includes our Commemoration Services, monthly BBQs, monthly Friday after work events plus engaging and supporting other Ex Service Organisations (ESOs), as well as schools throughout our community. We continue to work with and support our RSL Charity, the Riverina Veteran Wellbeing Centre.

No short cuts are taken as our sub-Branch takes pride in its reputation for planning and delivering quality and meaningful events and activities. All groups need more support to sustain this energy and we look to our members to respond when and where they can. Below are some highlights for the year.

We achieved much in 2023 including an upgrade of the sub-Branch computer system, a more efficient email system, the introduction of an SMS Phone Messaging system and new software to catalogue our memorabilia, assets, and library holdings.

Commemorations

ANZAC Day 2023 was very well supported by the community with a large turnout along Baylis Street showing their warm appreciation for all Veterans proudly marching as well as the Army, Navy and Airforce personnel in the Parade. Many stayed on to attend the Commemorative Service in the Victory Memorial Gardens on completion of the March.

The War Cemetery Service conducted by Ken May was also well attended with the Keynote Address given by Thane Whitnell, a Year 10 student from The Riverina Anglican College (TRAC) and included an account of his visit to the battlefields of France.

Other Commemorations included Remembrance Day (11 November), Korea Veterans Day (27 July), and Post 1975 Conflicts (22 October), with a very special Keynote Speaker. We were honoured to have WO E10 Ken Robertson, OAM Senior Advisor to the Chief of Defence Force, deliver the Keynote address.

Vietnam Veterans Day commemorated on 18 August was a significant occasion as it marked the 50-year Anniversary of the end of Australia's engagement in this conflict.

Our sub-Branch also had representatives attend a range of other services conducted by the Light Horse Memorial Committee and the National Servicemen's Association. These included the War Animals Remembrance Day on 20 February, the Kapooka Tragedy Service on 21 May, the Battle for Romani on 8 August, the unveiling of the Light Horse Statue on 16 September and the Battle for Beersheba on 31 October.

I wish to congratulate David Abbott, Ken May and Wendy Gaynor as well as all those who gave their time to help organise and make commemorations conducted by the sub-Branch such a success.

I also acknowledge the support provided by RAAF Base Wagga and Kapooka Barracks throughout the year. We are very fortunate to benefit from their support and help.

Fundraising

The sub-Branch conducts two major fundraising appeals annually, those being ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. Both these events were generously supported by the community with record sales for both ANZAC Day badges and memorabilia and Remembrance Day poppies, badges and memorabilia.

The credit for these record sales belongs with Peter and Chis Wyatt and all the volunteers who gave their time to operate the five sale points. Peter and Chris purchase the merchandise, organise the boxes for the selling points, and with the help of Wendy Gaynor they coordinate the rosters, re-supply sale points, collect monies and carry out the post event audit.

As well as sub-Branch members and family members, we are grateful for the support of personnel from RAAF Base Wagga, Kapooka Barracks, and the Australian Military Bank.

Finances and Property

The sub-Branch maintains a strong financial position and is able to meet all of its obligations for operations. The Audit Financial Accounts have been received, with no major non-conformances identified.

The Profit and Loss shows a loss for the year ending 31 December 2023 of \$23,003.00.

It was pleasing that the sub-Branch donated the first of two sizeable amounts to RSL LifeCare to support the operation of the Riverina Veteran Wellbeing Centre.

I wish to acknowledge the work and dedication of Jeff Hunter in discharging his duties as sub-Branch Treasurer. He has worked closely with the Finance sub-Committee, Trustees and Office Manager Wendy Gaynor to ensure our finances are kept in good shape. I thank all for their time and excellent work.

Each year the sub-Branch provides two Scholarships totalling \$10,000 to Charles Sturt University (CSU).

Our properties are fully occupied, and rents are received monthly into the General Account. Macarthur Real Estate continues as the Managing Agent. McGrath Riverina took over the Strata Management responsibilities for the five units at 95 Balleroo Crescent, from Hore and Davies in December 2023.

I wish to thank Maris Herr as Real Estate Property Officer for the outstanding job in the day-to-day communication and administration for the sub-Branch properties through the managing agent. A job well done.

Wellbeing and Compensation (Welfare)

Sub-Branch Wellbeing Advocate, Stephen Batcheldor, is on-hand at the sub-Branch on Tuesdays to assist Veterans with wellbeing and compensation matters. He was ably assisted by Bob Young until his retirement from the role in July 2023. Bob has since left Wagga and now resides in Canberra. I wish to acknowledge his contribution in supporting Veterans throughout his time in the position and for providing mentorship to Steve in recent years.

I wish to congratulate Steve on being assessed as Competent in the Unit of Competency C&A Level 2, a unit of the Course in Military Advocacy. The sub-Branch and Veterans and families will be the beneficiaries of this qualification.

I commend Steve and Bob for their dedicated service to our Veteran community throughout 2023.

Membership

It is very pleasing to report an increase of 12.5% in sub-Branch membership in 2023. In December 2022 the membership total was 304. At the end of November 2023 membership numbers stood at 342. A very pleasing number.

I wish to acknowledge the excellent work carried out by Janelle Parkinson, our Membership Officer, who updated and maintained our membership records and processed new membership applications in a timely and efficient manner. Many thanks Janelle.

The sub-Branch was pleased to receive formal advice from RSL Australia on 13 December 2023, confirming that Ken May had been awarded Life Membership of the League. This is a much-deserved award for recognition of dedicated service to the sub-Branch and the Veteran community over the past 18 years.

Auxiliary

Wagga Wagga RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary President Robin Millington and Secretary Pauline Alchin joined the Auxiliary in 2008. They worked tirelessly for 15 years leading a team of 12 to provide support, raise funds, purchase items for the sub-Branch, prepare and serve morning teas and support the Christmas Parties. Sadly, for the sub-Branch, Robin and Pauline retired from their positions in September 2023.

During 2023 RSL NSW conducted statewide consultation with members on the proposed amendments to Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 8 - RSL Auxiliaries, to reflect current regulatory reporting requirements to ensure Auxiliaries were equipped with the guidance to undertake charitable operations. The main amendment to SOP 8, was the proposed introduction of a State Coordinator and Deputy State Coordinator of RSL Auxiliaries. The amendments were tabled for discussion at the 31 August District President Council meeting.

Social

Our two main social functions each year are the ANZAC Day Lunch and the sub-Branch Christmas Party. Both events were well attended and a great success. I wish to thank Wendy Gaynor for her tireless work to ensure the efficient running of both functions.

Our monthly BBQs were well attended by members and guests from groups who support the sub-Branch throughout the year. It is pleasing that the RAAF Holding Flight, Navy trainees and Kapooka trainees attend this event on a regular basis. I thank Reg Hearne, his BBQ Crew and Kitchen Crew for their great work in preparing and presenting a very tasty lunch each month.

The sub-Branch sponsored and hosted a Spring Picnic in the Park for Defence families in October at RAAF Base Wagga. A first for the sub-Branch. With 174 in attendance, it was a very successful event. Guests brought their picnic rugs and hampers and the sub-Branch provided jumping castles, face painting, roaming acrobatic performers and outdoor games. Ice cream, as well as hot and cold drinks were provided. The Australian Military Wives Choir provided entertainment during the lunch break. I thank the Riverina Veteran Wellbeing Centre, The RANCH and the Blamey Community Group for their support and assistance in the planning and conduct of the day.

Support

The Wagga RSL sub-Branch actively engaged with the community throughout the year. Beside our monthly BBQs, members cooked and served at the annual Welcome to Wagga to newly posted defence families hosted by Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS).

The sub-Branch cooked and served at the Kapooka Pre-School Christmas Singalong and Family Night.

The Australian Military Wives Choir Wagga, use our office for practice and rehearsals. We also sponsor the Kapooka Primary School's Educational Assistance dog, Xena.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Wagga RSL Club for its ongoing support throughout 2023 and look forward to continuing this relationship in 2024.

Conclusion

As you can see from this report, the year has been one of change, especially around compliance. The sub-Branch has continued to meet its stated Charitable Purpose obligations of Commemorations, Fundraising, Mateship and Camaraderie, and connect with the Veterans and their families, and most importantly a growth in membership. As a volunteer organisation, the sub-Branch is fortunate to have a group of dedicated people to rely upon. On behalf of the sub-Branch, I acknowledge their highly appreciated contributions throughout the year.

There will always be challenges moving forward with an organisation like the Wagga Wagga RSL sub-Branch, but I believe that an exciting future is there for us.



Rod Cooper
President

Celebrating 50 Years of Service



We recently had the opportunity and privilege to present the RSL NSW 50 Year Membership Certificate to John McMeekin.

The President, Rod Cooper and Trustee, David Gardiner, presented the certificate acknowledging John's ongoing service to the League and the community of Veterans and serving members.

We deeply appreciate John's service to Australia and we celebrate his Centenarian status.

Celebrating A Member's Milestone Birthday

On 23 February 2024 the sub-Branch wished Herbert (Bert) Adams a very happy 100th year birthday. This was a significant milestone that warranted acknowledgement and celebration.

Bert is a long-term member of the sub-Branch and one of Wagga Wagga's last WWII Veterans, which highlights his important standing in our community.

The photo (right) was taken at the 2023 ANZAC Day Parade.



Ken May receiving Life Membership of the League presented by Trustee David Gardiner.



2023 Spring Picnic in the Park



LAST POST

We record, with regret, the passing of our Ex-Servicemen and Ex-Servicewomen during 2023. We pay tribute to their service, to their country during war and their contribution to this sub-Branch and community in times of peace.

Leslie (Les) WESTON OAM	2 January 2023
Clyde Aubrey (Mick) RUDD	13 January 2023
William Francis (Bill) WEIR	25 January 2023
Cecil Robert (Bob) SCOTT	10 February 2023
Leslie Barrymore (Barry) O'KEEFE	17 March 2023
Phillip James MURRAY	20 March 2023
Frank Peter (Peter) RANDAL	2 April 2023
Alfred Reuben Ward DUDLEY	14 April 2023
Byron BOOTES	17 April 2023
Maxwell (Max) PAYTON	18 April 2023
John Barry M'DOUGALL	27 April 2023
Kevin Ronald THOMPSON	12 May 2023
Anthony (Tony) PRATT	3 June 2023
Alan Geoffrey EVANS	9 June 2023
Val Lester HAYWARD	4 August 2023
James Hattrick (Jim) MALCOLM	5 August 2023
Walter William (Bill) TAYLOR	18 August 2023
John Phillip RYAN	7 September 2023
Bryan HICKS	7 October 2023
Alan Victor EDWARDS	10 October 2023
Robert Timothy (Bob) FRASER	13 October 2023
John William Harold WITT	11 November 2023
Allan John WINLEY	2 December 2023
Brian John BAKER	7 December 2023

2024 Commemorative Services in the Wagga Wagga Victory Memorial Gardens

Ceremony	Time Period	Date	Location
National Serviceman's Day	11.00 – 11.30 am	Saturday 10 February 2024	National Servicemen's Association
Fall of Singapore	11.00 am – 12 noon	NO SERVICE IN 2024	
War Animals Remembrance Day	11.00 am – 12 noon	Sunday 18 February 2024	Organised by Light Horse Memorial Committee
ANZAC Day Dawn Service	5.30 am – 7.00 am	Thursday 25 April 2024	Cenotaph, Victory Memorial Gardens
ANZAC Day Main Service	10.00 am – 12 noon	Thursday 25 April 2024	Cenotaph, Victory Memorial Gardens
ANZAC Day Lunch	12.30 – 3.00 pm	Thursday 25 April 2024	Wagga RSL Club
Middle East Area of Operation (MEAO) Day	11.00 am – 12 noon	Thursday 11 July 2024	Inaugural Commemoration, Victory Memorial Gardens
Korea Veterans Day	11.00 am – 12 noon	Saturday 27 July 2024	Cenotaph, Victory Memorial Gardens
Battle of Romani	11.00 am – 12 noon	Sunday 6 August 2024	Organised by Light Horse Memorial Committee
Victory in the Pacific	11.00 am – 12 noon	NO SERVICE IN 2024	
Vietnam Veterans Day	11.00 am – 12 noon	Sunday 18 August 2024	Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Victory Gardens
Battle for Australia	11.00 am – 12 noon	NO SERVICE IN 2024	
Post 1975 Conflicts	11.00 am – 12 noon	Sunday 22 October 2024	Cenotaph, Victory Gardens
Beersheba Day	4.30 - 5.45 pm	Sunday 27 October 2024	Organised by Light Horse Memorial Committee
Remembrance Day	10.30 am – 12 noon	Monday 11 November 2024	Cenotaph, Victory Memorial Gardens



Your Invitation to Get Involved!

A full list of 2024 commemorative services is included above for your reference. We encourage members to call in to the sub-Branch and find ways to contribute that suit your skills, abilities and schedules. More hands are always needed for ANZAC Day, we could use more members trained to use our Public Address system, and we always need more members to assist us in the wellbeing space, at the monthly BBQ lunches and community events. We hope to see you soon at the sub-Branch.

