



ANNUAL REPORTS 2019

President & Treasurer's reports

Montmorency Eltham RSL

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019

Strategic Highlights

I wish to thank the members for giving me the honour to be the President of this great Club.

I normally start my report by giving some insight to what the RSL aims and objectives are and this report is not an exception

What the RSL is about

The RSL is an independent, apolitical organisation run by members, for members primarily to assist current and former service men and women and their dependants when in need, whether they're RSL members or not.

RSL VICTORIA STRATEGY 2019- 2023

Vision Statement

Every Veteran in Victoria is respected and supported, together with their families

Mission Statement

To provide the best possible support and services to all generations of Veterans in Victoria.

In addition to this however, the RSL a community organisation and our community support is wide and varied including:

- Local sporting groups and clubs
- Educational institutions with grants and scholarships
- Emergency services with equipment and funding
- Health and aged care
- Kindred organisations such as Legacy
- Other mainstream charities doing great work across Victoria.

It is evident that the main purpose of the RSL is providing veteran and community welfare. This Sub-Branch considers this aspect of RSL functions vitally important and will work to support this vision

Montmorency-Eltham RSL Sub-Branch staff

Congratulations to our staff who actually make the Club what is. Their attitude and commitment to their jobs and the Club helps create the atmosphere needed to grow and maintain custom.

I must thank the Manager, Vin Butcher, who retired late in the year for his efforts. He joined when the Club was in a bit of turmoil, however, he soon turned things around and has been an excellent recruiter of staff. The Club wishes Vin and his family all the best in this new aspect of his life.

In late October we welcomed Michael McCombe to the position of Manager he has quickly settled in and we look forward to his innovations in 2020

Special thanks to the Kitchen and Bistro staff who kept up their improvement of last year. Well done Ian and Jake our chefs and we look forward to further improvements.

Our Administration is in good hands with Libby Annett and Cait Chubb plus Kerry Ciavola looking after membership. Special thanks to Libby for picking up the extra load again when once again the new treasurer resigned for personal reasons.

Montmorency-Eltham RSL Sub-Branch Committee and volunteer officers

I would like to thank the Committee and other volunteers who took on vital roles outside the Committee. In particular Glen Ferrarotto Senior Vice President who has fully supported me and has been a great back up on top of being on the State Executive of the RSL and running his own business.

Peter Randle also warrants a special mention as he took on the role of Secretary 2 years ago at my request when no one else would put their hand up. On top of this he is our Memorabilia Officer who with a team of volunteers has catalogued our collection. Peter, I thank you for all you have done.

Billy Smith was our nominated Welfare Officer but unfortunately suffered heart problems early in the year and had to stand down. He was replaced by Appeals Officer Terry Barnes who later in the year also suffered health problems. I would wish both these veterans who are dedicated volunteers all the best for their health in 2020.



Jim Gronbach selling poppies at Eltham Festival

Our Appeals Officers Mick Lanigan and Terry Barnes do a great job and with Terry's illness he was replaced by Hector Hart who with very limited instruction did an excellent job on the Poppy Appeal.

Thanks to Committee members Michael Ricks, Tim Riley, Ricky Rank and James Gronbach who all pulled their weight during the year.

It would be remiss of me not to make mention of Graeme Munro Vice President who chairs the Building and Assets Management Sub-Committee he has been tireless in improving the Club.

My report would not be complete without mention of our Memorials Officer Bill McKenna. He won't leave the place alone, but his input into the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Services is greatly appreciated.

Other volunteers

Special thanks to our members who volunteer to do shifts selling ANZAC badges and Poppies, of all money raised 100% is spent on veteran welfare. In particular our lawn bowlers who are prominent volunteers for both Appeals

Thanks to the Sporting Clubs, Golfers, Anglers and Darts Players for their contributions throughout the year with working bees, raffles, assisting with ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and the Children's Christmas Party.

Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for your support during the year.

Also, Julie Beattie who just appears when needed.

Montmorency-Eltham Trading Inc.

Refer to the Treasurer's and Audited financials for full details

Gambling trading was down for the year and there were a large number of major jackpots paid out early in the year.



Army badge sellers

Despite the recorded loss we are in a good position, all outstandings paid, rent paid and funds put into an allocation account for the new Electronic Gaming Machine rules in 2022.

Appeals

A total of \$96,581.00 was raised this year, down on last year due to the timing of ANZAC Day, Easter and School Holidays. A great effort by our volunteers and Appeals Officers Mick Lanigan, Terry Barnes and Hector Hart.

Ceremonies

The Sub-Branch is responsible for running three ANZAC Day Ceremonies. A Dawn Service at Eltham which attracts over 7,000 people, an early morning at Heidelberg which attracts about 2,000 people and finally a mid-morning march and Ceremony in Montmorency which attracts about 3,000 people.

The Dawn Service is run with the assistance of Eltham Rotary who provide great support.

The involvement of local school children in all the ceremonies helps keep the ANZAC spirit alive.

A Remembrance Day Service is held on 11 November at the Eltham Cenotaph and crowds are increasing each year at this ceremony. Thanks to the Eltham Men's Shed for their assistance with this ceremony.

It is due to the dedicated work of Cait Chubb that all the Services are run so smoothly. Thank you Cait for your dedication to this task.

Building and assets

This year the Sub-Branch continued a program of improvements to the Club but due to limited finance these have to be prioritised

Early in the year the outside signage and repairs to the old balcony were completed thanks to dedication of Vice President Mini Munro.

In July I applied for Victorian Government grant to replace our inefficient air conditioners which were over 25 years old.



Were Street Anzac Day



Eltham Cenotaph

On 22 November our local State Member for Eltham Vicky Ward announced to our members that we were to receive a grant of \$30,000 from Minister for Veterans, Dept. Premier and Cabinet. This gesture from the Government was a significant input of funds for our building.

Vice President Mini Munro will follow up installation in 2020.

There was provision of Gas Heating to Smokers' balcony

In December our new Manager Michael McCombe ordered new furniture which should arrive early in 2020.



Vicki Ward announcing the grant with Duncan Duke and Bill McKenna

Amended parking arrangements in Petrie Park to enable more spots available for Park users and MERSL patrons were negotiated with Banyule Council and implemented during 2019

Memorabilia

An important function for any RSL and the Montmorency-Eltham Sub-Branch has very large and varied collection this has come about by the dedicated work of Peter Randle.

As well as talks to School children and arranging displays in 2019 Peter and a group of volunteers finished cataloguing the collection.

Their work was so good they were a finalist in Museum Victoria Awards for Excellence in Cataloguing and duly received a Highly Commended Award. Well done to Peter and his crew.

Veteran and community welfare

It is pleasing to note that in accordance with our objectives the following was achieved in 2019

- Volunteer work organised by the Sub-Branch for the benefit of veterans totalled 6122.5 hours this equates to a value of \$240,920.38 (rate set by Volunteering Victoria based on ABS figures)

- A review of the Sub-Branch Welfare & Charity Business Plan indicates that in 2019 the Sub-Branch aided Veterans and local communities exclusive of volunteer hours to the value of \$310,378.00
- A total of \$551,298.38 value of work and assistance to veterans and the local community
- This includes provision of meal vouchers for use or raffles to organisations such as Sherbourne Primary School, Diamond Valley Vietnam Veterans, Montmorency Bowling Club, Bundoora Ladies Golf Club, RSL Vic Diggers Golf Day.
- Funding to support a perpetual ANZAC Award to the Eltham College Music Dept
- \$1000.00 to Padre Mark Dunn for “Cam’s Cause” in memory of Cpl Cameron Baird VC MC. To provide a camp for children of deceased Afghanistan veterans.
- Donation \$50,000.00 to purchase a specially modified vehicle for a local Afghanistan Veteran.
- Visits from local schools and to Schools and attending and organising ANZAC services at Schools.
- Sponsorship of Montmorency Bowls Club and Eltham Bowls Club.
- Provision of meeting rooms to various local community and sporting clubs.
- Contact with all veterans and widows over 80 years old twice a year to identify problems which are then referred to our Welfare Officer.
- Funding of \$3600 to the child of veteran for medical treatment.
- Sponsorship of Gallipoli Cup tennis tournament for juniors.
- Support for the School of Signals technician course and provision of an award for the graduating ‘Soldier of Merit’
- Provision of subsidized meals for veterans and seniors to prevent social isolation
- Provision of garden maintenance for older veterans and widows.
- Donation \$5,000.00 to Austin Health Repatriation Hospital to assist training for veterans with PTSD.
- Running a project for VCAL students from Montmorency Secondary College in ‘Stories from my Life’ with students investigating the life of veterans. (See photo below)



Various grants totalling \$48,00.00 were made to the following groups through the MERSL Banyule Community Grants:

Montmorency Bowling Club	Diamond Valley Support Inc
Diamond Valley Multiple Birth Association	Lions Club of Eltham
Heidelberg Football Club	BNLLEN
Eltham Lacrosse Club	Operation NewStart Northern
Lower Plenty Kindergarten	Nillumbik Historical Society Inc
Warrawee Park Pre School	

I have not listed everything we did in 2019 but have taken a snapshot of how involved the Sub-Branch is. We are not a large RSL Club when compared to other RSLs with gaming machines but we certainly pull our weight in Veteran and Community welfare.

Montmorency-Eltham RSL Members

To all our 2000 plus members thank you for your support whether Service, Affiliate, Social or Life the Club is yours, so please continue to support our Ceremonies, Appeals, Bars & Bistro and special functions.

Note we can always do with more volunteers especially at Appeal times so please consider doing a stint of 3 hours it would help immensely.

Conclusion

The 2019 AGM has been postponed due to the COVID-19 Corona virus, so the future is uncertain, however, the Committee and Management will work to keep the Club viable in 2020.

Duncan Duke
President
Montmorency-Eltham RSL Sub-Branch
March 2020



School of Signals Technicians Course Bonding Session

TREASURER'S REPORT

I wish to acknowledge the assistance given to me in the Treasurer's role by Vin Butcher and Libby Annett throughout the year. In particular the efforts by Libby to ensure everything was in order.

The auditors William Buck Audit (Vic) Pty Ltd have completed the audit of the 2019 accounts and completed the financial reports for the 3 entities of the Montmorency-Eltham RSL Sub -Branch. The audit was completed to satisfaction of both parties.

The audited reports of the 3 entities were available for perusal at the door. If you would like to have copies please ask the Secretary Mr John Macleod at the end of the meeting

MERSL Sub-Branch Inc. Trading

A loss of \$82,826.00 was incurred for 2019 compared to a profit of \$373,966 for 2018. Although not good the Club has performed reasonably well in 2019.

All out-standings including rent were paid in 2019 and the Sub-Branch finished the year with healthy account balances plus \$162,521.00 in an Allocation account being provision of funds for possible purchase of our own floor of EGMs in 2022. An amount of \$21,926 was paid during the year towards the new gaming licences due in 2022.

There was amortisation of intangible assets i.e. gaming machines entitlements of \$144,088 in 2019. The Bar and Meal revenue were up while Gaming was revenue down for the year

Total Members Funds retained earnings as at 31 December 2019 was \$1,605,241.

MERSL Sub-Branch Inc. Patriotic Fund

A loss of \$14,266 for the year

A grant of \$25,000 was received from the Victorian Government through the Minister for Veterans, Department Premier and Cabinet, to replace two air conditioners in 2020 with a further \$5,000.00 to be paid on completion.

New rules about items such as furniture etc come into force on the 1 January 2020 with such items will now be part of Trading.

Total Members Funds as at the 31 December 2019 was \$4,017,488.

MERSL Sub-Branch Inc. General Appeals Fund

An amount of \$95,118.00 was raised from the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Appeals in 2019 this down \$12,895.00 on 2018 Appeals. Mainly due to poorer ANZAC Badge sales caused by the late Easter and school holidays. Other income of \$1,549.00 was received. The Club receives 50% from sales which is spent entirely on veteran's welfare.

Are there any questions?

Move that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

DUNCAN DUKE

