



RSL Hall, Monbulk 3793 - PO Box 105 - Tel: 9752 1100

President – Bill Ford 9756 7078

Secretary – Phil Rundle 0402 442 807

Treasurer - Paul Bennett 9756 7216

Presidents Report

This report starts with the sad event that took the life of Eli, son of Stefan and Suzanne and grandson of John and Sue Surridge, when a monster gum tree fell and crushed their house. John and his family have been overwhelmed by the support they have had from the community of Monbulk and other well-wishers. John and Sue's families display of courage and determination is an example for all of us in these difficult times. I have committed the RSL to help John if they require help along the way to recovery.

The AGM was held on the 10-Mar-2015 and the executive remains the same as last year. After the AGM we held our monthly meeting. The main item dealt with was the preparation for Anzac Day. The A.I.F project is well underway thanks to Jill, Ted, Tina and Paul. The landscaping will be done well in time for Anzac Day thanks to Craig and his team. The RSL appreciate this work being done and we would like to thank Craig for his generosity.

Congratulations to Paul and Ted on being selected to go to Gallipoli for the Centenary Dawn Service. The excitement is building and they are

hopeful of laying an official wreath on behalf of Monbulk RSL. I wish them good luck on this important trip and hope they have a great time and enjoy some of the local beverages and come back with many stories to tell with some exaggeration added.

We will have a working bee on 29th March; we will be installing the new dish washer and hot water service along with setting up the display on WW1 Veterans histories and tackle other things that need doing.

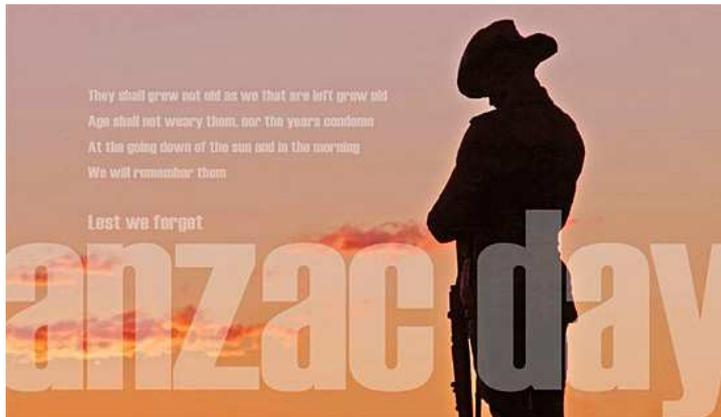
Anzac Token sales will start at the end of March and I need volunteers to assist with the sales, so please contact me so I can arrange tokens for you. All the main items have been put in place for Anzac Day. We will arrange bar staff on the day to assist us in the absence of Paul and Ted.

We are having a new RSL web site built, which will have all the current info and contact details available. The site will also include all the service history of the WW1 Veterans and other activities of the RSL. We hope this site may also help anyone trying to research family histories, and be a central reference point for all Monbulk RSL matters.

Regards To All, Bill.

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A Word from Ted



Welcome to our ANZAC Centenary edition.

ANZAC Day 2015 will be huge for Monbulk RSL. As the Centenary of ANZAC we are expecting ANZAC day to be our biggest yet. We have seen a buildup in community engagement in ANZAC day over the last decade, and expect this to continue.

We regard our role in ANZAC observance as extremely important, especially since ANZAC has passed into history. The last World War 1 Diggers died quite a while ago. Even children of ANZACS must be very rare today. We are planning a contribution to the Centenary which will enable younger generations not only to appreciate the individual Diggers in and out of uniform, but hopefully to appreciate the society they came from and returned to.

Life was very different in that era. Transport was achieved by horse power, and if travel was to be undertaken the horse would have to be saddled or connected to a jinker, cart or wagon. Horses required feeding, watering and grooming. Horses

were very common in the military and soldiers would as likely be mounted as marching. Just about any domestic activity required the exertion such as cutting wood, fetching and carrying water. Hot water services did not exist. Workers had to do a lot of heavy physical work in pre electric times. Monbulk was a series of clearings among the Dandenongs bush. Travel was limited and the community had to be self-reliant. There were no community health services, telephones, paved roads or most other conveniences. If you went overseas a long ship voyage would be involved, similarly you might travel interstate it would be by ship or train.

In conjunction with Monbulk Historical Society Monbulk RSL will set up a permanent display to let the current generation have a personal insight into the lives of our Diggers and an understanding of the community they came from. We have drawn on our Honour Boards, the book "My Boys" by Mrs. Aeneas Gunn and the Australian War memorial's AIF Project site and local resources to present personal Service Histories of all known WW1 AIF Diggers who came from Monbulk District as part of a Display at the RSL Hall to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC.

If you have any information, photos or memorabilia which could enhance this Display we would love to hear about them. The Display will be as comprehensive as we can make it, however we are most interested in community participation in the exercise.

Over to you.

RIP Eli Marnock.

All of us at the RSL have been deeply saddened by the death of Eli Marnock son of Stefan and Suzanne, and grandson of past President of our RSL John and Sue Surridge. We extend to them and the extended Surridge and Marnock families our deepest, sincerest sympathy.

A Word From Ted cont.**Monbulk ANZAC Day 2015.**

Guest speaker for our 2015 ANZAC Day ceremony will be Anthony McAleer. Anthony prepared the Monbulk RSL publication of Aeneas Gunn's "My Boys" and wrote the foreword to the book. He is a well-known local historian and military historian who has had a long association with Monbulk RSL. He also successfully lobbied local government to provide funds for the protection of the Aeneas Gunn Library during the period the (then) Shire of Lilydale was under administration during the Kennett government. Anthony has a deep interest in the military history of the Shire and of Monbulk and is certain to provide an inspiring address.

Lauren McAllister will play The Last Post and Mick Ryan will play the pipes at the Dawn Service. The CWA, CFA Victoria Police and Monbulk PS will help us put on our biggest ANZAC day yet.

Our Gunfire breakfast will be bigger and better than ever. Master Snag Chef Gilbert will be at the barbie assisted by Mick Baldwin to ensure you get a bigger banger for your buck. Later Gil and Mick will officiate at the biggest game in town the Annual Monbulk ANZAC Two Up. Be there, or miss out.

While you are there check out our magnificent new turf front lawn, installed by Craig.

Gallipoli 2015.

Monbulk RSL will be represented at the ANZAC Centenary at Gallipoli by Paul "Fang" Bennett and Ted Beard, both of whom were fortunate to be among those drawn in the ballot for places at the Gallipoli Centenary Services. The unfortunate downside to this is that we will not be able to attend ANZAC Day at Monbulk

We will attend the main Dawn Service and the Australian ANZAC Service at Lone Pine. We are expecting a very moving experience and hope to

lay a wreath at Lone Pine in honour of the service and sacrifice of our Monbulk ANZACs.

We are hoping to make a major boost to the Turkish economy (especially the Brewing Sector) during our visit.

Monbulk RSL 2015 Annual General Meeting.

Our 2015 AGM took place 10 March, having been postponed from February due to unavoidable absence of key officers.

President Bill Ford reported on a satisfactory year for our Club. The external plumbing works associated with the new toilets have now been completed and signed off by our licensed plumber. (Thanks Kev.) We have continued developing our links with other community groups and we believe we have good relationships with our schools, Legacy, Victoria Police, CFA, CWA, and sporting bodies.

Treasurer Paul Bennett reported that although the Audited Financial Reports were not yet available he was able to report a satisfactory financial situation for the Sub-branch with funds in our 5 accounts showing substantial increases during the financial year. The Bar Trading Account, by far our main revenue source, had more than doubled during the past year. These funds will be required for future development of our premises and for legal costs associated with our incorporation process which we hope will secure the rights of the Sub-branch in relation to title of our premises for the future.

RSL MEMBERSHIP Subs 2015.

Membership subscriptions for 2015 are now (over)due. As we point out every year our members are the lifeblood of the RSL. We need your support to keep our numbers up and ensure our continued viability. You can share the warm fuzzy feeling and have the opportunity to drink delicious cold beer with colourful locals knowing you are doing your bit. As if that is not enough you can play pool or Snooker on your choice of small or large tables and enter our famed Meat Raffle and Footy Tipping Competition.

What are you waiting for?



Footy Tipping

The 2015 footy season kicks off on 2nd April and the Monbulk RSL will have all the usual footy tipping competitions up and running, including:

- Normal **week by week** tipping
- **Tip the whole season:** a completed card to be submitted prior to the first game
- **Knockout Comp:** where you pick one winner per week, special rules apply, see notice board

Also, the footy season sees the return of that fine weekly publication “Dave on Deck”, where all news regarding the trials and tribulations of footy tipsters are exposed. “Dave on Deck” narrowly missed out on a Walkley Award this year in the “Factual Investigative Journalism” section! Pipped at the post by a big banks expose’ by Four Corners! Whoda thunk? But the interviews got an honourable mention, mainly due to the interviewers uncanny ability to expose things the interviewee didn’t even know about themselves!

All details on the tipping comp and season fixtures will be posted on the notice board in the hall.

See either Artie Skipper or Dave Aitken with any questions or to put your name down for a season of fun/tears!

*Dave on Deck (be
afraid)*



MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2015

- ❖ Fees are now due before the end of the calendar year
- ❖ Fees are now renewed and updated directly to the ANZAC House internet data base by Monbulk RSL

SO PLEASE

- ❖ Renew your 2015 membership *now*
- ❖ Be a paid up financial member
- ❖ If, for whatever reason, you are paying in the new year – no problem – your data base entry can be changed from lapsed to financial
- ❖ If you are a lapsed member and haven’t renewed for a few years – no problem – we can re-introduce your membership

\$30 ANNUALLY

Cheques payable to:
Monbulk RSL Sub Branch
PO Box 105
Monbulk 3793

Enquiries to:
Pete Frazer
Membership Manager
Mob: 0408 000 073

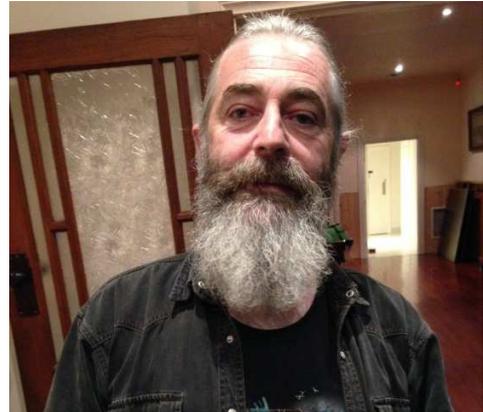
ANZAC Appeal 2015.

Every year the RSL raises funds through the sale of ANZAC badges (also Remembrance Day).

The money raised is the main source of funds for our welfare activities which are for the benefit of veterans and their families.

We need volunteer sellers to give us maximum opportunity to raise funds.

If you can help, even if only for a few hours, your efforts will be most appreciated. Contact Bill Ford or Ted Beard if you can make yourself available.



We welcome new Monbulk RSL member Dan Pyke.

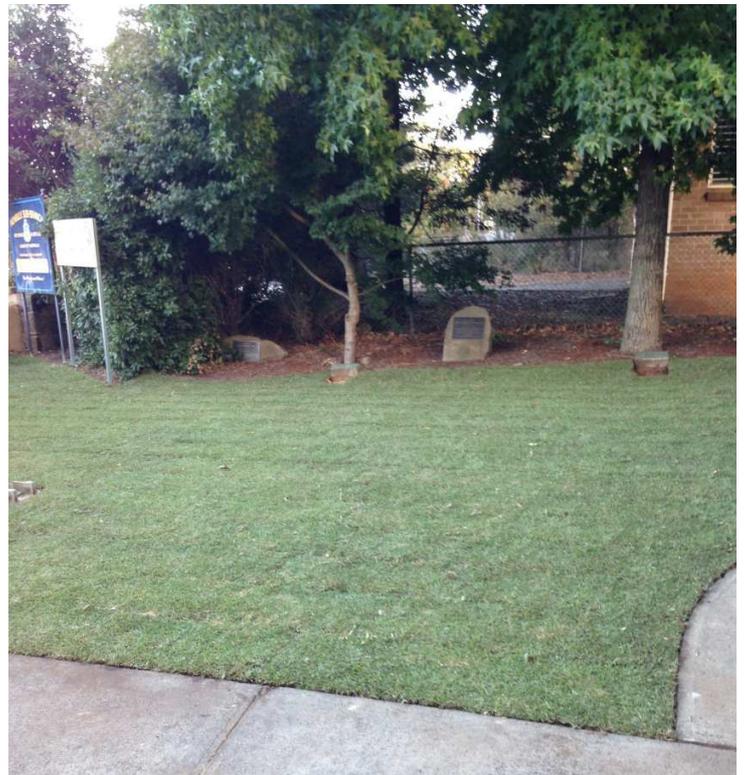
Let There be Grass.

On Friday arvo 20th March the front of the RSL had been transformed from grass into magnificent turf in readiness for ANZAC Day.

Thanks to the generosity of **Craig Van Den Berg** who donated his time, equipment and expertise.

Monbulk RSL will have a surface we can be proud of for the Centenary of ANZAC.

We are truly grateful to Craig for his generous assistance.



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Contribute articles –
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Many Thanks again to:

The office of **James Merlino MP**
State Labour Member for Monbulk
for kindly printing our newsletter

Vale Robert Francis Bennett.

We are saddened to learn of the death of Bob Bennett, a respected Service member and supporter of Monbulk RSL over a long period. The Bennett family have made a major contribution to our RSL and we extend to them our sincerest sympathy in their loss.



WW1 Recruitment Poster

MONBULK RSL
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