



Leongatha RSL Sub-Branch Inc.

2022 Annual Report



Community Benefits

Veterans Support

Commemoration

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Leongatha RSL's Mission Statement

The mission of the RSL is to support the well being and betterment of our members - serving and ex-serving men and women of the ADF, our allies and their families - with provision of welfare and commemorative services and, where appropriate, contribute to worthy needs within the broader community.

Leongatha RSL's Vision Statement

The Leongatha RSL will strive to provide a first class facility showing a high standard of service and community support. We recognise our role in the education of the public, especially young people, on the sacrifices made by those who have served their country. We aim to promote a living community spirit and uphold the values of respect for each other and support of your mates.



Past Presidents



1919-26	H. Pern	†	1968-69	G.S. Peacock	†
1927-31	V. Amos	†	1970-71	M. O'Brien	†
1932-36	H. Pern	†	1972-73	D.R. Tuff	†
1936	E.R. Harding	†	1974-75	E.D. Rixon	†
1937-38	V. Amos	†	1976-77	G.E. Martin	†
1939	J. Dowling	†	1978-79	L. Goldsworthy	†
1940	E. Bellingham	†	1980-81	R.S. Gaudion	†
1941	J. Luckie	†	1982-83	A.A. Marshman	†
1942	R. McIndoe	†	1984-85	J.A. Dowling	†
1943	E.J. Vagg	†	1986-87	W.L. Shergold	†
1944	T.R. Dalliston	†	1988-89	A.G. Foster	†
1945	F. Vagg	†	1990-91	D.R. Tuff	†
1946	Rev. D. Southey	†	1992-93	E.J. Martin	†
1947	N.A. McDonald	†	1994-95	J.A. Dowling	†
1948-49	R. Rutherford	†	1996-97	A.A. Marshman	†
1950	H. Stone	†	1998-99	*R.J. Matthews	
1951	D. Murphy	†	2000-03	K.F. Rooney	
1952	A.N.L. Murphy	†	2004-05	J.A. Dowling	†
1953	A.R. Perrett	†	2006-07	L.W. Canobie	†
1954	A.G. Miles	†	2008-09	R.E. Cameron	†
1955	L. Longmore	†	2010-11	*D.H. Edwards	
1956	R.S. Eccles	†	2012	G.F. Heath	
1957	K. Wightman	†	2013-15	P.J. Carruthers	†
1958-59	R. Seidel	†	2016-17	S.J. Wisdom	
1960-61	L. Trotman	†	2018-19	K.W. Wanklyn	
1962-63	W. Tilson	†	2019-20	K.W. Wanklyn /	
1964-65	A. Spencer	†		C.A. James	
1966-67	S. Gaudion	†	2021-22	G. Cooper	

Life Members

E.R Harding		†	H. Tilson	1994	†
L. Trotman		†	W.L. Shergold		†
R. Fletcher		†	J.F. Rourke	1998	†
A.G.L. Crombie		†	A.A. Marshman	1999	†
V.D. Cahill		†	A. Davies	2010	
R.S. Gaudion	1991	†	A.G. Foster	2013	†
R.E. Cameron	2004	†			

Presidents Report - Geoff Cooper



This last year has been a better year for the Leongatha RSL.

With the problems of Covid now largely in the past, we are looking forward to a brighter future, and this is thanks to the dedication of our staff.

We are still waiting for the renovations, in particular, the upgrade of the Michael Place entrance to get started.

We have now purchased all of the machines in the gaming room. The purchase of our gaming room floor and the move away from a full service model took place in August and we have been very satisfied with our decision to operate this part of our business independently.

Thanks to all the staff for their continued efforts in delivering the objectives of the RSL.

With the hiring of some more staff in the Bistro and Kitchen, we are receiving some very good feedback on the meals we are providing from our patrons.

The Christmas Break Up party went off very well. It was very satisfying to see the staff get into the spirit of the Christmas season and dressing up for the party.

The demolition of the old buildings in Smith Street, that were used as a Kindergarten and Daycare Centre, is now well underway and hopefully will be finished soon.

I wish to say a massive thank you to our many volunteers, who contribute so many hours and put in so much effort, to ensure the successful organizing and running of our memorial services, and raised \$23,294.00 from the sales of Poppy and Anzac Badges.

Our total spending on welfare amounted to over \$120,000.00.

I also want to thank our Committee, who have been such a great support to me.

And finally, thanks to all of our members, Service, Affiliate and Social, for your ongoing support throughout the year. I hope to see all of you in our RSL sometime soon.

Treasurers Report - Mark Carruthers



Sub-Branch Financial Result for 2022.

The Overall Net result for the 2022 Year was a net loss of \$14,850, a disappointing result for the year, down significantly from a surplus the prior year of \$303,697.

The Operations for 2022 were again initially impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and State Government trading restrictions, however jobkeeper and majority of Government subsidies were unavailable this year.

In August 2023, the Sub-Branch entered a new model for gaming machines, and we now own all the machines in the venue, instead of leasing as we have done for the previous 20plus years. With this major purchase of the gaming machines in August totalling over \$650,000, partially funded by borrowing and existing cash on hand, our cash flow has decreased by \$219,822, although we still have significant funds in our Bank accounts.

Patriotic Fund Financial Result for 2022.

The overall result for the Patriotic Fund was a deficit of \$291,598 down from a deficit of \$254,236 in 2021. A Significant portion of our expenses are in relation to depreciation expense of the buildings. The Cash holdings for the Patriotic Fund has increased to \$445,755 from \$299,496 at the end of 2021.

Overall, financially the Sub-Branch and Patriotic Fund are in a strong position going into the next year although we need to see a significant improvement in the overall performance of the venue and particularly the bistro for 2023.

Full copies of the Financial Report are available in the Sub-Branch at request.

General Managers Report - Anne Davies



2022 started slowly with quite a few restrictions still in place during January and February. Trade was still limited but slowly community groups and businesses started to use our facilities again. Thursday Member nights recommenced and increased patronage followed.

Welfare support continues to be our priority with Phil Head and Terry Busk (Compensation Advocates) and Cyril Payne (JP and RSL Chaplain) available for veterans' claims and support. Wendy Wyhoon and myself (both Wellbeing Advocates) and Kerryn Wylie work closely with Phil and Terry to gain the best outcome for those seeking assistance. Kerryn works two days a week and visits many of our veterans, undertaking welfare checks and assisting where necessary. This work is extremely important and very valuable, as this is what the RSL is here to do. Leongatha RSL is extremely lucky to have Phil, Terry and Cyril who volunteer their time and expertise to assist the veteran community.

We were notified in August that we had been successful in securing a BEST funding grant of \$8568-25 to assist with expenses at the Veteran's Hub. Being able to secure grants is extremely important in being able to provide facilities for the veteran community.

Anzac Day – well done and thank you in particular to Wendy Wyhoon and Kate Gourlay for cooking breakfast on Anzac morning and to the volunteers that assisted with the serving of.

On August 16th Leongatha RSL transitioned overnight from the old 2012 gaming model to the new 2022 gaming model with little or no issue, unlike some venues. Leongatha RSL purchased the machines in full from Tabcorp Gaming Solutions and the machines became an asset of the sub-branch. Some borrowings were made towards the purchase and will be repaid from sub-branch funds. The sub-branch elected to use RSL Product Services to assist with the business side of the new model, and once up and running should secure a better financial return, therefore more available funds that will be directed to welfare.

Annual insurance premiums had a considerable increase of \$12,000 over the previous year. Marsh, the RSL insurance broker managed to keep the insurers to an increase to 5% rather than the 10-15%. Insurance covers Management Liability, Public and Products Liability, Cyber and Motor Vehicle and Consequential Loss or Damage. The purchase of the gaming machines also added to the increase.

I would like to thank and acknowledge George McMillan for his 21 years and 4 months of loyal service to Leongatha RSL. Sadly, George passed away in late September 2022. George was George, but he was the first person to put up his hand to help or assist where needed. George was a very reliable worker and whenever we needed someone at a moment's notice, he'd be here. He was always ½ an hour early for his shift, and was

General Managers Report - Anne Davies



always willing to work until the job was completed. He volunteered his time here every ANZAC Day and at other community events such as the Biggest Morning Tea. A very well attended get together to remember George was held and I think that he would have been pretty pleased. Quite a number of former staff came along and I know that his family were very happy and appreciative. George was part of our family and will be sadly missed by all.

Last report I mentioned that planning to get the renovations/refurbishments underway had recommenced. As you can see nothing has happened. The builder tasked with the works had been unable to secure enough quotes from local trades let alone Melbourne trades. Recently, Committee approved the architect approaching two local commercial builders and both are pricing the works. Quotations close with the architect on 3rd May, 2023. A further extension to the completion date for the Veterans Major Capital Works Grant for a new ramped entrance in Michael Place has just been approved, with a new completion date of 31st October.

From the efforts of staff in providing meals, supporting members, and doing all that is possible, you should be very proud of the staff in showing the community what an asset that Leongatha RSL is to them. Hopefully, this shows the community that it's not all about gaming.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the staff I work with, particularly the senior staff, Ricky, Sam, Travis, Andrea P, Chris, Andrea K and Wendy. In December, chef Chris Duell, went to full time employment which has helped to ease the load in the kitchen, particularly for Andrea. This sub-branch functions because we have staff that care, and work well together as a team.

Welfare & Functions Report—Wendy Wyhoon



Our welfare team has been busy over the last year, now that everything has again opened up after covid. It has been exceptionally nice to be able to deliver the service we previously have done.

Anzac Day 2022 started off with the annual gunfire breakfast where many patron's enjoyed the bacon and egg sandwiches and hot tea and coffee after the Dawn Service. It was great to see the crowds back. The Anzac Appeal was very well received this year, having our wonderful volunteers once again come to the party and assist in selling badges both at IGA and ALDI. Also, as we had done through covid, we managed to have the support of many local businesses to put boxes in their shops for extra sales. Without their continued support we wouldn't be able to assist as many veterans and families as we do at the RSL.

Veterans Health week 2022 this year had the theme of Nutrition. For these activities every year we try to look outside the box at activities that we think will appeal to our community. This year we decided to take a bus to Rayner's Orchards in Woori Yallock on the 7th of October. We had 29 people enjoy this day starting off from the Leongatha RSL at 10am heading to Cockatoo for lunch and then onto the Orchard for a guided tour, with the option of picking some amazing fruit along the tour and ending with afternoon tea before arriving back at the RSL around 5pm. This was a tremendous day it started off with rain but the guided tour of the orchard was fantastic and enjoyed by all who attended.

Remembrance Day Poppy Selling was again very well received and supported not only by our tireless volunteers but also many shop owners in our community. Again we thank IGA and ALDI for allowing us to sell our Poppies in their stores. We would also like to acknowledge the year 8 students from the Leongatha Secondary College who sold poppies in the street on the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day it was greatly appreciated and the students did a wonderful job.

Our Christmas hampers this year were very well received with over 150 hampers given out for Christmas to our Veterans, War widows and community. These were broken down into 2 groups as we have found in the past that the items we provide in these hampers for the younger demographic were not as well received. The younger of our veterans received gift cards to allow them to purchase for their own needs for Christmas and also to allow them

Welfare & Functions Report



to have a night out at the RSL which many of them may not have been able to do due to their circumstances.

The other more senior hamper recipients received our traditional hampers filled with all the Christmas goodies that they may not have been able to obtain due to circumstances beyond their control. These making great gifts when visiting families for the festive season.

Home and hospital visits are now full steam ahead for our welfare staff at the RSL with many Veterans and families, war widows and community benefiting from this service again. With many appointments attended by our volunteers also who have been volunteer drivers when needed.

Our two Compensation Advocates who are located at the Veterans Hub have been kept very busy over the last year also attending to client's requests for assistance with pensions and disability claims. They have also been mentoring volunteers from other sub branches to further the assistance given by the RSL. We now have the Veterans Hub open again every Thursday and Friday from 10am till 3pm for anyone who would like a cuppa or a chat, The knit and Natter ladies on a Friday morning from 10am till noon are full steam ahead knitting up a storm for any charity that needs assistance, whether in our local community or overseas these ladies are amazing and they are always looking for likeminded people who may like to knit, crochet or just like a natter. We also have the library down at the hub for anyone to view our reading material or may like to borrow a book to read at their leisure. The hub is open to everyone in our community as we believe that the RSL is a safe haven for anyone who needs it even if it just company that's needed.

2022 Veteran & Community Support



Financial Support: \$157,915.00

Commemoration / Veteran Support

Korumburra RSL Sub-Branch
Inverloch RSL Sub-Branch
Leongatha Legacy Ladies
Leongatha Veterans Centre
Meeniyah RSL
Mirboo North RSL
Toora RSL
Veterans & Widow Home Maintenance
Veterans & Widow Garden Maintenance
Veterans & Widow Support Services
Veterans & Widow Welfare Grants
Funeral Costs
Subsidised Meals

Community Support

Allambee & District Country Week Tennis
South Gippsland Umpires Association
Leongatha Bowls Club
Leongatha Croquet Club
Korumburra A&P Society
Mirboo North Bowls Club
Leongatha Probus
Woorayl Probus
Parkinsons Support Group
Nerrena Cricket Club
Mary MacKillop Secondary College
Leongatha Secondary College
St Laurence Primary School
Leongatha Primary School
Chairo Christian School
Southern Fusion Netball Club
Leongatha Football Netball Club
MDU Football Netball Club
Stony Creek Football Netball Club
Korumburra Sheepdog Trials
Korumburra Seniors



The Leongatha RSL recognises the passing of the following
Service & Affiliate members during 2022.

Service Members:

Michael D’Esterre	Walter Diss	Eric Metcalfe
David John	John Shaw	Johannes Van Kooy
Donald Withers	Robert Young	

Affiliate Members:

Leo Bentvelzen	Leslie Boyd	Gary Campbell
David Clarke	James Eldred	Zelma Fawcett
James Geary	James Goad	Thelma Goss
Frederick Hanks	Kathleen Heath	Blair Hodges
Jeffrey Kidd	George McMillan	Isabella Rennie
Margot Rodwell	Jean Rooney	Frederick Sauvarin
Ann Shandley	Elisabeth Taylor	Kathleen Turland
Aileen Wilson	Lindy Wilson	Margaret Wood

Lest We Forget