

Leongatha RSL

Newsletter



Greg Nugent - General Manager

We have almost seen the end of winter with footy finals just around the corner and the smell of cut grass in the nostrils. Here at the RSL we are looking forward to introducing many new entertainment options for our members. Coming up we have our 80's night where you can be taken back to the good old days. Our food offering for the night is a good old buffet with some 80's classics! So dust off the old glad rags and join us for the night. We also have a PINK night coming up in October. A great opportunity to get a table together and enjoy a night out. With the Spring Carnival about to heat up we have a great Oaks Day planned for this year. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on our socials.

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Dancing Queen

"Dancing Queen - ABBA Tribute Show" wowed the audience on Saturday June 28th. Opened by Russell Hemming, the show was a dazzling spectacle that transported the audience back to the vibrant disco era of the 1970s.

Russell's energetic introduction set the tone for the evening, as he captured the crowd's excitement with a palpable enthusiasm for the music while guests enjoyed a delicious two course, chef designed dinner.

As the lights dimmed and the first notes began to play, the tribute performers took the stage in glittering costumes reminiscent of ABBA's iconic style. The audience erupted in applause, singing along to every word with infectious enthusiasm.

Throughout the evening, the tribute band flawlessly recreated ABBA's classic hits, from "Mamma Mia" to "Waterloo," each song accompanied by dynamic choreography.





*Do you know a student entering
year 11 in 2026 who might be
interested in the*

Leongatha RSL

KOKODA TREK

SCHOLARSHIP?

Next year, two students from Leongatha will face the transformative challenge of walking the Kokoda Trek. Leongatha RSL President Bill Verboon made the announcement on Anzac Day, revealing that the Sub Branch will sponsor their educational journey through the Leongatha RSL Kokoda Trek Scholarship.

This annual expedition is organized via the George Collins Kokoda Award program, allowing Leongatha students who will enter Year 11 in 2026 to express their interest when applications become available.

Since its inception in 2007, the George Collins Kokoda Award has enabled 54 students from the Baw Baw Shire to trek Kokoda. During the Leongatha Anzac Commemoration Service attendees heard from one of the initiative's founders, Gary Blackwood, as well as recent participants Leith Metcalfe and Zara McNair.

Leith reflected on the connections forged by those who undertake the trek, the oppressive humidity that "hit like a punch in the guts," and the arduous ascent of Brigade Hill, often referred to as 'the wall.' He recounted standing amidst a sea of white marble headstones, many belonging to individuals his age, and shared his poem that narrates the story of the fighting at Isurava. Although it was clearly an emotional journey, Leith is convinced that hiking the Kokoda Trek brings about profound personal transformation, all for the better.

Zara also recounted numerous challenges but highlighted the joy of playing soccer with local children and her group's porters. She reflects on the Trek daily, remembering the happiness of the local people despite their limited resources. Zara also spoke about her visit to a war cemetery, stating, "They fought hard for our country and gave up everything for us," in reference to those resting beneath the marble headstones.

Once applications open, students interested in joining the program must submit an essay detailing what Kokoda means to them and its significance to Australia today. An interview process follows, and those selected will undergo a training regimen in preparation for the physically and mentally challenging trek. Upon returning from Papua New Guinea, participants serve as Kokoda ambassadors for a year.

The Leongatha RSL urges our community to support the decision to send Leongatha students and have started accepting donations, which can be made at the Leongatha RSL. Various other fundraising initiatives are planned, with a total of \$15,000 needed to send the selected pair of young locals. More information regarding how to apply is available by contacting Greg at the RSL.

Another HUGE

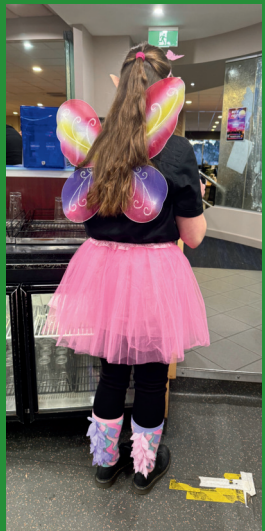
FUEL FAIRY

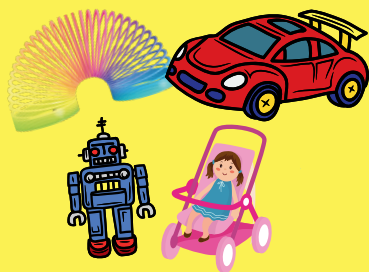
Promotion with



300+ guests packed us out for the Fuel Fairy! Juan Lacanaria being the major prize winner taking home \$750 worth of fuel vouchers from Evans Petroleum along with many others who shared in over \$2000 worth of fuel vouchers and other prizes!







next

GIVEAWAY EVENT

DETAILS BEING FINALISED

SAVE THE DATE - NOVEMBER 21ST



Ladies DAY

We're bringing Ladies Day back!

17 November 6th

11:30am-5pm

\$70 per person includes chef's specially designed lunch

Tables of 8-10

Lunch served approx 12:15 - 12:30pm

Sweeps on the races

Fashions on the field

Fashion Parade by Lyn Rose Boutique

+more!



Limited tickets available - Book now to avoid disappointment!

Scan the QR code or go to

<https://www.trybooking.com/DERPI>



EVENTS 2025



80's night

CATNIP THE BAND

Buffet Dinner | Doors Open 6pm

BEST DRESSED
COMPETITION

Saturday 20th Sept 2025

TICKETS \$70

Head to www.trybooking.com/DBBSJ for
more info and to book



Catnip the Band



Join us for a night of '60s to '80s hits! Dance to tunes from legends like Bruce Springsteen, The Eagles, and Stevie Wonder.

🎟️ One Night Only – Limited Seating!

🎟️ Tickets include a buffet dinner. Doors open at 6 PM, meals at 6:30 PM, and music starts at 8 PM.

PINK

Tribute Band

11th October – Leongatha RSL

Live At 8:00 PM

SHOW ONLY

Doors open @ 7PM

Member \$40 Non-member \$50

\$5 of each individual ticket sold will go
directly to National Breast Cancer Foundation
Australia



□ PINK! □

Prepare for an electrifying experience with Hot Pink – The Australian Tribute Show, featuring impressive vocals, dynamic choreography, and a tribute to P!nk's spirit.

\$5 from each ticket sold will support the National Breast Cancer Foundation Australia.

Get your tickets now at
<https://www.trybooking.com/DBHJF>

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

AUGUST 18

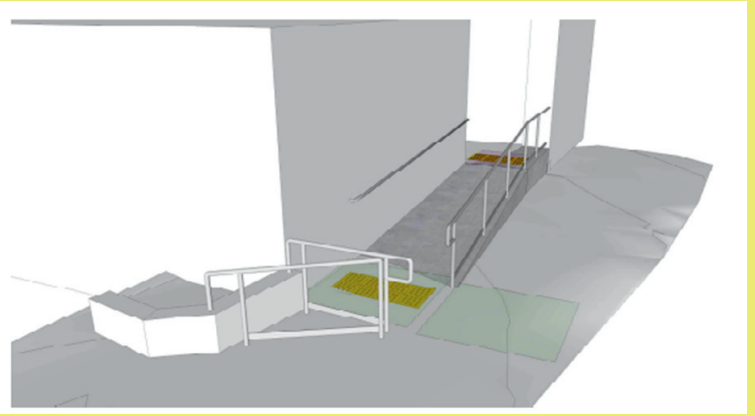
LEONGATHA
RSL
EST 1919



Vietnam Veterans' Day was commemorated with a service at the Leongatha Cenotaph, honoring the Vietnam campaign and the Battle of Long Tan. Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Dr. John Blunt spoke about the 1966 battle, where 108 Australian and Kiwi soldiers faced overwhelming odds against the North Vietnamese army. Seventeen Australians were killed, with over 20 wounded. Dr. Blunt emphasized the sacrifices made and thanked the nearly 60,000 Australians who served during the Vietnam War, which resulted in 524 deaths and almost 3,000 injuries. Bugler Natalie Meadows played hymns while wreaths were being laid then guests enjoyed a light lunch and catch up back at the Leongatha RSL.



New Updated Access Ramp



Members will notice over the next few weeks a new ramp being constructed at the Michael Place entry to the Club. This will mean some inconvenience for approx 2 weeks where the only entry will be from Smith Street.

Upon completion, it will allow all members to access via Michael Place. The current entry at Smith Street will be made an exit only to ensure that we have the safest possible environment for members, visitors and staff.

We thank you for your patience while we undertake this important work which you will all agree has been a long time coming.

Leongatha RSL

Tree of Hope

Donate here for local distribution

Spread a little bit of joy!
Help bring happiness to those in our community by donating a gift or food item here to brighten someone else's Christmas.

leongatha-rsl.com.au



We are honoured to collaborate with our local Salvation Army to host a food and gift drive this year.

You will see a tree go up late September where donations can be left.

We invite you to assist us in making this holiday season memorable for those in need. Donations can be placed under our tree until November 28th, after which the collected gifts and food will be distributed within the community. Please keep an eye out for our "Tree of Hope" and donate if you can.

More information about what makes a good donation will be available once the display is up.

GUITARS FOR VETERANS



Guitars for Veterans started again in June with another 4 people picking up a guitar under the guidance of Chloe. The lessons go for 10 weeks with each session designed to be engaging and supportive, offering not just musical instruction but also a sense of community and camaraderie. Chloe, with her gentle teaching style and passion for music, makes the learning process enjoyable and accessible for everyone, regardless of their prior experience. As the veterans strum their first chords and progress to more complex melodies, the therapeutic power of music becomes evident, fostering both personal growth and emotional healing.



LEONGATHA RSL
EST 1919

FREE Health Check

- Blood pressure
- Heart rate
- Weight & height
- BMI & body fat
- Type 2 Diabetes risk

FREE HERE
Oct 13-27

during RSL opening hours.
Self test in 4 minutes

Bookings not required
Short waiting times may apply

SHANE WARNE LEGACY HEALTH CHECKS
FREE HERE

shanewarnelegacy.com

SiSU HEALTH

IT'S COMING BACK

Thanks to the smashing success of round one, the Shane Warne Heart Health Check Machine is making an encore this October! Swing by the Leongatha RSL for a **FREE** heart health check—whether you missed the last shindig or are curious if those salad-swaps and jogs have paid off. Come see how your ticker's ticking!



FAB FRIDAY

COMMUNITY RAFFLES

Want your club to
HOST?

Email Kate - kate.gourlay@leongatha-rsl.com.au

FAB FRIDAY AUGUST 29TH

MEMBERS DRAW \$2300

JOKER POKER \$1350

**LEONGATHA RSL
KOKODA TREK
SCHOLARSHIP**

MEAT TRAYS \$500

HELP US TO SEND 2 LOCAL STUDENTS ON THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME IN 2026 WITH ADVENTURE KOKODA

ALL PROFITS FROM FAB FRIDAY MEAT RAFFLES & JOKER POKER GOING DIRECTLY TOWARDS SENDING 2 SECONDARY STUDENTS ON THE TREK

**FAB FRIDAY featuring
KORUMBURRA
CROQUET club**

September 5th

Meat Raffles

Joker Poker

Members Draw

Dinner bookings essential on 56622747

FAB FRIDAY

Sept 12th

\$5 Schooners

\$500 worth of meat trays to win

Members Draw + Joker Poker cash

**featuring
LEONGATHA
MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

Bookings essential on 56622747 or leongatha-rsl.com.au

FAB FRIDAY with

NERRENA

cricket club



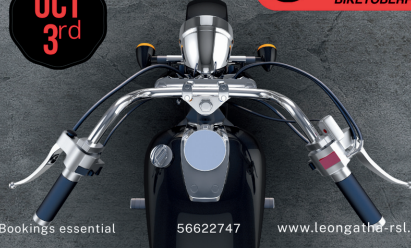
MEAT TRAYS, JOKER POKER, MEMBERS DRAW

SEPT 19

**FAB FRIDAY
BIKETOBERFEST**

OCT 3rd

PROFITS FROM MEAT RAFFLES AND JOKER POKER GOING TO BIKETOBERFEST



Bookings essential

56622747

www.leongatha-rsl.com.au

FAB FRIDAY

Breast Cancer Awareness

OCTOBER 24TH

All profits from the sale of meat raffle and joker poker tickets going to OMK Pink Stumps Day

Bookings essential 56622747 or www.leongatha-rsl.com.au

FAB FRIDAY

Nov 14th

South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club

Support our South Gippsland Swimmers with all profits from the sale of meat raffle and joker poker tickets going to

FAB FRIDAY

Nov 21st

LEONGATHA CENTRE INC. CHILDRENS

All profits from the sale of meat raffle and joker poker tickets going directly to Leongatha Childrens Centre Incorporated

Bookings essential on 56622747 or leongatha-rsl.com.au

FAB FRIDAY

LEONGATHA BASKETBALL

NOV 28 2025

MEAT RAFFLES

JOKER POKER

MEMBERS DRAW

\$5 SCHOONERS

FAB FRIDAY

Dec 5th

Woorayl Lodge Auxillary Group

Members Draw

\$5 Schooners

Joker poker cash

\$500 meat trays

All profits from the sale of meat raffle and joker poker tickets going directly to Woorayl Lodge Auxillary Group

upcoming fab friday HOSTS
come along and support your community!

Meat Trays worth \$500

Joker poker cash between \$50-\$2650

Members cash between \$1000-\$5000

Staff Profile

Lara Ryan

Meet Lara, 22,
our 2nd year
apprentice
extraordinaire!



Craving a bite from our menu? 😊

Lara's all about the Classic Chicken
Parma served with a mountain of chips
and a fresh salad!

Thirst quenching favourite? 🍸

Its a toss up between a Jim or Jack and
coke!

Best part of the gig? 🎉

Seeing folks savour the delicious food
that she whips up!

Lara's chill time? 🧘‍♀️

Hanging with family and smashing it on
the badminton court.

How do the RSL crew see Chloe? 😊

She's the sandwich queen, a friendly face,
ever-helpful, a Caesar salad genius, always
clutching her trusty water bottle, and a
champion of witty banter!

The not so great part of the job? 😞

Those pesky split shifts!

A fun nugget about Lara...

Lara's a Lego fanatic! She's got a
collection that could make kids of all
shapes and sizes green with envy and
has poured a fortune into her brick-
building passion! 🧱

Veteran's Health Week

2025, yet to be announced! Veterans' Health Week (VHW) is an annual initiative led by DVA, with the aim of bringing the veteran community together for fun events that promote a healthy lifestyle. The theme is centered on Mental Wellness Matters, and is a great opportunity to learn more about mental health and wellbeing and to connect with other veterans. VHW events happen all over Australia for the week of Veterans Health Week. Mental Wellness Matters 365 days a year, so if you find yourself needing immediate support Open Arms Veterans & Families Counselling provides free and confidential support and is available 24/7, call 1800 011 046 or visit www.openarms.gov.au Getting yourself and other veterans involved in VHW events may help you better understand what a healthier, happier you looks like. For more information about VHW visit www.dva.gov.au/vhw or call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) We hope everyone enjoys Veterans' Health Week 2025 when it comes around!

VALE

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing*
of the following members:

Service - Stanley Robinson

Affiliate - Ann Roughead

Affiliate - John Fleming

Affiliate - Colin Wisdom

Affiliate - Alan Easterbrook

Affiliate - Philip Head

Affiliate - Edna Nicholson

Affiliate - Robert Williams

Affiliate - Ron Findlay

Social - Helga Hannon

Social - Hubertus Deenen

Social - Lyn Ollington

Social - Luise Schwarz

Social - Ian Drysdale

Social - Lorraine Price

Social - Joan Lehmann

Social - Ian Brereton

Social - Alan Langley-Jones

*passed since March 25th and the
printing of this newsletter.