



RSL

Gympie Sub Branch

GYMPIE RSL SUB-BRANCH Newsletter

June 2026



Enquiries: (07) 5482 1018

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Email: info@gympiersl.com.au



VALE

Peter Carey
DOB 21 September 1940
DOD 9 November 2025

Henry Bartczak
DOB 8 August 1951
DOD 26 April 2026

Leoni Sandra Evans
DOB: 18 April 1961
DOD: 07 May 2026

Maxwell Gregory Collins
DOB: 07 July 1929
DOD: 20 May 2026

We Will Remember Them

Lest We Forget

Photograph on Front Cover

The photograph of this month's issue shows two women serving in the Volunteer Air Observers Corps (VAOC), a civilian volunteer organisation established in Australia during the Second World War. It formed part of a wider system of home front service, where civilians contributed directly to national defence efforts without being enlisted in the armed forces.

Most VAOC observers were women, particularly as many men were serving overseas. The VAOC operated through approximately 2800 observation posts across Australia. These posts were staffed largely by volunteers who gave their time regularly, often working in shifts to maintain continuous coverage. Their duties involved watching the sky and listening for aircraft, then recording and reporting any movement to the Royal Australian Air Force. This information helped track aircraft activity, distinguish between friendly and unidentified planes, and support responses to aircraft in distress.

Many volunteers balanced these duties with work, family, and other community roles. The system depended on close coordination between civilians and military personnel, showing how wartime service extended beyond the battlefield into organised civilian participation.

More broadly, the VAOC reflects how volunteering during the war became an important part of national mobilisation. Civilian volunteers contributed through observation work as well as wider networks involved in communication, logistics, and welfare support. This collective effort helped strengthen Australia's defence capabilities while demonstrating how ordinary citizens could contribute to wartime operations.

Letter from the President

ADEL AMIN

*President of the Board of Directors,
Gympie RSL Sub Branch*



As we reach the midpoint of 2026, I reflect on what has been a busy and, at times, challenging period for our Sub-Branch.

As I mentioned in my previous report, ANZAC Day 2026 was once again marked with strong community attendance and deep respect for those who have served. The completion of the final stage of the Memorial Park upgrade in April included the installation of RSL Service Values Pillars, which complement the Memorial Flame installed last year. The newly installed pillars, fabricated by artist Remo Vallance, are representative of the values of mateship, endurance, sacrifice and courage. Each pillar is engraved with words and phrases inspired by each value to evoke meaning, emotion and storytelling, told and untold.

Together, the memorial flame and pillars enhance the park's role as a place of reflection, remembrance and community gathering. The revitalised space has further strengthened our region's capacity to host major commemorative services, ensuring a fitting space to honour those who have served. The continued engagement of the Gympie community speaks to the enduring importance of remembrance.

Beyond commemorative activities, our Sub-Branch has maintained a strong focus on veteran wellbeing. Recent social outings, wellness programs, and connection initiatives have been well supported. These opportunities are vital in fostering camaraderie and ensuring that no veteran feels isolated.

I encourage all members to remain involved and take advantage of what is on offer. Advocacy and support services remain at the heart of what we do.

Our volunteers continue to provide invaluable assistance to veterans and their families, whether through claims support, wellbeing services, or simply offering a listening ear. Their commitment is deeply appreciated.

On an organisational front, members will be aware that recruitment is currently underway for an experienced and visionary executive for the position of Chief Executive Officer. This is an important step in strengthening leadership and ensuring the long-term sustainability and effective management of our operations. This pivotal role demands a sophisticated blend of commercial acumen and mission-driven leadership to oversee our multi-faceted organisation comprising a thriving licensed venue and a comprehensive veteran services centre. We are also currently recruiting for two roles within the Veterans Service Centre (Veterans Service Officer and a Compensation Advocate).

Looking ahead, we have a number of events and initiatives planned for the coming months. I encourage members to stay informed through our regular communications and to participate wherever possible. Your involvement is what sustains the strength and relevance of our Sub-Branch.

National Volunteers Week was celebrated with a lunch for our volunteers on Tuesday 19 May. The Gympie RSL relies on a dedicated team of volunteers and staff at its Veteran Services Centre. These volunteers are the backbone of the organization, driving the fundraising, advocacy, and community camaraderie needed to support local veterans and their families.

Finally, I thank our Club staff, volunteers, and members for your continued dedication and service. It is through your collective efforts that we are able to support our veteran community and uphold the values of the RSL.

Lest we forget.

Adel Amin



*To our Members celebrating a new
decade in June:*



<i>Barry H</i>	80
<i>Jennifer S</i>	80
<i>Michael K</i>	60
<i>Ross C</i>	80
<i>Trevor J</i>	60
<i>Wayne L</i>	70

*Our best wishes to you all, and to all
members celebrating birthdays this month!*



No matter how or how much one is rewarded for what they do, every person who performs a task, in whatever way, expends a personal finite resource that cannot ever be adequately compensated for - their life! No one, from the obscenely rich to the poorest of the poor, can escape that fact. No one, from the most 'saintly to the most wicked, can escape that fact. No matter how society judges the contribution of an individual, it is a societal and personal arrogance to attribute greater value to one human being's efforts over another's. It is simply a fact that each of us has and gives the same asset and when there is no more - that's it!

I hope my most excellent colleagues will forgive me if I refer to them to illustrate my point. As will be seen in the photograph of the three of us, published in May's issue of the Newsletter, each of their 'clessidra', (I love that Italian word), hourglass is top heavy whereas, mine is bottom heavy. The other difference is, they are paid employees whilst I am a volunteer.

It does not matter though for, when we have our weekly consultations during which we each contribute our personal skills, talents, thoughts, ideas, wisdom, experience and concepts we do so towards a single goal; the production of the best Newsletter we can create at that time and we each contribute that personal, finite asset equally.

Which neatly segues into the next matter I wish to discuss. Whilst we do our job to the best of our ability with the intent to always improve, we are not so naïve as to think we satisfy every one of our readers.

We have come to realize that the new format is not universally acceptable. We are saddened by this fact but accept that each person is entitled and has the right to object and the reason(s) are as varied as the individuals who have them. It is also accepted that the reasons are valid and worthy of being noted, considered and, where possible, accommodated.

So, if you are not happy about any aspect of the Newsletter, please tell us in the same kind, considerate manner in which we shall attend to them. Thank you.

Lastpost Ceremony

In March I had the privilege of attending the Australian War Memorial (AWM) for a Last Post Ceremony for my Grandmother's Brother (my Great Great Uncle) Pte Ivor Luscombe. Uncle Ivor was KIA on the Kokoda Track on the 8th November 1942, aged 24 years, he was part of the 2nd/31st Battalion AIF. Ivor was one of six members of his battalion who were killed in action on that day. He is buried at Bomana War Cemetery in Port Moresby.

This trip was instigated by my cousin Wuzzy back in September 2023, when he enquired if a Last Post Ceremony had been held for him previously. The Ceremony, which is held daily at 1630 hours, commemorates Australians who have given their lives in war and other operations and whose names are recorded on the Roll of Honour. As a ceremony had not been held for Ivor, we were in luck and the planning process took over two and a half years, with many hours of research involved. We were able to book the ceremony on the anniversary of his birthday, being the March 24, 2026, another plus for the family.

At the ceremony we were able to have a representative from each of our Grandmother's children to be present and lay a wreath on behalf of their family. We were also privileged, to have at our request, an Infantry soldier (WO2 Andrei Mazourenko, Chief Drill Instructor at RMC Duntroon) who read Ivor's story.



One of the highlights was the presence of The President of the European Commission, Ms Ursula von der Leyen, and the accompanying delegation. We were also honoured to have the National President of the Returned and Services League of Australia and member of Council of the Australian War Memorial, The Honourable Peter Tinley and The National Director of RSL Queensland Mr Chris Hamilton, alongside the accompanying delegation representing RSL Australia.

For the members of our family who had not attended a Last Post Ceremony before, it was extremely emotional and very moving. They were touched by how the service was conducted in such a respectful manner and also the fact that every individual on the roll of honour (103,000+) have been or will be remembered for their service and ultimate sacrifice at a Last Post Ceremony. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.

If you know of someone on the Roll of Honour at the AWM, I would strongly recommend following up to see if their story has been told. The way in which the AWM look after the family of the individual being honoured is extremely respectful and truly inspiring. All Last Post Ceremonies can be viewed through the AWM website at:

www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony

Submitted by Gwenda Smith



Strength and balance in numbers at Splash Aerobics!

No one attending splash aerobics at the Gympie Aquatic Centre is left behind or hung out to dry.

Veterans and their partners/carers are all welcome to join in the camaraderie while participating in the low-impact pool workout sessions on Fridays! (except public holidays)

It's all free by showing your veteran card or subbranch membership card.

The exercises can be changed or 'tweaked' by qualified instructors to accommodate a range of needs, whether it be for health and well-being, strength and balance, rehabilitation, or just getting into the pool to stay connected.

We have our own booked VIP indoor private full-length lane which is inclusive of varying depths and the water is maintained at approximately 30 degrees. There is a life saver on duty, but those attending help their own, with an abundance of pool noodles on offer. Come along and make your own splash back into health and wellbeing.

Join in the fun at our low-impact pool workout sessions!

Every Friday (except public holidays) from 1pm at Gympie Aquatic Centre.

Open to Veterans and their partners/carers.

For more information, call **5483 7707** or email

events@gympiersla.com.au



NOTICE

Please be advised that the Gympie Aquatic Centre swimming pool is closed for maintenance until approximately mid June.

The exercises will continue however, out of the water, so, without the splash, at the Aquatic Centre during the period that the pool is closed. Please attend as usual and may you enjoy yourselves.

Word Search

L	A	P	E	L	A	C	Y	G	W	B	W	F	D	O
I	B	A	G	M	G	A	I	R	F	O	R	C	E	X
E	B	I	X	Z	E	P	P	A	Q	U	A	X	P	L
U	C	N	C	A	D	T	A	N	U	T	P	A	L	E
T	D	G	R	E	Y	A	R	T	E	L	F	F	O	R
E	G	O	D	S	T	I	Q	Z	S	T	R	A	Y	R
N	O	O	D	A	U	N	Y	O	T	A	G	D	E	O
A	B	C	E	I	U	Q	S	O	L	D	E	X	D	R
N	Y	G	Z	L	U	U	A	M	O	R	E	D	E	C
T	E	A	P	O	T	S	S	E	T	A	B	I	M	A
L	N	M	N	R	U	W	X	Y	L	W	A	T	E	R
T	A	X	E	D	D	A	C	O	R	N	R	N	L	E

30 words are hidden in this puzzle. How many can you find?

We wish to thank Betty B for the effort she exerted to produce this puzzle for us from scratch. You are a gem dear lady.



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For more information, call 5483 7707 or email
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www.gympiersla.com.au/welfare



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Sponsored Essays Honouring WW1 Veteran

In order to honour his grandfather, James Nelson, who fought at Gallipoli and in Belgium, Mr David Collins and his wife, Jan sponsor an annual essay competition at the Coonabarabran High School.

James Nelson, together with his two brothers joined the Light Horse. Their names are inscribed on the Coonabarabran Memorial.

Below are two of this year's essays which are gratefully published here.

What ANZAC Day means to me

by Jade Thompson

ANZAC Day is not just a day of remembrance. It is a day that reminds us all that the life we live now, full of freedom, safety, and opportunity, came at the cost of so many brave young men and women.

Behind every medal, uniform, and name carved into a memorial is a real person: Someone's child, sibling, partner, friend, or parent who gave up everything in service of their country. It is easy to talk about war like it belongs in the past. Easy to reduce it to dates, battles, and names in a textbook.

But ANZAC Day forces us to stop and remember what war really is. Fear. Loss. Silence. Grief. The empty seat at the table. Mothers who waited for sons who never came. Families are forced to pay the price when part of their world has been taken away. That is what sticks with me. Not the thought of bravery, but the cost of it.

So many of the ANZACs were barely older than I am, they left their entire life behind, family, friends, and futures. Some never returned, and some made it home but were never the same.



I think that is why ANZAC Day means so much. It asks us to do something. Not much. Just to remember the sacrifices made for us. Whether that is through a moment of silence, attending the dawn or midday service, listening to the bugle, or just reminiscing and telling stories about family members who served.

It is important to remember this part of our history, and not let their sacrifices become distant or forgotten through time. To take a moment and truly understand the freedom we have is not because it was handed to us but fought for, by people who didn't deserve to pay the price.

To me, ANZAC Day means grief, courage, love, and sacrifice. It is a day of pride but also sadness. A day that reminds us that behind every act of service was a human life, and behind every name is a story that deserved to be told. ANZAC Day means to remember them not just as soldiers, but as people. Lest we forget.

What does ANZAC look like?

by Georgia Heaney

For me, the first thing I see is a man in a uniform on the front lines. However, on reflection, this isn't necessarily an accurate representation of all that comes under the label ANZAC. So much sits under the term Australian and New Zealand Army Corp, history, wars, peacekeeping, tradition, honour, nationalism, sacrifice, the list goes on and there is much to be considered.

Today, I would like you to come with me and step back from this common portrayal of ANZAC and a soldier's lone sacrifice. I want to explore the varied forms of sacrifice that military service, both in conflict and peace can bring. While easily forgotten, this includes a variety of hard work and contributions, all too easily swept under the rug or put down as not as important or significant as those of our lone soldier on the front lines.

Today, I wish to speak about people from different backgrounds, different genders, different ethnicities, and the different contributions, work and sacrifices they made.

When I mention World War I and II, I doubt your mind takes you to a stall selling cupcakes for a fundraiser and hand knitted jumpers. Or mothers, wives and sisters, baking Anzac biscuits in a kitchen, fighting tears at the prospect of their loved ones in danger.

What are known as the 'smaller', less significant' acts of support for ANZAC's are not normally discussed, despite the fact everyone enjoys a good Anzac biscuit ... I bet you do not think about the, 'Australian Women's National League', 'Australian Red Cross', 'Country Women's Association', 'Voluntary Aid Detachment' or the 'Australian Women's Service Corps', No?

Me neither, I'm not proud to say that when I think of sacrifice it is often only of the ANZAC soldiers themselves, or perhaps the nurses and doctors out on the front lines.

Certainly not the sacrifices made by families at home, or the hard work of making sure everyone is clothed, armed and fed; or killed, missed and lost. While there are roles that are sometimes spoken of when it comes to women in ANZAC, such as nursing, today I would like you to consider the late nights sitting at a desk and drawing up new technology, working in a munitions factory or taking on a new role traditionally reserved for men. Of women running fundraiser after fundraiser in support of their sons, husbands, and brothers.

Of the trainers and transporters of military horses, dockworkers loading the ships, or school children making bandages.



In truth, probably not. An absence in our vision of ANZAC sacrifice is not limited to the exclusion of women. Taking a look at soldiers who received the Victoria Cross you will rarely see Indigenous Australians on that list. Not because they did not serve, or not deserve such recognition, but rather that their gallant efforts were not commended in the same way.

Soldiers such as William Alan Irwin, born only so far from here on the Burra Bee Doo mission never received a Victoria Cross. After fighting through multiple battles, suffering serious injury, then returning again to the front lines. Not even after he inspired others during the '100 day' offensive to capture machine gun nests that were taking out our soldiers. Not even when, after moving to capture his fourth machine gun nest. William's sacrifice was not marked by medals or commendations, but by never having the chance to return home.

It is estimated that over a thousand indigenous Australians fought in WW1 despite legal and social prejudice against them.



This number could just as easily be false, and rather than less, it is likely there were more aboriginal people enlisted that were not properly documented due to their heritage. When Australia grew more desperate for recruits only then were Aboriginal people with a European parent able to enlist for an extended period of time. Despite the racism and unfair treatment inflicted on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian's, as historians and families look into lost documents and old mail, the importance of their roles are finally beginning to be heard and acknowledged.

I am saying this to demonstrate how we have been so deprived of knowledge of certain peoples' bravery and hard work, ANZAC is more than war, it is a system of people, and some of those peoples' efforts unfortunately are less known than others.

You do not think of jobs at the Australian War memorial such as being a historian or curator. You do not think of logistics and supply personnel, chefs or enlistment assessors. You do not think of dentists or farmers and all those who contribute with their own talents and skill sets worth no less than any others. These all are and were significant roles in the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, as well as today's Australian Defence Force.

I'm proud to say that my Great Grandmother and Grandfather contributed to the war effort by working and maintaining a strong farming crop as necessary suppliers of food for the ANZACS. In my mind, ANZAC is, and always was, a set of turning cogs, where all different people and groups come together to set the wheel in motion. In the same way that without our valuable cleaners this area itself would be overflowing with rubbish-without all divisions of the Defence Force we alone wouldn't have one at all.

It is with this that I encourage you to dig that little bit deeper in your own history or that of your community. To follow up on your great grandmother's nursing experience.

To ask those questions and explore the varied stories and roles in the history of ANZAC. And through this process I know that I will be proud of how our people step forward to do something greater than themselves without dependency on commendation. I am choosing to dig deeper. I am striving to see ANZAC for what it is, every part of it. I am honouring their selflessness. I am commemorating sacrifice in its many forms. Lest we forget.

DVA Legislation Reform

Firstly, on behalf of the Gympie RSL VSC staff, we would like to thank everyone who attended our recent information session on the DVA legislation reform. While we understand this may not be the most exciting topic, we felt it was important to share information we believe is highly relevant to the veteran community.

For those who were unable to attend, or may not yet be aware, the Department of Veterans Affairs is reforming its legislation and will introduce the new VETS Act from 1 July 2026.

These changes are designed to simplify and modernise the veterans' support system, and we encourage all veterans and their families to stay informed about how the reforms may affect them.

If you would like further information or assistance understanding the upcoming changes that may relate to you, please contact the Gympie RSL VSC team.

If you were interested in reading, the information that we covered in the information session please see the link below:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/about-us/inquiries-and-reviews/veterans-legislation-reform>

RYAN CAIRNS
Compensation Advocate
advocate@gympiersla.com.au

Gympie Sub Branch
39 Monkland Street, Gympie Q 4570
07 5483 7707

Corporal Daniel Keighran VC

In Honour of

CORPORAL DANIEL KEIGHRAN VC

6 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment

This plaque recognises the exemplary military service of former Sunshine Coast resident Corporal Daniel Keighran VC, who was awarded our nation's highest military honour, the Victoria Cross for Australia for intentionally drawing enemy fire to himself in order to save the lives of his fellow soldiers on the 24th August 2010 in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.



Corporal Daniel Keighran grew up in rural Queensland after moving with his family from Nambour to Lowmead near Bundaberg. Before joining the Army, he worked on horse properties and took part in the Sydney Olympic Torch Relay in 2000 before enlisting in the Australian Army later that year.

During his military career he served with 6RAR and deployed to East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in 2005 and later returned to Delta Company, 6RAR, as a Corporal before his final deployment to Afghanistan in 2010.

Corporal Keighran became the first member of the Royal Australian Regiment to receive the Victoria Cross for Australia while serving with an RAR battalion on active operations. Following his Army service, he continued serving in the Army Reserve and has supported veteran and mental health organisations including Mates4Mates and Lifeline Canberra. In 2020 he published his autobiography, *Courage Under Fire*, reflecting on his military career.

Iraq



Australia was an ally of the United States (US) in the Iraq War, also known as the Second Gulf War. On 20 March 2003, Australia joined the US-led 'coalition of the willing' to intervene in Iraq and remove Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, from power.

Personnel from all 3 branches of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) served in the war. Five Australians lost their lives due to their service in the Iraq War. Australia, along with all non-US coalition forces, withdrew its troops from Iraq in May 2011. The US withdrew its forces in late 2011. Some 17,000 Australians have been issued the Iraq Medal in recognition of their service. We honour the effort and sacrifice of all those who served in this long and challenging conflict.

The Bombing of Darwin Documentary

In commemoration of the 85th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin, the Australian Television and Media Group is producing a major feature documentary titled “Darwin 1942”, to be released on 19 February 2027.

The project commemorates the service and sacrifice of those who defended Australia during the Japanese attacks on Darwin and northern Australia in 1942–1943.

We are seeking assistance from members, families, and the community to help identify Veterans who served during this period.

We are looking for:

- Names of Veterans who served in Darwin or on Australian soil during WWII
- Service details and military history
- Personal stories and memories
- Photographs, letters, or memorabilia
- Family contacts willing to share their Veteran’s story

The documentary will include interviews with military historians, Veterans and their families, archival footage, and educational resources to ensure future generations understand the significance of the Bombing of Darwin and the defence of Australia.

How You Can Help

Members and families are encouraged to submit information at

<https://tvgroup.com.au/darwin1942/>

Community Screenings & Partnerships

The producers are also interested in working with RSL Sub-Branches and Clubs to host or support future community screenings and commemorative events connected to the documentary release in 2027.

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Gympie RSL Sub Branch's Veteran Centre provides a free bus for this event each month.

Please RSVP by text message to
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Open Arms offers free group programs for serving and ex-serving members and their families to support them in living their best life.

Call 1800 011 046 to speak with an Open Arms staff member for help finding the right program. Programs include both face-to-face and online group options.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs also funds flexible training programs to support the veteran community in mental health and suicide prevention. Learn more and enrol at Protect – Mental Health First Aid Australia.

www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/programs-workshops

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GympieHearing

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Lynda Reid

2/31 Wickham Street,
Gympie QLD 4570
07 5211 1877

www.gympiehearing.com.au
admin@gympiehearing.com.au



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**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
8AM - 4PM**

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sunshinedermatology@gmail.com

What's On

GYMPIE **RSL**
JUNE
2026

MONDAY 1ST JUNE – SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST

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MAJOR DRAW
SUNDAY 23RD
AUGUST



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ICE CREAM

Select any item from our kids menu.
Limited time only.

*Conditions apply.
Kids must be 12yrs and under

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE *Night*

EVERY WEDNESDAY

ATRIUM BISTRO
5PM-8PM

VISIT OUR
WEBSITE
TO BOOK
NOW!

THURSDAY NIGHTS *Parmy Night*

MEMBERS
\$26

All served
with chips
and salad

NON-
MEMBERS
\$29

STATE OF ORIGIN

LIVE & LOUD ON THE BIG SCREEN

JUNE 17 | JULY 8



WIN TWO TICKETS
TO GAME 3!

PURCHASE ANY XXXX PRODUCT TO ENTER!



EARN TRIPLE
ENTRIES WITH
EVERY XXXX
PURCHASE IN
THE RHYTHM BAR
DURING GAME 1
AND GAME 2!

START EARNING ENTRIES FROM 10AM WEDNESDAY MAY 6TH
- WEDNESDAY JUNE 17TH. WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED
ON THURSDAY 18TH JUNE. MEMBERS ONLY.

DIABLO
COCKTAIL RANGE

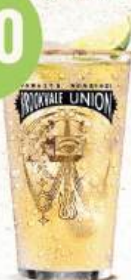
\$7

Bar Specials

BROOKVALE WHISKEY &
DRY SCHOONER

425 ML

\$10



\$5.50

JACK
DANIELS

30 ML PLUS MIXER*



Members Only.
*Post Mix Only.
Limited time only.
Drink responsibly. 18+

Weekly Entertainment

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE
UPCOMING ACTS

JUNE 5TH | 7:30PM-11:30PM

SIMON MEOLA

JUNE 6TH | 7:30PM-11:30PM

RACES AFTERPARTY

JUNE 12TH | 7:30PM-LATE

BUZZ KARAOKE

JUNE 13TH | 7:30PM-LATE

ACOUSTIC OVERDRIVE

JUNE 19TH | 7:30PM-11:30PM

OPEN MIC NIGHT

JUNE 20TH | 7:30PM-11:30PM

GR8 CO.

JUNE 26TH | 7:30PM-11:30PM

AUSPHONIC

JUNE 27TH | 7:30PM-11:30PM

THE CLAPTOMANIACS

Artists & Time subject to change

Morning Melodies

10AM-1PM

\$20

2 COURSE LUNCH
includes main and dessert!

Thursday 18th June
Michael Gant

Book at Reception

INCLUDES
\$5 WORTH OF
RAFFLE
TICKETS!

**WIN UP TO A \$200 RSL VOUCHER
JUST BY ENJOYING A DRINK!**

FRIDAY NIGHT Frenzy

**EVERY FRIDAY
NIGHT AT 9PM**

**ONE LUCKY MEMBER
WILL CHOOSE 1 OF 5
MYSTERY PRIZE CARDS!**

**PURCHASE ANY BEVERAGE
BETWEEN 5PM - 9PM EVERY
FRIDAY NIGHT AT RHYTHM
BAR TO RECEIVE AN ENTRY
INTO THE DRAW.**

Terms & conditions apply. Members only.
One entry per beverage purchased. Must be present to win.



EVERY WEEK

MONDAYS

12-3pm Crack the Code

5-6pm Happy Hour

5-8pm Kids Eat Free

7-9pm Trivia

TUESDAYS

12-2.30pm Tuesday Treasures

5-6pm Happy Hour

7-9pm Bingo

WEDNESDAYS

9.30-11.30am Bingo

1.30-3.30pm Grocery Grab

5-6pm Happy Hour

6pm APL Poker

6.45pm Members Draw

THURSDAYS

12-2.30pm Cash Pyramid

5-6pm Happy Hour

5pm-8pm Parmy Night

FRIDAYS

12-2.30pm Rising Riches

5-6pm Happy Hour

5-7pm Community Raffles

6pm APL Poker

7:30pm-Late Live Music

SATURDAYS

1-4.30pm The Big Spin

5-7pm Community Raffles

7:30pm-Late Live Music

SUNDAYS

1.30pm APL Poker

1.30-3.30pm Bingo

VETERANS & PARTNERS ONLY EVENTS

Girls Day Out

Ikea/Northlakes

MONDAY, JUNE 15

DEPARTS FROM VETERANS SERVICES
CENTRE AT 8:00AM

RETURNS TO VETERANS SERVICES
CENTRE AT 3:30PM

ENJOY A RELAXED DAY AT THE
NAMBOUR GARDEN EXPO WITH
VIBRANT DISPLAYS, STALLS, LUNCH
AND GREAT COMPANY IN A
FRIENDLY GROUP.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

DEPARTS FROM VETERANS
SERVICES CENTRE AT 8:30AM

RETURNS TO VETERANS
SERVICES CENTRE AT 3:00PM

SHOP, BROWSE AND ENJOY LUNCH
AT IKEA NORTH LAKES WITH PLENTY
OF TIME TO EXPLORE HOMEWARES,
BARGAINS AND NEW IDEAS.

TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT CALL (07)
5483 7707 OR VISIT THE VETERANS
SERVICES CENTRE (39 MONKLAND
STREET, GYMPIE)

GYMPIE VETERAN CENTRE

OPEN WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 3PM

39 Monkland Street, Gympie Qld 4570

Phone: (07) 5483 7707 | Email: secretary@gympiersla.com.au

Display at the Gympie Show

This year's Gympie Show once again provided an opportunity for the Gympie RSL to present a display, with the 2026 theme recognising "Army 125 Years for Our Nation."

The display, coordinated by Memorabilia Officer GJ "Wuzzy" Alford, featured a collection of military memorabilia and uniforms highlighting the history, service, and traditions of the Australian Army across the past 125 years. Among the items displayed were George Thomas' WWI uniform and a current Australian Army uniform, reflecting both past and present service.

Ivan Friske and Jason Bicsak assisted with the setup of the display, while Paul Carolan and Elay Colbourn provided IT support.

The display forms part of the Gympie RSL's ongoing commitment to preserving and sharing Australia's military history with the local community.



Seeking the Owners of Found Service Medals & Badges

The following medals were handed in to the RSL Club on 1 May 2026, and we are seeking assistance to return them to their rightful owner or family.

Medals Received:

- Anniversary of National Service Medal awarded to 1702117 Pte N.R. Freidman
- Australian Merchant Navy Service Cross (unofficial)

On ANZAC Day, three badges were handed in to club staff as well.

If you have any information that may help identify or locate the owners, please contact Wuzzy Alford at 0437 552 965.





When are you next free?

I'm forever incarcerated
in my own personal flesh
prison so I am never truly
"free", but I don't have
plans on Wednesday



When you just want to read, but
your family won't shut up



You poor thing...

Don't bring my financial
status into this



Mom, that ungrateful oaf,
my husband, won't eat
potatoes again.

Just try and tell him
how hard you worked
to cook them for him.

Oh, do they need
to be cooked?



I fully intend to haunt people
when I die.

I have a list.

Gympie Veteran's Centre Activities - Expressions of Interest

Dear Veterans & Families,

We are currently planning a range of activities, outings, and bus trips for the Veterans Centre, and we greatly value your input.

Whether you are looking to learn something new, meet like-minded people, enjoy some friendly competition, or simply get out and about more often, we encourage you to register your interest.

We Would Love to Hear Your Thoughts On:

- Bus trips and day outings
- Fishing trips
- Indoor activities
- Outdoor activities
- Information sessions and workshops
- Trivia Nights (club vouchers/prizes)

Activities Currently Being Explored:

- Card & Board Games
- Dominoes
- Drumming
- Guitar Group or Lessons
- Model Making
- Tai Chi

If there are other activities or programs you would like to see offered, please let us know. We would especially appreciate feedback on:

- Places you would enjoy visiting
- Activities you would like to participate in
- Preferred days and times that suit you best

Current Activities:

Chess Club

Mondays at 10:00am

Whether you're an experienced player or just learning the game, Chess Club offers a relaxed and welcoming environment to enjoy friendly competition and connect with others.

Model Making

Returning soon, we would appreciate feedback on preferred days and times for this activity.

Cards Group (starting with Cribbage)

Thursdays, we would welcome feedback on suitable times for participants.

Why Get Involved?

These activities are designed to:

- Encourage social connection and mateship
- Support wellbeing and mental health
- Build confidence and new skills
- Create regular opportunities for veterans to come together in a relaxed and supportive environment

Register Your Interest

If you would like to participate in any of the above activities, or have suggestions for other programs you would enjoy, please contact the Veteran Centre team.

Your feedback will help us determine which groups and activities to organise first. We look forward to building a vibrant and welcoming veterans community together.



Word Search Answers: Turn page upside down to reveal!

Water	Aqua	Quest	Teapot	Grant	Lapel
For	Nut	Pale	Taxed	Deployed	Pain
Bout	Sailor	Grey	Acorn	Error	Lieutenant
Bag	Drawn	Airforce	Amore	Care	Aged
Set	Art	Wrap	Stray	Sold	Captain

WINTER

JUNE 2026
THROUGH
AUGUST
2026

HEALTH & WELLBEING PROGRAM

GIRLS DAY OUT

Every 3 weeks, contact for more information

Day trip adventures for female veterans and partners of veterans

GLENWOOD SWIM & GYM

Sunday-Friday (closed Saturday) 6am-6:30pm

For veterans, partners & Carers
Membership \$20/month

CHOIR

Tuesdays
from 5:30pm

Open to all members of the Gympie Community with any voice type and experience

LIIV WELL PILATES

Thursday
11am-11:45am
\$5 per person

Limited spaces bookings essential
+ Additional pilates class every Tuesday from 2:30pm to 3:15pm, \$5

FIT TOGETHER

Wednesday
1pm-2pm

Free for veterans partners & carers
Gympie aquatic recreation centre (Gympie ARC)

CHAIR EXERCISE

Thursdays
1pm-2pm

Free for veterans partners & carers
Gympie aquatic recreation centre (Gympie ARC)

SPLASH AEROBICS

Fridays
1pm-2pm

Free for veterans partners & carers
Gympie aquatic recreation centre (Gympie ARC)

SWIMMING CLASS

All day entry every
Wednesday, Friday &
Saturday

For veterans & their partners/carers
Children welcome upon application at Vet Centre
Gympie aquatic recreation centre (Gympie ARC)

For more information, call 5483 7707 or email reception@gympiersla.com.au



www.gympiersla.com.au/welfare





RSL Queensland offers a wide range of programs for current and former Defence members and their families to improve mental and physical resilience, and connect with others. These include free and heavily subsidised Peer-Led Programs, and social connection activities with RSL Rec Connect.

Please find below a range of upcoming programs offered by RSL Queensland and our partners or go to our website:
www.rslqld.org/whats-on

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Waves of Wellness Surfing Experience (WOWSE)

Location: Caloundra, Sunshine Coast

Date: Friday, 1st May - Friday, 19 June

A free eight-week evidence-based learn-to-surf program for veterans. It facilitates functional recovery while promoting social inclusion, engagement, and enhanced quality of life. The primary focus of the program is to introduce surfing to participants as a way to improve physical health, mental health, and well-being in a neutral, non-intrusive environment. The program uses the ocean and surfing as a conduit to explore, stimulate and facilitate positive therapy outcomes.

Raemus Rover | Off Road Racing

Location: Willowbank, Ipswich

Date: Saturday, June 27 - Sunday, June 28

For Veterans and partners looking to experience the thrill of off-road racing. The Raemus Wellness Program allows participants to rediscover their purpose, unlock confidence and get the adrenaline pumping. Event dates may be rescheduled due to wet weather.

Happy Paws Happy Hearts | Defence Families

Location: Wacol, Brisbane

Date: Saturday, May 2 - Saturday, June 20

Families will participate in weekly group training sessions with RSPCA Darwin rescue animals and along the way, the program aims to improve individual and family communication, wellbeing, and engagement.

Survive To Thrive Nation

Location: Online Modules

Date: Ongoing throughout 2026

The STTN Program is an online evidence-based program with a focus on proactive health and wellbeing for transitioning veterans. The program consists of eight interactive self-paced personal development modules, focussing on topics such as purpose, resilience, indoctrination, stigma, social support, motivation, self-discipline, meditation and exercise, and crisis management, and supported by peer mentors with lived experience.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Dig In Health Co. | Paddock to Plate

Location: Yandina, Sunshine Coast

Date: Friday, July 17 - Sunday, July 19

Rec Connect | Laser Skirmish and Lunch

Location: Gold Coast

Date: Saturday, 06 June

Gear up for an adrenaline-filled morning of Laser Skirmish, designed to bring the Defence community together for a fun, active, and friendly competition.

Rec Connect | Lunch Cruise

Location: Mooloolaba

Date: Saturday, 20 June

Enjoy a relaxed lunch cruise through the waterways of Mooloolaba Harbour, winding along the river and canals past the well-known fishing fleet, pilot boats, and leisure vessels. Head towards the river entrance for beautiful views stretching across Mooloolaba Bay.

Griffith University & International Association of Human Values | Empowering Veterans Health and Wellbeing - Breathwork Program

Location: VFWC Stafford, Brisbane

Date: Wednesday, 22 July - Sunday 26 July

More events and information available at www.rslqld.org/whats-on

If you have any questions or want to know more about RSL Queensland's Peer-led Programs, please email partnerships@rslqld.org.

Living with ongoing pain can be exhausting - physically and emotionally.

You are not alone.

scramblertherapeutics.com.au
0437 501 371
info@scramblertherapeutics.com.au

At Scrambler Therapeutics, we are proud to support veterans living with persistent and neuropathic pain.

Scrambler Therapy is a non-invasive, drug-free neuromodulation treatment developed in Italy. It delivers gentle electrical signals through small skin electrodes placed near the painful area. These signals aim to help retrain the nervous system and reduce the brain's perception of pain.



LOCATED IN
NOOSAVILLE, QLD

**DEBORAH GRAY |
NURSE PRACTITIONER**

6+ years
experience in
Scrambler Therapy



SCRAMBLER
THERAPEUTICS

Getting to Know Our Team



Beau

Bar and Gaming

What do you enjoy most about interacting with customers each day?:

I really enjoy talking with customers, having a good yarn with them. It's about knowing that every customer here is having a good experience. They may have had a bad day, but then they come here, have a beer and they're in a good mood again. A beer can fix a lot of things! Customers having a good time here makes that I'm in a good mood and have a good time while working.



Joshua

Coffee and Bar

What do you enjoy doing to unwind after work?: I enjoy going for a run, and walking the dog. And when I have more time, I love to go hiking.



Grace

Bar

What inspired you to work in hospitality, and what do you love most about it?: I

began working in hospitality to get new experiences & learn new skills. Before this I worked in a lot of different tradie jobs. So, working at the RSL allowed me to work more with people and get more competent at people skills. I enjoy learning the routines of the regulars. I also found a real passion for making drinks. My friend told me that I look in my element working behind the bar, I agree!



Alex

Gaming and Bar

Do you have a favourite dish, drink, or offering from our menu?: Yes! The Espresso Martini that I make. They are special because I take my time and make them look good as well as taste good.

Teamwork makes the Gympie RSL work!

This photo captures a moment behind the kitchen counter at the Gympie RSL during the busy ANZAC Day period. While members and guests see the finished meals and service out front, a lot of work happens behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly.

ANZAC Day is one of the biggest and most important events on the club calendar. From early morning services through to meals later in the day, the club sees a constant flow of people coming together to commemorate, connect, and support the local community.

The kitchen can be a fast-paced environment during major events, but teamwork is what keeps things moving. Staff rely on communication, preparation, and helping each other throughout long shifts. Whether it is organising meals, handling busy service periods, or making sure members are looked after, every role contributes to the overall experience.

This image highlights that everyday teamwork. It shows staff working side by side during service, focusing on the job while also supporting one another. These are the moments that members often do not see, but they are an important part of what makes the club operate successfully during large events like ANZAC Day.



Lindee-lee Bibby & Mel Decker

The Role Clubs Play in Local Life

Across towns like Gympie, clubs such as the RSL have long been more than just venues to eat.

Clubs provide a steady place where the community can come together. A place where conversation happens easily, meals are shared, and local life continues to connect in simple but meaningful ways.

One of the most visible roles clubs play is supporting community fundraising. Whether it is local charities, sporting groups, or special causes, clubs often provide the space, structure, and support that allow these efforts to succeed. Over time, these contributions help strengthen the wider Gympie community.

Sporting and community groups also benefit from club support through sponsorships, fundraising activities, and shared community spaces. These connections help local organisations continue operating and provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate in sport and community life.

In a changing world, where many traditional community spaces are becoming less common, clubs like Gympie RSL continue to offer something steady and familiar, a place where local life can continue to meet, connect, and support one another.



Survey

- **How often do you read the newsletter?**
☐ Every issue ☐ Most issues ☐ Occasionally ☐ Rarely
- **How would you rate the overall quality of the newsletter?**
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor
- **How easy is the newsletter to read and navigate?**
☐ Very easy ☐ Easy ☐ Neutral ☐ Difficult
- **How useful is the “What’s On” section?**
☐ Very useful ☐ Useful ☐ Not very useful
- **Do you feel event information is clear and up to date?**
☐ Yes ☐ No
- **Do you find the advertisements useful?**
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes
- **Have you ever used a service from an advertisement in the newsletter?**
☐ Yes ☐ No
- **How would you rate the visual design of the newsletter?**
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor
- **Why?:**
- **How do you usually access the newsletter?**
☐ Printed copy ☐ Email ☐ Website ☐ Other
- **What would you like to see more of in future newsletters?**
- **Any other feedback or suggestions?**

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



RSL
Gympie Sub Branch

Gympie Veteran Centre

39 Monkland Rd (Cnr River Rd)
07 5483 7707
9:00am - 3:00pm

VSC Administration Officer

Bronwyn KUBANK
Bronwyn.k@gympiersla.com.au

Acting Team Leader

Lauren Mann

Compensation Advocates

Ian Bowd
Ryan Cairns
advocate@gympiersla.com.au

Veteran Services Officers

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Chief Financial Officer

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Venue Manager & Acting CEO

Daniel Ferguson
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manager@gympiersla.com.au

President

Adel Amin
president@gympiersla.com.au

Gympie RSL Club

217 Mary St
07 5482 1018

Sunday - Thursday:
10:00am - 11:00pm

Friday & Saturday:
10:00am - Midnight

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