

Newsletter

November 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

Wasn't October a month of ups and downs!

Well, I'm pleased to report that both the floor and I have reached an understanding — it'll stay solid, and I'll try to stay upright! I'm grateful once again for everyone's concern and good wishes; your support truly reminds me what this sub-branch is all about — mateship in action.

As we roll into the end of the year, things aren't slowing down one bit. With Remembrance Day upon us, our thoughts turn to those who served and sacrificed so we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. It's also a time to come together in good spirit — our Christmas Raffle and upcoming Dinner promise plenty of festive cheer, great company, and maybe a few tall stories shared over dessert.

There are a few days also to remember in November; Kokoda Day (3 November), Remembrance Day (11 November) and the sinking of HMAS Sydney (19 November 1941). As we move through another month of remembrance, we are reminded that our shared history is found in the quiet resilience of those who carried on. Each generation of service men and women—and the families who stood beside them—has left a legacy of courage, compassion, and community. Their sacrifices urge us to continue standing together, ensuring their spirit of service endures in all we do.

Thank you to our generous supporters, members, and volunteers who make everything we do possible. Here's to a safe, meaningful, and enjoyable close to the year — preferably with both feet on the ground!

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LEST WE FORGET

Secretary's Scribbles

November is always a special month in our calendar—a time for reflection, remembrance, and gratitude. As Remembrance Day approaches, we pause to honour those who served and those who continue to bear the cost of service. The minute's silence on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month reminds us that freedom has never come without sacrifice.

While remembrance is solemn, it also reminds us how strong our community can be when we stand together. The same spirit that carried our servicemen and women through hardship continues in the way we look out for one another today. Whether it's lending a hand, sharing a story, or simply showing up—it all matters.

Here at the Sub-Branch, we've seen that spirit in action through the generosity of local businesses, volunteers, and members as preparations for our Christmas Raffle and Dinner gather pace. Your support keeps the Sub-Branch vibrant and ensures we can continue our mission of care and camaraderie.

This month, I encourage everyone to take a quiet moment to remember, and then a shared moment to reconnect—with old mates, with family, or with the community that continues to honour their legacy.

Lest We Forget.

"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues but the parent of all others"

~ Cicero

Treasurer's Tidbits

As we move into November, it's shaping up to be one of our busiest (and most rewarding) months of the year. Between Remembrance Day, the Christmas Raffle, Bingo Sessions, BBQ's and planning for our December Christmas Dinner, there's plenty happening — and yes, plenty of receipts to match!

The financial picture remains steady, which is a testament to the dedication and generosity of our members, volunteers, and local supporters. Every raffle donation, BBQ, bingo session, meal ticket, and helping hand adds up — not just in dollars, but in the strength of our Sub-Branch community. It's the teamwork behind the balance sheet that really makes a difference.

Remembrance Day is always a time to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice that allow us to enjoy the freedoms we do. It's also a reminder of why we fundraise and why we volunteer — so that we can continue to support veterans and their families in meaningful, practical ways.

A special thank you to everyone who's contributed to the Christmas Raffle — the response from local businesses and individuals has been fantastic. Your generosity helps ensure the Sub-Branch remains active, welcoming, and well-positioned for the year ahead.

So as we close out the year, let's keep the spirit strong, the raffle tickets selling, and the lights on (though perhaps not all at once — I'm still watching that electricity bill).

The Treasurer was having a hard time sleeping and goes to see their doctor. "Doctor, I just can't get to sleep at night".

The doctor ponders and responds "Have you tried counting sheep?"

The Treasurer replies "That's the problem—I make a mistake and then spend three hours trying to find it!"

Sinking of HMAS Sydney—19 November 1941

On 19 November 1941, HMAS Sydney (II) was in pursuit of an unknown vessel off the north-west coast of Western Australia. Sydney was suspicious of the ship. This was due to German raiders who were believed to be disguising themselves as merchant vessels to operate in Australian waters.

Late in the afternoon Sydney signalled the vessel. They requested identification, but received no response. The unknown vessel hoisted a flag indicating that it was a Dutch-registered merchant vessel. It then sent a radio signal claiming to be under attack from an unknown vessel.

Sydney requested a secret flag identification that would be known only to the Dutch owners. The vessel did not respond. There was a lull for 15 minutes. By that time, Sydney had moved so close that it was only around 1,500 metres from the unknown vessel.

At 1730, Sydney signalled 'Show your secret sign', at which point the unknown vessel hoisted its true colours. The vessel revealed itself to be the German raider HSK Kormoran and immediately opened fire.

Kormoran's quick and accurate gunfire had a devastating impact on Sydney. It destroyed her bridge and knocked out her forward turrets. A torpedo hit under Sydney's forward turrets caused further damage. Sydney's aft gun turrets came into action with quick and accurate fire, starting fires in Kormoran's engine room. In a fierce action lasting only half an hour, both ships were severely damaged and sank that night.

The Naval Board sent RAN vessels to search for Sydney in the following days, after a British tanker reported rescuing 25 German sailors. They found more members of Kormoran's crew, but no trace of Sydney or its 645 crew. It remains the largest loss of life in the Australian Navy's history.

The sinking of HMAS Sydney was a major blow to the RAN, and had a profound impact on the home front. Just a few days later, on 27 November 1941, HMAS Parramatta was sunk near Tobruk, torpedoed by a German U-boat.

Prime Minister Curtin addressed the nation in sombre tones: 'Following so closely on the loss of ship and men in the case of the H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" ... the loss of H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" and so many of her gallant complement, is a heavy blow.'

The sinking of Sydney subsequently generated great controversy and was the subject of many books and a Royal Commission.



Lest We Forget



At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month every year, a minute's silence is observed and dedicated to those soldiers, sailors and aviators that died fighting to protect the nation.

At 11am on 11 November 1918, the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The Germans called for an armistice in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender.

The conflict had mobilised over 70 million people, left between 9 and 13 million dead, and as many as one third of these with no grave.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. It became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. Originally known as Armistice Day, it was renamed Remembrance Day after World War II in order to commemorate those who were killed in both wars.

Today the loss of Australian lives from all conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day.

In Australia, on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993, Remembrance Day ceremonies again became the focus of national attention.

The remains of an unknown Australian soldier exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Memory.

Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11.00am and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence.

We Will Remember Them

The Story Behind the Poppy



Each November, the red poppy takes pride of place on our lapels — a small, bright flower that carries a world of meaning. It's a simple gesture, yet it speaks of remembrance, respect, and gratitude for those who gave everything in service to their country. But how did this humble flower become such a powerful symbol of sacrifice?

The story begins on the battlefields of the First World War. Across the devastated landscapes of northern France and Belgium, the soil had been churned and scarred by relentless fighting. Amid the mud and ruin, bright red poppies were among the first

plants to grow. Their vivid colour stood out against the grey of the trenches and the shattered earth — a striking reminder of life persisting where so much had been lost.

One soldier who noticed the poppies was Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian doctor and artillery officer. In 1915, following the death of a close friend during the Second Battle of Ypres, McCrae wrote the now-famous poem "In Flanders Fields." His words captured both the grief and the quiet defiance of the poppies blooming among the graves of fallen soldiers: *In Flanders fields the poppies blow, Between the crosses, row on row...*

The poem spread quickly through the troops and home front alike, resonating deeply with those who had lost loved ones. It became one of the most enduring pieces of wartime writing — and it was from these verses that the poppy found its place as a symbol of remembrance.

After the war, a French woman named Madame Anna Guérin was inspired by McCrae's poem to create and sell silk poppies to raise money for war widows and orphans. Her idea was soon adopted by the Royal British Legion, and in 1921, poppies were first sold across Britain and the Commonwealth, including here in Australia.

Those first poppy sales were an enormous success. Australians embraced the symbol wholeheartedly, recognising not just its beauty, but its meaning — remembrance, renewal, and hope. From that time onward, wearing a poppy on Remembrance Day, became a proud national tradition.

Over the decades, the poppy has come to represent all who have served — in every conflict and peacekeeping operation since. It reminds us of those who never came home, and of those who did return, carrying the weight of their experiences. Each poppy sold through the RSL today helps fund vital welfare and wellbeing programs, supporting veterans and their families in times of need. The simple act of buying and wearing a poppy is not only a tribute to the fallen — it's also a tangible way to care for those still with us.

So when you pin on your poppy this November, take a moment to reflect on its journey. From the muddy fields of Flanders to the lapels of Australians today, the poppy remains a living symbol of remembrance and resilience. It reminds us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit endures — and that the sacrifices of our servicemen and women will never be forgotten.

Let us wear it proudly, not only in memory of those who gave their lives, but in gratitude for all who have served and continue to serve.

Dinner Menu — November



Friday 7th of November

- ✓ Roast Pork served with veggies and gravy
- ✓ Apple Crumble with custard and cream



Friday 14th of November

- ✓ Beef Stroganoff with mash and green vegetables
- ✓ Pineapple and Lemon Cheesecake



Friday 21st of November

- ✓ Battered Whiting with salad and chips
- ✓ Chocolate Mousse with Strawberries and Cream



Friday 28th of November

- ✓ Fellowship night
- ✓ Pizzas with Port and Cheese tasting

\$20 per Person

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.

BINGO at the RSL



- ✓ Every **Tuesday** at the RSL, in the downstairs dining area.
(Note: Bingo will **not** be conducted on Remembrance Day)
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Come along and bring your friends and neighbours for a fun afternoon.

WINNERS



Word Search

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

AIRMAN
ANZAC
ARMISTICE
AUSSIE
BARBED WIRE
BATTLEFIELD
BRAVERY
BUGLE
CASUALTIES
COMMEMORATE
COURAGE
DAWN
DIGGER
ENDURANCE
GALLANTRY
GALLIPOLI
GRENADE

HMAS SYDNEY
HONOUR
HUMOUR
JOHNNY TURK
LEGACY
LEST WE FORGET
LIGHTHORSE
LONE PINE
MATESHIP
MEDAL
MEMORIAL
NURSES
ODE
PEACEKEEPING
POPPY
REGIMENT
REMEMBRANCE

ROSEMARY
RSL
SACRIFICE
SAILOR
SHRAPNEL
SILENCE
SOLDIER
SPIRIT
STOUSH
TRENCH
VETERAN
VICTORIA CROSS
WEBBING
WREATH
YPRES

Pizzas



Followed by



Port & Cheese

- ✓ **Date:** Friday, 28 November 2025
- ✓ **Time:** 6:30pm start
- ✓ **Where:** Mount Barker RSL
- ✓ **Cost:** \$20 per person

What else?

- ✓ We may take the opportunity to put up some decorations for Christmas?
- ✓ Some banter and good cheer?
- ✓ Conduct a small trivia session or at least be somewhat trivial...?



Christmas 2025 Diggers Raffle

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1st Prize | Masport BBQ (valued at \$750)
(Donated by Harvey Norman Mt Barker) |
| 2nd Prize | \$500 Harvey Norman Gift Voucher
(Donated by Sushi Ito, Aston Hills) |
| 3rd Prize | \$396 Gift Box
(Donated by Nova Hair & Body, Mt Barker) |

Other Prizes - Spec Savers voucher, Beacon Lighting Lamp, Urban Cellars wine & gear, Dan Murphy's voucher, K-mart voucher, Tim Adams wine, Lowes Meat voucher, Strand Bags purse, Mt Barker Newsagency books, Beerenberg Gift Box, Ned's Homewares, Whiskey, Chocolates, Gift Baskets and more.

Now selling tickets
\$10 per Ticket
\$50 per Book
Only 500 tickets
Get in quick!

Important Dates!

6,7 and 10 November

- ✓ Remembrance Day memorabilia sales at Mount Barker Central Shopping Centre. Also sell Christmas Raffle tickets (09:00am—3:00pm)

15 November

- ✓ Fundraising BBQ at Urban Cellars (from 10:00am)

21 November

- ✓ BBQ at Mount Barker Primary School (commencing at 10:30am)

26 November

- ✓ Stop Domestic Violence BBQ—Popup Park Mount Barker (from 5:30pm)

27 November

- ✓ Fundraising BBQ at Oakbank Bowls Club (5:30—8:30pm)

28 November

- ✓ Pizza, Port and Cheese—Mount Barker RSL from 6:00pm

29 November

- ✓ Fundraising BBQ at Aston Hills (from 10:00am)

6 December

- ✓ Fundraising BBQ at Mount Barker Christmas Pageant (08:00am—1:30pm)

13 December

- ✓ Fundraising BBQ at Urban Cellars (from 10:00am)

19 December

- ✓ Christmas Dinner and draw of Diggers Christmas Raffle.

24 December

- ✓ BBQ (Cook Only) for SA Potato Company (09:00am—Midday)

“The most effective way to do it, is to do it.”

- Amelia Earhart

Annual General Meeting

2 December @ 6:30pm

- ✓ If you would like to nominate someone for a position on the committee, please contact the Secretary to obtain a nomination form. Forms must be completed and returned to the Secretary by 6:30pm on 30 November.

Our Supporters!



Harvey Norman Mount Barker—(08) 8393 0800



Aston Hills Shopping Centre—0490 832 311



7 Walker Street, Mount Barker (08) 8391 2772



Mount Barker Central (08) 8391 3588



North to South Electrical—0437 777 385



Balhannah—(08) 8398 0009



Urban Cellars Mount Barker—(08) 8398 3084



Dutton Road, Mount Barker
(08) 8384 0368

Tim Adams

CLARE VALLEY

(08) 8842 2429

Our Supporters!



Aston Hills (08) 7092 6003



(08) 8393 6900



Richies Tavern —(08) 8398 4244



Mt Barker Newsagency
Mt Barker Central— (08) 8391 2901



Mt Barker Village — 0460 942 640



Mount Barker Central (08) 8393 6700



Aston Hills—0481 353 868



K&B Mitre 10—(08) 8391 0533

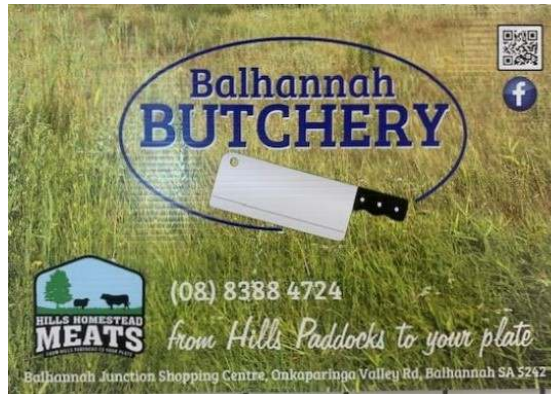


Mount Barker Road, Hahndorf (08) 8388 7272

Our Supporters!



www.mbfc.com.au



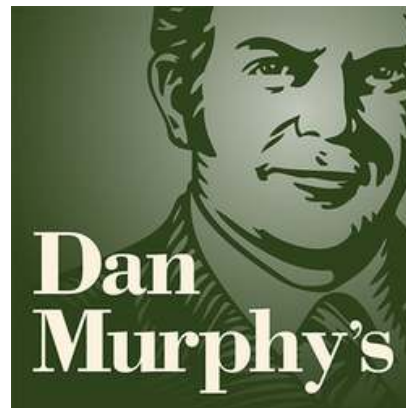
Aston Hills Shopping Centre—(08) 8388 4724



23 Gawler Street, Mt Barker
(08) 8391 2199



Mount Barker Central —0466 667 293



52-60 Hutchinson Street
1300 72 33 88



Mount Barker Central
(08) 8391 2417



Strand Bags—Mount Barker Central
(08) 8398 3377

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.

Significant Dates

General Meetings	Committee Meetings	Morning Tea and Chat
Tuesday—4 Nov 2025 Tuesday— 2 Dec 2025	Tuesday— 18 Nov 2025 Tuesday— 16 Dec 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
1 Nov 1914	WWI	First AIF convoy sails from Albany
3 Nov	Kokoda Day	Australian flag was raised at Kokoda Village in 1942
11 Nov	Remembrance Day	Great War Armistice signed in 1918
18 Nov 1943	Battle of Berlin	Marks the start of the battle with the first major air raid
19 Nov 1941	Sinking of HMAS Sydney	Single worst Australian Naval incident with 645 crew perishing