



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Epping Returned & Services League



Past Presidents:

1948 -1949: Mr. R.A. Shaw

1950: Mr. M. A. McArthur

1951-1952: Mr. H. W. Fielding

1953 -1954: M. S. A. Escott

1955: Mr. A. M. O'Connor

1956 -1958: Mr. L. Torney

1959 -1960: Mr. G. G. Turner

1961: Mr. S.A. Escott

1962: Mr. A.E Barnes

1963 -1964: Mr. H G Turner

1965 - 1966: Mr. H. W. Fielding

1967- 1971: Mr. R. Coleman

1972- 1973: Mr. L. Torney

1974 -1981: Mr. J. P Simpson

1982: Mr. A.H Adams & L. Richards

1983: Mr. J P Simpson

1984 -1986: Mr. R. G. Davies

1987-1990: Mr. R. G. Holmes

1991-1995: Mr. E.W Gason M.B.E

1996: Mr. E.L Smith & M.W. Riddle

1997-1998: Mr. E.L. Smith

1999: Mr. A.C Scott

2000 - 2016: Mr. H.A Mason

2017: Mr. H.A Mason & Mr. K .Ind

2018 - Present: Mr. K Ind

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Mission Statements:

EPPING RSL

The Epping RSL Licensed Sub-Branch Inc of the RSL Victorian Branch Inc is to continue to adopt professional standards of care, behavior, and systems to ensure that programs are in place for the well-being, care, compensation and commemoration of Serving and Ex-Service members of the Australian Defence Forces and their dependants.

The adoption of these standards will maintain the confidence of club members, the community at large and the Government Statutory Bodies in the management and operation of the Sub-Branch.

VICTORIAN BRANCH OF THE RSL

To support the well-being and betterment of our members, (Former and other Serving and Ex-Service Men and Women of the Australian Defence Force), and their dependants, with the provision of Welfare and Commemorative Services and, where appropriate, contribute to worthy needs within the broader Community.

NATIONAL RSL

To ensure that programs are in place for the well-being, care, compensation and commemoration of Serving and Ex-Service Defence Force members and their dependants; and promote Government and Community Awareness of the need for a secure, stable, and progressive Australia.

Our Executive Committee:



President

Mr. Kevin Ind

Service member since 1983. Served on committees in many roles from 1987. Club and League life member. Became President in 2017.



Senior Vice President-Service

Mr. John Merrett

Vietnam veteran. Joined Epping in 2002, Welfare officer for 15 years. Senior Vice President for the last 2 years.



Vice President - Affiliate

Mr. Peter Egan

Committee Member from February 2008 to present, including previous roles as Secretary and Treasurer



Secretary

Mr. Philip Creek

Member since 2010 and Secretary past 5 years. Plays lawn bowls for the RSL team. CFA volunteer at Epping since 2009.



Treasurer

Mr Les Luscombe

Financial Advisor 2011-2018. Committee member 2019. Treasurer 2020 – present.

Committee:



Committee Member

Mr. Terry Power

Member for 28 years and a life member. Been on ANZAC Day committee 12 years and general committee for 2 years.



Committee Member

Mrs. Mary Bell

On Committee since 2019. Member of RSL Bowls & Darts Clubs & Poppy Ladies. Husband a Vietnam Veteran



Committee Member

Mr. Mark Stewart

Service member who has been at Epping 14 years. Previously on Welfare Committee, has been on committee for 4 years.



Committee Member

Mr. Mick Reid

Long term Epping resident and policeman for 42 years. Service member in his second year on Committee.

President's Report:

It is a privilege for me to be involved with the presentation of the first published Annual Report of the Epping RSL.

I wish to acknowledge all previous Presidents who are listed in this report.

The first recorded meeting of the Epping Sub-Branch was held on the 6th of May 1920. After only a few years in operation, the Sub-Branch went into "recess", not being formally established until 1948. We have, therefore, been serving our veterans for a total of over 70 years.

In more recent times the Sub-Branch has not only been committed to Veteran Welfare, but also assisted Legacy Australia, community institutions, local schools and local sporting clubs. Our relationship with the City of Whittlesea and both State and Federal Government representatives is positive.

Since becoming President in 2017, my main focus has been directed towards providing for the needs of those who have served in Australian, British Commonwealth, and Allied Defence Forces, and their dependants.

I appreciate the support and ongoing generosity of your elected Committee of Management, the Appeals Sub-Committee, the Welfare Sub-Committee, the ANZAC/Remembrance Day Sub-Committee, the Poppy Ladies, volunteer members and volunteer staff members.

The commitment to our core purpose by these members is invaluable. Facts and figures relating to Epping Sub-Branch contributions are included in later sections of this report.

I acknowledge RSL Australia Award recipients of recent times_

Meritorious Service Medal

Late Mrs. Nance Ormsby.

League Life Membership

Mr. John Merrett

Late Mr. Kenneth Jeffery.

The voluntary work carried out by these members over many years is very much appreciated and they are most worthy recipients of the respective awards.

I acknowledge and thank the members of the Building Sub Committee, for their contribution to the successful completion of the new community room, staff room and kitchen.

I congratulate recently re-elected committee members and thank the entire committee for their effort and enthusiasm during the 2020 COVID "horror year" especially for participating in the telephone contact with our service members to check on their welfare during the lockdown.

Feedback suggests that the members appreciated the calls and enjoyed the chat, and also appreciated the food packs and other forms of assistance provided.

Volunteer hours recorded by our committees and members average 2050 per month, however for varying reasons it is estimated that a further 25% of hours are not recorded. All volunteer members are encouraged to investigate (through our administrative office staff) the simple process involved in recording activities such as selling

badges/poppies, home visits and hospital visits to our veterans. This charitable data is required by RSL Victoria and is essential for telling the story of the great work undertaken by our Sub Branch volunteers.

On a commercial aspect, after last year's lack of trading, the Epping RSL remains in a very stable financial position thanks to astute governance by our finance team over the previous few years. Thank you to Narelle Hart and all staff for ongoing efficient and friendly service to our members and guests. Even though we were closed for most of 2020, much was achieved in relation to completion of building extensions & renovations, maintenance, cleaning, security management and gardening, including the relocation of our own Memorial Rose Garden.

Unfortunately this year our ANZAC Day march along High Street to the Memorial Hall could not proceed. Government COVID restrictions were eased too late to enable proper liaison with all the agencies necessary to make the event a success. At the time of writing, our Dawn Service will proceed in compliance with Government COVID Regulations, and I appreciate the perseverance and hard work of Terry Power and the ANZAC/Remembrance Day Sub-Committee to bring this to fruition.

Our membership and our committee are ageing groups and for the benefit of all current and future veterans I encourage younger veterans and those currently serving ADF members to seriously consider becoming involved in the activities of the League. Should you have family, friends or neighbours that qualify for service membership, please encourage them to become a member of an RSL. Our primary purpose is veteran welfare.

Finally, sincere thanks to all members for your support and encouragement. Hopefully 2021 will be a better year or all of us.

President
Kevin Ind

General Manager's Report:

Mrs. Narelle Hart



Dear Members,

Well, what a year it has been. With Covid-19 impacting most of the years trading it certainly affected us all.

In 2019 the Epping RSL Sub Branch commenced a major renovation starting with a full electrical and gas upgrade, new staff facilities, a new keg room and a community room that will seat 120. Included in the new community room are disabled & able-bodied toilets, shower, a full bar and outside dining area.

We tripled the size of the kitchen and installed many new appliances. While the renovations were underway, we hired portable kitchens to keep our bistro open and our members happy with a limited menu. These renovations were completed in March 2020 ready for a huge opening.

THEN COVID-19 HIT.....

We were forced to close our doors on the 23rd March 2020 and at that time I had no idea we would be closed for just on 8 months. I called a

staff meeting the next day and had to inform 40 staff members that we had to stand them all down - this was one of the hardest things I have had to do as a General Manager in my 19 years here at Epping RSL. All without knowing how our staff would pay their bills or how long they would be out of work. Thankfully, the government introduced the Job-Keeper program with most of our staff qualifying for Job Keeper.

Although many of our staff took this hard, we continued to work together within COVID-19 guidelines and many of our staff volunteered their time to help give the venue a makeover. We cleaned and painted walls, renovated the ladies' bathroom near the members area, did some gardening, gave the RSL a big spruce up, but most importantly we helped and supported each other, and I cannot thank them enough for all they did.

Our committee meetings had their fair share of challenges, learning how to have Zoom & Team Meetings online was a new thing for us all but we survived with a few laughs along the way. We rang our service members to see if we could help them out in any way. With the help of Leisa we sourced local businesses - The Italian Club & Gerry's Fruit & Vegetables, along with our local milk man who supplied us with items that we made into welfare packs. We then filled up the courtesy bus and hand delivered to our veterans who needed support during the first lockdown. Just seeing the looks on the faces of our veterans and their families was hard, everyone greeted us with a smile and were happy to see us wanting to give us a hug but obviously we could not

We continued to speak to our service members during the Covid-19 lockdown and offered help but most of the time all everyone wanted was just a good chat on the phone.

We also made-up welfare packs for all our staff who for the first few weeks of lock down, were without a way of supporting themselves and their families. Included in the welfare packs were household goods such as milk, bread, fruit, flour, tinned tomatoes, rice etc, but most importantly TOILET paper and some Easter eggs.

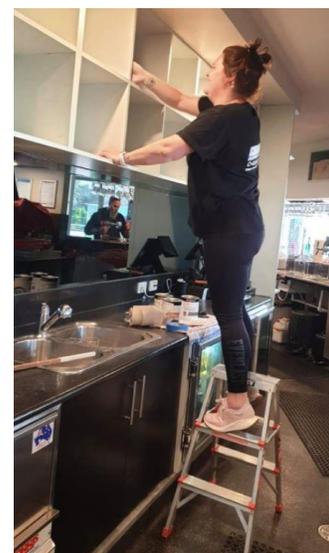
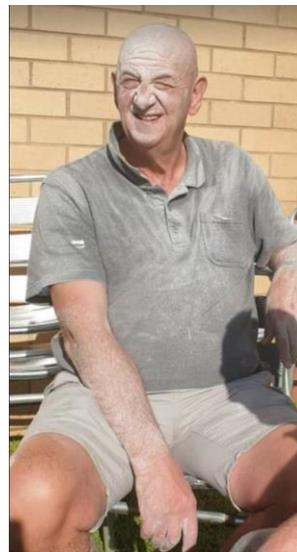
We finally opened our door to the public in November wearing masks and with reduced numbers. We learnt what the new Covid-19 normal was. 2020 will be a year that will be remembered for a long time, most of our commemorative services could not go ahead as planned and could only be done with very minimal numbers. ANZAC Day 2020 was just myself and the President Mr. Kevin Ind. Remembrance Day we could only have 20 people. As I write this, we are hoping that we will be able to have our usual ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

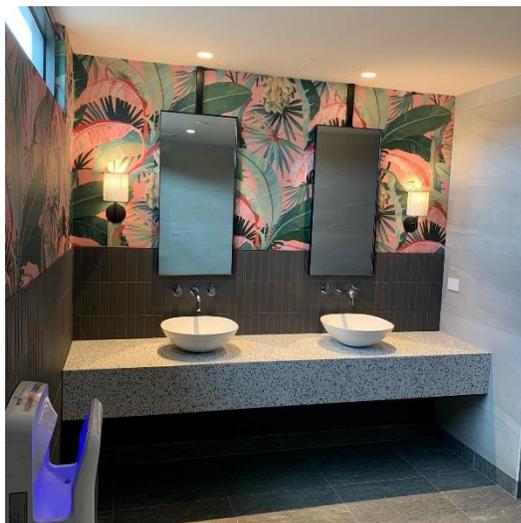
I would also like to give a special thank you to Leisa Webb our Office Manager and Adem Demaj our Maintenance person, who throughout lockdown helped me tear down walls, paint cupboards, plant trees, tiles floors, hang wall paper, take down doors, clean gutters, assemble furniture, and make many trips to Bunnings for supplies. They did not stop working inside and outside of the venue, we had a lot of laughs throughout lockdown often going home covered in paint or dust.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our committee, members and our visitors who stuck by us during such a hard time and continue to support us all and the committee.

Bring on 2021.

Regards
Narelle





Club Life Members:

Mr. A.M O'Connor †
Mr. J.P Simpson †
Mr. J Herd †
Mr. T Cleary †
Mr. L.A Lafranchi
Mrs. N Ormsby †
Mr. L Ormsby †
Mr. C Waters †
Mr. R.G Davies †
Mrs. R Simpson
Mr. J.H Tinsley †
Mr. L Hertzog †
Mr. W Paulka †
Mr. E. L Smith †
Mr. E.W Gason (M.B.E) †
Mr. S Savage †
Mr. J Batten †
Mrs. G Azzopardi †
Mr. R. Coleman †
Mr. L Waters †
Mr. A Bower †
Mr. G Rhodes †
Mr. R.G Holmes †
Mr. J.J Bracher †
Mr. K.G Ind
Mr. T.H Culbertson †
Mrs. D Cook †
Mr. H.A Mason †
Mr. K Jeffery †

Mr. B Molloy
Mrs. I Drew †
Mr. R.M McLeod
Mr. D.R Hayman
Mr. T Power
Mr. J.D Merrett
Mr. P. Thompson
Mr. D Worn
Mr. S Bosanko
Mr. G Lance

† Vale

Secretary's Report:

Thanks to our President Kevin Ind and the Committee of Management in general, General Manager Narelle Hart, but particularly office all-rounder and local repository of knowledge Leisa, for their support of the Secretarial role. While I am the Secretary by title, the reality is that the duties are performed by the collective and I appreciate their contributions.

This is the first Annual Report to have been produced by our Sub Branch. It is important that we produce a public document such as this to advertise to the community the great work we do for service members, and the greater community in general. There is increasing pressure being placed on establishments that have gaming, by entities and groups concerned about the impact that gambling has on some people. We understand this but unlike some, we are a not-for-profit charitable organisation and we need to show that the money is being spent wisely and in a charitable manner. Advertising what we do via the reports in this document is one way to advise people how we achieve this aim. Thanks to Roxc for her work in producing this document.

Our primary function as an RSL is to support our service men and women, their family and dependants. If you need help at all please contact us, we are here to do what we can. Our wonderful Welfare Committee, led by our Senior Vice President John Merrett, are ready and willing to respond.

As I write this report, we have just completed the nomination phase of the annual election process. I can advise that all four incumbents who stood for re-election this year were returned uncontested. This will provide your club with the stability it

needs to return to normality after a year of upheaval and uncertainty created by COVID19 shutdowns and restrictions.

Our new Community Room was completed in the early part of the COVID closure and is now an operating part of the club. Its addition to our facilities provides more flexibility to provide the great service for which our club is renowned. We can provide a room(s) for community groups and other organisations to hold meetings, seminars or functions as well as now being able to host multiple functions in the premises at the same time. Please contact the office should you have a need or an occasion to use the room.

As well as the community room, the renovations included doubling the size of the kitchen and increasing the storage area for food and beverages. The kitchen had been in need of more space and new appliances for some years due to increased patronage. There is also now a staff room for our marvelous staff, with enough locker storage for each staff member and providing them with a separate space to enjoy their meal breaks.

Thanks to the City of Whittlesea and their staff for their input and assistance to the club in many ways. Provision and support for lease amendments and other documentation in relation to the building of the Community Room, advice and support on procedural matters on various occasions, and particularly for their support of the ANZAC Day commemorative ceremony at our cenotaph. Even though it didn't happen in 2020 due to COVID, their ongoing support is appreciated by us and, by extension, the thousands of people who usually attend.

Thank you to the many volunteers who make our club so successful. For fear of leaving someone out I will not mention names but there are dozens of generous people who give freely of their time to support the club and its members. I appreciate all the sub-committees and the fabulous work they do.

Also, thanks to my fellow Committee of Management colleagues. There is a lot of scrutiny and compliance requirements placed on us by numerous regulatory government departments, both state and federal. It is no longer simply a matter of putting your hand up for committee and sitting back. Corporate governance is rightly a necessary component of committee (and management) functionality and there are courses and on-line training packages to complete to gain competencies to correctly manage the club. It takes up much of our time to ensure the club is run properly. Each committee member has a portfolio of activities to manage or support and, like all our other volunteers, I recognise the effort and time it takes.

Despite income being severely reduced, we were still able to continue our support of local charities and community groups. We sponsor several local sporting clubs and provide vouchers for community groups and entities to either raffle for fundraising or to reward their own volunteers. We believe in giving back to those who support our club.

Finally, thank you to you, all of our members. COVID closures have been tough on everyone in

many ways. There have been a few little things since we re-opened where 'rust' has shown in our normal daily service after 7 months closed but hopefully, we've sorted them out to your satisfaction. It is good to see all the familiar faces returning to the club and supporting us once again.

Membership Summary for the year 2020

Financial Members:

Life member	3
Service	325
Affiliate	1182
Social	1955

Transfers:

35 members transferred out to another Club.
29 members transferred in from another Club.

Total memberships down 419 members on last year 2019.

Mr. Philip Creek

Treasurer's Report:

On 11th March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a pandemic. On the 24th March 2020 the Epping RSL Sub Branch was compelled to shut down all its operations, and apart from a 4 day period in June 2020, we were unable to re commence trading until 8th November 2020 – a total of approximately 33 weeks closure.

This resulted in a loss of \$442,117 being reported for the Sub Branch for the year. However, this result included monthly rental payments, totaling \$480,261, to the Patriotic Fund being maintained throughout 2020. This enabled the completion of the Community Rooms project and the provision of funds to service our bank debt requirements.

Sub Branch

Prior to the pandemic the Club was tracking well with a 3.0% increase in bistro sales and a 2.4% increase in gaming over the same period for 2019, however, with the implementation of a number of government initiatives to support businesses during the pandemic, it is difficult to make any further comparisons.

The introduction of the government Job Keeper program enabled all staff to be continued to be paid weekly and supported by the Club during the closure. The total amount of federal government assistance received for the year was \$785,832 which was made up of Job Keeper \$685,832 and PAYG Subsidy of \$100,000.

The initial closure during April 20 saw the Club, with the assistance of a limited number of voluntary staff, complete a number of grounds repair work and external painting, as well as an upgrade to the gaming area female toilet facility.

The Sub Branch ended the year with a General Account bank balance of \$553,445 and an Accumulated Fund bank balance of \$402,256.

Sub Branch Patriotic Fund

As a result of receiving 12 month's rent payments from the Sub Branch the Patriotic Fund resulted in a profit of \$281,213 for 2020.

The Patriotic Fund provided welfare activities totaling \$10,713 - down from \$15,683 in 2019. Once again this was due to the pandemic curtailing many activities during the year.

Finance costs increased from \$15,127 in 2019 to a total of \$58,448 in 2020 as a result of the completion of our community rooms and our bank debt level increasing to \$1,962,960 as at the completion of the year.

The Sub Branch Patriotic Fund bank balance ended the year with a balance of \$17,169.

General Appeals Account

The General Appeals Patriotic Fund received no income from Appeals during 2020 due to the pandemic and had to rely on funds from Victoria Branch to assist its welfare activities.

In summary the auditors Grant Thornton have completed the audit of the 2020 accounts and have completed financial reports for the 3 entities of the Epping RSL Sub Branch Inc.

Treasurer
Les Luscombe

Commemoration Services Report:

March Day 2020:

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 restrictions we could not hold our annual ANZAC Day march. It was very disappointing, but the health and wellbeing of our Veteran members and the public was our top priority.

We look forward to having our march this year which will be on Sunday 18th of April. Again, this will depend on how we are situated with COVID-19 restrictions.

ANZAC Day Dawn Service 2020:

We were not permitted to hold our usual public commemoration, an exceedingly small service was performed by the president of the Epping RSL Mr. Kevin Ind, who laid a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of all the Ex-Service men, women and all the members of the Epping RSL Sub Branch.

It was great to see so many families stand in their driveways at 6am to acknowledge the supreme sacrifice of all our men and women who did not come home. Also, our thanks go to Plenty Valley FM and Bill McGillvray for putting a tribute and service together in memory of Ken Jeffery at 7am.

We are hopeful that we will be able to have our traditional normal Dawn Service as usual this year, but again this may depend on any restrictions that are in place at the time. We will keep our members up to date as we go.

Remembrance Day 2020:

Once again, we were very restricted in the numbers who could attend our Remembrance Day Service. In a short service held at the cenotaph, it was attended by a small gathering of 10 including as follows.

Mr. Walter Bennett a Korean War veteran who served with the Royal Australian Navy in 1952-1953.

Mrs. Eileen Culbertson who served with the Australian Land Army.

Mr. Cecil Bradford who laid a wreath on behalf of Mrs. Lily D'Ambrosio (Minister for Environment and Energy)

The president of the Epping RSL Mr. Kevin Ind then proceeded to lay a wreath on behalf of all veterans and members in memory of the fallen.

With 2020 behind us we look forward to normal commemorations services in 2021.

LEST WE FORGET

Mr. Terry Power



Welfare Report:

2020 was an extremely hard year for the Welfare Committee, as most of us were put into lockdown due to COVID-19. This includes both the committee people who look after our members, as well as the members themselves. Our Welfare chairperson received numerous phone calls from service members for assistance and he resolved the problems as best as he could, depending on the individual circumstance. However, there was minimal disruption to our members who enlist us to help with the mowing of their lawns, they continued to be mowed before and after the lockdown.

During the first lockdown Leisa from the office, with the help of the welfare committee, rang our local nursing homes to confirm names of their resident veterans. She then prepared about 30 hampers of goodies and arranged delivery of them to the nursing homes, for them to then pass on.

During the first lockdown we rang all our service members aged 70 or over, to check on their welfare. Most were coping well and didn't need assistance but were happy to receive the call and have a chat for a while. A small number did require some assistance. During the second lockdown, over a period of about a week we rang every service member on our register. Again, happily for them, most of them did not need assistance and we were able to accommodate requests for those who did.

We normally take our volunteers (and some service members) on an annual day bus trip in recognition of the fantastic work they do but unfortunately this also never happened. As an example, in 2019 we went to the 1000 steps in Ferntree Gully and lunched at a local hotel. We also host a Service members and widows lunch at the RSL, where they

get to come down and enjoy a nice meal, a drink, and a special performance on behalf of the RSL. This was another victim of COVID19 and we look forward to resuming it this year.

We have a beautiful bunch of ladies who attend the RSL every Monday morning who we call "The Poppy Ladies". They do so much from making rugs, hats/beanies for babies born prematurely, scarves, and a lot of other wonderful things. These then get donated to our local hospitals, nursing homes and to homeless people/organisations. They are also involved with a charity called "From Us to You" and together organise getting food, clothes, furniture, and toys to be donated to those in need. Narelle has organized a luncheon for us to meet with the church people who are helping with the gifts as they would like some welfare committee there.

Some instances are shown below of amounts outlaid assisting service men and women this year.

Money Spent:	Lawn mowing -	\$7900
	Food Hampers-	\$1100
	Christmas Hampers-	\$500
	Diaries -	\$900
	<u>Total Spent</u>	<u>\$10,400</u>

Appeals:	Bushfires-	\$2500
	Wakes-	\$530
	Service Members Utilities-	\$1000
	<u>Total Spent</u>	<u>\$3530</u>

I would like to thank all of our volunteers and welfare committee for their services at the nursing homes, attendance at funerals and for all that they do for our members.

Although we were unable to conduct appeals collections this year, I wish to acknowledge all of our Appeals volunteers for their diligence in the past, sitting at collection tables etc.

Mr. John Merrett



One of our members with a food hamper.



One of our employees with a food hamper.



A look inside our veteran hampers



Residents from Bupa Aged care with their hamper

Poppy Ladies' Report:

We are going from strength and have been busy during COVID-19. Although we haven't been able to meet at the Epping RSL, we have continued to knit for those in need.

Our group meets every 2nd Monday at the RSL at 10am and continues to grow in both members and the number of charities we support.

Below is a list of our current charities.

Arcare Epping (Nursing home)	Bupa Aged Care Thomastown (Nursing home)
Melbourne Period Project – Homeless Men, Women & Children	St Mary's House of Welcome
Kids first	Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital
Vincent Care Glenroy (Nursing home)	In touch – Multicultural against family violence
Smith Family VIEW Club	Estia Health South Morang (Nursing home)
Estia Health Epping (Nursing home)	Kildonan United Church
SIDS	Royal Children's Hospital
Monash Childrens' Hospital	Austin Health & Hospital
Vasey RSL Care	Opal Meadowglen. Lino & printmaking veterans group
Salvation Army	St John Of God
Anvan Care (Nursing home)	Mercy Hospital (Nicu Unit)
3081 Angels	Safe Step Women's Refuge
Darley House (Nursing home)	Whittlesea Lodge (Nursing Home)
Thomastown Nursing Home	Heritage Lakes (Nursing Home)
Green Gables (Nursing Home)	Melbourne Legacy
From Us to You	Australian National Veterans Arts Museum
Veterans & Elderly throughout City Of Whittlesea	Safe Haven
Anglicare (Nursing home)	Big Hugs
Gracy Of Mary Epping Nursing Home	Countryside Community Wide
Fastco Aunties & Uncles, Filipino-Australian Student Council of Victoria	Penguin Foundation
Cockatoo Rise War Veterans Retreat	Northern Victorian Dairy Farmers
Sir William Hall (Nursing home)	Bupa Aged Care South Morang (nursing home)
Bethel Aged Care South Morang	Little Sisters of the Poor
ANZAC Lodge (Nursing home)	St Andrews (Nursing home)
Queens Park (Nursing home)	Corpus Christi Community Centre
Macedon Ranges Legacy Group	Epping Gardens Heritage Care (Nursing home)
Kilmore & District Hospital	Benetas Lifestyle (Nursing home)

Elstoft House Geelong (Nursing home)	
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Sporting Sub Clubs:

Angling:

Meetings held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30pm, except June & November which are the 1st Monday. Prospective members are most welcome to attend and have a chat. We would love to have you join our club.

No boat, no worries as most members are land-based anglers.

Membership Fees:

Adults: \$10 **Pensioners:** \$5 **Children:** \$0.50

Mr. Spencer Davies
President

Mr. Dennis Worn
Vice President

Mr. Bernie Coughlan
Treasurer

Mr. Colin Kemp
Secretary

Angling Report:

In 1983 the Epping Angling club was an idea of Joe Clark to give the RSL's veterans an opportunity for an outside activity. This group now consists of a small social proactive group of anglers who are willing to share their expertise and experience with new members. The Epping RSL Angling Club provides the opportunity to learn and share while enjoying a healthy outdoor sport.

Fishing trips are organised throughout the year and vary between surf, bay, estuary, and freshwater. Different species are targeted to suit all anglers. Both day and weekend competitions are included. Interclub competitions are also supported. Fishing syllabus is decided in January for following year. Club championships conclude in December with a presentation night at the RSL.

Our values:

To encourage and support veterans and service members.

To add value to Epping RSL Membership

Promote and encourage responsible angling.

We expect our members to have a genuine interest in angling and contribute to the club by attending monthly meetings, participate and assist in community events and fund raising.

Meetings:

The 2020/2021 year has been a particularly challenging year for the Angling club. Due to COVID 19 restrictions we were limited to meetings in February, March, and December.

Competitions:

Three competitions were held. February was at the Murray River at Torrumbarry, where two members fished. March was a go anywhere. May was at Melton Weir but due to COVID 19 the weir was locked so 5 members and 1 guest fished at Pikes Creek Reservoir.

A.G.M.

The Angling Club's AGM was held in December where the Executive members were voted in unopposed for the 2021 year.

Treasurer's report.

The treasurer reported the December 2020 balance was a healthy \$9161.69 with 19 financial members and 8 life members.

Angling Club Secretary

Colin Kemp



John Sanders, Vietnam Veteran



Bowls:

We always welcome visitors, social, new, or experienced bowlers and every Thursday afternoon from 3.00pm during Pennant season you will find friendly members on the green eager to introduce you to the game. We also have a club coach available for new bowlers to learn the techniques of lawn bowls or to hone your skills as an existing bowler.

Membership fees for the 2020/2021 season are:

Adults: \$120 Juniors (Under 18): Free

New Members: (First year only): Membership fee waived (Conditions apply)

Membership fees include Bowls Victoria affiliation fees and are due on the 1st of April each year.

Please note that all members of the Bowls Club must also be members of the RSL Sub-Branch, either existing or by joining the Epping RSL Sub Branch.

Social Bowls is played on Saturdays commencing at 12.30pm through the months of May to August.

Mr. Neil Harris
President

Mrs. Kaye Creek
Vice President

Mrs. Lorraine Sloan
Treasurer

Mr. Paul Stapleton
Secretary

Bowls Report:

OUR COMMITTEE

To get this season up and running Bowls Australia federally and our state body worked tirelessly to develop protocols through which we could safely participate in the sport that, depending upon how we are performing, on most days we love. Although our playing season has been shortened by four rounds, due to the hard work of many we have been able to provide the opportunity for our members to practise to improve their skills, participate on a competitive platform and most importantly to get out of the house and socialise!

Not only has the COVID 19 pandemic affected what happens on the greens, it has impacted behind the scenes also. Due to the Epping RSL Sub Branch closure (twice) and the limiting of the numbers of people allowed to safely gather; our Annual General Meeting was delayed from its usual May date. To the credit of the 'outgoing committee' run by President Debbie Watkins (affectionately known as The Iron Lady) it took on the challenge and continued to oversee our club until we could safely hold our AGM. My thanks go out to that committee (President Debbie Watkins, Vice President Ian Creek, Acting Secretary Paul Stapleton, Treasurer Lorraine Sloan and our general committee Faye Capp, Kaye Creek and Peter Gregory. They were finally able to step down in December when the current committee was elected at our long overdue Annual General Meeting.

PENNANT COMPETITION

Unfortunately, some other clubs have been unable to field their usual number of sides but such was not our situation. We have maintained our status quo by entering three Saturday and two mid-week teams this season. They are Divisions 3, 5 and 7 of a Saturday and Divisions 3 and 5 mid-week. Thus far we have competed with complete teams each week and are doing quite nicely competitively.

I thank all selectors who have worked together to get all teams onto the greens both before and after our Annual General Meeting. They are; Bradley James, Michael Reid, Adem Demaj Snr., Phil Creek, Jack Green, Ray Langmaid and Ted Golledge. 'Keep moving Gentlemen, it is harder to hit a moving target!'

THE VICTORIAN RSL BOWLS ASSOCIATION

The above association runs various competitions/tournaments throughout the year, including State events exclusively for Service members and The Duke of Edinburgh Shield for both Service and Affiliate members. We are proud and pleased to have fourteen Service Members participating in bowls, some of whom avail themselves of these competitions. We thank them for their Service.

Whilst on the Victorian RSL Bowls Association, a VALE for a bloke who was their past President, past President of the Epping RSL Sub-Branch for many years, one of our founding members and one of, if not the hardest working person I have seen around a bowls club/RSL: our number 1 ticket holder Mr Herb Mason. Since his passing we are discovering that we need more people to cover the work/jobs he did. The roads are safer to drive on now, but we all miss Herbie.

GREENS AND SURROUNDS

Nathan Swincer, our green keeper for many years has moved on. With thanks to our RSL Committee of Management it looks like we have a very capable one working in this role. We welcome Phil Grant who I am

sure will work with our past and current Greens Director (Adem Demaj Snr.) in bringing out the best in both greens.

We have purchased and have had 'Grab Poles' installed around the perimeter of both greens. These poles assist the less physically abled to move safely when stepping onto and off the banks. Our club has purchased and paid for the installation of artificial turf around the Herb Mason Green improving aesthetics and safety. Together with our RSL we have contributed to converting four of the floodlights surrounding the greens to LED.

We are looking at working with Phil Grant and the RSL to bring the Ken Williams Green and surrounds up to the same standard as the Herb Mason Green. With the completion of building works, we hope to be able to increase the provision of shade for the protection of all who use the greens, from the sun's harmful rays.

President
Neil Harris

Darts:

The Darts Club was officially formed when Bob Holmes became president of the Epping RSL in 1987. Prior to this there were two teams who played for fun, one was playing metro and one playing regional. At the time Bob Holmes asked darts player Leon Bourke to join the two teams together and so began the proper formation of the Epping RSL Darts Sub Club.

We are only a small club of approximately 40 members. We have three Wednesday night teams (A grade, B grade, C grade) and one 1 Friday night team.

We do not charge an annual subscription, the only cost is a weekly playing fee of \$5 – applicable on game days.

Committee

Mr. Steve Bosanko	Mr. Ron Bell	Mrs. Mary Bell	Mrs. Mary Bell
President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary

Darts Report:

As everyone is aware, due to COVID 19 most sporting activities were on hold for much of the year, so the Epping RSL Darts Club was unable to compete in 2020.

The Diamond Valley Services Clubs Darts Association, which is our governing body, is hoping to start the Summer competition mid to late February 2021, with all COVID 19 requirements in place before the season begins.

Please, if you would like to try your hand at darts you are more than welcome to join our friendly band of men and women on a Wednesday evening. We only play other RSL teams within the Diamond Valley area, so no long distances to travel.

Secretary
Mary Bell



After darts socialising (right)

Golf:

To become a member you must be a member of the Epping RSL. (Refer to Membership Rules of RSL).
Annual Fee for golf membership is \$30.00
Join Now And Have Fun.

Mr. Dave Collis
President

Mr. Trevor Wallace
Vice President

Mr. Paul Wilson
Treasurer

Mr. Dean Kunelius
Secretary

Golf Report:

In 1984, the Epping RSL Golf Club was established by a group of regular RSL patrons who were interested in golf. There are several founding members of the golf club who are still involved with the golf club today.

There are 35 current members of the club and we average 22 members playing per game.

The club generally holds 20 games per year – most of which are held at local courses in the northern suburbs. We also hold 2 annual weekends away (generally towards courses on the Murray River) and a few bus day trips to courses approx. 1 ½ hr drive away.

The club is extremely social with the majority of golfers enjoying each other's company after games with a meal and beverages in the club house. Many members of the golf club also head to the Epping RSL outside of golf games, particularly members nights on Fridays.

Several members of the golf club volunteer countless hours of their time to the RSL (most notably members Terry Power & Geoff Lance) for a variety of reasons, with ANZAC day commemorations being one of the primary focuses. The golf club has provided many members who volunteer and assist with Car Park & BBQ duties on this day for over a decade.

The golf club holds 3 major events throughout the year - Annual club championship which is best gross score over 2 rounds, Gary "Brooka" Brooks Shield which is a one day stableford event and the Chris "Shad" Toschack Memorial award which is held over best 3 of 4 rounds of stableford.

Membership is available for all Epping RSL members. Cost is \$30 annually. Each game is generally \$40 per game.

The Golf Club has members of all ages and abilities. If you love your golf, please come and have a game at this very social Golf Club.

Dean Kunelius
Secretary



Vale 2020:

Service members:

Mr. Charles Moore

Mr. Rae Fraser

Mr. Leo Boyle

Mr. Clive Scott

Mr. Jack Dwyer

Mrs. Pauline Edwards

Mr. Abraham Melki

Mr. John Tinsley

Mr. Rodney Horton

Mr. Patrick Wighton

Mr. Jeffrey Reeves

Mr. Kenneth Short

Mr. Max Penney

Mr. Harold Smith

Mr. Robert Higgins

Mr. Kenneth Cadee

Mr. Donald Miller

Organisations that meet at the Epping RSL:

Club	
Poppy ladies	
Legacy Ladies	
VIEW Club	

Epping RSL Sub-Branch

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