



Leongatha RSL Sub-Branch Inc. 2023 Annual Report



Community Benefits

Veterans Support

Commemoration

Table of Contents



Introduction	3
Past Presidents & Life Members	4
Presidents Report - Geoff Cooper	5
Treasurers Report - Ross Newton	6
General Managers Report - Greg Nugent	7
Welfare & Functions Report - Wendy Wyhoon	8
2023 Veteran & Community Support	10
Vale	11



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	†	2021-23	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



It has been another daunting year for the Committee of the Leongatha RSL.

Thankfully, the problems caused by the Covid virus are behind us. But the resignation of our Manager, Anne Davies, and the meetings, discussion, interviews etc leading up to the employment of our new Manager, Greg Nugent, has kept the Committee under constant pressure.

I sincerely thank all members of the Committee for their dedication to the job, and that thanks is extended to our employees for continuing to display loyalty under the extra pressures caused by all the changes.

We welcome Greg, and appreciate the energy and positivity he is displaying, with many new ideas towards making our RSL a more attractive venue for our members and patrons.

Membership is looking quite healthy at over 2100. Of those, we have 195 Service members. I believe we still need to attract more service people to our membership, and would greatly appreciate current members to invite any ex-service or current service people to come along for a meal. Veterans may come for a free lunch served one Wednesday a month.

Members Thursday night dinners are still proving very popular and we are pleased when we see Manager Greg mixing with the diners will selling tickets.

Over recent years, our committee has been striving to put more emphasis on remembering our fallen service people on our Memorial Days. ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day have all been well attended, and we have received many compliments on the signs we've provided and preparations from the attendees.

All up, I believe the RSL is on a good track to a brighter future.

Treasurers Report - Ross Newton



Sub-Branch Financial Result for 2023.

The overall result for the year 2023 was a net loss of \$216,779.00. A lower than expected result due to a few one-off payments to facilitate some major changes which occurred during the second half of the year.

The operations for 2023 have seen a marked increase in Bistro and Bar, while the Gaming revenue has been relatively steady throughout the year. After the purchase of the Gaming Machines last year, we have also invested in upgrading a few of our older machines in the past 12 months.

Our overall cash flow for the Sub-Branch has decreased by \$437,447.00, with this mainly attributable to payments for upgrades to our gaming machines and gaming entitlements. Our cash flow from day to day operations were positive, although reduced from previous years, mainly due to one-off payments.

Patriotic Fund Financial Result for 2023.

The overall result for the Patriotic Fund was a deficit of \$430,167.00 down from a deficit of \$291,598.00 in 2022. A significant portion of our expenses are in relation to depreciation expenses of buildings totalling \$415,755.00 and the demolition of the old kindergarten building.

The cash flow for the Patriotic Fund was positive for 2023, increasing by approximately \$11,000.00 to \$466,545.00, up from \$455,755.00 at the end of 2022.

Overall, financially the Sub-Branch and Patriotic Fund are in a sound position going into the next few years, with money committed to improving the ambience of the venue. We should hopefully see an increase in patronage over the next few years.

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

General Managers Report - Greg Nugent



Having started in November 2023 I am afraid that my report this year will be very short as I am still finding my feet.

I am both pleased and honoured to be given the opportunity to lead the team at Leongatha RSL Sub-Branch as we look to continually improve and grow in the coming years. My role is predominately to concentrate on improving the commercial aspect of the Sub-Branch. This will take a combined effort from staff, committee, and you the members to achieve our objective. What is that objective you may ask?

The objective is to establish the Leongatha RSL Sub-Branch as a community based entertainment venue and educational venue. We aim to be commercially successful so that we can direct the required funds towards welfare of returned service personnel and their families and education of the wider community on the work that the RSL do in the wider community.

Members and guests will notice some changes over the coming months all aimed at increasing the profile of the Club in the community while at the same time making us an attractive venue for people to dine and be entertained at.

Many registered Clubs have not recovered since COVID and while our results have not been to the level that would be expected we do have the opportunity to lay the foundation for future growth.

I thank everybody for their support so far and I look forward to what the next 12 months and beyond bring to the Leongatha RSL Sub-Branch and its members.

Welfare & Functions Report



Well, 2023 starting off well with many activities planned for the year. We started back the Wednesday lunches at the RSL for the Veterans and War widows. This luncheon is designed to assist our Veterans and Widows who are socially isolated and can't maintain a social connection with the community. Majority of our attendees, don't drive anymore and have limited access to social outings. It has been very well received by the people who attended. If there is anyone who you may think may benefit from attending these luncheons, they are held once a month. Please don't hesitate to call the RSL and pass your message onto either Wendy or Kerry and contact can be made and transport arrangements can be organised to encourage these vulnerable people to attend a lunch at the Leongatha RSL and encourage personal growth and networking of like minded people.

Our Anzac Day badge selling was a great success with in excess of \$14,300.00 raised to help our Veterans and families. An amazing result from our valued volunteers who assist us every year in this appeal, without the assistance of our volunteers the Leongatha RSL could not assist as many people as we do throughout the year.

Anzac Day Dawn service saw a fantastic crowd gather at the cenotaph before enjoying a bacon and egg breakfast at the RSL. We estimated to feed around 200 people on this day so that was a great effort, We acknowledge the hard work from wonderful volunteers on this morning as without their continued support this would be very difficult to successfully complete and appreciate the kind donations towards this morning from the local supermarkets IGA and ALDI and also PFD.

Veterans Health Week. This year's theme for Veteran Health Week was Mental Wellness. We put our thinking caps on this year and decided to do something out of the box. We ran 2 Painting for the Mind Activities, both held at the RSL but on different days, one during the day and one held at night. The thought behind this was we wanted to capture not only our Veterans and families that can attend through the day, but also the Veterans and families that are still working and may only be available after hours, the younger demographic you might say. Both sessions were very well received with people experiencing something that they may not ever had tried or ever thought of trying. All participants of both sessions expressed how terrific it was to create something under guidance of Bob Hickman a local artist from Koonwarra, that was their own work and they left with a real sense of accomplishment self-satisfaction and harmony which was what the theme of Veterans Health Week was.

Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal saw a record collection of just over \$15,000 which was a fantastic result but again could not have been raised without the amazing efforts of the Leongatha Volunteers who work tirelessly every year to assist in these worthy causes, but also to the amazing kids from the Leongatha Secondary College who participated in selling

Welfare & Functions Report—Wendy Wyhoon



the poppies around the streets of Leongatha it was a real team effort to raise this wonderful amount for our local communities.

Christmas Hampers were once again delivered to over 170 Veterans, families, war widows and people in need a couple of weeks before Christmas. These care packages and vouchers were given to our Veterans, families, war widows at this time of year when in the spirit of Christmas its about giving back to those who were there when we as a country needed them. These hampers were graciously given out by again our wonderful volunteers and committee of the RSL.

Volunteering at the Leongatha RSL. We need you!! We have now started ramping up our volunteer activities at the RSL after our break with covid and are looking for anyone who may be able to assist us with our Appeals both Anzac and Poppy as many of our war widows who so dutifully assisted with these appeals have done their time and its up to the next generation to continue their legacy. Also we are looking for people that could assist us with home and hospital visits, as there is an increased need to ensure that our Veterans and War widows are not forgotten when they become socially isolated from our community. It is a very fulfilling activity to sit and chat to someone about what they have done in the past, with some amazing stories told. So, if you think you could assist us, even if its 2 hours every 6 months for our appeals it would be greatly appreciated. All you have to do is come in and give your details to the reception staff and Wendy will contact you about what your preferences are about volunteering and arrange the appropriate paperwork to get you started.

Our Veterans hub has been ticking along very nicely with both volunteers Phil Head and Terry Busk our Compensation Advocates being very busy with appointments on a Thursdays, they have been working tirelessly on ensuring that all veterans who need their assistance get the best outcome, our compensation advocates do an amazing job assisting our veteran community. We have 2 JP's at the hub on Thursdays in the mornings we have our volunteer Cyril Payne who can assist you or in the afternoons Terry Busk can assist with sighting and signing of documents. Our knit and knatter ladies on a Friday morning between the hours of 10 and 12 have been knitting up a storm with many items delivered to many organisations. If you would like to attend this activity, they meet at the Veterans hub Bellingham street Friday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. Another of our volunteers who help us at the hub is Gary Burns, he looks after our extensive library of books. They are all catalogued and if anyone is looking for a book to read on a specific subject war related Gary is your man. You can loan any of the books we have at the hub or you can just sit and read at your leisure and enjoy a cuppa while your there. Gary is always up for a chat if that is what you require. He is at the hub between the hours of 12 noon to 3 pm every Friday so if you are at a loose end, please enjoy a cuppa and a chat at the hub.

2023 Veteran & Community Support



Financial Support: \$304,407.48

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
Koonwarra Leongatha RSL 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
Scrabble
Koorooman Wool & Spinning Group
Leongatha & District Netball Association
South Gippsland Action Group
Gems Mens Group
Mt Eccles Netball Club
Gippsland Gardening Group
Leongatha Art Gallery
Rotary
Leongatha Embroidery Group
South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club
Red Cross



The Leongatha RSL recognises the passing of the following members who passed away during 2023.

Service Members:

Albert Dodson	Donald Larkins	Joanne Lengersdorf	John Levey
Allan Parkes	Alexander Robertson	Kenneth West	

Affiliate Members:

Lola Bailey	Johnny Bellis	Graeme Brown	Lynette Burchell
Heather Carter	Gerald Cosgriff	Nancy Crouch	Marjorie Dixon
Patricia Holloway	Joy Hoy	Winifred Knox	Lindsay Love
Rhonda Maddern	Janet Mansfield	Daryl McNaughton	Kenneth Mollison
Rob Payne	Gregory Purvis	Gino Scapin	Glenda Smith
Anthony Stephens	Robert Tomlin	Wayne Walker	Pearl White
June Wilson			

Social Members:

Joan Bee	Gavin Blew	Mervyn Bowler	Maurice Briscoe
Kevin Cross	Lorriane Eddy	Joy Edney	Peter Ford
Raymond Heald	Doreen McKenzie	Faye Pratt	Peter Scott
Frank Smedley	Trevor Thomas	Helen Vos	Topsy Winkler
Alfred Zwygart			

Lest We Forget

Lest We