

Newsletter

July 2025



RSL
Mount Barker
Sub Branch

**They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We will remember them.**



Changes at the Helm

Our dedicated President, Mark Tindale, has stepped down from his presidential duties due to personal circumstances. However, he remains an active and valued member of our sub-branch, continuing to contribute meaningfully in his new role as Vice-President. In response, Michael, who previously served as Vice-President, has graciously stepped up to take on the role of President. We sincerely thank him for his willingness to lead, especially on such short notice — a challenge not everyone would readily accept. We'll give Michael a little time to settle into his new role before asking him to share his words of wisdom in the next edition of the newsletter!

Also due to personal circumstances, Craig Runnells has stepped down from his role as Sub-Branch Secretary. We extend our best wishes to Craig and thank him for his contributions, wishing him all the very best in his future endeavours. Following Craig's departure, Ralph Strecker has kindly taken on the role of Secretary, with his wife Chris stepping in to support as Assistant Secretary. We're grateful to both for their willingness to serve in these important roles.

What's New in the Zoo

Other than a few changes to the Executive Committee, the sub-branch has kept its focus on connecting with the community and making everyone—new and familiar faces—feel welcome.

Now that winter's here, we've hit pause on our regular BBQs. So, for the time being, there won't be any BBQs at Aston Hills or out the front of the sub-branch. Don't worry though — we're still firing up the grill for special events and by invitation. On Thursday 26 June, Urban Cellars (right across the road from us) invited us to do a sausage sizzle outside their shop during one of their wine and drinks tastings. We set up the portable BBQ under a gazebo and served up hotdogs and sausages on bread. It turned out to be a great day — good sales and great vibes with the locals. We've already been invited back to run more BBQs on Saturday mornings at Urban Cellars once the weather improves — and we look forward to doing so.

General Meetings will now be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 1900hrs (7:00 PM). This change has been made to better align with Executive Committee availability. We appreciate your understanding and hope this adjustment does not cause significant inconvenience to our members.

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LEST WE FORGET

Dinner Menu—July



Friday 4th of July

- ✓ Roast Beef with Vegetables and Gravy
- ✓ Steamed Chocolate Pudding with White Chocolate Sauce



Friday 11th of July

- ✓ Chicken Parmigiana with Chips and Salad
- ✓ Warm Rhubarb Crumble with Custard



Friday 18th of July

- ✓ Battered Whiting with Chips and Coleslaw
- ✓ Sticky Date Pudding with Toffee Sauce



Friday 25th of July (Fellowship)

- ✓ Main meal to be advised
- ✓ Dessert to be advised

It's Winter and the Friday night dinners continue! Last Friday was a fellowship night and we had Mick's Grill (Mixed Grill) and homemade apple pies with custard. This went down a treat!

All are welcome—invite your friends and neighbours along for a two course meal and some good company in a friendly environment.

Cost is: \$22.00 for members
 \$22.00 for under 18yrs

\$25.00 for non-members
\$17.00 for children under 12yrs.

Bookings are essential and must be made by phone (text or in person) on **0436 934 286**. Bookings must be made by 12 noon on the Wednesday prior to the dinner.

"Your good deeds might seem invisible, but they leave a trail that is imprinted on the hearts of others"

~Anonymous



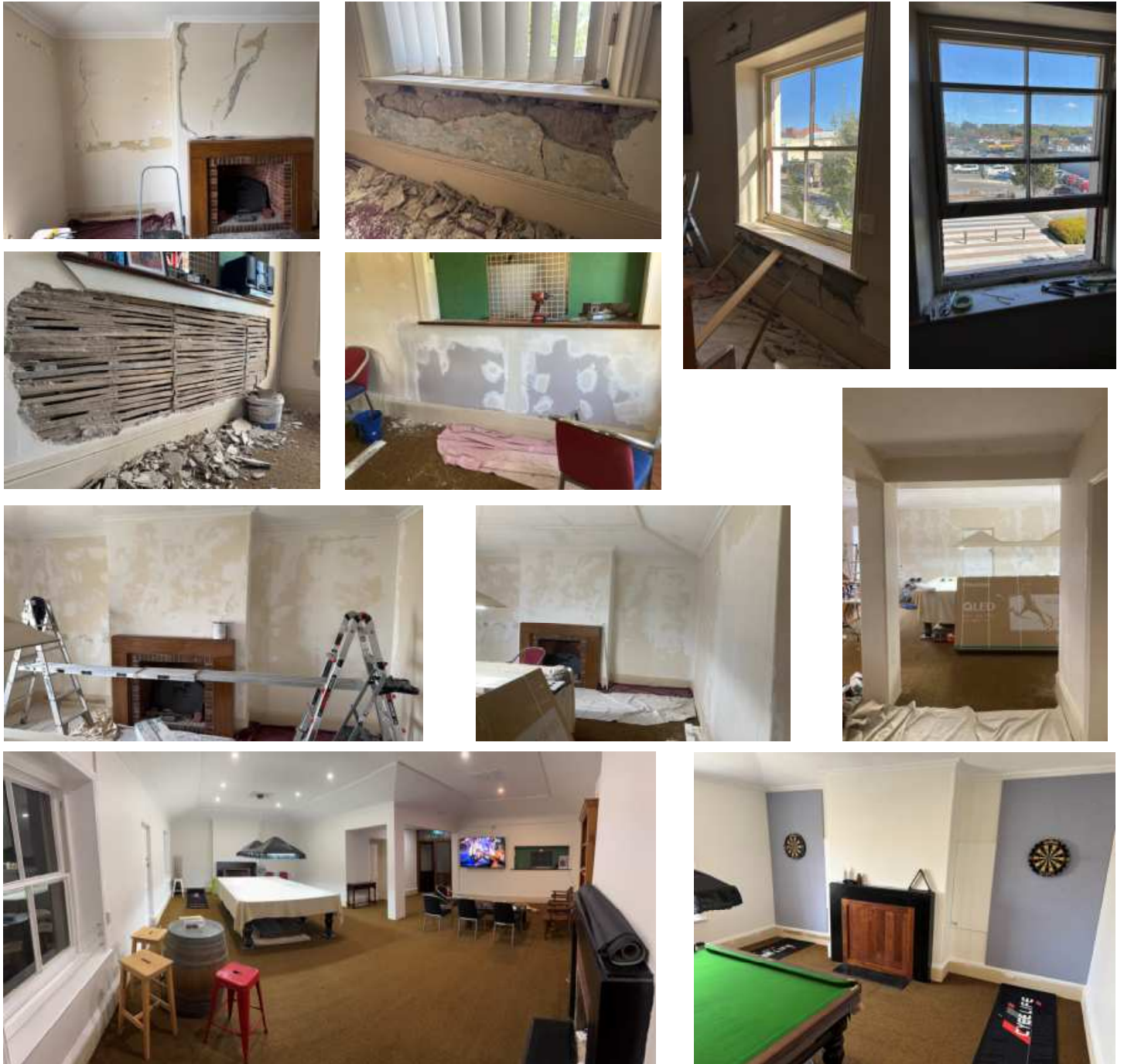
BINGO at the RSL

- ✓ Every Tuesday at the RSL, in the downstairs dinning area.
- ✓ Doors open at 12 midday - Eyes down at 1:00pm.
- ✓ 10 games plus a flyer game.
- ✓ Cash Prizes - Lucky Door Prize.
- ✓ We will always endeavour to have a snack available on the day at a mere cost of \$4.00
- ✓ Come along and bring your friends and neighbours for a fun afternoon.

Refurbishment of the 1st Floor

Last year, Ralph and Andy began discussing the feasibility of reopening the first floor of the building for use. The project initially began with the replacement of the balcony door, which was in terrible condition—full of holes and letting in the weather like a slice of Swiss cheese.

At first, it was thought a simple clean-up and a fresh coat of paint would be enough to get the space ready. Oh, how wrong they were. As soon as Ralph began scraping away the old paint, the real condition of the space became clear: the walls were badly cracked, sections of the ceiling were detaching, internal plaster was crumbling, and the windows were in a poor state. Massive undertaking and months of work ahead!



But how much did all this cost?

We're pleased to share that the renovation has come at no cost to the sub-branch—aside from the electricity used to power tools, lighting, and air-conditioning. All materials were generously donated by Ralph and Andy, who also carried out the majority of the work themselves. A special thanks goes to Kaleb, a local veteran and electrician, who kindly donated his time and materials to upgrade the lighting to energy-efficient LEDs. The newly refurbished area is yet to be named, and we'd love your input! If you have any suggestions, please forward them to the Secretary as soon as possible.



2025 Annual Sub-Branch Conference

107th Annual Sub-Branch Conference

On 29 June 2025, the RSL SA/NT/Broken Hill Sub-Branch Conference was held at the Torrens Training Depot. Michael and Ralph attended as representatives of the Mount Barker Sub-Branch. The conference was officially opened by Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia.

Both Michael and Ralph were impressed by how efficiently the event was run. Proceedings began just before 10:00 am and concluded by 1:00 pm—remarkably swift compared to similar conferences. Ralph noted that this might be an Australian record, as other state conferences he has attended typically span a full day or even two.

The Honourable Joe Szakacs MP, State Minister for Veterans' Affairs, addressed the delegates and reaffirmed the government's commitment to prioritising veterans' issues.

Ms Janice Silby, Deputy Commissioner of DVA SA, provided an update on the Department of Veterans' Affairs, outlining changes following the Royal Commission. She highlighted that with streamlined legislation coming into effect from July 2026, DVA will be better equipped to process claims and deliver improved outcomes for the veteran community. Ms Silby also noted that reforms have been underway since the interim report was released.

Acting State President Meredith Burgess and CEO Tara Belton presented their respective reports, all of which were formally voted on and carried by the delegates. The newly elected State President, Brad Flaherty, then addressed the assembly, and the incoming board members were introduced.

Assistance Dogs

Once again, the sub-branch has regular visits by an Assistance Dog. “Mozart” will often be in attendance at the sub-branch and at activities conducted by the sub-branch at other locations.

Some things to remember for all Assistance Dogs — Please!

Do

- ✓ Speak to the handler and ignore the dog.
- ✓ Know the dog enjoys working, is treated well and is loved.
- ✓ Understand that the dog is highly trained.
- ✓ Be aware that Assistance Dogs are allowed in public places, on public passenger vehicles and in places of accommodation.
- ✓ Teach or remind others that the dog is working.

Don't

- ✗ Don't touch the dog without permission—even if previously granted, circumstances may have changed.
- ✗ Don't talk to, call, make eye contact or make sounds at the dog.
- ✗ Don't be offended if you get a NO after asking to pat the dog.
- ✗ Don't ask personal questions about the handler's disability.
- ✗ Don't feed the dog or provide treats in any form.
- ✗ Don't give commands to the dog.



*Remember, Assistance Dogs should be considered as a medical device.
They are there to help their handler and are not there for your enjoyment!*

Please leave them alone to do their job!

Reminder

Now that we are halfway through the year, it is probably a good time to remind members of their commitment to the Code of Conduct. As part of the committee's ongoing commitment to maintaining the standards, values, and integrity of our organisation, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all members of their responsibilities as outlined in the RSL Constitution and By-Laws.

Upon joining the RSL, each member signed an application form agreeing to abide by the RSL Constitution and associated By-Laws. This agreement includes adherence to the RSL's Code of Conduct, which sets out the expectations for respectful and appropriate behaviour within our Sub-Branch and the wider RSL community.

These rules are in place to ensure a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all members and guests. It is the collective responsibility of every member to uphold these standards, thereby preserving the proud traditions and values of the RSL.

We thank all members for their continued commitment to the spirit and objectives of the League and trust that everyone will continue to support a positive and respectful culture within our organisation. If you have any questions or would like further clarification on the Constitution, By-Laws, or Code of Conduct, please feel free to contact a member of the Committee.



About the RSL

We are Australia's largest ex-service organisation, founded in 1916 to support veterans and their families. Initially focused on repatriation and medical services for WW1 veterans, the RSL's mission has evolved to address the changing needs of each generation of servicemen and women.

Core Functions:

- Veteran Welfare
- Advocacy
- Commemoration
- Support for Families
- Camaraderie
- Public Education

Membership

We are always looking to bring new members into our group! If you know anyone that may be interested in joining us, please pass them our contact details, or even just give them this newsletter.

No doubt, there are many Veterans out there in the community that have not thought about joining their local RSL. There are many more community members that we would like to invite into our ranks as well. They just need to be aware that we are here!

We are here to provide a place for the Veteran community and members of the community in general to mix, relax and enjoy some like-minded company.

Change of Contact Details

We don't want to lose contact with members. So please let the Secretary know if you change your address, phone or email details.

Newsletter Content

The intent will be to publish a newsletter at the beginning of the month. If you have anything of interest that you think could be included, please make contact with the Secretary.

Dates to Remember

<u>General Meetings</u>	<u>Committee Meetings</u>	<u>Commemorative Days</u>
Tuesday—5 Aug 2025 Tuesday— 2 Sep 2025 Tuesday—7 Oct 2025 Tuesday— 4 Nov 2025	Tuesday— 15 Jul 2025 Tuesday— 19 Aug 2025 Tuesday— 16 Sep 2025 Tuesday— 21 Oct 2025 Tuesday— 18 Nov 2025	27 Jul 2025—Korean Veterans' Day 18 Aug 2025—Vietnam Veterans' Day



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