

2024 Annual Report

MELTON RSL SUB-BRANCH

ABN 23226415772



“We move forward, because we move forward together”

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1. INTRODUCTION

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report covering the Calendar Year 2024 for the Melton RSL Sub-branch. 2024 has overseen a dramatic change in the Melton RSL Sub-branch approach to Veterans and their Welfare.

The priority had always been about Veterans, but the committee of the Melton Sub Branch wanted to place veterans foremost in the minds and programs of the Sub-branch and its members. As indicated in my President's Report, significant progress has been made in relations with Federal Government Agencies who interact with Sub-branch members, the local politicians and the City of Melton.

Major connections have been made with the neighbouring Sub-branch, Caroline Springs, and other Ex Service Organisations (ESO) in the area. A particularly pleasing activity was the provision of a permanent home for the North West Metro Sub section of the Naval Association of Australia (NAA).

The North West Metro sun section are a very old ESO, having been formed more than 70 years ago. They had lost their building due to irreparable structural damage and had urgently sought a new home. Through the support of the Melton RSL Sub-branch, a new home was found for a group of Navy veterans and their partners.

As the motto of the Melton RSL Sub-branch proudly states – ***“We move Forward, because we move Together.”***



2024 President- Stephen Cook, 2025 President – Reg Cooke JP, Senior Vice President – Russell Pettis AM

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mr Stephen Cook

1. Introduction

2024 was a momentous year for the Melton RSL Sub-branch. There were many key moments starting with the 2024 Annual general Meeting and the re-election of the current committee. This was followed by all the events of ANZAC Week leading up to the annual ANZAC Day Dawn Services at both Aintree and Melton and the subsequent march within Melton.

Mid year saw the annual President's and Veterans Ball held at the home of the Melton RSL Sub-branch with a capacity attendance; The evening was particularly special as our Senior Vice President – Mr Russell Pettis AM – was awarded Life Membership of the RSL.



Russell Pettis AM receiving Life Membership Award from Past President – Mr Ian Lawrey OAM, Mr Andrew Jaynes – Secretary and Mr Steve Cook – President.

The year proceeded with Remembrance Day activities, discussions with local schools about the meaning of Remembrance and conduct of services across the City of Melton. The year concluded with the Christmas Melton RSL BBQ.

2. 2024 – A Year in Review

There were a range of initiatives which were undertaken in 2024. Following is a comprehensive list of the work undertaken by the Sub-branch to enhance the veteran's space within the City of Melton under the direction of the Melton RSL Sub-branch. These included:

- **Anzac Week Activities**
 - Commemorations during ANZAC week were both busy and very rewarding. As in previous years, the annual badge appeal was conducted with a very successful result. It was a credit to our Appeals Team that they once again
- **Cenotaph revitalisation** completed
 - Will make representation to the council to have a memorial bench for the RSL on site as a 2025 Project.

- **Meeting with Federal Veterans Affairs Minister Matt KEOGH**, Member for Hawke Sam RAE at the Melton Country Club.
 - Attended by Melton, Ballan, Bacchus Marsh, Sunbury and Newport RSL. Naval Association North-West Metro, Vietnam Veterans Melton, Diggers for Dogs and the National Service Organisation.
- **Remembrance Day - Woodlea**
 - Went extremely well however there were issues regarding the upkeep of the Walk of Honour, which were later addressed by the Melton City Council.
- **Remembrance Day - Melton**
 - Excellent event with a very large attendance
 - Dedication of the Heather EVANS memorial bench – past National President, Partners of Veterans Association (PVA).



Committee Members with local Politicians – Mr Sam Rae MHR (Member for Hawke) and Mr Steve McGhie MLA (Member for Melton) with the Remembrance Day service vocalist Senior Constable Lauren Holcombe

- **Strengthening the Veterans Model Kit Building program** – Creating a convenient monthly weekend meeting date suitable to the students, the trainer and the RSL who host the events.
- **Vietnam Veterans** now coming into the Vietnam Veterans House each Saturday to patronise the building and utilise the available facilities with the support of the RSL.
- **Renovations of Melton RSL Office within the Melton Country Club**
 - The RSL Office, within the Melton Country Club, has been completely renovated with the support of the Melton Country Club. The new office will be dedicated to serving veterans in the outer western suburbs, to allow private and confidential discussions with the RSL welfare and well-being team to help coordinate appropriate support and assistance where applicable.
 - The Sub-branch Treasurer did an outstanding job in Project Managing the entire renovation ensuring it was completed on time and within budget.
- **The use of EFTPOS** is growing within the community and a cash less society is fast approaching.
 - Purchase of another selling point will be a key factor in future fund-raising activities as the community moves towards becoming cashless
- 2025 will be the 40th year anniversary of the Melton Sub-branch. Key events to mark the anniversary will be:
 - Presidents Ball with emphasis on this occasion be involving:
 - Navy Band
 - Monster raffle and auction.

- Specific merchandise - Challenge coins will be in the mix in the initial stages
- A Memorial bench will be installed, marking the occasion, at the Melton Cenotaph.
- **New members to the committee in transition for 2025**
 - Lisa DAVISON (Affiliate) extensive history in administration and, if elected, at the 2025 AGM, will assume the role of Secretary
 - Sam WELHAM (Service) has been ben seconded to the committee to manage the social media and Communications portfolio
 - Sam will assume management of the Facebook page with a view to having full control by 1st January 2025
 - Sam will commence production of a monthly newsletter in January and conduct a trial for six (6) months of its usefulness to the members.
 - He will also access and administer the website.

3. **Key Initiatives For 2025**

2025 will be the 40-year anniversary of Melton RSL Sub-branch receiving its Charter in March 1985. The theme for the year will be **“Remember the Past, Look to the Future.”** With an ageing Veteran membership, we really need to try and attract a younger demographic. This has always proved difficult.

- **Cenotaph Commemorative Bench** – The Melton City Council agreed to fund the construction and installation of a park bench, designed by the Melton RSL, to install at the Melton Cenotaph. It will be ready prior to ANZAC Day 2025. A brass plaque has been created to install with the bench stating – **“Commemorating 40 Years of Supporting Veterans and Their Families in Melton. 1985 – 2025”**.
- **ANZAC Day 2025** – Melton The 2025 service will reflect the changes made in 2024, with the focus being again on youth and the participation of our local schools at both the Dawn Service and later in our March and the following ANZAC Service. The Acknowledgement to Country has been modified to be more inclusive of all people from the City of Melton – a very diverse and vibrant cultural mix.
- **Office Renovations** – The RSL office within the Melton Country Club has now been completed. It has been repurposed to become principally a Welfare Drop in and Consultative area for veterans needing advice or assistance with their personal interaction with the various government agencies.
- **President and Veterans Ball** – The Royal Australian Navy Band will entertain our members and guests at the 2025 Ball. ADF Cadets from all services will assist at the start of the Ball with the marching in of the Ensigns of all 3 services.
- **Appeals** – Both the ANZAC and Remembrance Appeals will be held again this year. Our stalwarts – Kath and Raleigh Williams are standing down after many years as Appeals Coordinators and we wish them well. A new team is being created for the 2025 events.
- **Tuesday Morning Group** – The Tuesday morning group meets again in 2025. A range of events and outings is planned for 2025.



2024 ANZAC Day March - Melton

3. AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT – 2024

The 2024 Financial Records of the Melton RSL Sub-branch have been audited in accordance with the RSL By-laws, and the following report covers the activities of the Melton RSL for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. The efforts of the Sub-branch are directed in a financial and governance sense to compliance with the obligations of the Australian Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and other regulators.

A snapshot of the Melton RSL Sub-branch financials is shown below, together with a copy of the Independent Auditor's Report. The full audited financial reports are available for member perusal through the auspices of the Sub-branch Treasurer.

The Combined Summary 2024 Profit and Loss Statement and financial report was presented to the members present at the AGM in February 2025 and was overwhelmingly endorsed by those in attendance.

For confidentiality reasons the full financial report has been omitted from the report which has been placed online.

Dennis K. Wright & Associates

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

REGISTERED SMSF AUDITOR

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the
R S L Sub-Branch MELTON.

SCOPE

I have audited the three (3) accounts (General, Welfare & Agency) of the RSL Sub-Branch Melton ("the Branch") for the year ended 31 December, 2024. The Committee of Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accounts and the information they contain. I have performed an audit of these accounts in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Branch.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide a reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the accounts and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates.

These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the accounts are presented fairly in accordance with Australian accounting concepts and standards to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Branch's financial position and the results of its operations for the period then ended.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

QUALIFICATION

It is not practical for the Branch to maintain an effective system of internal control over fundraising and donations receipts until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to fundraising and donations activities receipts was limited to amounts recorded.

QUALIFIED OPINION

In my opinion, subject to the qualification stated above, the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) and the Statements of Income & Expenditure give a true and fair view, in accordance with statements of accounting concepts and applicable accounting standards, of the financial position of the RSL Sub-Branch Melton as at December 31, 2024 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Dennis K. Wright M.I.P.A. AFA
Principal in Public Practice.

February 21, 2025

Liability is limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2024 was a busy year for the sub branch. The membership officer conducted several campaigns to encourage lapsed members to rejoin with limited success.

Recruitment is always a challenge, nevertheless we keep plugging away at recruiting new members.

Our membership numbers remained reasonably stable throughout 2024, with a slight gain of membership numbers being achieved.

Membership numbers

These are our membership totals as of November 2024.

2024	March	May	June	September	November
Total financial membership	170	178	184	185	187

Membership type	March	May	June	September	November
Service	79	85	86	87	88
Life	1	1	2	2	2
Affiliate	80	81	84	84	84
Social	11	12	12	12	13
Transfers for month	3	2	2	0	0
Meritorious (Not counted in official roll)	3	3	3	3	3
Lapsed members				145	147

5. **Welfare and Wellbeing Report**

Melton RSL Sub-branch has a key goal to provide the best possible support for the veterans and their families who reside in the Melton District. The area is one of the fastest growing population centres in Australia. The challenge is to be ready to assist those people who need our help, whether it be in terms of welfare support, mobility assistance or wellbeing interaction. During 2024, the Melton RSL undertook a range of Welfare activities including:

- ANZAC and Remembrance Day service coordination and management.
- Monthly lunch BBQ for all veterans in the area. There was no requirement to be a member of the RSL, but simply a veteran.



Monthly Saturday Veterans BBQ

- Melton RSL supported addresses by local Allied Health Professionals to the Veterans Group on health and wellbeing issues.
- Organised the attendance of a group of interested veterans to HMAS CERBERUS for the 2024 Open Day. The visit was very successful.
- Veterans Model kit assembly program through a discreet Melton Veterans Modelling group.
- A very successful Ministerial visit was held in September 2024 when the Minister for Veteran Affairs, the Hon. James Keogh MHR, visited the Melton RSL Sub-branch to address representatives from local ESO's about their concerns with veteran issues and their action by the Federal Government.
- Significant redevelopment of the Melton RSL office at the Melton Country Club was undertaken to facilitate bi-weekly representation of the Melton Sub-branch ATDP qualified member to meet and assist veterans where possible.

6. OFFICE BEARERS 2024

The following members served in the roles described during calendar year 2024.

Role	Name	Membership Category
President	Stephen Cook	Service Member
Senior Vice President	Russell Pettis AM	Service Member
Vice President	Andrew Dobson	Service Member
Secretary	Andrew Jeynes	Service Member
Treasurer	Shereen Jeynes Nora Montgomery	Service Member Affiliate Member
Membership Officer	Dale Borthwick	Service Member
Welfare Officer	Bronwyn Flack	Service Member
Wellbeing Officer	Eric Philpott	Service Member
Appeals	Katherine Williams Raleigh Williams	Affiliate Member Affiliate Member
Committee Members	Reg Cooke Lisa Davidson	Service Member Affiliate Member

Stephen Cook – President Melton RSL Sub Branch 2024