

## The 5000 Poppies project across Gippsland

### Wellington Shire

#### Briagolong Mechanics Institute

Tuesday November 10 – Saturday November 15

Avon St, Briagolong. <http://bmi.briagolong.com.au/>

11am – 5pm or by appointment (contact Margaret Anderson on 5145 5383)

#### For more information contact:

Deb Milligan, Regional Arts Victoria in partnership with Wellington Shire on 0427 842 328.

[dmilligan@rav.net.au](mailto:dmilligan@rav.net.au)

#### Briagolong RSL Log Cabin & Anzac Park

Wednesday November 11 throughout the day

Avon St, Briagolong

<http://www.rslvic.com.au/rsl-network/victorian-map-of-all-branches/briagolong/>

#### For more information contact:

Mark Wagstaff: President, Briagolong RSL. 0404 027 605

### Latrobe City

#### Morwell RSL

Elgin St, Morwell

6 – 19 November

Mon – Thurs: 10am - 1pm / Fri: 10am - 3pm / Sat: 10am - 1pm / Sun: 11am – Midnight

#### For more information contact:

Amanda Owen. Project Leader – Arts Events Tourism. 0419 548 638 / [amanda.owen@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:amanda.owen@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

### Baw Baw Shire

#### Warragul Public library

November 3-15

75 Victoria Street, Warragul

Ph: 5622 2848

[www.wgrlc.vic.gov.au](http://www.wgrlc.vic.gov.au)

Opening hours:

Mon - 9.30 - 6.00pm / Tues & Wed - 9.30 - 7.00pm / Thurs & Fri - 9.30 - 6.00pm / Saturday - 9.00 - 1.00pm

#### For more information contact:

Karen Whitaker Taylor, Cultural Development Officer, Baw Baw Shire Council

Ph: 5624 2407 / 0407 637 721 [Karen.Whitaker-Taylor@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:Karen.Whitaker-Taylor@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)

#### Trafalgar Art Space @ Trafalgar Railway Station

Wed 4 November – Sunday 15 November. Closed Mondays & Tuesdays, but always viewable through the windows.

#### For more information contact:

Anita George, President, Baw Baw Arts Alliance. 0437 562 215 or [info@bawbawartsalliance.org.au](mailto:info@bawbawartsalliance.org.au)

## **Bass Coast Shire**

### **Cowes RSL**

1 – 20 November

10am – midnight 7 days per week

225-243 Thompson Avenue COWES

Ph: 5952 1004

[www.pirsl.com.au](http://www.pirsl.com.au)

### **Wonthaggi RSL**

November 11, 2015

At Wonthaggi Cenotaph in Solders Reserve 10.30am

At Wonthaggi RSL 11.30am – 1.00pm.

60 Graham Street, Wonthaggi Vic 3995

Ph: 5672 3297

### **National Vietnam Veterans Museum**

Throughout November

25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven

Ph: 5956 6400

[www.vietnamvetmuseum.org](http://www.vietnamvetmuseum.org)

Open Daily: 10.00am – 5.00pm.

#### **For more information contact:**

Josephine Kent, Arts Officer, Bass Coast Council

5671 2211 / [j.kent@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:j.kent@basscoast.vic.gov.au)

## **East Gippsland Shire**

Week of 4th – 20th November

Poppy displays will be in various venues in five communities across East Gippsland Shire:

**Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Paynesville, Orbost and Omeo.**

#### **For more information contact:**

Andrea Court, Arts and Culture Coordinator **after November 4.**

Ph: 5153 9500 / 0408 707 543 [AndreaC@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:AndreaC@egipps.vic.gov.au)

#### **For more information about the tour in general, contact:**

Deb Milligan, Regional Arts Victoria in partnership with Wellington Shire on 0427 842 328.

[dmilligan@rav.net.au](mailto:dmilligan@rav.net.au)

## Background information

[5000 Poppies](#) are collaborating with [Creative Gippsland](#) and [Regional Arts Victoria](#) to bring this moving tribute of respect and remembrance to the people of Gippsland in November.

From its association with poppies flowering in the spring of 1915 on the battlefields of Belgium, France and Gallipoli, the poppy has become a symbol of both great loss in war and hope for those left behind. [5000 Poppies](#) is a beautiful, community tribute of respect and remembrance which started small and has now grown beyond all expectations. It struck such a chord that the project managers had to stop counting once they had received 257,000 hand crafted poppies! Many of these poppies came from regional areas including thousands from Gippsland.

Massed installations of the poppies will be on display throughout November 2015 in 10 different towns: Newhaven, Morwell, Warragul, Trafalgar, Briagolong, Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Paynesville, Orbost and Omeo.

## About the project (from Lynn Berry)

What began as a small personal tribute by two Australian women, to their fathers who both fought in World War II, has become a nationwide outpouring of respect and remembrance to those who have served their country in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Lynn Berry and Margaret Knight set out to crochet a humble 120 poppies to “plant” around the 14/32nd Battalion’s tree in the Avenue of Honour at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne for Remembrance Day in 2013. It was this simple tribute of love and honour that has sparked massive community interest, with an estimated 50,000 plus contributors to the nationwide project, and hundreds, if not thousands of smaller localised installations throughout Australia, as well as sister projects in New Zealand and Singapore.

The interest shown in the initial project by others encouraged Lynn and Margaret to take the project to the wider community, and in June 2013, 5000 Poppies was launched. By Remembrance Day 2013 more than 5,000 poppies had been sent in, and a year later more than 52,000. The total now stands at well in excess of 250,000, with poppies pouring in from all around the globe. Contributions came from all areas of the community .. children as young as two, right through to people aged 102, from many different backgrounds and cultures.

This breathtaking collection of beautiful handcrafted poppies has been the result ... and it is a stunning acknowledgement of the service and sacrifice of all of our servicemen and women and their families.

And, it has been made manifest through the amazing work of a wonderful group of contributors.

## Quote attributable to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum

*‘The National Vietnam Veterans Museum is proud to be home for a short time to a segment of the 5000 Poppies exhibit which was put on show in Federation Square for ANZAC day. We are very grateful to the organisers Lynne Berry and Margaret Knight for thinking of us and allowing us the opportunity to display this wonderful tribute of respect and remembrance to Australian servicemen and women for more than a century of service in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. The poppies create a colourful and moving backdrop to our Remembrance Gallery at the Museum. For those who didn’t get a chance to view the magnificent sight of these poppies in Fed Square, please come along to the NVVM and be amazed by the craftsmanship and beauty of this project. The contributions are truly remarkable and every poppy represents so many memories to their creators. They are truly a work of love’.*