

**RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF  
AUSTRALIA  
(QUEENSLAND BRANCH)  
GYMPIE SUB-BRANCH INC.**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**Year Ending 31st December 2024**

**Presented at the**

**106th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Sunday, 30th March 2025**

**Level 2, Ex Sports Bar, Gympie RSL Club**

**217 Mary Street, Gympie 4570**

**Registration 8.30am**

**Start 9:00am**

**“The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance”**

**Lest We Forget**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Board of Directors 2024 (Page 3)
2. Board Volunteer Hours 2024 (Page 4)
3. Vales (Page 5)
4. Agenda (Page 6)
5. Motions on Notice (Page 7)
6. Previous Minutes (Page 9)
7. President's Report (Page 14)
8. Chief Executive Officer's Report (Page 15)
9. 2024 Membership Report (Page 18)
10. Treasurer's Report (Page 18)
11. Finance Manager's Report (Page 20)
12. Financial Audit Report (Page 22)
13. Deputy President's Report (Page 42)
14. Board Directors' Reports (Page 42)
15. Club Manager's Report (Page 46)
16. Veteran Services Manager's Report (Page 47)

Addendum - Gympie RSL AGM 2025 Candidates for Board Positions

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

<b>President</b>	John Longhurst (resigned 31st July 2024) Adel Amin (appointed 31st July 2024)
<b>Deputy President</b>	Adel Amin (resigned 31st July 2024) Lindsay Francis (appointed 31st July 2024)
<b>Vice President</b>	Lindsay Francis (appointed 13th May 2024) Lindsay Francis (resigned 31st July 2024)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gerard Irvine
<b>Directors</b>	Jan Collins Colin Boucher Garry Casey AM Chelle Dobson (resigned 30th October 2024) Lindsay Francis Donna Griffin (appointed 29th May 2024) Robyn Murtagh (appointed 29th January 2025)
<b>Secretary / CEO</b>	Martin Muller
<b>Life Members</b>	Maureen Costello OAM Ivan Fiske OAM Gordon Barrett

## BOARD VOLUNTEER HOURS 2024

<b>Director</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Hours Volunteered</b>
John Longhurst	4	145.5
Adel Amin	13	1003.5
Lindsay Francis	11	153
Chelle Dobson	9	850.25
Gerard Irvine	8	39.5
Colin Boucher	13	258
Garry Casey	12	305
Jan Collins	13	497
Donna Griffin	5	64.25
Kim Mayne	3	12

# VALES 2024

William "Bill" Moore  
Malcolm David Calcutt  
Rex Allison  
Andrew Wheatley  
Peter Patrick  
Norman Mackellar  
Christopher James Walker  
Glenise Buckley  
Graham Alfred Gerathy  
Maureen Joan Bengtsen (Cronau)  
Edward Scott  
Kenneth Clements  
Anthony "Lofty" Olsen  
Raymond "Sambo" Nielsen  
Brian Ward  
Steve White  
Francis Taylor  
Meg Porter

Funeral Services were provided to our  
lost Comrades in a dignified manner,  
if requested by the next of kin.



# AGENDA

**DATE:** Sunday, 30th March 2025

**TIME:** 9:00am (registration from 8:30am)

**HELD AT:** Level 2, Ex Sports Bar, Gympie RSL Club, 217 Mary Street

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1. Welcome - Adel Amin, President
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
*"I [Name] do hereby swear allegiance to the Commonwealth of Australia and its people and do hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Constitution of the Returned & Services League of Australia".*
3. Vales
4. Silent Tribute / Ode
5. Attendance (Members, Guests, Speakers, Visitors)
6. Apologies
7. Advise Meeting is being digitally recorded
8. Conflicts of Interest
9. Confirmation of previous AGM minutes
10. Business arising from previous minutes
11. President's Report
12. Chief Executive Officer's Report
13. Membership Report
14. Treasurer's Report
  - Financial statements compliance declaration
  - Auditors Report
15. Deputy President's Report
16. Director Reports
17. Veterans Centre Annual Report
18. Club Managers Report
19. All Board Positions declared vacant
20. Appointment of returning officer and scrutineers
21. Election of Office bearers
22. Appointment of Membership Officer - Amy O'Brien
23. Appointment of district representative & state delegate/s & alternate
24. Appointment of ATDP trained pension, welfare officers & basic welfare support off.
25. Endorsement of advocates, pension, and welfare officers
26. Appointment of Solicitor & Auditor
27. Confirmation of Public Liability
28. Notice of motion to continue to support Kilkivan Chapter

## MOTIONS ON NOTICE

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. accepted the apologies as listed by the Secretary.

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. accept the 106th Annual General Minutes as circulated be taken as a true and correct record.

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. receive and accept the President's Report.

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. receive and accept the Treasurer's Report.

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. receive and accept the Auditor's Report.

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. receive and accept the Veteran Services Report.

## MOTIONS ON NOTICE

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. receive and accept the Membership report.

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. approve deferring the appointment of solicitor/auditor until new Board has been appointed.

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. appoint the Membership Officer.

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. appoint the President as the District and State Representative for the Gympie Sub Branch Inc. and, in the event the delegate is unable to attend, then the Deputy President is appointed as delegate.

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. endorse the practicing Advocates as listed.

- Ian Bowd - Compensation and Mentor (Level 3), Wellbeing Advocate (Level 2)
- Chelle Dobson - Wellbeing Advocate (Level 1)
- Jessica Deviney - Wellbeing Advocate (Level 2)
- Alecia Colbourn - Compensation and Wellbeing Advocate (Level 1)
- David Eastwood - Trainee Compensation (Level 1)
- Ryan Cairns - Compensation (Level 1)
- Lauren Belzer - Trainee Wellbeing (Level 1)

**MOTION:** That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. resolve to continue support of the Kilkivan Chapter.

# PREVIOUS MINUTES



**RSL**  
Gympie Sub Branch

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, 24 March 2024

**TIME:** 10.00hrs

**VENUE:** Rhythm Bar Gympie RSL  
217 Mary Street, Gympie QLD 4570

### WELCOME

Welcome by President, John Longhurst.  
Meeting opened at 10.10hrs.

### SPECIAL GUESTS

- Wide Bay Burnett District Deputy President, Graham Davies
- Brown Macaulay & Warren, Jonathan Weller

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### VALES

- John Waldock
- Raymond Bird
- Ian Beasley
- Laurence Walsh
- Ross Duncan
- James Olson
- Roy Earnest Henderson
- Robert "Bob" Miles
- Leslie Davis
- Geoffrey Swan
- Annette Slater
- Joseph Lilwall
- Michael Hourigan
- Harry Smith
- Roy Archibald
- Ian Kenneth Hammond
- Douglas Arthur Austin
- Kevin John Steele
- Peter Kenneth O'Brien
- Vivian (Ossie) Merritt
- John Penn
- Dawn Bellamy
- Dennis Vennard
- Wattana Pao
- Keith Ernest Carstens

### SILENT TRIBUTE / ODE

### ROLL CALL – As per Attendance Register

- Members – 52
- League Voting Members – 45
- Non League Voting Members - 5
- Visitors – 2

### APOLOGIES – 10

Michael Walker  
Brian Brink  
John Stark  
Michael Krutzner  
Jill O'Brien  
Gloria Baillie

Maureen Costello OAM  
Leonard Treeby  
Garry Casey AM  
Kim Mayne

**MOTION:** Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Incorporated accept the Apologies.

**MOVED:** Linda Johnston  
**SECONDED:** Alan Steptoe  
**CARRIED**

**ADVICE MEETING IS BEING DIGITALLY RECORDED**

The President advised the meeting is being digitally recorded to confirm the accuracy of the Minutes. The digital recording will be retained until the draft Minutes have been ratified at the next AGM, after which the recording will be destroyed/ deleted. No other recordings are permitted.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- Nil

**CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Incorporated accept the Minutes of the AGM 2023 as a true and correct record.

**MOVED:** Helene Milner  
**SECONDED:** Ian Bowd  
**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil

**PRESIDENT REPORT**

- President Longhurst advised that his report is contained within the Annual Report. No questions were asked.

**MOTION:** Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc. receive and accept the President's Report.

**MOVED:** John Longhurst  
**SECONDED:** Bob Cullis  
**CARRIED**

**GROUP MANAGERS REPORT**

GRM covered off items which were not contained in his Annual Report.

- Thanked the previous Executive Mr Herlihy and Mr McMullan for their time on the Board and the continuing Board.
- Advised Mr Ryan Cairns, Level 1 / Level 2 in training and former Director on the Board for his time and commitment to the RSL. Ryan will be retiring from Advocacy.
- Thanked Ian Bowd for all his commitment with clients and compensation claims. GRM would like to get members together to consider a life time membership for Mr Bowd.
- Thanked Mrs Ferguson for her commitment with training Mr Bowd and being a part of our compensation team.

GRM advised that within the last 12 months we have continued to grow. More conversations are to be had about what the next 12 months looks like with the growing population.

GRM advised that the RSL attended Clubs QLD awards night and got awarded the best medium sized Bistro in the whole of QLD.

**MOTION:** Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc. receive and accept the GRM's Report.

**MOVED:** John Herlihy  
**SECONDED:** Chrissy Carrol  
**CARRIED**

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**


Total membership of Gympie Sub-Branch as of 31 December 2023.

- 2 Life Members
- 390 Life Subscribers
- 208 League Members
- 32 Voting, Non-League Members



<p>- 21,333 Social Members</p>	
<p>MOTION: Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Incorporated receive and accept the Membership Report.</p>	<p>MOVED: Linda Johnston SECONDED: Andre Maertens <b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>TREASURERS REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Treasurer welcomed Jonathon the auditor to the table.</li> <li>- Treasurer thanked Terrance McMullan for his time on the Board as Treasurer.</li> </ul> <p><i>Questions:</i> David Collins questioned the amount of \$136,610.00 for donations. The recipients do not have the amount which they have received next to their name. Treasurer advised that ever since her engagement on the Board, this has not happened.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group Manager advised that the report, which is in front of the members, is an overview report and behind that are the audited financials, how they must be reported.</li> <li>- Wide Bay and District Burnett, Deputy President advised that the audited financials (Bank Statement) for Kilkivan Chapter need to be documented in our financial report.</li> </ul>	
<p>MOTION: Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Incorporated receive and accept the Treasurers Reports.</p> <p><i>Compliance Declaration:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That the Returned &amp; Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. Is solvent and there are reasonable grounds to believe that it will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and that the accounts, as presented, be accepted.</i></li> </ul>	<p>MOVED: Chelle Dobson SECONDED: Ivan Friske <b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>AUDITORS REPORT</b></p> <p>Auditor questioned if any of the members had any questions. No questions asked.</p> <p>Group Manager advised members that the Kilkivan's Chapter bank account is showing a balance of \$4,640.00.</p> <p>Group Manager advised, as per previous General Meetings, the Board have moved the cash from the bank to an offset account in June 2023. This will help with interest rates at present. The money in the offset account can sit between \$920,000 – \$1.2 million dollars.</p>	
<p>MOTION: Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Incorporated receive and accept the Auditors Report</p>	<p>MOVED: David Collins SECONDED: Bruce Willoughby <b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>DEPUTY PRESIDENTS REPORT</b></p> <p>Deputy President advised that it has been a busy year with meetings. Attended the Annual Conference in Brisbane. Hard and important decisions to be made in the next 12 months. The Board will be working towards how the RSL will get their funds moving forward, will we landbank, purchase different venues.</p>	<p>MOVED: Rick Mann SECONDED: Bruce Willoughby <b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>DIRECTORS REPORTS</b></p>	

MOTION: Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Incorporated receive and accept the Directors Reports.	MOVED: Linda Johnson SECONDED: Rick Mann <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>VETERANS CENTRE REPORT</b>	
MOTION: Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Incorporated receive and accept the Veteran Managers Report	MOVED: Helene Milner SECONDED: Rick Mann <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>CLUB MANAGERS REPORT</b>	
MOTION: Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Incorporated receive and accept the Club Managers Report	MOVED: Rick Mann SECONDED: John Herlihy <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS</b>	
Chair was vacated by current Gympie President Mr. John Longhurst Current Wide Bay & Burnett District Deputy President, Mr. Graeme Davies to take the Chair for the election of office bearers.	
<b>ELECTION OF LEAGUE OFFICE BEARERS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President: John Longhurst</li> <li>• Deputy President: Adel Amin</li> <li>• Treasurer: Gerard Irvine</li> <li>• Directors: Garry Casey AM, Lindsay Francis, Colin Boucher</li> </ul>	
<b>ELECTION OF NON-LEAGUE OFFICE BEARERS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Director: Jan Collins and Chelle Dobson</li> </ul>	
MOTION: <i>Ballots were ordered to be destroyed by scrutineers.</i>	MOVED: Alan Steptoe SECONDED: Bruce Willoughby <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY</b>	MOVED: John Herlihy SECONDED: Ivan Friske <b>CARRIED</b>
MOTION: That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. appoint the Secretary – Martin Muller	
<b>APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP OFFICER</b>	MOVED: Ian Bowd SECONDED: Alan Steptoe <b>CARRIED</b>
MOTION: That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. appoint the Membership Officer – Amy O'Brien	
<b>APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE &amp; STATE DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</b>	MOVED: John Herlihy SECONDED: Leslie Humphrys <b>CARRIED</b>
MOTION: That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. resolve to appoint John Longhurst (President) as Delegate for Gympie Sub Branch and, in the event that the President is unable to attend, Adel Amin (Deputy President) is appointed as Replacement Delegate.	

<p><b>ENDORSEMENT OF ATDP TRAINED ADVOCATES &amp; TRAINEES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian Bowd—Compensation &amp; Wellbeing Advocate (Level 3)</li> <li>• Ryan Cairns—Trainee Compensation Advocate (Level 1)</li> <li>• Chelle Dobson—Trainee Wellbeing Advocate (Level 1)</li> <li>• Jessica Deviney—Trainee Wellbeing Advocate (Level 2)</li> <li>• Timothy Pendlebury—Trainee Wellbeing Advocate (Level 1 &amp; Level 2)</li> <li>• Alecia Colburn—Trainee Compensation Advocate (Level 1)</li> </ul> <p>MOTION: That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. endorse the practicing Advocates as listed.</p>	<p>MOVED: Dion Channer          SECONDED: Bob Cullis  <b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR</b></p> <p>MOTION: That the members of The Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. appoint the Solicitor – Power &amp; Cartwright</p>	<p>MOVED: David Collins          SECONDED: Ivan Friske  <b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR</b></p> <p>MOTION: Members of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc. appoint Brown Macaulay &amp; Warren Chartered Accountants as auditors for 2023.</p>	<p>MOVED: John Herlihy          SECONDED: Robert Bellis  <b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC LIABILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Liability Insurance \$30M.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SUPPORT KILKIVAN CHAPTER</b></p> <p>MOTION: Members of the Returned &amp; Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc. resolve to continue financial and administrative support to the Kilkivan Chapter.</p>	<p>MOVED: Les Baillie          SECONDED: Rick Mann  <b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Pages of the AGM booklet to be numbered</p>	
<p><b>DUE DILIGENCE STATEMENT</b></p> <p>The Gympie Branch is satisfied that this meeting was conducted in accordance with the Constitution and that the positions formulated, and resolutions passed are consistent with the furtherance of the objects of the League and otherwise satisfy its obligations to superintend and conduct the business of the Sub-Branch pursuant to its Constitution.</p>	
<p><b>DATE OF THE NEXT AGM</b></p> <p>The next Annual General Meeting will be held on <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.</b></p>	
<p><b>CLOSURE</b></p> <p>President John Longhurst declared the AGM closed at 12:13hrs.</p>	
<p><b>Proof read and approved by the Chairman for Distribution:</b></p> <p>Chairman: </p>	<p><b>Date:</b></p> <p>15 APR 24</p>
<p><b>Verified as a true and correct record:</b></p> <p>Chairman:</p>	<p><b>Date:</b></p>

# ADEL AMIN - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Members,

Thank you for the continued support you have given me since I took on the role of President in May 2024. The last ten months have been very busy for the Gympie RSL with growth in our membership (650 League and 23,000 Social members) and an increase in the number of employed staff (now 96), I would like to thank all of the team for their dedication and hard work.

In 2024, the Gympie RSL was awarded Best Medium size Bistro in Queensland which is a testament of the great meals produced by the Executive Chef (Paul) and his team in the Kitchen, and the fantastic service provided by our staff in the Bistro, Bar and Gaming.

The Gympie RSL is in a great financial position and with our members support, we have now completed the purchase of 207 Mary Street (next door to the RSL) that is a part of increasing the foot-print of the Gympie RSL within the Gympie Region.

Due to all the hard work and persistence of Martin Muller (our CEO) and his team, Gympie RSL was given the go ahead by the QLD Heritage Services for our Memorial Park project. This project is now well under way and the relocation of the Memorial Flame will be completed by ANZAC Day 2025.

We were also successful in securing the lease of the building (the old Telstra Building) on the corner of Monkland and Reef Street, to house our Veteran Centre (VC) team.

Our Community Grants Sub Committee continues to evaluate and approve applications received from community groups. In the last ten months the Gympie RSL has awarded approx. \$65,000 to community groups by way of Grants and sponsorship.

In addition to the achievements mentioned above, I'm very proud to announce some other achievements by the diligent team of the Board Directors, these are:

1. Updated and gained approval for our Constitution;
2. Formulated and implemented the Financial Delegations for our Management team;
3. Completed the Gympie RSL five-year Strategic Plan; and
4. In conjunction with the CEO and Senior Management, the Board is currently working on the organisation's Budget that will be presented to the members in due course.

The 2025 ANZAC Day will be a very big commemoration with 110 years since landing of Gallipoli. Other significant commemorations in 2025 include 80 years since the end of WWII, 75 years since landing in Korea and 50 years since withdrawal from Vietnam and fall of Saigon, to name a few. This requires a lot of organising and work by all, and the wheels are now in motion with meetings already held with the Rattler Train Management and community organisations such as Schools, Council, Cadets, Light Horse and Audio-Visual organisers. We've also submitted the relevant applications for street closures etc. to Council and Police.

Further meetings will be held with those organisations in the next couple of weeks to discuss and arrange the finer points of the day.

Members, I'd like to once more thank you for your ongoing support and giving me the opportunity to serve you as your President.

## MARTIN MULLER - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Members, it has now been five years since we amalgamated the RSLs in Gympie: providing strong financial growth through sound economic management, ever increasing Advocacy support to our veterans including true Wellbeing Leadership amongst other Ex Service Organisations ESO's, and an award-winning licenced club and Veteran Centre. This success was built with the two operational pillar structures of a Licensed Venue (Revenue Engine), and a Veteran Centre (Object Delivery).

The single entity RSL amalgamated in our 100th year, celebrating a century of support to the Veteran Community. The past five years have seen significant debt reduction for the \$6.6 million renovation of our licenced venue; the purchase of the commercial property at 207 Mary Street; a 10-year lease for a new Veteran Centre within the Memorial Park Precinct; and a new Constitution which will enable the association to have DGR (Donated Goods Recipient) status.

2024 Financial Year saw great achievements. We were reimbursed the Payroll Tax paid that I had argued was not payable over the previous five years. This reimbursement contributed over \$370,000 back to the RSL, plus the ongoing savings for no more tax.

We successfully negotiated the Memorial Park and Memorial Lane refurbishment with the Department of Environment and Science (Heritage), Operational Works approval from Gympie Regional Council, and commenced construction. These works will be completed 6 months ahead of schedule with the Flame in position for 2025 ANZAC Day -110 years since the immortal landings at Gallipoli.

Our membership peaked at just over 23,500 prior to the renewal program. This wonderful community support continues to drive our revenues up, our debt down and increase our service capability. This support enables the Sub Branch to provide up to \$60,000 in grants to the community annually, sponsorships with community organisations, and our new \$50,000 S.T.R.I.K.E Program (Supporting the Region In Kids Education).

Our Community Raffle Program delivered \$62,416.00 to community organisations and specific causes including Sophia's Wheelchair Bus, Gympie Homelessness Assistance Association, Gympie East Rural Fire Brigade, 5th Lighthorse Regiment Military Museum, Little Haven Palliative Care, Gympie Centenary Scouts, Gympie Girl Guides, Riding for the Disabled, Hope Reins, Supporting Chemotherapy in Cooloola, Breast Cancer Awareness, Legacy, Community Action and 10 Minute Window.

Our Advocacy Team has delivered 941 hours and 26,675 kms on direct wellbeing. Our programs including Pool, Coffee 'n Chat, Mateship Meals, Exercise Classes, and more, totalling \$150k. Compensation & Wellbeing Advocates saw 708 clients through appointments. Our welfare phone check in program made 1,936 calls to veterans and war widows, connecting our community. Our volunteer team drove 88,875 kms, taking Veterans, Spouses, Widows and families to appointments and Sub Branch activities.

We supported other ESOs with their wellbeing delivery through Club Vouchers, food vouchers and merchandise sale and direct advocacy and administrative support. We collaborated with Glenwood Community Hall to establish a monthly camaraderie meal, supplying meat and vegetables from our loyal suppliers. This program has grown, which sees over 150 meals

served each month, bringing together a local community including many veterans. We have also assisted Mary Valley Sub Branch with their plans to commence a similar program in 2025.

As for the new Veteran Centre, the refit of the premises has taken longer than expected. Shortage of available builders in late 2024 and increased costs of building supplies meant delays to the refit. From initial estimates of \$300,000 from two building companies, we now expect the final cost of the refit to be \$150,000 - a saving of 50%. This saving has been brought about by the sterling efforts of our Facilities Manager, Simon Calvert. The New Veteran Centre will be operational by ANZAC Day 2025.

To our Senior Management team - Brad Wines, Daniel Ferguson, Jessica Deviney and Kiera Lynam - I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation for your continuous leadership, guidance, and unwavering support. Your dedication and support play a pivotal role in steering the Sub Branch toward success, and I am truly grateful for the direction you provide each day.

I would like to thank the 2024 Board for their continued stewardship of the association. My thanks to President John Longhurst and Director Chelle Dobson for their years of loyal service. Retiring Treasurer Gerard Irvine, thank you for your financial acumen and your drive to complete the Sub Branch Strategic Plan. Retiring Director Donna Griffin has been pivotal to broadening our understanding of the care sector. This knowledge will assist in plans to develop a third operational arm of the association in Care Services.

Further thanks to our President Adel Amin, Deputy President Lindsay Francis and all the Directors for the many hours of dedication to the Sub Branch. You bring passion, compassion and dedication to your role as custodians of a century old association. Gympie RSL Sub Branch assisting Veterans and their families since 1919.

LEST WE FORGET

# 2024 Membership Report

<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>	<b>2024</b>
Life Members	3
Life Subscribers	495
Service Members (League)	176
Non-League Social Members (Voting)	37
Social Members (1 year)	22,587
Social Members (3 year)	1,168
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,466</b>

## GERARD IRVINE - TREASURER'S REPORT

This report reflects the position of the Returned Services League of Australia (Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc for the year ending at the month of March 2025.

As at 10 March 2025, the Clubs Total Available Funds currently sits at \$1,385,627.75. Our Loan Balance is \$2,550,000 with a Redraw availability of \$1,100,000.00.

Our current asset value stands at:       \$10,738,515  
Our current liabilities value stands at:   \$4,238,026  
Net Assets/ Total Equity:                 \$6,500,489

Total Equity increased by 9.5% over the previous year.

This report includes a comparative analysis of the periods:

- Year to date (YTD) for 2024 and 2025;
- Previous 3 months 2024 and 2025; and,
- Calendar Year 2023 to 2024.

### **Year to date (YTD) for 2024 and 2025 (January & February)**

2025	2024	
Gross Revenue	\$2,669,496	\$2,396,459
Gross Profit	\$2,379,820	\$2,123,736
Net Profit/Loss	\$142,009	\$70,407

Gross revenue included an 11.3% increase and 12.1% increase on gross profit over the same period last year, with downward pressure on cost increases. We produced a 101.6% increase in Net Profit over the period in comparison to last calendar year.

### **Previous 3 months 2024 and 2025**

Dec - Feb 2025	Dec - Feb 2024	
Gross Revenue	\$4,123,724.63	\$3,775,563.58
Gross Profit	\$3,684,172.43	\$3,325,699.47
Net Profit/Loss	\$63,845.75	\$146,959.39

Gross revenue included a 8.8% increase and 10.2% increase on gross profit over the same period last year, with downward pressure on cost increases. We produced a 78.8% loss in Net Profit over the period in comparison to last financial year, due to a \$160,000 payment for the memorial park project over the period.

### **Calendar Year 2023 to 2024**

2024 2023

Gross Revenue \$15,066,157.06 \$14,427,062.81

Gross Profit \$13,275,894.91 \$12,696,490.62

Net Profit/Loss \$151,294.01 \$(107,037.03)

Gross Revenue increased by 4.4%, primarily driven by increases in Gaming Income (3.3%), Catering Income (9.79%), and Events Income (491.4%).

Gross Profit increased by 4.5%, aligning closely with revenue growth, indicating stable cost control.

Net Profit/Loss had a significant change, improving by 241.3%, turning from a loss of \$107,037.03 in 2023 to a profit of \$151,294.01 in 2024. Largely due to, lower interest expenses, reduced depreciation costs, and a significant

payroll Tax Reimbursement in 2024, thanks to Brad Wines great works on reviewing the accounts. Most notably, our members volunteer hours have contributed an estimated value of \$350,000 to the Gympie community over the last calendar year, so thank you very much, to all our amazing volunteers.

I declare that the Returned Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub Branch Inc is solvent, and these are reasonable grounds to believe that it will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and that the accounts as presented are accepted.

I move a motion that my Treasurer's Report for this meeting March 30th, 2025 be accepted.

## BRAD WINES - FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

During 2024, Gympie RSL undertook several initiatives as part of our commitment to continuous improvement. Below is a summary of projects and achievements:

### **Memorial Park Project Funding**

Gympie RSL has continued with progress on the Memorial Park Project. The Community Development Grants Programme that is supporting the Memorial Park Project will reimburse \$238,753 to Gympie RSL; this amount is reported in Trade and other receivables on the Balance Sheet (refer Note 6). Additionally, Gympie RSL expended costs totalling \$132,532 on the project in 2024 (\$23,190 in 2023).

### **Registered Charitable Institution Status**

Gympie RSL successfully registered as a Charitable Institution with the Queensland Revenue Office (QRO). This designation provides eligibility for exemptions under the Queensland Duties Act 2001, Land Tax Act 2010, and Payroll Tax Act 1971. Consequently, Gympie RSL received a refund of \$373,290 for previously paid Payroll Tax and achieved a reduction of \$14,989 in duties on insurance policies for 2024. These savings contribute to the financial sustainability of Gympie RSL.

## **IT Infrastructure and Digital Advancements**

- **Computer Hardware and Software:** Gympie RSL was accepted as a Registered Charity by ConnectingUp.Org, granting access to significant discounts on computer hardware and software. We have leveraged this opportunity to procure cost-effective IT solutions, including a 72% discount on upgrading the database licence for our POS Server and 92% discount for upgrades to Windows Pro licences.
- **Internet and WiFi Upgrade:** We upgraded to NBN Enterprise Ethernet, significantly enhancing speed, bandwidth, and service quality. This upgrade supports our transition to cloud-based IT&C systems. Additionally, a review of our WiFi system led to a plan for upgrading and expanding the number of access points. This initiative, with no upfront costs and minimal ongoing subscription fees, will enhance WiFi coverage and performance across our premises.
- **Telephone System:** After researching options for replacing our aging telephone system, we have narrowed the selection to two cloud-based solutions. A final decision will be made in the coming month. The new system will provide long-term cost savings, improved reliability, and greater flexibility for our communication needs.

## **Cybersecurity Enhancements**

Recognising the increasing importance of cybersecurity, we have installed a new Firewall and engaged in consultations leading to the implementation of ongoing training programs for staff and directors. These initiatives aim to raise awareness of cybersecurity threats and equip our team with the knowledge to protect our data and network effectively.

These projects and improvements are just part of our ongoing commitment to efficiency, financial responsibility, and enhanced service delivery. We look forward to continuing successes in the coming year.

Brad Wines  
Finance Manager  
Gympie RSL

# FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

## **RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

**ABN: 33 299 031 740**

### **Committee's report**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Your committee members submit the financial report of RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

#### **Committee members**

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

John Longhurst (President retired July 2024)  
Lindsay Francis  
Chelle Dobson  
Martin Muller (Secretary)  
Adel Amin (President)  
Jan Collins  
Norman (Colin) Boucher  
Garry Casey AM  
Gerard Irvine (Treasurer)  
Donna Griffin

#### **Principal activities**

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was:

To provide welfare and support to former and serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants, to carry out commemorative and patriotic activities and to fulfil the charitable objects of the Sub-Branch.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

#### **Operating result**

The profit of the association for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to \$412,052.

#### **Significant changes in state of affairs**

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the association during the year.

**RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

**ABN: 33 299 031 740**

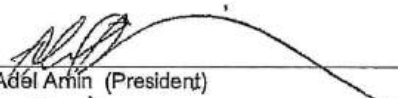
**Committee's report**

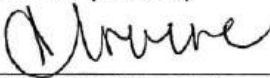
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Events after the reporting date**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the association in future financial years.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adel Amin (President)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerard Irvine (Treasurer)

Dated 18/3/2025

Dated 18/3/2025

## **RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

**ABN: 33 299 031 740**

### **Auditor's independence declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 to the members of RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2022, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Brown Macaulay & Warren Chartered Accountants

18/03/2025

Jonathan Weller - Brown Macaulay & Warren

Suite 9, 84 Monkland Street, Gympie QLD 4570

## RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

### Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Sales revenue	3	4,874,086	4,642,954
Cost of sales		(1,790,262)	(1,730,572)
<b>Gross profit (loss)</b>		<u>3,083,824</u>	<u>2,912,382</u>
Interest	4	0	2,996
Other income	3	10,711,508	9,824,863
		<u>13,795,332</u>	<u>12,740,240</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Gaming expenses		3,345,331	3,337,297
Marketing expenses		1,538,206	1,389,571
Employment Expenses		4,962,057	4,699,930
Administrative expenses		1,200,268	1,211,864
Repairs & Maintenance		316,972	119,817
Welfare Expenses		290,750	245,534
Catering and Bar Expenses		238,102	224,875
Donations		239,702	136,610
Finance expenses	4	256,620	349,692
Depreciation		995,272	1,132,087
		<u>13,383,280</u>	<u>12,847,277</u>
<b>Profit (loss) for the year</b>		<u>412,052</u>	<u>(107,037)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

## Balance sheet

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	580,578	974,367
Trade and other receivables	6	263,801	50,307
Inventories	7	104,322	98,167
Other current assets	10	125,187	81,029
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>1,073,888</u>	<u>1,203,870</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	8	9,059,951	9,449,967
Right of use assets	11	219,239	395,214
Intangibles	9	245,000	245,000
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>9,524,190</u>	<u>10,090,181</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>10,598,078</u>	<u>11,294,051</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	12	712,048	562,864
Borrowings	13	275,614	493,934
Lease liabilities	11	166,936	214,611
Provisions	14	298,655	235,680
Other current liabilities	16	36,719	87,633
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>1,489,972</u>	<u>1,594,723</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	13	2,640,445	3,480,000
Lease liabilities	11	65,118	231,064
Provisions	14	13,394	11,166
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>2,718,956</u>	<u>3,722,231</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>4,208,929</u>	<u>5,316,953</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>6,389,149</u>	<u>5,977,098</u>
<b>Members' funds</b>			
Asset revaluation reserve		167,273	167,273
Retained earnings		6,221,876	5,809,825
<b>Total members' funds</b>		<u>6,389,149</u>	<u>5,977,098</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

## Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from Customers & Members	15,340,980	14,476,274
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(14,039,910)	(13,227,597)
Finance Costs	(256,619)	(349,691)
Interest Received	-	2,996
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<u>1,044,451</u>	<u>901,982</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from Sale of Property Plant & Equipment	51,500	-
Payments for Property Plant & Equipment	(458,507)	(439,260)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<u>(407,007)</u>	<u>(439,260)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Proceeds from Loans	391,694	348,786
Repayment of Loans	(1,422,928)	(1,750,094)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</b>	<u>(1,031,234)</u>	<u>(1,401,308)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(393,790)	(938,586)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	976,627	1,915,213
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	<u><u>582,837</u></u>	<u><u>976,627</u></u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

# RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

## Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Retained earnings</b>		
Opening retained earnings	5,809,825	5,916,862
Net profit (loss)	412,052	(107,037)
	<u>6,221,876</u>	<u>5,809,825</u>
<b>Asset revaluation reserve</b>		
Asset revaluation reserve	167,273	167,273
	<u>167,273</u>	<u>167,273</u>
<b>Total equity</b>		
Balance as at 01 January 2024	5,977,098	6,084,135
Profit	412,052	(107,037)
	<u>6,389,149</u>	<u>5,977,098</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

# **RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

**ABN: 33 299 031 740**

## **Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

The financial statements cover RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc as an individual entity. RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc is a not-for-profit association incorporated in Queensland under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 ('the Act').

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was:

To provide welfare and support to former and serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants, to carry out commemorative and patriotic activities and to fulfil the charitable objects of the Sub-Branch.

The functional and presentation currency of RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

### **1 Basis of preparation**

In the opinion of the committee of management, RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

### **2 Material accounting policy information**

#### **Income tax**

The association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### **Revenue and other income**

##### **Revenue from contracts with customers**

Revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of control of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the association expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

Generally, the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the association have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

# RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

### Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

### Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

### Leases

At inception of a contract, the association assesses whether a lease exists.

#### Lessee accounting

The non-lease components included in the lease agreement have been separated and are recognised as an expense as incurred.

The association has chosen not to apply AASB 16 to leases of intangible assets.

At the lease commencement, the association recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where the association believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises of the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of assets accounting policy.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the association's incremental borrowing rate is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is remeasured whether there is a lease modification, change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI) or a change in the association's assessment of lease term.

Where the lease liability is remeasured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the remeasurement or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

# **RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

**ABN: 33 299 031 740**

## **Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Exceptions to lease accounting**

The association has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. The association recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### **Property, plant and equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

### **Employee benefits**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cash flows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

### **Inventories**

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost of inventory is determined using the first-in-first-out basis and is net of any rebates and discounts received. Net realisable value is estimated using the most reliable evidence available at the reporting date and inventory is written down through an obsolescence provision if necessary.

### **Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

### **Chapter balances and transactions**

The association is foster for the RSL Sub Branch Chapter of Kilkivan.

Assets of Sub Branch Chapters are held in trust for the Chapter until the Chapter ceases to function or is re-established as a Sub Branch. As such bank accounts held on behalf of Chapters and income and expenses related to those Chapters are included in these financial reports however it is recognised that these amounts are held on behalf of these Chapters.

# RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>3 Revenue and other income</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
Bar Income		1,700,465	1,705,810
Bistro Income		2,854,534	2,681,767
Coffee Shop Income		319,087	255,377
		<u>4,874,086</u>	<u>4,642,954</u>
<b>Other income</b>			
Profit on Sale of Non-current Assets		24,000	-
Gaming Income		9,181,545	8,883,104
Member subscriptions		45,879	48,701
Other Income		680,981	491,062
Payroll Tax Reimbursement		373,290	-
Welfare Income		36,966	62,760
Grants Received		94,905	95,450
Commission Received		273,941	243,785
		<u>10,711,508</u>	<u>9,824,863</u>
<b>4 Finance income and expenses</b>			
<b>Finance income</b>			
Other Corporations		0	2,996
		<u>0</u>	<u>2,996</u>
<b>Finance expenses</b>			
Interest Paid		256,620	349,692
		<u>256,620</u>	<u>349,692</u>

# RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	<i>Note</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>
		\$	\$
<b>5 Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash on Hand		279,000	300,000
Deposits		10,000	-
Cash at Bank		287,193	669,727
Cash at Bank - Kilkivan Chapter		4,385	4,640
		<u>580,578</u>	<u>974,367</u>
<b>6 Trade and other receivables</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Trade Debtors		10,377	16,064
Other Debtors		253,424	4,594
GST Collected		-	29,649
		<u>263,801</u>	<u>50,307</u>
<b>7 Inventories</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Stock on Hand - Bar		70,191	72,707
Stock on Hand - Catering		24,498	15,827
Stock on Hand - Sub-Branch		9,633	9,633
		<u>104,322</u>	<u>98,167</u>

## RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>8 Property, plant and equipment</b>			
<b>Land</b>			
Mary Street		950,004	950,004
<b>Buildings</b>			
Buildings		7,868,937	7,791,903
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(925,623)	(612,735)
		6,943,314	7,179,167
<b>Plant and equipment</b>			
Plant & Equipment		1,064,870	969,760
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(442,042)	(281,957)
		622,828	687,803
<b>Motor vehicles</b>			
Motor Vehicles		189,319	144,987
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(64,889)	(39,316)
		124,430	105,671
<b>Gaming Machines</b>			
Gaming Machines		1,822,923	1,630,210
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(1,403,547)	(1,102,888)
		419,376	527,322
		9,059,951	9,449,967
<b>9 Intangible assets</b>			
Intangibles		245,000	245,000
		245,000	245,000

#### Movements in carrying amounts of intangible assets

Year ended 31 December 2024

#### Gaming Entitlements

Balance at the beginning of the year

245,000

**Closing value at 31 December 2024**

245,000

# RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>10 Other assets</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Prepayments		125,187	81,029
		125,187	81,029

## 11 Leases

### The association as a lessee

The association has leases over a range of assets including gaming machines, a cash management system and property located at 44 Nash Street Gympie.

Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions are provided below.

### Terms and conditions

**Cash management system** - 36 month lease with no expectation of renewal or extension. At period end the remaining lease liability was \$47,654.

**Gaming machines** - 72 month lease with no expectation of renewal or extension. At period end the remaining lease liability was \$35,876.

**44 Nash Street Gympie** - 36 month lease with a further 2 year option. At period end the remaining lease liability was \$148,523.

### Right-of-use assets

#### Cash Management System

Right of Use Asset: Cash Management System	154,490	154,490
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(109,052)	(72,701)
	45,438	81,789

#### Gaming Machines

Right of Use Asset: Gaming Machines	247,860	247,860
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(211,984)	(164,309)
	35,876	83,551

#### 44 Nash Street Gympie

Right of Use Asset: 44 Nash Street	413,775	413,775
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(275,850)	(183,900)
	137,925	229,875

### Balance at end of year

	219,239	395,214
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# RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	<i>Note</i>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>12 Trade and other payables</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Credit Cards		14,073	17,429
Trade Creditors		606,132	544,272
Superannuation Payable		49,265	1,163
WorkCover Funding		42,577	-
		<u>712,048</u>	<u>562,864</u>
<b>13 Borrowings</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Loans - Unsecured		14,801	15,749
Chattel Mortgage Agreements		199,497	286,781
NAB Loan - Gaming Machines		61,316	191,404
		<u>275,614</u>	<u>493,934</u>
<b>Non-current</b>			
NAB Loan		2,500,000	3,480,000
Chattel Mortgage Agreements		140,445	-
		<u>2,640,445</u>	<u>3,480,000</u>
<b>14 Provisions</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Provision for Holiday Pay		208,709	151,492
Provision for Members Points		89,947	84,188
		<u>298,655</u>	<u>235,680</u>
<b>Non-current</b>			
Provision for Long Service Leave		13,394	11,166
		<u>13,394</u>	<u>11,166</u>

# RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>15 Employee benefits</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Provision for Holiday Pay		208,709	151,492
		<u>208,709</u>	<u>151,492</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provision for Long Service Leave		13,394	11,166
		<u>13,394</u>	<u>11,166</u>
<b>16 Other liabilities</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Accrued Wages		31,095	87,633
Accrued Expenses		5,624	-
		<u>36,719</u>	<u>87,633</u>

### 17 Key management personnel remuneration

Key Management Personnel include members of the management committee and the Group Manager. Management Committee members operate on a volunteer basis. The Group Manager is the only key management person who is remunerated and as such the association is not required to disclose their remuneration in the financial report.

### 18 Auditor's remuneration

Audit of financial statements	<u>18,000</u>
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### 19 Related parties

#### (a) Transaction with related parties

Related parties include members of the Management Committee of the Association and their related entities. Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

No material related party transactions occurred during the year.

### 20 Events occurring after the reporting date

The association has entered into a contract to purchase adjoining property at Mary Street in Gympie for \$995,000. The purchase contract was signed in February 2025 and is expected to settle in March 2025.

# RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc

ABN: 33 299 031 740

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	<i>Note</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>
		\$	\$
<b>21 Retained earnings</b>			
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		5,809,825	5,916,862
Net profit (loss)		412,052	(107,037)
		<u>6,221,876</u>	<u>5,809,825</u>

## 22 Contingent Liability - Jackpot Provision

The entity has a jackpot liability balance of \$635,038.49 as at 31 December 2024.

Jackpot liabilities do not meet the definition of liabilities, due to the uncertainty surrounding the amount ultimately payable and the probability of payment of the jackpot.

## 23 Statutory information

The registered office and principal place of business of the association is:

RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc  
217 Mary Street  
Gympie QLD 4570

**RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

**ABN: 33 299 031 740**

**Statement by members of committee**

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

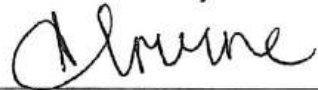
In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc as at 31 December 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Adel Amin (President)

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gerard Irvine (Treasurer)

Dated

18/03/2025

# **RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

**ABN: 33 299 031 740**

## **Independent audit report to the members of association, RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

### **Report on the audit of the financial report**

#### **Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc (the association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024, the income statement, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the statement by members of the committee.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of the association for the year ended 31 December 2024 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

#### **Basis of opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report section of my report. I am independent of the association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### **Emphasis of matter - basis of accounting**

I draw attention to note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the association in meeting the reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (Qld) 1981. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My report is intended solely for the association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the association. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### **Responsibility of management and those charged with governance**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the association's financial reporting process.

## **RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

**ABN: 33 299 031 740**

### **Independent audit report to the members of association, RSLA (Queensland Branch) Gympie Sub-Branch Inc**

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

**Jonathan Weller - Brown Macaulay & Warren**

**Suite 9, 84 Monkland Street, Gympie QLD 4570**

18/03/2025



# LINDSAY FRANCIS - DEPUTY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a privilege to serve as your Deputy President since May 2024, when Adel Amin was appointed President by the Board, succeeding John Longhurst, who stepped down due to ill health.

I would like to extend my gratitude to both current and past Board members for their dedication and hard work. Their commitment, demonstrated through countless meetings, sub-committee meetings, functions, and commemorative events, has been invaluable.

I must also commend our current CEO, Martin Muller; Club Manager, Daniel Ferguson; Finance Manager, Brad Wines, Executive Chef, Paul Breedon, and VSM Jessica Deviney and her welfare team for their ongoing commitment. A special thank you goes to our exceptional floor staff, whose continuous dedication to our veterans and cheerful demeanor make a real difference.

I am also grateful to the volunteers who dedicate their time each week to assist our Sub Branch. Without your support, we would struggle to meet the needs of our members.

Over the past year, we have embarked on three major projects: Memorial Park, Monkland Street, and the acquisition of the adjacent property next to the RSL. The effort and leadership shown by our CEO, Martin Muller, in driving these projects forward has been outstanding.

It is truly rewarding to see our Sub Branch growing in both membership and financial stability. Our members have every reason to take pride in the continued success of our Sub Branch.

## COLIN BOUCHER - BOARD DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

This last year as a team Board Director of Gympie RSL has been quite exciting with all that has been happening within the Club, from the Board top

down to all management, staff and all volunteers. With the Board overseeing the Club management and Governance, it has been my pleasure to be a part of the Gympie RSL Club Board team working for all the members.

As a Board, we have developed a flexible business plan to take us into the next 5 odd years. With thoughtful strategic thinking to increase profits for the ultimate benefits for all our League and social members in our special successful fully owned RSL club. Increased profits will assist the continuing wellbeing of our Veteran and social members, including our community grants.

The club's success is indicated by increasing income and benefits. Our club fiscal income and profits in all accounting departments are continuing to be healthy and increasing month by month. Our success in part is owed to our current and past Board's that I have been on, overseeing the club 's performance in conjunction with Senior Management. Our club income is above the community benchmarks in this difficult cost of living and recessionary cycle, many of our own members are feeling the pain of interest rate rises and a slow economy.

In this year's term, the Board developed our new Constitution to carry us forward into the future, it was a huge task, with a great deal of consultation within the Board and our CEO to finalise.

Gympie RSL is a proven pleasant and friendly club haven for both our members and the community in general. Our league and social membership is growing as every month passes.

We are continuing our generous grant's program to benefit our Gympie community. We are continuing to provide benefits to members through the VSC and club facilities upgrades.

The Memorial Park upgrade development is going to plan with all statutory approvals from relevant Govt. authorities, and work commenced. I will continue to assist that venture with my professional construction background to give advice where and when needed, and liaise with all stakeholders, builders, including Council and within the Board.

In utilising my building background, in our land locked Club, I have given Board advice on the purchase of 207 Mary St as a club property asset for future club expansion, another Board duty has been in consultation with Club management to oversee improvements in building upgrades, regular maintenance programmes and repairs within the club property, including the move of the VSC to the old Telstra building . I will continue advising the Board on future construction matters.

It has been my pleasure to have been on the Gympie RSL Board, during the last year and before, serving its members, and I look forward to serving a term again in the future if given that opportunity...

Thank you for your support.

## JAN COLLINS - BOARD DIRECTOR

Once again it is Annual General Meeting time and as each year passes it just gets busier. Lots of volunteer hours have been spent working for the benefit of veterans and the community I made a promise to look after many years ago. In this Report, I will once again list some of the activities I covered as a Director of the Gympie RSL Sub-branch during 2024.

In May 2024, I changed my portfolio responsibility from Grants Director to Constitution and Policy.

Some of the highlights during the year are as follows:

In June 2024, I had the task to form a sub-committee to look at amendments to our current Constitution. I would like to thank veterans Jim Gordon and Robert (Blue) Bellis for agreeing to sit on my committee and for the time and effort they spent reviewing our Constitution. Both interested members of our Association, who had ownership of our Constitution was most helpful to the final result. The first of many meetings began in July 2024, many people including Board members and others spent many hours on this review. It was accepted by the Board in October, then accepted by the Member's at a following General Meeting by those members in attendance. I am hoping

that it will get an official stamp by the Office of Fair Trading by the time of this AGM.

Other highlights late last year was the decision to Lease the Old Telstra building in Monkland Street, which will become the new Veteran Centre. Once it gets a good clean, including mould removal and painting done. It will become a generous working space for staff and volunteers;

The purchase of the two commercial properties next door, which will help with the Club's expansion into the future.

Remembrance Day in 2024 was a very special Day, not only because of the large numbers attending but also it was the last time Remembrance Day will be commemorated in Reef Street. This means that veterans, the community and guests will not be facing the Eternal Flame in Reef Street ever again. 2025, will see the Flame moved to its new site in Memorial as part of the Park Redevelopment

As a member of the Sub-committee to establish a Veterans Memorial section in the Park, It is an exciting time for Gympie RSL Sub-branch. I am sure that most of us have already seen signs of construction happening in Memorial Park and it will become a fitting commemoration to all veterans who served.

## GARRY CASEY AM - BOARD DIRECTOR

I was elected to the Board of Directors in September 2023. Since that time, I have attended a number of meetings, including Planning Meetings, Workshops to help pave the way for the Club into the future.

I have been given the Veteran and Community Involvement portfolios. As such I and meet weekly with the Advocates and liaise with the Well Being team. I get the monthly reports which I then report with to the Board. As President of the Vietnam Veterans Assoc. Gympie Branch, I meet weekly with other veterans at the coffee catch up on Tuesdays and at our monthly meetings.

I liaise with other veterans at the RSL Hobby Club held on Mondays. Sometimes, not much modelling gets done but there are always discussions. I look forward to the many Commemoration events held by the RSL. ANZAC day is always a special event and I have delivered lectures to schools in the past. It is important that we continue to keep the memories alive and inform the younger generation of our past military history. I have assisted with Poppy and Merchandise sales prior to Remembrance Day.

I am looking forward in 2025 to continue working with the other Board members to further the betterment of the RSL Sub Branch and working with the veteran community.

## DANIEL FERGUSON - CLUB MANAGER REPORT

Welcome to 2025... and what a year we had in 2024.

Our Club's 23,000+ social memberships expired on 1st January 2025 and the process of renewals is well underway. At the time of writing, we have renewed in excess of 7,500 financial members and this figure climbs every day.

The Club has committed to a fantastic initiative called the STRIKE Program. It is targeted at the region's primary schools with the goal of 'Supporting The Region In Kid's Education'. Your Club membership fee assists us to commit \$50,000 every year toward this worthy cause.

The Club itself has been trading very well, with gaming and catering seeing excellent growth year-on-year. However, the sales in the beverage side of our operation have been somewhat flat in comparison. As you will all be aware the Federal Government lifts its excise on alcohol products twice a year (the latest review of excise resulted in the 83rd consecutive increase). To date we have managed to absorb this without increasing our beverage prices for nearly 24 months – but this has the flip side of seeing beverage turnover flatline. This means there will be beverage price increases during 2025.

Gaming performance has been exceptional. Three of the last six months have been all-time records, and all but one of the last 12 months exceeded the previous year. Our fleet of gaming machines is modern and offers an attractive mix of the popular classics and new machines alike. We are close to maximising the use of our gaming machine entitlements with 97 active EGMs on the floor (98 entitlements). Coupled with a high level of occupancy, we have seen a firm 3% increase in gaming income which contributes significantly to the club's revenue base.

Our catering operation continues to be very well supported. The Atrium Bistro is constantly busy and serves up 2000+ meals each and every week; with 4% growth recorded on the previous year. At the same time our coffee shop has seen significant growth in sales also. This success is largely due to the consistency of what we serve, and the speed at which the team is able to deliver.

The Club continues to look after a broad range of community and business groups through the provision of function and event spaces to hold meetings and training sessions. These relationships continue to strengthen and maintain strong connections to our wider community.

We will continue to explore operational efficiencies through the careful management of wages, cost of goods sold, and the streamlining of menus; to help control costs despite continued inflationary pressure. We are also committed to the personal development of our team members, so there will be a concerted effort to focus and invest in the team.

Thank you for your continued support. Here is to a fantastic 2025!

## JESSICA DEVINEY - VETERAN SERVICES MANAGER REPORT

As we reflect on the year gone by, we are proud to look back on the incredible achievements we've shared with our veterans and the wider community. It has been a year of growth, connection, and resilience, and none of it would have been possible without the continued support of all those who are part of our Centre. This year, we were fortunate to receive \$115,358 in grants from multiple sources, which greatly contributed to the success of our programs and initiatives.

Throughout the year, we've facilitated over 700 wellbeing and compensation appointments, ensuring our veterans have access to the essential services and support they deserve. Our volunteer transport program has remained a vital part of our efforts, with over 360 trips and 900+ volunteer driving hours, covering a remarkable 26,675 km in our welfare vehicles. In addition, our dedicated team made more than 2,000 wellbeing check-in calls, staying connected with many and offering a listening ear to those who needed it most.

We've seen growth within our team, with new faces joining us and helping to expand the services we offer. Together, we've hosted a variety of activities and events, from bus trips to Maryborough, Noosa, Maleny and Pomona, to commemorative ceremonies for Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, and other meaningful observances, all bringing our community together in tribute.

Fun, community-focused events have been a highlight, including two popular movie nights in the park, where veterans and families as well as community members gathered to enjoy films under the stars. Our Veterans Health Week program in October was a major success, featuring 8 unique events—from a fishing charter to a trip to see *Wicked*, a sourdough starter course, and our annual bus trip to Rainbow Beach for lunch.

We also celebrated our volunteers, who contribute an incredible 12,000 hours annually, with a special Bingo Morning Tea during National Volunteers Week, as a small token of our appreciation for their unwavering commitment.

In addition, our veteran drop-in centre was transformed into an art gallery, showcasing the extraordinary work of internationally acclaimed artist Guy Denning, featuring his charcoal sketches of veterans including some of our very own local veterans past and present. It was a moving and memorable experience for all who visited.

This year has had its share of challenges, but through it all, we've come together as a community—celebrating successes, supporting each other, and building stronger connections. We look forward to continuing this journey and growth in the year ahead.

# CHARITABLE ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

2024 Totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yearly Totals
Home visits	22.50	15.00	17.50	8.50	2.50	9.00	6.50	12.50	15.50	7.00	5.50	14.00	136.00
Hospital visits	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	2.00	20.00
Nursing home/Hostel	7.00	0.00	8.50	9.00	10.00	0.00	3.00	6.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	7.00	56.50
Pensions	81.00	115.00	98.00	62.00	53.00	67.00	86.00	85.00	68.00	59.00	67.00	57.00	898.00
Funerals	0.00	1.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	5.00	0.00	6.50	2.50	8.00	43.00
Home Maint	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Accommodation/Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Day Centre/Mens Shed	4.50	0.00	7.50	5.00	18.00	13.50	9.00	16.00	13.50	0.00	0.00	7.00	94.00
Transport Assistance	82.00	68.00	51.00	49.00	36.00	40.00	44.50	21.50	33.50	49.00	52.00	29.50	556.00
Bus Trips	5.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	15.00	13.00	0.00	14.00	50.50	33.50	7.00	38.00	182.00
Other	46.50	25.50	21.00	69.50	33.50	89.50	108.50	160.00	81.50	96.00	97.00	78.00	906.50
Facilities	5.50	28.00	19.00	6.00	21.50	24.50	28.50	22.00	30.50	33.25	0.00	0.00	218.75
Peer Groups	33.50	48.00	38.00	73.50	59.00	89.50	101.00	48.50	66.00	20.00	14.00	37.00	628.00
Anzac Day	1.00	24.50	8.50	372.00	26.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	437.00
Remembrance Day	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	41.50	0.00	49.50
Other Commemorative	0.00	26.00	0.00	70.50	0.00	3.00	22.00	47.50	59.50	16.50	0.00	0.25	245.25
Memorial Const/ Maint	0.00	0.00	4.00	5.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.50
Museum/Library	48.25	36.00	21.00	12.50	103.50	138.50	74.50	79.00	49.50	154.50	92.00	58.75	868.00
Poppy/Badge Sales	0.00	39.00	10.00	111.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	9.50	0.00	5.00	15.00	0.00	192.50
School Activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	1.25	9.50
Assisting Unit assoc	12.50	9.50	7.50	0.00	13.00	12.00	53.00	56.00	37.00	28.00	39.50	8.00	276.00
Other	25.00	40.00	33.00	27.00	23.00	21.00	8.00	20.00	12.50	14.00	20.00	19.00	262.50
Sub-Branch Affairs	382.00	404.49	488.00	460.51	259.91	364.60	412.30	457.10	518.85	535.50	457.35	275.75	5016.36
Newsletters	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
Attending Training/Forums	10.00	5.00	1.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.50	38.00	6.00	31.25	67.00	0.00	163.75
Organising Functions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	13.00	2.50	13.00	0.00	0.00	14.00	43.00
Collaboration	0.00	0.00	26.00	0.00	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.50	0.00	0.00	36.00
Support to the Vulnerable	29.50	17.50	66.50	28.00	49.00	36.00	38.00	24.50	27.50	24.50	27.50	31.00	399.50
Other Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.00	0.00	4.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	35.00
Monthly Totals	800.75	902.49	926.00	1386.26	742.41	927.10	1051.30	1126.60	1086.85	1140.00	1012.85	685.50	11788.11
Monthly Distance Travelled	6270.44	5019.00	6519.60	7310.30	2848.60	3849.30	5855.60	4836.40	5750.00	6015.00	5485.00	3148.85	62908.09

# 2024 VETERAN CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout 2024 our staff have been fortunate to play a part in some memorable moments in our Veterans lives. These highlights include:

"April of 2024 at the Gympie Veteran Centre included an unforgettable trip to Noosa, where we hopped on a bus and then a boat to explore the stunning Noosa River. We were blessed with perfect blue skies and crystal-clear waters as we cruised along, soaking in the beautiful scenery. It was a day filled with laughter, great friends, and the most delicious gourmet food – a truly memorable experience!"

"The collaboration between the Gympie Veteran Centre and the Gympie Regional Gallery for the Guy Denning exhibition, featuring drawings of Australian service men and women."

"My highlight of 2024 was the Volunteers Week bingo morning tea. Martin's 'unconventional' bingo calls had everyone in stitches—my sides were hurting from laughing so hard. It was a fun way to show our appreciation for our amazing volunteers."

"Remembrance Day saw the largest crowd I've ever witnessed at a service, and it was incredibly moving. The day was made even more memorable thanks to the smooth setup and pack down, which was a direct result of the excellent teamwork by everyone involved."

"A memorable moment was the "Mystery Bus Trip" to Pomona, where attendees enjoyed a silent film at the Majestic Theatre and lunch at Pomona Distillery. The mystery component, with no one knowing the destination until arrival, added to the excitement, making it a fantastic day enjoyed by all!"

"Veterans' Health Week Noosa Fishing trip was awesome, the company fantastic. And totally full of laughs, how often does a professional fisherman catch a buoy line. And the alien fish that probably was a stingray taking off at an alarming rate and wrapping around everyone's line. The biggest fish of the day was sent back to create more for next time so maybe we should be planning another trip soon."

"Veterans' Health Week was such a great experience, with a range of events that everyone really enjoyed. The centre was buzzing with stories about past adventures and excitement for upcoming ones. A real highlight was the trip to see Wicked the Musical in Brisbane – we had so much fun, and people couldn't stop talking about it for weeks! The feedback was amazing, and it was great to see everyone so happy."

# WELLBEING & COMPENSATION ADVOCACY

At Gympie RSL Sub Branch, advocacy drives our mission, with our Compensation and Wellbeing advocates expertly navigating DVA, Health, and other systems. Our unique team of volunteers and staff, available Monday to Friday, includes Volunteer Ian Bowd, a Level 3 Compensation and Level 2 Wellbeing Advocate with over 20 years' experience, and one of Queensland's two ATDP mentors. This year, we welcomed our first full-time Compensation Advocate, Ali Colbourn. Together, Ian and Ali managed 368 appointments and a caseload of 280 veterans—seven times the average for ex-service organisations.

Our Wellbeing Advocacy team expanded to include Ali, Chelle Dobson, and David Eastwood, managed by Jessica Deviney. They offer holistic support—health, housing, financial aid, My Aged Care, DVA, and NDIS—backed by ongoing ATDP training. Beyond Gympie, we extend services to Tin Can Bay and Mary Valley RSL Sub Branches, ensuring broader access. This dedicated team exemplifies our commitment to unwavering veteran support.



## 2024 SUMMARY

Total Appointments:	708
Total Transport Trips:	364
Total Transport Hours:	941
Total Kilometers:	26675 klm
Total Phonecalls:	1936

## GRANTS RECEIVED

DVA Best Grant	\$63,000
ANZAC Day Trust	\$25,500
DVA Health & Wellbeing	\$18,358
DVA Veterans Health Week	\$7,000
Council Community Grant	\$1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$115,358</b>

# VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the Veteran Centre, embodying the selflessness and loyalty that reflect the values our forebears established over a century ago.

They play a vital role in our daily operations, assisting with transport for medical appointments, reception duties, managing memorabilia, supporting commemorative events, and visiting veterans in their homes, hospitals, and Residential Aged Care facilities. Volunteers also help with wellbeing phone calls, selling merchandise, preparing and delivering Christmas hampers, and contributing to numerous other essential tasks.

In 2024, our team of over **40 volunteers** dedicated an impressive **11,788 hours** and travelled a combined total of over **62,200km** to supporting veteran welfare.

Their tireless efforts have made a profound impact, and we are deeply grateful for their ongoing commitment.

To celebrate National Volunteers Week, we hosted a Bingo Morning Tea, where Martin showed off some of his Bingo calling skills that had everyone in stitches. A truly memorable event, bringing our volunteers together for a well-deserved break.

The Veteran Centre's achievements and milestones would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. They are an integral part of our mission, and we truly appreciate all they do.



**Left:** Douglas Campbell - Our oldest Volunteer at 95 years young. Doug comes to the Veteran Centre 2-5 days a week.

**Next page, top:** Our wonderful volunteers enjoying a Bingo Morning Tea to celebrate National Volunteers week in May.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, the Veteran Centre team expanded our reach locally, regionally, and nationally, fostering new and existing connections through calls, Zoom, emails, and vital face-to-face meetings. Locally and regionally, we engaged with RSL Sub-branches across SE QLD's Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast, and Brisbane, partnering with groups like Veterans Retreat, Glenwood Swim and Gym, Gympie Regional Council, and providers BlueCare and Skill Centred to enhance veteran support. We hosted quarterly ESO Round Table meetings to strategise regional veteran support improvements.

We ran information sessions, including a standout scams seminar with local police to educate veterans on self-protection. At expos like the Seniors Expo and Career Expo, we promoted Gympie RSL Sub-Branch services to veterans and the public. A key highlight was transforming the Veteran Centre into an art gallery, displaying charcoal sketches by acclaimed artist Guy Denning of local veterans, connecting the community with their stories through powerful art.



## HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROGRAMS

This year, we continued successful programmes and launched new ones to enhance mental and physical wellbeing and reduce social isolation. Our fitness classes—Fit Together, Splash Aerobics, and Chair Exercise— attracted over 1,200 attendances, whilst new offerings like cooking, paint pouring, pottery, and model-making workshops expanded our range. Creative sessions, including the Model Hobby Club, paper making, basket weaving, book binding, and mosaics, helped participants develop skills and explore hobbies. Our choir grew to about 30 regular singers, a notable success. The Glenwood Swim and Gym programme is now underway with participants, further enriching our community offerings. These initiatives have fostered a vibrant, inclusive community, with attendees valuing the chance to socialise and try new activities.

## VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK 2024: EMPOWERING VETERANS THROUGH CONNECTION & WELLNESS

Veterans' Health Week 2024, supported by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), was a great success for the Gympie RSL Sub Branch, which received seven \$1,000 grants. These funded free, inclusive veteran events, with some capped at one per person for fairness. Highlights included a Family Games Night with games and food, a serene Noosa River Fishing Charter, and a hands-on Sourdough Starter Course. The Paws & Connect Dog Training Workshop provided training tips and packs, while female veterans connected over coffee at veteran-owned Baupal Park Farm. A theatre trip to see *Wicked*, a Wonka Movie Night in the park, and an Australia Zoo visit with free entry (arranged by Andrew Wallace MP) and transport stood out. The week closed with the Rainbow Beach Annual Lunch, uniting RSL branches for a beach day and a 95th birthday celebration for volunteer Doug, highlighting strong community bonds.

# WELLBEING & COMPENSATION ADVOCACY

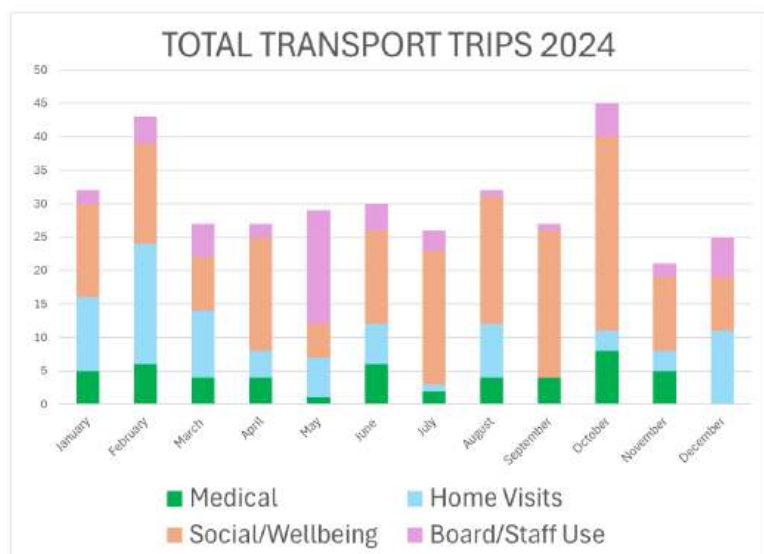
In 2024, the Wellbeing Check-in Register (WCIR) program continued to provide vital support to Veterans, with a team of three dedicated volunteers making 1,936 phone calls to our League members aged 65 and over. Through these calls, we have discovered Veterans or their partners who have passed, identified those who have been injured and required assistance, and provided social support to those feeling isolated.

Additionally, the calls have served as an important channel to update Veterans about the activities at the Veteran Centre, including upcoming events, particularly for those who may not have access to the internet.

The program remains flexible, allowing participants to choose between monthly or multi-monthly call-backs based on their preferences and needs. Veterans are also given the option to opt-out of these calls, with a gentle reminder that the RSL Gympie Sub Branch is always available to offer support when needed.

## TRANSPORT

In 2024, our welfare vehicle fleet continued to support Veterans with three vehicles: two Kia Carnivals and a Kia Stonic. Volunteers remained instrumental in ensuring Veterans, particularly those facing financial challenges, could access vital healthcare. Over the course of the year, a total of 364 trips were made, covering 26,675 kilometres and contributing 941 transport hours. This service remains an essential lifeline for our community, helping Veterans attend important medical appointments and offering much-needed support.





## 2024 MASKED BALL

The Annual Veterans' Masked Ball, hosted by the Gympie RSL Sub Branch in July 2024, was a resounding success, raising \$30,000 to support local Veterans in need. Held at the Pavilion, the event brought together community members for an evening of entertainment and camaraderie.

Guests enjoyed music performed by a talented live band and captivating performances by a roving magician. The raffles and live auction not only raised a good majority of the funds, they also were a great source of entertainment. A highlight of the evening was an interview conducted by Jesse Hobson, presenter of the "5 with a Digger" podcast, who spoke with local veteran Neil Dobson. Their discussion provided attendees with meaningful insights into the experiences of those who have served.

The funds raised will directly benefit Veterans through programs and initiatives designed to improve their well-being and quality of life. Gympie RSL extends its sincere gratitude to the participants, donors, sponsors, and volunteers whose contributions made this event a significant achievement for the Veteran community.



# COMMEMORATIONS

In 2024, the Gympie RSL Sub Branch proudly upheld its commitment to honouring the service and sacrifice of Veterans through a series of commemorative events.

The year's two major commemorations, **Anzac Day on 25th April** and **Remembrance Day on 11th November**, were both marked by significant community participation, with services reflecting deep respect and gratitude for those who served in Australia's defence.

In addition to these cornerstone events, we held several smaller yet equally important ceremonies to recognise and remember key battles and wars.

These included:

- **National Service Day on 14 February**
- **Korean War Commemoration on 27 July**
- **Vietnam Veterans Day on 18 August**
- **Battle for Australia Day on 4 September**
- **Timor-Leste Commemoration on 20 September**

These commemorative events provided opportunities for Veterans, their families, and the community to come together in reflection and remembrance, ensuring the legacy of our service members is never forgotten. The Gympie RSL Sub Branch remains steadfast in its dedication to preserving this tradition of remembrance.



# CHRISTMAS 2024

This year, the Gympie RSL Sub Branch expanded our annual Christmas Hamper program, building and distributing 80 hampers to Veterans and their families facing financial challenges. These hampers were filled with a variety of festive treats, including shortbread, plum pudding, custard, coke, crackers, relish, and local produce such as honey and macadamia nuts.

A large tin of Nescafé Coffee, generously donated by Nestlé Gympie, was also included in each hamper. In addition to these goodies, recipients received gift vouchers for Gympie Meat Hall and Mitchells Fruit and Veg. Both businesses generously upgraded the value of the vouchers—where we initially paid \$35 for each, Gympie Meat Hall provided \$50 vouchers, ensuring the recipients received even greater value from their support. Woolworths also played a key role in supporting our Christmas initiative by heavily discounting our bulk order, allowing us to save over \$1,000 on the hampers.

The response from the community was one of overwhelming gratitude, and the Christmas Hampers once again served as a reminder of the strength of our Veteran community and the generosity that sustains it.



81

HOME VISITS

340

WELLBEING  
APPOINTMENTS

1936

WELFARE CALLS

26,675

KILOMETRES TRAVELLED  
(WELFARE CARS)

11,788

VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

368

ADVOCACY  
APPOINTMENTS

62,200

VOLUNTEER KILOMETERS  
(OWN VEHICLES)

\$115,358

GRANT MONIES RECIEVED