

# Newsletter

August 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.**



## Presidential Ponderings

Greetings fellow members,

As we slowly shuffle toward the end of winter (and hopefully toward slightly less frost on the car windscreen), it's a great time to reflect on all that's been happening around our busy little Sub-Branch—and there's been plenty to smile about.

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who continues to support our weekly activities. From bingo cards flying on Tuesdays, to coffee-fuelled catch-ups on Wednesdays, and the ever-reliable Friday Night dinners, it's your involvement that keeps the place buzzing—not to mention helping keep the finances in good shape.

You may have noticed a few changes upstairs too! The new lounge space is now open and already proving to be a hit. Whether it's used for quiet chats, meetings, or simply a comfy place to relax away from the hustle and bustle, we hope it becomes a much-loved feature for all. We are now working on having a chair lift installed to allow our less mobile members and guests traverse the stairs.

We've also finally addressed the issue with the external wall—it's now safe, solid, and hopefully won't leak and creak ominously during rain events and strong winds! It's another step forward in keeping our club well-maintained and welcoming.

Looking ahead, our next project is the refurbishment of the front office. It's long overdue for a freshen-up, and we're excited to create a more functional space and are seeking to lease it to an appropriate individual—hopefully someone related to Veteran issues or welfare. See how we go!

As always, none of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, committee, and members. Whether you lend a hand, offer a suggestion, or simply show up with a smile, you're part of what makes this Sub-Branch special.

Stay warm, stay well—and I look forward to seeing you around the club soon.

### Inside this issue

|                                           |      |
|-------------------------------------------|------|
| Presidential Ponderings .....             | 1    |
| Secretaries Scribbles .....               | 2    |
| Treasurer's Tidbits .....                 | 2    |
| Vietnam Veterans' Day .....               | 3    |
| Dinner Menu .....                         | 4    |
| Bingo .....                               | 4    |
| Veteran Health & Wellbeing .....          | 5    |
| Feature Article (Part One) .....          | 6-15 |
| Our Supporters .....                      | 16   |
| 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary—Malaya ..... | 17   |
| Member's Day Out .....                    | 17   |
| Dates to Remember .....                   | 18   |

### General Information

- 23 Hutchinson Street  
MOUNT BARKER  
South Australia 5251
- ABN: 19 270 627 978
- President  
Michael Roberts  
[president@mountbarkerrsl.com.au](mailto:president@mountbarkerrsl.com.au)
- Secretary  
Ralph Strecker  
[secretary@mountbarkerrsl.com.au](mailto:secretary@mountbarkerrsl.com.au)
- Treasurer  
Rod Cooper  
[treasurer@mountbarkerrsl.com.au](mailto:treasurer@mountbarkerrsl.com.au)
- Phone: 0436 934 286

**LEST WE FORGET**

## Secretary's Scribbles

There's never a dull moment at the Sub-Branch—and that's just how we like it! Whether it's chasing paperwork, juggling event planning, or making sure Mozart isn't sneaking extra pats while pretending to be "on duty," the weeks seem to fly by. It's been fantastic to see such great attendance at our regular activities and events—each one a reminder of the strength and spirit of our community.

As always, communication is key, and I'm always happy to chat, hear your thoughts, or help where I can. I'm planning to be at the club (with Mozart) on Wednesdays from around 0800 to 1400. If you have a question, an idea, or just fancy a yarn, feel free to drop in. It's also the perfect opportunity to join us for morning tea at 1000—there's usually a hot cuppa, something savoury and sweet, and always plenty of friendly conversation.

Looking forward to seeing you around the club soon!

*Hi everyone, it's me—Mozart!*

*I've been loving all the friendly pats, chats, and attention lately... maybe a little too much! My trainers have noticed that I'm getting a bit distracted and starting to look for friends when I'm out in public—which, apparently, is not ideal for a working dog. Oops!*



*So, I've been told (very nicely) that I need to dial back the socialising. Even if you see me without my harness and jacket while I'm relaxing at the club, I'm still technically on duty. My best friend might let me get a bit more comfy, but I still need to keep my focus.*

*Thanks so much for understanding—and for helping me do the very important job of looking after my best friend. You're pawsome!*

---

***“Weak people revenge. Strong people forgive. Intelligent people ignore!”***

*~Albert Einstein*

---

## Treasurer's Tidbits

The finances of our Sub-Branch are looking pleasantly perky—like a bingo player holding a full card before the final number is called! This is largely thanks to a number of faithful weekly activities that have not only filled our bellies but also helped fill the bank account.

Over the winter months, we've been fuelled by the triple treat of Tuesday bingo, Wednesday Coffee and Chat, and our ever-popular Friday Night dinners. Bingo continues to be a serious sport for some—there's more tension in that hall than during a State of Origin match! Meanwhile, Coffee and Chat offers a delightful midweek dose of caffeine and conversation (and the occasional biscuit that mysteriously disappears when no one's looking). And let's not forget Friday dinners—where the meals are hearty, the company warm, and the jokes sometimes older than the meatloaf recipe.

A big thank you to all the champions who set up, cook, call numbers, pour tea, wash dishes, and generally keep the wheels turning. And of course, to those who show up and support these events—we couldn't do it without you.

With spring creeping closer (and hopefully warmer weather too), we're dusting off the tongs and preparing to fire up the BBQs once again. Our legendary fortnightly sausage sizzles will be back in action—so if you've missed the smell of grilled onions wafting through the car park, you're in luck. Our next BBQ is scheduled for Saturday, 9th August at Aston Hills. Come for the sausages, stay for the snags and snappy conversation!

**Why did the accountant break up with the calculator?**

Because they couldn't count on each other anymore!

# VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

Commemorative Service  
Mount Barker Cenotaph  
(Mann Street)  
18 August 2025 @ 11:00am

Light lunch and refreshments  
after at Mount Barker RSL



Lest We Forget

## Dinner Menu — August



### Friday 1st of August

- ✓ Butter Chicken with steamed rice and Flatbread
- ✓ Fruit Salad and Ice Cream



### Friday 8th of August

- ✓ Roast Lamb with Vegetables and Gravy
- ✓ Bread and Butter Pudding



### Friday 15th of August

- ✓ Crumbed Prawns with Chips and Salad
- ✓ Sticky Date Pudding with Toffee Sauce and Cream



### Friday 22th of August (Fellowship)

- ✓ Main meal will be created and served by members.
- ✓ Dessert will no doubt be something sweet!



### Friday 29th of August (Trivia Night)

- ✓ Bring your own nibbles to share!
- ✓ Bring something sweet too if you wish!

**New! All members are eligible for a FREE meal during the month of their Birthday!**

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.** Either in person or call/text **0436 934 286**.  
**Bookings must be made by 12 noon on the Wednesday prior.**

*"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit!"*

*~Harry S Truman*



## BINGO at the RSL

- ✓ Every **Tuesday** at the RSL, in the downstairs dining 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 very reasonable cost.

# Veteran Health and Wellbeing—Taking Care of You

---

As the seasons change and we transition from the cold grip of winter into the hopeful warmth of spring, it's an ideal time to pause and reflect on our health and wellbeing. For veterans and their families, this is especially important. The unique challenges faced by those who have served can impact physical health, mental wellness, and overall quality of life. Taking time to focus on yourself is not just beneficial—it's essential.

## **Stay Active, Stay Connected**

Physical activity is one of the most powerful tools for maintaining health. Regular movement keeps muscles strong, joints flexible, and the heart healthy. But it doesn't have to mean hitting the gym or training for a marathon. Gentle exercises such as walking, gardening, swimming, or even stretching can significantly improve your wellbeing. Plus, physical activity releases endorphins—natural mood boosters that help reduce feelings of stress and anxiety.

Importantly, staying active often goes hand-in-hand with social connection. Joining in on our club's weekly activities, like Tuesday bingo, Wednesday Coffee and Chat, or Friday Night dinners, isn't just about fun—it's about building a support network. Social interaction combats loneliness, keeps the mind sharp, and provides a sense of belonging that's vital for emotional health.

## **Mind Your Mental Health**

Mental health is just as important as physical health, yet it can sometimes be overlooked. Veterans may experience challenges such as post-traumatic stress, anxiety, or depression. These experiences are common and nothing to be ashamed of. Reaching out for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Remember, you're never alone. Trusted friends, family members, and healthcare professionals are there to listen and support you. Our Sub-Branch offers resources and a compassionate community ready to stand alongside you. Whether it's a friendly chat during morning tea or connecting you with professional help, we're here to support your mental wellbeing.

## **Nutrition and Rest**

What we eat directly impacts how we feel. A balanced diet rich in fresh vegetables, fruits, lean proteins, whole grains, and healthy fats can provide the energy and nutrients your body needs to thrive. Simple changes, like swapping processed snacks for nuts or fresh fruit, can have a positive effect.

Equally important is getting quality sleep. Rest is when our bodies repair and recharge. Poor sleep can affect mood, concentration, and physical health. Try to establish a relaxing bedtime routine, keep your sleeping environment comfortable, and aim for 7–9 hours of sleep each night.

## **Practical Tips for Everyday Wellbeing:**

- ✓ Schedule regular health check-ups—haven't seen your GP in a while? Make an appointment this month.
- ✓ Stay hydrated—especially as the weather warms!
- ✓ Set aside time each day for something you enjoy—Reading, gardening, hobbies, or simply relaxing.
- ✓ Reach out if you're feeling overwhelmed—There's no need to struggle alone; support is available.

## **Remember**

Taking care of your health and wellbeing isn't just about you—it's about your family, friends, and community who rely on your strength and presence. By prioritising self-care, you're better equipped to support those around you and enjoy a richer, fuller life.

As always, our Sub-Branch is here to help you on this journey. We encourage you to get involved, stay connected, and don't hesitate to ask for assistance when needed.

Here's to good health and good company as we welcome the new season!

## ADF Operations and Peacekeeping—Part One

One of our members asked me what Operations and Peacekeeping Missions that the ADF has been involved in since Vietnam. There was surprise when I said that there have been numerous instances and places around the globe that we have been, and still are, involved. I think the best thing to do is to show all Operations and Peacekeeping missions since WW2 as some have been long term and continue to this day (for example Korea). Australia's first peacekeeping involvement was 1947 when four officers were deployed to the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) as part of the United Nations Good Offices Commission.

Since that time, tens of thousands of Australians have served as members of a peacekeeping force and tragically, 16 have lost their lives. On 14 September each year, Australia observes National Peacekeepers Day.

This issue has Part One of Peacekeeping Missions and Operations that the ADF have been involved in which covers from WW2 up to 2001— I believe I have them all listed.

|           |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1947-1951 | Indonesia | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> The UN Good Offices Commission (UNGOC) was the first UN peacekeeping mission in which Australia was involved. At the end of WW2, the Dutch sought to re-establish their rule in the Dutch East Indies but were resisted by the newly established Indonesian republic. Australia became involved in August 1947 when locally based diplomatic staff were seconded to the UNGOC to assist in the delineation and supervision of the ceasefire and repatriation of Dutch forces to the Netherlands. Later in August, four more Australians joined the mission as military observers and the commitment increased to 15 when the UNGOC became UN Commission for Indonesia (UNCI) in 1949. The Australian contingent was withdrawn in April 1951. Total Australian commitment to the operation was approximately 45 ADF personnel.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1950-1963 | Malaya    | <b>Warlike.</b> During the early 1950s, Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency evolved significantly. Initially hesitant due to political concerns, Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies eventually agreed to send a transport squadron, No. 38 Squadron RAAF, to Malaya in May 1950. The outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950 further influenced Australia's stance, prompting the deployment of No. 1 Squadron's Lincoln bombers and military advisors to combat communist guerrillas. By the mid-1950s, Australia's commitment deepened with its entry into the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) and the establishment of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR) in Malaya. This reserve included infantry, bomber and fighter squadrons from the RAAF, and naval vessels. Although the Malayan government officially declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960, Australian forces remained in country committed to anti-communist operations until August 1963. |
| 1950-1985 | Kashmir   | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) was formed to report to the UN Security Council on the conflict between India and Pakistan over the future of Jammu and Kashmir. This was the first time that an ADF unit was involved in a peacekeeping mission. RAAF 38 Squadron Caribou aircraft were used to transport and resupply UN observers to areas high up the Indus Valley in the Himalayas and reduced the need for treacherous journeys by road. Australian involvement was approximately 280 ADF personnel including 96 RAAF personnel from 38 Squadron (DHC-4 Caribou). LTGEN Nimmo, CBE was the Chief Military Observer (Commander of UNMOGIP) and commanded UNMOGIP from October 1950 until his death by heart attack, on 4 Jan 1966.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1950      | Korea     | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> UN Commission on Korea (UNCOK) was originally established in 1948 as a diplomatic mission to monitor the withdrawal of WW2 occupation forces from Korea, and provide UN Good Offices for unification of the two regimes fostered by the USA and USSR as occupying powers. In May 1950, war loomed on the still divided Korean peninsula and military observers to undertake monitoring activities in the field supplemented UNCOK. By the eve of hostilities, only two Australian Observers remained on the ground in Korea. Whilst it was Australia's smallest peacekeeping contingent, it was one of the most important since they were the only UNCOK observers in place when North Korea invaded South Korea in late June 1950. Their thorough report proved that North Korea had initiated hostilities and provided evidence needed for the UN to intervene in South Korea.                                                                                                                   |

|              |                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1950-1956    | Korea                                             | <p><b>Warlike and Non-Warlike.</b> Approximately 17,000 ADF personnel were deployed to Korea as part of UN Command-Korea, including one Aircraft Carrier, two Destroyers, two Infantry Battalions with supporting arms and services, and a RAAF Fighter Squadron with supporting services. UNC-K was the UN's first peace restoration (peacemaking) operation. The operation was in response to the North Korean invasion of South Korea in an attempt to force re-unification of the peninsula. An armistice was concluded in 1953. This was Australia's largest combined service operation since WW2 Ships and units that were awarded the South Korean Presidential Unit Citation were: HMA Ships Anzac, Bataan, Condamine, Culgoa, Murchison, Shoalhaven, Sydney (including 805 Sqn, 808 Sqn, 815 Sqn), Tobruk, Warramunga and 77 Sqn (RAAF).</p> <p><b>Deceased: 339. Wounded: ~1200. Prisoners: 29.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1953–Present | Korea                                             | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC). At the end of the Korean War UNCMAC was established to supervise the Korean Armistice Agreement. It was the world's first attempt at collective security under the UN—Australia being one of 19 nations involved. The Australian contribution was called Operation LINESMAN. Currently it monitors the Comprehensive Military Agreement signed in 2018 by the two Koreas in regards to the demilitarised zone. Currently 3 ADF personnel are deployed as part of Operation LINESMAN.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1956–Present | Syria,<br>Jordan,<br>Lebanon,<br>Egypt,<br>Israel | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> Operation PALADIN is Australia's contribution to the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) that was established in 1948 to supervise the truce agreed at the conclusion of the first Arab/Israeli War. Currently the activities are spread across Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic. Australians serving with the Observer Group Lebanon have been kidnapped and maltreated by irregular militias. UNTSO remains as the UN's (and Australia's), longest ever peacekeeping mission. 12 ADF personnel are currently deployed as part of Operation PALADIN on a 12 month rotation. The total commitment over the period being approximately 700.</p> <p><b>Deceased:</b> Captain Peter McCarthy— 1988— vehicle struck landmine.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Jul-Dec 1958 | Lebanon                                           | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> UN Observer Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL) was established to ensure that there was no illegal infiltration of personnel or supply of arms or other materiel across the Syrian/Lebanese border. After the conflict had been settled, tensions eased and UNOGIL was withdrawn. Australian members of UNTSO were seconded to UNOGIL and were unarmed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1960-1961    | Congo                                             | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> United Nations Operation in the Congo (UNOC) was established when the Congolese government asked the UN for assistance when the newly independent nation erupted into violence. This large operation was the first UN peacekeeping mission with significant military capabilities. Australia provided two Army staff officers and a six person medical team through the International Red Cross. Although the medical team comprised serving and reserve military personnel, they wore Red Cross uniforms in an attempt to show neutrality. However the Congolese Force Republic and the Kasai rebels did not understand or respect the neutrality of the Red Cross. Australian Surgeon Commander Samuel Haughton said: <i>"We are under constant threat by both sides and trusted by neither, in spite of what we tried to do"</i>. The six Australian medical personnel were awarded the Red Cross Medal for Meritorious Service in recognition of their medical achievements under extreme duress.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1962-1973    | Vietnam                                           | <p><b>Warlike.</b> Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War began with a small commitment of 30 military advisors in 1962, and increased to a peak of 7,672 Australian personnel following a government decision to upgrade its military commitment in 1965. By the time the last Australian personnel were withdrawn in 1972, the Vietnam War had become Australia's longest war. It was Australia's largest force contribution to a foreign conflict since the Second World War, and was also the most controversial military action since the conscription controversy of World War I. Although initially enjoying broad support due to concerns about the spread of communism, an influential anti-war movement developed, particularly in response to the imposition of conscription. The withdrawal of Australia's forces from South Vietnam began in Nov 1970, when 8 RAR completed its tour of duty. By 11 Jan 1973, Australian involvement in hostilities in Vietnam had ceased. Nevertheless, Australian troops from the Australian Embassy Platoon remained deployed in the country until 1 Jul 1973, and Australian forces were deployed briefly in April 1975, during the fall of Saigon, to evacuate personnel from the Australian embassy. Approximately 60,000 Australians served in the war.</p> |

|              |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1962-1963    | West New Guinea              | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) was established to transfer West New Guinea from Dutch to Indonesian administration. In late Sep 1962, an outbreak of cholera was detected in West New Guinea on the Casuarina Coast, west of Merauke. The outbreak had claimed 1200 lives by the time a World Health Organisation medical team arrived. UNTEA asked Australia for a helicopter and pilot to help transport medical supplies and personnel to and from affected areas. Australia deployed a detachment of 11 personnel (four Army pilots, seven RAAF ground crew) and two Sioux helicopters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1963-1964    | Yemen                        | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> United Nations Yemen Observation Mission (UNYOM) was formed to observe and verify the implementation of a disengagement agreement between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Republic. Australia provided two observers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1964-2017    | Cyprus                       | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was established in 1964 to prevent further fighting between the country's Greek and Cypriot communities. Australia provided mainly a police contingent, however in the final years a small military deployment also became involved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1965-1985    | India/<br>Pakistan<br>Border | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> United Nations India-Pakistan Observation Mission (UNIPOM) was established to observe the ceasefire and withdrawal of all armed personnel to the positions held before 5 Aug 1965. This did not include Jammu and Kashmir (remained under UNMOGIP). A small group of 3 or 4 ADF personnel served in the related mission. In 1985, with no end to the conflict in sight, the Australian observers were withdrawn. The Australian Government considered Australia was overcommitted to the UN at that time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1973-1979    | Israel, Egypt                | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> UN Emergency Force Two (UNEF II) was established in Oct 1973 to supervise the ceasefire between Egyptian and Israeli forces and, following the conclusion of the agreements of 18 Jan 1974 and 4 Sep 1975, to supervise the redeployment of Egyptian and Israeli forces and to control the buffer zones established under those agreements. The mandate for this mission expired in Jul 1979 and the troops were withdrawn in Aug 1979. ADF deployed a 46 person detachment from 5 Sqn RAAF (Iroquois helicopters) on six month rotations and an Army Staff Officer and Warrant Officer on a 12-month tour to HQ UNEF. Total ADF personnel involved was 280.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1974-Present | Israel/Syria<br>Border       | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> Operation FORTITUDE is the ADF contribution to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). UNDOF was established to maintain the ceasefire between Israel and Syria and to supervise the areas of separation and limitation, as provided in the May 1974 Agreement on Disengagement. Number of ADF personnel currently deployed is two.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1979-1980    | Rhodesia /<br>Zimbabwe       | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> Between Dec 1979 and Mar 1980, 152 members of the ADF served in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) as part of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force (CMF). This deployment of Australian forces grew out of the civil war that had taken place in the former country of Rhodesia. In 1979 the UK sponsored negotiations to end the war, and in December that year, the warring parties agreed that Britain would temporarily assume control of the country. Elections would then be held to determine a new government. Britain would lead a peacekeeping force, consisting of about 1500 troops, mainly from Britain, but with contingents from Australia, New Zealand, Kenya and Fiji. The Australian elements were largely spread throughout the force, which consisted of a headquarters and three groups. The CMF were armed as well as conducting the monitoring of the ceasefire and elections. |
| 1982-1984    | Uganda                       | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> Australians served in Uganda as part of the Commonwealth Military Training Team Uganda (CMTTU). Political tension, corruption and conflict between tribal groups and the Ugandan military had ravaged the country for decades. Seven countries from the Commonwealth of Nations agreed to help train and discipline the Uganda National Liberation Army which was formed after the overthrow of Idi Amin. The aim was to safeguard the civilian population and rebuild Uganda as a stable society. The ADF deployed a 5-person contingent to join the 36 person multinational training team. In total, four 6-monthly rotations of training personnel (total 20 personnel) were deployed to Uganda. By the time the Australians left, they had helped to train more than 3,500 Ugandan military personnel in tactics, fieldcraft and weapons handling.                                  |

|                           |                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1982-1986<br>1993-Present | Sinai                                          | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> Initial Deployment (1982-1986) - Australia initially deployed personnel to the Sinai as part of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in response to the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, which involved the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai. The MFO is a non-UN organisation established in 1981 to oversee long-standing peace agreements between Egypt and Israel. The MFO is made up of 13 troop contributing nations including Australia. ADF contributions during this period was 1,152 personnel.</p> <p>Return to the Sinai (1993—ongoing). After a brief period of no Australian involvement, the ADF returned to the Sinai as part of Operation MAZURKA in 1993 and has had a continuous presence since. The ADF contingent assists in the peace process by monitoring the border, preparing daily operation briefings and supporting the MFO Headquarters. The ADF contingent of up to 30 persons is comprised of Navy, Army and Air Force personnel with deployments of between 6-9 months at a</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1988-1991                 | Iran                                           | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> On 9 Aug 1988, the UN established the Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) after both Iran and Iraq agreed to a ceasefire. 400 military personnel from 27 countries participated in that group. Australian peacekeepers served on the Iranian side of the border because Iraq had forbidden any Australian peacekeepers from being in its territory. The ADF deployed 4 contingents of 15 personnel (total 60) each spending 6 months in Iran.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1989-1990                 | Namibia                                        | <p><b>Warlike.</b> Australian peacekeepers were some of the first deployed as part of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) to Namibia in 1989. At the time, Namibia had been occupied by South Africa since 1915. In 1966, the people of Namibia rose up against South African forces to fight for independence. The conflict continued for decades, crossing into neighbouring countries of Angola and Zambia. As part of the UNTAG mission, Australia agreed to send two contingents of approximately 300 engineers and officers on each rotation. Military operations were fairly straight forward. The UNTAG military force worked to reduce fighting and tension between the South African Defence Force and SWAPO forces by restricting their movement. The Australian engineers worked alongside both, in a military and civil capacity, making them a crucial part of UNTAG's success. Total commitment was 613 (Royal Australian Engineers, one RAAF officer, five Military Police and three Royal Australian Signallers) on two rotations.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1989-1993                 | Afghanistan, Pakistan                          | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> The Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan for about 10 years, beginning in 1979. This decade of fighting led to millions of landmines and unexploded ordnance across the country. In early 1989, the UN Mine Clearance Training Team (UNMCTT) was set up in Pakistan. At first, its aim was to train Afghan refugees to recognise and clear mines and ordnance. This role broadened to include planning and supervision of mine clearance activities in Afghanistan. Later that same year, Australia began sending personnel on 4-month long tours with UNMCTT under codename Operation SALAAM. Over the next few years, 92 Australian Combat Engineers were deployed to Pakistan and Afghanistan. In April 1991, the head of the UN's office coordinating humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, told the Australian ambassador in Geneva that the Australians were regarded as 'being among the best we have had'. On 1 February 1993, a security assessment concluded that the risk to foreigners was high in Afghanistan and medium in Pakistan. That same day, four UN officials were murdered on the main road from Peshawar in Pakistan to Jalalabad in Afghanistan. Australians were withdrawn from Jalalabad and Afghan operations suspended. In Australia, there was disagreement about whether Australians should stay despite the high security risks. Ultimately, the Minister for Defence decided to withdraw the Australians.</p> |
| 1990-1991                 | Persian Gulf, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> Maritime Interception Force (MIF 1). Australian codename Operation DAMASK I and Operation DAMASK II was in response to the Second Gulf War which commenced on 2 August 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait. UN Resolution 665 called on UN members to contribute naval forces to assist in implementing associated trade sanctions. Australia contributed a Naval Task Group of 3 ships, Liaison Officers and Logistics support. The initial Naval Task Group for Operation DAMASK I consisted of HMAS Adelaide, Darwin and Success. On 3 December as part of Operation DAMASK II, HMAS Sydney and Brisbane replaced HMAS Adelaide and Darwin. Total estimated ADF personnel</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|              |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1990-Ongoing | Worldwide                                                                | <b>Humanitarian.</b> Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Operations. So far have included Afghanistan, Balkans, Cambodia, Christchurch, East Timor, Great Lakes (Africa), Haiti, Iraq, Japan, Mozambique, Northern Iraq, Samoa, South Sudan, South Vietnam, Indian Ocean, Pakistan and Ukraine. Examples where Australia has assisted in Humanitarian and Disaster Relief operations include Papua New Guinea and West Irian drought relief, the Indian Ocean and Japan Tsunami disasters, British Columbia wildfires, Pakistan floods, Christchurch earthquakes, Nepal earthquakes, MH-17 air disaster in Ukraine and Pacific cyclone disasters. ADF members are entitled to the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1991         | Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, The Persian Gulf | <b>Warlike.</b> On 29 Nov 1990, UN gave Iraq six weeks to withdraw from Kuwait and authorised UN members to “use all necessary means” if Iraq failed to comply. The operation to liberate Kuwait commenced with air and maritime campaigns in the early morning of 17 Jan 1991 followed by a massive ground offensive. Australia with it’s pre-positioned ships operating in the Gulf and Red Sea areas were included into the operation. Further additions of Clearance Diving Teams, Intelligence and Medical and Surgical support were also involved. 18 ADF personnel who were on exchange postings to various British and US units deployed with their foreign unit to the Gulf. ADF personnel involved was 1,812.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1991         | Iraqi Kurdistan                                                          | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> The 1991 uprisings in Iraq were a series of anti-governmental intifada (rebellions) in Southern and Northern Iraq during the aftermath of the Gulf War (Mar 1991—Apr 1991). On 16 May 1991, 75 ADF personnel were deployed to Kurdistan, northern Iraq as Australia's Contribution to the multinational response known as Operation PROVIDE COMFORT. The codename for the Australian contingent was Operation HABITAT. Four medical teams of five personnel each were deployed. Each team had an interpreter attached. A dental team, preventative health team, engineering section and headquarters/administration support group were also deployed. The medical teams operated in a area approximately 500km <sup>2</sup> . More than 3000 patients were seen by the ADF medical teams, with over 80% of those being paediatric. Fragmentation injuries were reasonably common due to the vast number of land mines and unexploded ammunition littered across the countryside. By the time the ADF personnel had completed Operation HABITAT on 30 Jun 1991, life for the Kurdish people was returning to normal and health in the region was rapidly improving.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1991-1993    | Thailand/Cambodia Border                                                 | <b>Warlike.</b> Australians were the first main body of international troops to arrive as part of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), established in Oct 1991 to observe a shaky ceasefire between warring Cambodian factions. 65 Australian Signallers and support staff, including special forces, provided essential communications between UNAMIC personnel in a country with little workable infrastructure. The Australian contingent (codenamed Operation GOODWILL) served in Phnom Penh and in small detachments throughout the countryside. On 14 Mar 1992, United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) replaced UNAMIC. UNTAC (Australian codename Operation GEMINI) continued to oversee the ceasefire while preparing for elections to help bring and end to factional violence. In May 1993, six Australian Black Hawks, supported by an infantry platoon, joined the growing international force to provide additional security and transport capabilities. ADF commitment to UNTAC was 1,279 personnel.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1991-1994    | Western Sahara, Algeria, Morocco                                         | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> UN Mission For The Referendum In Western Sahara (MINURSO). Since Spain’s unilateral withdrawal from the Western Sahara territory in 1976, the Frente POLISARIO (POLISARIO Front), the politico-military organization who represent the Saharawi people, had fiercely resisted annexation by neighbouring Morocco. A guerrilla war continued until 1991 when the UN brokered a cease-fire. MINURSO was established to: monitor the ceasefire; monitor the confinement of Moroccan and POLISARIO Front troops to designated locations; ensure the release of all Western Saharan political prisoners or detainees; verify the reduction of Moroccan troops in the Territory; oversee the exchange of prisoners of war; implement the repatriation programme (UNHCR); identify and register qualified voters; and to organize and ensure free and fair referendum and proclaim the results. Australia provide the mission’s 45-strong Force Communications Unit from 1991 to 1994. On 21 Jun 1993, Army Doctor Major Susan Felsche, was killed in a Medical Unit aircraft crash. She was the first Australian female soldier to die in a multinational peacekeeping operation and the first Australian servicewoman to die in an overseas military operation since WW2. Total ADF commitment was 219 personnel.<br><br><b>Deceased:</b> Major Susan Felsche—aircraft crash. |

|           |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1991-1998 | Iraq                                   | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> In Apr 1991, UN imposed a peace agreement and disarmament provisions on Iraq and established a UN Special Commission. UNSCOM was tasked with locating and supervising the destruction of Iraqi nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction capabilities. Australia deployed between 2 and 6 ADF personnel and scientific experts to UNSCOM as part of Operation BLAZER. The Commission wound up operations in 1999, due to Iraqi accusations that the British and US used spying methods to detect Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. At the centre of the controversy, was UNSCOM's Commissioner—Australian Richard Butler. Total contribution of ADF personnel was 96.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1991-2003 | Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Red Sea     | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> UN Maritime Interception Force II (MIF II). Following the liberation of Kuwait, UN sanctions continued against Iraq because it continued to defy Security Council Resolutions. Operation DAMASK III was enacted and HMAS Westralia, Darwin, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Parramatta rotated through on approximately six-month deployments. ADF commitment of 2,000+ personnel.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1992      | Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia | <b>Warlike.</b> UN Protection Force in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia (UNPROFOR) was established in Feb 1992 as an interim arrangement to create the conditions of peace and security required for the negotiation of an overall settlement of the Yugoslavian crisis. UN troops were to ensure that areas designated as "UN-Protected Areas" (UNPA) became and remained demilitarized and that all persons residing in these areas were protected from fear of armed attack. ADF deployment of 4 Officers including the Chief Military Observer of UNPROFOR.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1992-1993 | Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti     | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> In late 1990 and through 1991, Somalia collapsed into clan warfare and then civil war. During 1992, civil war worsened and the country effectively ceased to function as a nation state. Mass starvation and anarchy followed. In Sep 1992, the UN stepped in to protect the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to reconstitute Somalia as a functioning political, social and economic entity. The UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM I) was established. The Australian government agreed to the deployment of a contingent of Australian Defence Force personnel codenamed Operation IGUANA. 36 ADF personnel were deployed as part of the operation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1992-1993 | Somalia                                | <b>Warlike.</b> By late 1992, the catastrophic situation in Somalia had outstripped the UN's ability to quickly restore peace and stability, mainly because the UN was hamstrung by insufficient forces and UN peacekeeping principles and methods could not cope with the need to use force in such complex situations. On 3 Dec 1992 UN authorised a coalition of UN members, under US command, to form Unified Task Force in Somalia (UNITAF) and intervene to protect the delivery of humanitarian assistance and restore peace. UNITAF was used as an interim force until UNOSOM II came into being. As part of Operation SOLACE, the ADF deployed an Infantry Battalion plus supporting elements, including a squadron of Armoured Personnel Carriers, HQ Staff, Engineers, Communications and Electronic Warfare Detachments, and Administrative elements; and HMAS Tobruk. The RAAF were also used to move the Australian Forces to and from the Area of Operations from Australia and conducted regular resupply missions. Total estimated personnel involved was 1,500. LCPL Shannon McAliney was accidentally shot dead on patrol on 2 Apr 1993. |
| 1993-1994 | Somalia                                | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> Operation IGUANA was continued as part of Second UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). On 5 May 1993, UNITAF handed over to a reinforced UNOSOM II. The Australian Battalion Group withdrew to Australia. The new ADF contingent provide Movement Control, Air Traffic Control, some HQ Staff and a Ready Reaction Team at the Mogadishu airport (mainly SAS with 126 Sig Sqn). Total personnel involved was 170.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1993-1999 | Cambodia                               | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> The Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) was established through UNTAC in 1992, in order to assist the safe return of thousands of refugees to their homelands across the country. Operation BANNER was the codename for the Australian contingent. CMAC had a mandate to provide mine awareness training to the people of Cambodia and be conducting minefield, and unexploded ordnance, survey marking and clearance operations. The ADF deployed an estimated 40 personnel as part of this operation with 6-8 Officer, Warrant Officer and SNCO's on 6 month                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|           |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1994      | Haiti  | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> The Multinational Force (MNF), Haiti, was authorised by the UN Security Council in Jul 1994 after President Aristide (democratically elected) was overthrown in a coup de 'tat. The violent and unconstitutional actions of the Haitian military forces were immediately and strongly condemned by the international community. Military involvement in Haiti began on 19 Sep 1994, in which the US led a 28 nation MNF into Haiti—unopposed. On 28 Sep 1994 the Commander-In-Chief of the Haitian forces resigned. The ADF deployed three personnel and the Australian Federal Police deployed a number of officers. This was the first overseas mission where Australian Police Officers were armed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1994      | PNG    | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> Since 1988, the Island of Bougainville had seen a protracted guerrilla war against the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF). The guerrillas – the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), were fighting for independence from PNG, attempting to establish an autonomous Country, rich in mineral resources. In an attempt to bring peace and stability to the region, Australia led a peacekeeping force (codenamed Operation LAGOON) to broker a peace agreement between the PNG Government and the BRA, with a view to hold free and fair elections in the long term. This force was known as the South Pacific Peacekeeping Force (SPPKF), which deployed between 4-21 Oct 1994. Tasked with providing security for the Peace conference held in Arawa, the SPPKF was deployed to cover four neutral zones. Team Sites were established to each of the four neutral zones, with a HQ established in Arawa. Support was provided by Tonga, Fiji and Vanuatu in the provision of Infantry troops, with New Zealand providing additional C-130 aircraft. The Bougainville Revolutionary Army, (BRA), not trusting the allegiance of the SPPKF with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF), did not attend the Peace conference. As a result the conference collapsed. The operation lasted less than three weeks with only limited success in that an agreement was signed committing the island to long term peace. ADF deployed was approximately 800 personnel.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1994-1996 | Rwanda | <b>Warlike.</b> Fighting between Rwanda's Hutu-led government forces and the Tutsi-led Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) began in Oct 1990 near the Uganda border. Despite several ceasefires, conflict resumed in early 1993. At the joint request of Rwanda and Uganda, the UN became involved in 1993 to monitor the border. In Oct 1993, the UN established the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). The UN sought troop contributions but it took five months to reach the full force of 2,548. Ongoing political disagreements delayed the peace agreement's implementation, and the transitional government was never inaugurated. In Apr 1994, the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi died in a plane crash in Kigali, triggering mass ethnic and political violence. Tutsi and moderate Hutus were targeted by government forces, the presidential guard, and militia groups. The RPF resumed its offensive, and government control collapsed. An interim government failed to stop the genocide as the RPF advanced, causing mass displacement. On 28 Apr 1994, 280,000 fled to Tanzania; others to Zaire. Despite growing violence, the UN reduced UNAMIR troops from 2,548 to 270 under pressure, though peacekeepers still protected many civilians. UNAMIR was unable to halt the genocide, and Belgium withdrew its forces. On 17 May, the UN expanded UNAMIR to 5,500 (UNAMIR II), and tasked it with protecting civilians and aiding refugees. France led "Operation Turquoise," creating a humanitarian zone until Aug, after which UNAMIR resumed control. In Jul 1994, the RPF took over Rwanda, ending the civil war and forming a new government committed to peace and refugee return. By Oct, over 500,000 were estimated dead, 2 million had fled abroad, and another 2 million were displaced. In Sep, a UN Commission confirmed that Hutu extremists had committed genocide against the Tutsi in a systematic, planned manner. The final report was submitted in Dec 1994. Australia sent two medical contingents to support UNAMIR II in Rwanda. The first, known as AUSMED, arrived in Aug 1994 with 308 personnel from all military branches. Based at the damaged Kigali Central Hospital, they provided critical medical services including the only working ICU, X-ray center, and blood bank in Rwanda. Though tasked to assist UN troops, most of their patients were Rwandans. They also trained local staff and offered outreach care in rural areas, supported by protective infantry. The second contingent arrived in February 1995 and included infantry, engineers, and reserve medical specialists. On 19 April, 32 Australians were deployed to the overcrowded Kibeho refugee camp, home to Hutus—some possibly involved in the genocide—who were being harassed by the RPF. Between 20–23 April, the RPF attacked, killing around 4,000 people. Despite being under threat and unable to intervene due to UN rules, the Australians treated hundreds of wounded and helped evacuate many to Kigali. Their presence likely prevented a greater massacre. Following Kibeho, Australians shifted focus to training Rwandan staff and handed over duties to a Norwegian civilian team in August 1995. Total ADF deployed was 652 personnel. |

|              |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1994-2002    | Mozambique                    | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> The UN established a mission in Oct 1992 to monitor ceasefire terms, disarmament, foreign troop withdrawal, security of infrastructure, and electoral and humanitarian processes in Mozambique. Australia contributed engineer instructors to support ONUMOZ's demining program, focusing on mine awareness and clearance.</p> <p>ADF contribution was estimated at 31 Engineers conducting instructional support (2 persons per deployment). This contribution ended in January 2002 after the UN mandate shifted to an NGO-led effort.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1997         | Guatemala                     | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> In Sep 1994, the UN established MINUGUA, a civilian and humanitarian peacekeeping mission in Guatemala to address ongoing human rights abuses. On 13 Feb 1997, Australia contributed one ADF observer to monitor the ceasefire between the Guatemalan Government and the revolutionary forces. The mission ended on 12 May 1997.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1997-1998    | PNG, Indonesia (West Irian)   | <p><b>Humanitarian.</b> Operation Ples Draï. This was a combined ADF / PNGDF operation to support drought relief operations in PNG following disastrous droughts. Australia contributed a Logistical force (including helicopters) to provide food, water and medical relief to thousands of people in PNG and West Irian.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1997-2003    | PNG (Bougainville & Buka Is.) | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> The Bougainville rebellion (1989–1998), led by Francis Ona declaring independence in 1993, caused 5,000–20,000 deaths from conflict, starvation, and disease. Operation BEL-ISI was a Pacific-led truce and peace monitoring force involving Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Australia, New Zealand, and Solomon Islands. On Apr 30, 1998, command shifted from New Zealand's Truce Monitoring Group to Australia's Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) after a ceasefire agreement. This also was the commencement of Operation BEL-ISI II. The PMG, with about 100 personnel, helped broker peace, granting Bougainville control over its public services, courts, police, and taxation. Australia contributed logistics staff, civilians as observers, and election personnel. The ADF deployed 250 logistics, communications, HQ Staff and Monitors with a total number deployed being around 2,400. The Australian contingent for OP BEL ISI II was restricted to 70 ADF personnel.</p> <p><b>Deceased:</b> Lance Corporal Shawn Lewis - drowned (diving accident).</p> |
| 1998         | Kuwait                        | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> Multinational Military Deployment Kuwait. Codenamed Operation POLLARD, Australia contributed to military assistance in an area of all sea, airspace and land North and West from 5°S and 68°E and encompassing the outer boundaries of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan and Kenya. As tensions grew high between Saddam Hussein and American President Bill Clinton during the simmering Gulf Conflict, the Australian Government was requested to provide military assistance to the United States-led Coalition Force in the Middle East. The ADF deployed 1 x B707 Air Refueller, 1 x SAS Squadron and 1 x ADF Liaison Officer. Total deployed was approximately 200 personnel.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1999-ongoing | Kosovo                        | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> Following UNSCR 1244, NATO launched Operation Joint Guardian, deploying KFOR to Kosovo starting 12 Jun 1999 after Serbian forces withdrew by 20 June. NATO Force in Kosovo (KFOR), a 50,000-strong multinational force under unified NATO command, was divided into brigades led by Britain, France, Germany, USA, and Italy, with contributions from 37 countries. Australians have served from time-to-time whilst attached to British units since 1999. The number of ADF personnel deployed at any one time varied between 1 and 4 personnel.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|           |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1999      | East Timor | <p><b>Warlike.</b> The former Portuguese colony known as Portuguese Timor was occupied by Indonesia from 1975. In 1999, after 25 years of Indonesian rule, Indonesia agreed to a United Nations sponsored referendum for independence shortly after Indonesia's first democratic elections.</p> <p>The United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) was established to organise and conduct the vote at the end of Aug 1999. The Security Council Resolution of 11 Jun 1999 authorised 'the deployment within UNAMET of up to 280 civilian police officers to act as advisers to the Indonesian Police in the discharge of their duties and, at the time of the consultation, to supervise the escort of ballot papers and boxes to and from the polling sites'. The resolution also authorised 'the deployment within UNAMET of 50 military liaison officers to maintain contact with the Indonesian Armed Forces in order to allow the Secretary-General to discharge his responsibilities under the General Agreement and the Security Agreement'.</p> <p>UNAMET oversaw East Timor's referendum on independence or integration with Indonesia, resulting in a 4-to-1 vote for independence—the first free election for the East Timorese. Following the vote, Indonesian military and pro-Indonesian militias launched widespread violence, killing many and displacing nearly half a million people. The UN temporarily withdrew, recalling most Australian personnel. With continued unrest, Indonesia agreed to a multinational peacekeeping force. The UN authorized INTERFET, an Australian-led mission, which began deploying to East Timor on 16 Sep 1999 to restore order. As part of Operation FABER, the Australian Government deployed 45 Military Liaison Officers and over 250 Australian Federal Police officers.</p> |
| 1999-2000 | East Timor | <p><b>Warlike.</b> Between 6–19 Sep 1999, under Operation SPITFIRE, ADF Special Forces evacuated 2,475 people from East Timor. Due to escalating violence, the UN authorized the Australian-led INTERFET mission to restore order, protect UNAMET, and support humanitarian aid. INTERFET began deploying on 16 Sep and grew into a 23-nation coalition with over 11,000 personnel—and the largest Australian deployment since WWII. Major General Peter Cosgrove commanded INTERFET. Australian forces, including 3 RAR, 2 RAR, and later 5/7 RAR, rapidly secured key areas like Dili airport and port. Within 24 hours, 1,500 troops were deployed, and nearly 3,000 by day two. The 5/7 RAR Battalion Group relieved 2 and 3 RAR by mid-Oct, enabling broader security operations. By day 30, 80% of East Timor had returned to stability. In January 2000, 5/7 RAR took over the northern border region, facing continued militia incursions from West Timor. On 21 Feb 2000, they became the first Australian infantry battalion permanently assigned to a UN force since Korea. They handed over to 6 RAR on Anzac Day. INTERFET concluded on 23 Feb 2000, transitioning control to the UN peacekeeping mission, UNTAET. Number of ADF personnel deployed peaked at 5,700 at the end of Nov 1999.</p> <p><b>Deceased:</b> Lance Corporal Russel Eisenhuth—illness.<br/>Sergeant Andrew Emmerton—suicide.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2000-2002 | East Timor | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> Australia contributed an Infantry Battalion Group force to the western border region (Sector West) of East Timor to prevent insurgency operations by the Aitarak Militia forces and under command UN Peacekeeping Force (PKF) Headquarters. Australia also contributed a Communications Management Team working to the PKF HQ providing commercial standard telecommunications, telephone, data and communications infrastructure, installations and management. Additionally deployed were landing craft, Black Hawks, an Australian National Command Element, RAAF and RAN Support and Logistical units. Australia remained the largest contributor of personnel to the peacekeeping mission. Australian troops were gradually drawn down over several years after 2000, however major rioting in Dili in May 2006 prompted more Australian Defence Force members to be deployed to East Timor as part of Operation ASTUTE. The ADF deployed between 1500 and 2000 personnel on a 4-6 month posting cycle with an estimated total of 7,500 personnel deployed.</p> <p><b>Deceased:</b> Corporal Stuart Jones—accidental weapon discharge.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

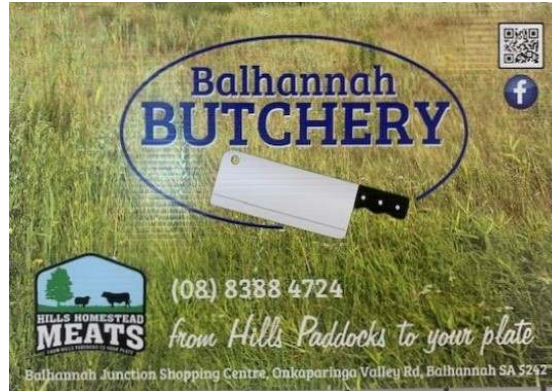
|           |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2002-2005 | East Timor         | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) was established in 2002 when Timor-Leste became internationally recognised as an independent state. The mission provided assistance to the new government. This included law enforcement, and internal and external security. It helped develop the new Timor-Leste police service. ADF operation was named Operation CITADEL. It comprised 3200 personnel and were tasked with staffing headquarters, managing logistics, engineering and military liaison.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2005-2006 | Timor-Leste        | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) supported the development of critical state institutions and democratic governance in the new nation. The Australian Operation CHIRON provided 4 of the 15 military advisors from contributing nations. 6 ADF personnel were deployed during the operation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2006-2012 | Timor-Leste        | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) was established to support the government in consolidating stability; enhance a culture of democratic governance and facilitate political dialogue among Timorese stakeholders. Operation TOWER comprised 4 ADF personnel and 50 police at any time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2006-2013 | Timor-Leste        | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> International Stabilisation Force (ISF) was established due to a domestic security crisis, including widespread violence and civil unrest. Under Operation ASTUTE, the ADF deployed 1800 personnel to assist in evacuation of foreigners, restore stability and confine conflict to secured areas, locate and assess weapons and assist in communication between conflicting groups.</p> <p><b>Deceased:</b> Private Ashley Baker—suicide.<br/>Craftsman Beau Pridue—motor vehicle accident.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2000-2003 | Solomon Islands    | <b>Non-Warlike.</b> Operation PLUMBOB and Operation TREK. An International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT) was established of which the ADF provided approx 6 pers (communicators and Special Forces). The remainder of the IPMT were civilians, drawn mainly from Australia, NZ and a small number from other Pacific countries. The Townsville Peace Accord resulted in the parties centralising weapons. The ADF provided the containers and using mainly HMAS Manoora choppers, positioned them where required. HMAS Manoora deployed to the Solomon Island three times (incl Op PLUMBOB). The other ships mentioned had one deployment. They all acted as a base for holding talks. In order to assist the Solomon Islands government with an internal factional struggle, Australia committed a Logistics support team and HMAS Kanimbla to monitor the cease-fire to the civilian war. The RAN vessels provided for Op TREK were used as the peace agreement platform, with New Zealand Naval support. Total Australians deployed were an estimated 1200 ADF and 66 AFP personnel. |
| 2001-2003 | Sierra Leone       | <b>Warlike.</b> In January 2001, Australia responded to a British request for advisers to assist the International Military Advisory Training Team mission in Sierra Leone (IMATT–SL) in its task of rebuilding the newly raised Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) in West Africa. Codenamed Operation HUSKY, the Australian commitment lasted for two years and consisted of an infantry captain and an infantry major deployed to act as a battalion and brigade adviser respectively. Each contingent deployed for a six-month tour of duty until the Australian mission concluded in 2003. Total of 17 ADF personnel deployed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2001-2005 | Ethiopia / Eritrea | <p><b>Non-Warlike.</b> In Jun 2000, Ethiopia and Eritrea signed a cessation of hostilities agreement after two years of border conflict, following proximity talks led by Algeria and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). In July, the UN Security Council established the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) to liaise with both parties and verify the ceasefire. By September 2000, the Council authorised up to 4,200 military personnel for UNMEE, tasked with monitoring the ceasefire, troop movements, and the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ). UNMEE also assisted the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission (EEBC) in demarcating the border. Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, deployed under codename Operation POMELO, served as United Nations Military Observers (UNMOs), working at UNMEE Force HQ in roles including engineering support, de-mining planning, mapping and geo-spatial advice, force training advice and training mission personnel.</p> <p>Total 16 ADF personnel deployed.</p>                                         |

**Part 2 (final) will be in the September Edition.**

# Our Supporters!



(08) 8393 6900



Aston Hills Shopping Centre—(08) 8388 4724



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



Balhannah—(08) 8398 0009



K&B Mitre 10—(08) 8391 0533



North to South Electrical—0437 777 385



Urban Cellars Mount Barker—(08) 8398 3084



Harvey Norman Mount Barker—(08) 8393 0800



Richies Tavern —(08) 8398 4244

## 75th Anniversary of Australian Service in the Malayan Emergency

Britain declared a State of Emergency in Malaya in June 1948 in response to escalating violence by communist guerrillas seeking to overthrow the colonial administration. Australian involvement in the conflict began with the deployment of two Royal Australian Air Force squadrons to Singapore in 1950. Australian Army and Royal Australian Navy personnel also served in Malaya from 1955.

In July 1950, No. 38 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) was deployed to Malaya. They provided vital air transport for British and Commonwealth troops, supplies, and conducted casualty evacuations. In 1955, No. 2 Squadron RAAF also joined the campaign, flying Lincoln bombers in direct airstrikes against communist jungle strongholds.

In addition to air support, the Australian Army contributed ground forces. The 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), was deployed to Malaya in October 1955, followed by 3RAR and 1RAR in later years. These infantry units were engaged in long-range jungle patrols, ambushes, and search-and-destroy missions aimed at rooting out communist guerrillas hiding in the dense rainforests. The Australians adapted to the challenging terrain and played a key role in isolating the insurgents from local villagers, a crucial element of the British-led "hearts and minds" strategy.

Australia also contributed naval support, with Royal Australian Navy ships patrolling the Malayan coast to interdict arms smuggling and resupply routes. By the time the Emergency was declared over in 1960, Australian forces had gained valuable experience in jungle warfare and counterinsurgency operations. The conflict marked a turning point in Australia's strategic outlook, reinforcing its commitment to regional security and forging stronger military ties with Britain and other Commonwealth nations.

The Malayan government officially declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960, however Australian forces remained on anti-communist operations until August 1963.

**Deceased: 39. Wounded: 27.**

---

*The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.*

*- Confucius*

---

## Bus, Bites, Banter and Bottles!

Sunday—31 August 2025

We, the Secretaries, are planning a relaxing Sunday outing for members and their partners—a chance to unwind, share a good meal, enjoy some local wine, and connect with mates.

### Tentative Plan:

- ✓ **Time:** Depart at 10:00am, return by 4:00pm.
- ✓ **Pickup:** Mount Barker RSL (and possibly a couple of other locations).
- ✓ **Lunch:** Set menu at the Middleton Hotel.
- ✓ **Winery:** Visit a winery or two on the way home—become a connoisseur for the day!
- ✓ **Cost:** We're aiming to keep the total under **\$100 per person** (includes bus, driver and lunch)



This is an **expression of interest** at this stage. Once we have an estimate of numbers, we will finalise the cost and confirm bookings.

### Interested?

Please let us know as soon as possible. We will need **confirmed numbers and payment a couple of weeks in advance.**

Contact the Secretary **in person**, by **phone** or by **email** to put your names on the list!

### 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

## Dates to Remember

| General Meetings                                                                       | Committee Meetings                                                                                                   | Morning Tea and Chat                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday—5 Aug 2025<br>Tuesday— 2 Sep 2025<br>Tuesday—7 Oct 2025<br>Tuesday— 4 Nov 2025 | Tuesday— 15 Jul 2025<br>Tuesday— 19 Aug 2025<br>Tuesday— 16 Sep 2025<br>Tuesday— 21 Oct 2025<br>Tuesday— 18 Nov 2025 | Don't forget that the Sub-Branch hosts a Morning Tea every Wednesday morning at 10:00am. Light refreshments available for a small donation. This is open to everyone, so bring along a friend or neighbour! |

| Significant Dates | Event                         | Remarks                                                  |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 August 1990     | Iraq invaded Kuwait           | Prelude to the 1 <sup>st</sup> gulf war.                 |
| 5 August 1944     | Cowra Breakout                | Japanese Prisoners of War escape from detention.         |
| 9 August 1942     | Sinking of HMAS Canberra      | Battle of Savo Island. 84 crew killed.                   |
| 15 August 1945    | Victory in the Pacific        | Japan accepts allied demand for unconditional surrender. |
| 18 August         | Vietnam Veterans' Day         | Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan (6 RAR —1966)      |
| 25 August 1942    | Battle of Milne Bay           | Start of the first major battle in the pacific.          |
| 26 August 1942    | Battle of Isurava             | Key engagement on the Kokoda Track.                      |
| 31 August         | Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day |                                                          |