



Wangaratta Sub-Branch Inc

Charitable Activity Report

Month of: **April 2021**
 Committee Meeting: **19 May 2021**

	Veteran Support	Commemorative & Patriotic	Sub-Branch & Other	Total
Volunteer Hours	22	565.83	435.67	1023.50

Welfare Activity Type	RSL Object	Number
Home Visits/Hospital/Nursing Home Visits	A	7
Funerals: Poppy Service/Assisting with Wakes etc.	A	1
Pension Applications, Claims & Advocacy	A	3
Communication with Members	A	5
Other Welfare (including Home Maintenance, Transport Assistance etc) Courtesy Bus.	A	213
Total		229

Donation Recipient	RSL Object	Donated Amount
U3A	N	3,000
Total		3,000

Details of Activities

- **Hospital visits** – No official visitations due to Covid-19.
- **Funerals** – Richard Whittington 24th April.
- **Community Assistance** – None.

Commemorations- ANZAC Day 2021

On 16th February 2021, the Committee was informed that there was not going to be a March in Melbourne. This was due to the strict Covid Regulations set down by the Government. For Wangaratta there was not going to be any support from the ADF, the Schools would not be marching and the Cadets, Army and Air Force, were waiting on instructions from their



respective HQs. The 2/24 Infantry Battalion Association were going to join in whatever we decided to do and they would lead the March.

On 17th March 2021, The President and the Secretary had a meeting, via Zoom, with the CEO and the Mayor of the Rural City Council and it was decided that: the March would go ahead; All personnel would need to Register: Barriers were to be set up around the Cenotaph, due to the restriction on numbers; the Council would pay for the Main Service to be live streamed via its website to the Hospital and Nursing Homes; a Covid Safe Plan would be produced and submitted via RSL Vic to the Government. 'Light Up The Dawn' was to be encouraged as the Dawn Service would have restricted numbers. There would be no Gunfire Breakfast.

Within a month, some of the Covid Regulations were changed and plans were set in motion. Many thanks to all those people who helped make it happen.

We were able to conduct a Dawn Service which approximately 500 people attended. The Service was led by Lieutenant General Ash Power AO CSC, (Ret'd), assisted by Father Mike Pullar MBE, Chaplain to the Wangaratta RSL.

LTGEN Power was the Parade Commander assisted by CAPT Andrew Kay (Ret'd) and escorted by six horsemen, all former members of the 8/13 Victorian Mounted Rifles. The 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association, 'Wangaratta's Own', led the march. Approximately 400 personnel participated in the march. The Mayor and Councillors joined the March outside the Council Offices.

Veterans and Descendants marched behind their Banners and Flags, supported by Peak Football and the Army and Air Force Cadets.

The Main Service was led by LTGEN Power and assisted by the Very Reverend Ken Goodger, Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral. The Master of Ceremonies was Mr Greg Larkins JP, Secretary of the Wangaratta RSL. The Mayor, Councillor Dean Rees moved the Motion of Loyalty on behalf of the Citizens of Wangaratta.

Brooke Miller, a senior student from Wangaratta High School was the guest speaker. Chloe delivered a well researched speech on the history of the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion during World War Two.

The Catafalque Party under the Command of Sergeant Nitin Biswas, was selected from soldiers of the Army Logistics Training Centre, Bandiana.

About 1,000 people attended the main service with approximately 50 wreaths laid and many people laid a poppy in remembrance.



Returned service personnel were invited back to the RSL for lunch after the main service, and a barbeque was available for the public provided by the Appin Park Rotary Club in King George V Jubilee Gardens.

The Main Service was live streamed through the Council's website for those who could not attend the Service.

Many Thanks to all those people who contributed in any way to make ANZAC Day 2021 memorable. No matter how small you may think your contribution, without everybody's assistance, it could not have happened.

Other services conducted during the week;
Wangaratta High School,
Galen Catholic College,
Cathedral College
Rangeview Private Nursing Home.

Planning for ANZAC Day 2022 has begun. Any suggestions for improvements will be considered by the Ceremonial Officer and the Committee.

Liz Rouse – Ceremonial Officer

APPEAL REPORT

ANZAC Appeal.

KLM x 30, Phone calls/emails/texts x 60
ANZAC Appeal raised in donations \$27,116.69

Additional \$40 (banked by Chris) & \$7 (Rangeview) to appear in Poppy Appeal. Plus donation from Appin Park Rotary to be sent for appeal, this amount will appear in Poppy Appeal as not yet received. Banner and decals removed by volunteers, cleaned and placed in admin store room. Volunteer made flat pack to place decals in for safe storage.

School, CBD and Rural honesty boxes collected by volunteers.
Selling of badges at the Turf Club was beneficial and selling point excellent.
Wangaratta Historical Motor Show & Fly In was a great venue for selling badges.
DoD assisted in selling badges for 2 days, placed at Woolworths, Kiosk & P.O.
Acquittal and stock audit completed and sent to Greg.

Thank you emails/texts sent to week-end Groups, verbal to Monday to Friday volunteers, phone calls to schools, rural and CBD honesty box businesses.
Review of ANZAC Appeal identified other opportunities for honesty boxes, Craig and Colleen to approach McDonalds South bound for future sales, removal of one honesty box due to reduction in foot traffic and income, increase of volunteers using EFPOS.



Suggestions raised to promote future appeals :

1. approach RCoW re flower display in round about closest to cenotaph for Poppy and ANZAC Appeal saying 'Lest We Forget' 'We Remember' etc.
2. approach C.B.D. to provide a window display to reflect relevant appeal, similar to the Jazz festival.
3. Wooden/Perspex life size cut outs of soldiers/sailors etc display (Vicki Bear to discuss with Ash ideas).

Colleen Davis - Acting Appeals Officer

VETERAN SUPPORT

KLM X 12, Phone calls/emails/texts x 5
Pension x 3
Hospital and Home visits x 2

School fees and shoes to be paid for Veteran.
Gutter cleaning account x 2
Electrical account to be paid.
Volunteers submitted fuel account for delivering school honesty boxes.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Gutter account to be paid for Veteran \$86

RECOMMENDATION 2

Gutter account to be paid for Veteran \$191

RECOMMENDATION 3

School fees \$400 and shoes \$109.25 to be reimbursed to veteran.

RECOMMENDATION 4

O'Briens plumber \$360

RECOMMENDATION 5.

Fuel cost for Volunteer x \$108.90

RECOMMENDATION 6

Fuel cost for Volunteer x \$251.46

RECOMMENDATION 7

Buchan Electrical payment for Veteran at \$369

Colleen Davis – Welfare Coordinator