



RSL

Mount Barker
Sub Branch



Newsletter

April 2026

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Don't Forget

Anzac Day
Dawn Service
(6:00am Start)

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.

LEST WE FORGET

General Information

- 23 Hutchinson Street
MOUNT BARKER SA 5251
- ABN: 19 270 627 978
- **President— Ralph Strecker**
president@mountbarkerrsl.com.au
- **Secretary—Jenny Love**
secretary@mountbarkerrsl.com.au
- **Treasurer—Rod Cooper**
treasurer@mountbarkerrsl.com.au
- Web: mountbarkerrsl.com.au
- Phone: **0436 934 286**



As we move into April, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and sincerely thank the many volunteers who represented our Sub-Branch so proudly at the Mount Barker Show. Events like these do not happen without the dedication of members willing to give up their time, and your efforts once again highlighted the strong community spirit that underpins everything we do. Whether you assisted with setting up, engaging with visitors, or packing down at the end of the day, your contribution was greatly appreciated and did not go unnoticed.

Looking ahead, Anzac Day is fast approaching and will, as always, be one of the most significant occasions on our calendar. It is a time for reflection, remembrance and respect as we honour the service and sacrifice of all those who have served our nation. I encourage all members to take part in the commemorative activities, whether it be attending the Dawn Service, or supporting the Sub-Branch throughout the day. These traditions remain as important as ever, and your presence helps ensure they continue with the dignity they deserve.

It is also pleasing to see the continued success of our Bingo sessions, which remain both a social highlight and a valuable contributor to our Sub-Branch activities. Thank you to those who assist in running these sessions and to everyone who comes along and supports them.

Our morning teas continue to be a valued part of our weekly activities, offering a relaxed and informal setting to catch up, share a story, and maintain the camaraderie that is at the heart of our organisation. While it is encouraging to see familiar faces, we would very much like to welcome even more members along. If you haven't attended in a while—or perhaps never have—please consider dropping in. It's a great way to stay connected and enjoy the fellowship of other members and guests.

As always, thank you for your support, commitment and contribution to our Sub-Branch. It is through your continued involvement that we remain a strong, active and welcoming organisation within our community.

“Either you run the day, or the day runs you!”

~ Jim Rohn



As we move further into the year, things continue to tick along steadily from an administrative perspective, although—as is often the case—there is always more happening behind the scenes than meets the eye. Correspondence remains consistent, with a steady flow of incoming and outgoing communication requiring attention particularly with ANZAC Day around the corner.

A gentle reminder to members to please ensure your contact details are kept up to date. If you have recently changed your address, phone number or email, it would be appreciated if you could advise so our records remain accurate. This helps ensure you continue to receive important information without interruption.

Membership renewals are now overdue, and I thank those who have already attended to this promptly. If you have not yet renewed, I encourage you to do so asap (ANZAC Day?). Should you have any questions regarding your membership status, please don't hesitate to reach out—we are always happy to assist.

Meeting minutes and notices continue to be distributed, and I encourage members to take the time to read through these. They provide a useful snapshot of the decisions being made and the direction of the Sub-Branch. Transparency and communication are key, and your awareness and input are always welcomed.

Lastly, a quick note on general enquiries—if you do have questions, ideas or matters you would like raised, please feel free to make contact. The role of the Secretary is not only administrative, but also to help ensure members remain informed and heard. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support—it certainly makes the role that much easier.



As we move through the early part of the year, our financial position remains steady, supported by the continued engagement of members and the success of our regular activities. It is particularly pleasing to report that our Bingo sessions have continued to perform strongly, providing a reliable source of income while also fostering great social interaction within the Sub-Branch. Thank you to everyone

involved in organising, running and attending these sessions—your support truly makes a difference.

As with any organisation, we have also encountered a few unexpected expenses over the past period. These have included repairs to the dishwasher and addressing a recent power failure, both of which required prompt attention. While unplanned, these costs are part and parcel of maintaining our facilities and ensuring everything remains safe, functional and welcoming for members and visitors alike.

Despite these outgoings, we remain in a sound financial position. Careful management of our funds continues to be a priority, ensuring we can meet our obligations while also planning for future needs and improvements. It is always a balancing act, but one that we approach with diligence and responsibility.

A reminder that membership renewals play an important role in supporting the financial health of the Sub-Branch. If you have not yet renewed, your prompt attention would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. It is through your participation in our activities and events that we are able to maintain a strong and sustainable financial footing.

"It takes courage to try something and not succeed. It takes faith to try again. But it takes heart to try until you succeed."

~ Isaac Bar-Jonah

June Perry—Our thoughts and prayers

Unfortunately, June Perry is going through a tough time with her health at present. Members of the sub-branch are paying regular visits to June while she is in poor health. She is having good and bad days, but we remain positive and look to provide whatever support we can to her and her family. Recently Rod, Ralph and Mozart paid June a visit with a floral bouquet in hand. On behalf of all members of the sub-branch we wish June and family all the best and will continue to support them wherever we can. Mozart seemed to understand June's state and provided her some comfort and brought out some happy emotions!



Anzac Day—Origins, History and Meaning for Mount Barker

Each year on April 25, Australians pause to remember a defining moment in our national story—Anzac Day. It is a day that honours not only those who served in the First World War, but all Australians and New Zealanders who have worn the uniform in conflicts, peacekeeping missions and humanitarian operations since. Its origins lie far from home, on the rugged shores of Gallipoli, yet its meaning resonates deeply in communities like Mount Barker today.



Origins of Anzac Day

Anzac Day commemorates the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) at Gallipoli in Turkey on April 25, 1915. The campaign was part of a broader Allied effort to secure a sea route to Russia during the First World War. What was expected to be a swift and decisive operation instead became a brutal eight-month struggle against well-entrenched Ottoman forces.

The ANZAC troops faced steep cliffs, harsh terrain, and relentless enemy fire from the moment they landed at what is now known as Anzac Cove. Despite these challenges, they demonstrated remarkable courage, endurance, and mateship—qualities that would come to define the “Anzac spirit.”

Although the Gallipoli campaign ultimately ended in withdrawal, it marked the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces as distinct national identities. For many, it was the moment Australia “came of age” on the world stage.



Anzac Day (continued)

The Evolution of Commemoration

The first Anzac Day commemorations were held in 1916, just one year after the Gallipoli landings. Since then, the day has evolved into a national occasion of remembrance. Traditions such as the Dawn Service, the march of veterans, and the playing of the Last Post have become central to the day's observance. Over time, the focus of Anzac Day has broadened. While it began as a tribute to those who served at Gallipoli, it now honours all Australians who have served and sacrificed in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. It is also a time to reflect on the cost of war—not just in lives lost, but in the lasting impact on families and communities.

The Anzac Spirit

At the heart of Anzac Day is the enduring idea of the “Anzac spirit.” This includes qualities such as courage, resilience, sacrifice, and mateship. These values are not confined to the battlefield—they are reflected in everyday acts of service, community support, and looking after one another. For many Australians, Anzac Day is both solemn and unifying. It is a day when generations come together—veterans, families, young people, and community members—to remember and to learn.

Anzac Day in Mount Barker

In Mount Barker, Anzac Day holds a special and deeply personal significance. As in many regional communities, the connection to service is often close to home. Names etched on memorials are not distant figures from history—they are relatives, neighbours, and local heroes. The Mount Barker community continues to honour this legacy through well-attended Dawn Services. Local RSL members, volunteers, and community groups play a vital role in ensuring these traditions endure. Younger generations are also increasingly involved, whether through school participation, laying wreaths, or simply attending services. This passing of remembrance from one generation to the next ensures that the stories and sacrifices of the past are not forgotten.



Continuing the Legacy

Anzac Day is not just about looking back—it is also about carrying forward the values that define us. In Mount Barker, this is seen in the strong sense of community, the willingness to support veterans and their families, and the ongoing commitment to remembrance. Whether attending a Dawn Service, sharing a quiet moment of reflection, or simply pausing during the day, each act of remembrance contributes to keeping the Anzac spirit alive. As the years pass and the number of living veterans from earlier conflicts declines, the responsibility to remember increasingly rests with us all. In doing so, we honour not only those who served, but also the enduring values they represent—values that continue to shape communities like Mount Barker today.

Mount Barker family visit sites of our local fallen

Over Christmas local historian Clare Dorey travelled with her family to Europe. While the main purpose of the trip was to see family in France and the UK, they also wanted their children to 'meet' some ancestors by visiting their war graves and seeing a few names on the Arras memorial wall. As their relatives fought in the British and South African armies, they also wanted to visit a few graves belonging to our local fallen. Clare explains:

We spent two days visiting the WWI battlefields of the Ypres Salient and Somme Valley, including famous sites like the Menin Gate, Hill 60, Tyne Cot, Flanders Fields Museum, Le Tommy Café, Hamel, and the fabulous Sir John Monash Centre at Villiers Bretonneux. (This is a fraction of the sites we visited as a newly married couple back in 2000, but we wanted just a few highlights for our teenagers.) We stopped in at the grave of Harold Mitchell (1068) in Strand Military Cemetery, Ploegsteert. He was a gunner with the 43rd Battalion and died in France on May 21, 1917 (but was buried just across the border in Belgium.) Mitchell was from Woodside and attended Mount Barker High School. He has a brick on their memorial path and has an inclusive education centre named after him there.

Whilst in the UK we spent time with cousins in Cambridge. After seeing the university we visited the grave of Neville 'Pat' Carroll, who appears in my recent book "Stories from Stone" about our local WWII servicemen. Pat flew cargo planes for the RAF as part of Operation Tablejam, to support the activities of the Danish resistance. Unfortunately, his heavily laden plane crashed into the waters off Norfolk on 2 April 1945. He is remembered on a Danish memorial in Skorpung as well as our own Mann Street cenotaph and has a tree planted in his memory in Keith Stevenson Park.

On our way home we stopped in Singapore. While the family slept in, I was able to visit Battlebox in Fort Canning Park. This is where Bill Schwab (who also features in my book) served during WWII. He was part of the 8th Division Salvage Unit, who had spent months serving in Malaya. In the days before the Fall of Singapore he was incorporated into a combat unit at Fort Canning before the surrender. He died on the Burma-Thailand Railway on July 7 1943.

If you would like a copy of Clare's book it can be purchased for \$35 at the RSL or at Mount Barker library. And if you are travelling to Europe and want to visit any of the battlefields and need some help planning your trip, please feel free to contact Clare on cdorey@yahoo.com.



Dawn Service 2026

Mount Barker Cenotaph
(Mann Street)

Commencing at 6:00am

Followed by

**Gunfire Breakfast at the
Mount Barker RSL**



Lest We Forget
ANZAC DAY





ANZAC DAY

25 APRIL



MACCLESFEILD
CANDLELIGHT ANZAC SERVICE
SUNDAY 19th APRIL @ 6PM
MACCLESFIELD RSL
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Details - macclesfield@rslsa.org.au - 0407395833

What's Happening at the Sub-Branch

NBN Connection

After some hurdles with the NBN contractor, we now have fibre to the premises and high speed internet available. This will allow us to have unlimited data usage which will be ideal for streaming, bingo and general internet usage. Rod has also set up a Guest user that can be accessed by all members and guests in the club. It doesn't cost us anymore for this casual usage. So if you would like to have access to the broadband internet when you are in the club, ask Rod for the password.

Working Bee at the RSL—Sunday 19 April from 10:00am

We are conducting a Working Bee at the RSL prior to Anzac Day. We want to do the following: clean and prepare long room for Anzac Day; clean dining room and bar, clean upstairs respite room; clean and rationalise contents of the shed and repack, clean outside (paths/rubbish); install new carpark mirror; clean all fridges/freezers/eskies; clean and rationalise under the stairs. There might be other items as well, but will see how we go on the day. ***Please make an effort to attend if you can provide some assistance!***

Front Office Refurbishment—Are we there yet?

The “two steps forward and one step back” scenario continues. Just when Ralph thought that significant progress was being made, it was discovered that the paint on the wall was not that stable. So all the walls that still had original paint have now been stripped of wall paper and about three different coats of paint; back to original base.

Ralph has started to plaster the corners (wall to ceiling joins and wall corners). This involves plastering in corner jointing tape (which was never there in the first place). Flat jointing tape will be placed on wall joins, wall cracks and ceiling cracks and then plastered as well. Once that is done, a basecoat of plaster over the entire ceiling and walls will be done. Then some serious sanding, undercoating and painting.

Then we will worry about the skirting boards..... Still not quite sure on how some of that will be handled, but will cross that bridge when we come to it.

All in all , still progress, but slower than had hoped. Ohhh and by the way, Ralph did discover that there was a well used dart board fixed to the wall at some point..... But that won't be happening again.



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 (side games if numbers permit)
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Scheduled to finish around **2:45pm**

WINNERS



Dinner Menu — March



Friday 10th of April

- ✓ Roast Beef, Vegetables and Gravy
- ✓ Sticky date pudding with toffee sauce and cream



Friday 17th of April

- ✓ Chicken Schnitzel with gravy, chips and salad
- ✓ Ukrainian Apple cake served with cream



Friday 24th of April

- ✓ Salt and Pepper Squid with wedges and salad
- ✓ Trifle Cups

*Members are eligible for a FREE meal
during the month of their Birthday!*

Cost is: \$27.00 for members
\$27.00 for under 18yrs

\$30.00 for non-members
\$22.00 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.

Celebrate
MOTHER'S DAY

**2026 AT THE
MOUNT BARKER RSL**

Saturday, 9th May 2026 at 2:30pm

High Tea

Cost for Mothers:

Members – Free

Guests – ~~TBA~~ **\$10**

Confirm Attendance by
Wednesday 6th of May

\$2 a ticket

Mother's Day Raffle

1st Prize

\$100 Spotlight Voucher

2nd Prize

\$50 Foodland Voucher

3rd Prize

\$25 Nairn Pharmacy Voucher

Sudoku

Easy

8				2		6		
			6		4			3
	6						1	
		7				2		
5				9				8
		3				9		
	4						5	
7			8		5			
		5		1				4

Medium

	2				9			
			3				5	
		6				4		
				7				2
	8						1	
4				5				
		1				9		
	7				3			
			6				3	

Hard

							1	
				3				
		2						5
			7					
	6						4	
					8			
3						7		
				6				
	8							

Harvey Norman

Mount Barker



Specsavers

NOVA

HAIR & BODY

Tim Adams

CLARE VALLEY

urbancellars

Woolworths



NAIRNE
COMMUNITY
PHARMACY



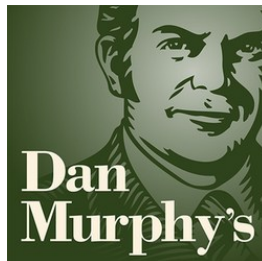
Mount Barker Central

Simply Style

Mount Barker



FROM THE FAMILY FARM
BEERENBERG
SINCE 1839



Bakers Delight

STRAND
Strandbags Mt Barker

BROWSE IN & \$AVE



AstonHills
nail&beauty

THE Coffee Tin

Beacon
LIGHTING



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
Monday— 6 Apr 2026 Monday— 4 May 2026 Monday— 1 Jun 2026	Committee Meetings will be called as deemed necessary.	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!

On This Day	Event	Remarks
4 April 1918	Bretonneux	First action by Australian at Villers-Bretonneux.
5 April 1951	3rd Battalion, Operation Rugged	Australian troops crossed the 38th parallel into North Korea
6 April 1952	Korea	1st Battalion arrives in Korea
7 April 1916	Western Front	Australians reach the Western Front ('nursery sector')
9 April 1942	HMAS Vampire	Japanese bombers sank her off Colombo in Bay of Bengal
9 April 1968	Vietnam	1st Battalion disembarks from HMAS Sydney at Vung Tau
10 April 1941	Tobruk	Siege of Tobruk begins
25 April 1915	Turkey	ANZAC troops land at Gallipoli.
25 April 1916	Anzac Day Commemoration	1st Anzac Commemoration held in Egypt and London
29 April 1915	Turkey	HMA Submarine AE2 sunk in the Sea of Marmara
29 April 1965	Vietnam	PM Menzies announces commitment of an infantry



RSL-SA Application for Service Membership

I hereby apply to be admitted as a Service Member of the Returned & Services League of Australia and a member of the: _____ Sub-Branch.

Personal Details

Title: _____ Given Names: _____
Surname: _____
Honours / Awards / Decorations (Post Nominals): _____
Sex: _____ D.O.B: _____ Country of Birth: _____
Postal Address: _____
Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____ State / Country: _____
Phone(W): _____ (H): _____ (M): _____
Email: _____

Service Details (Please attach proof of service)

Service Number: _____ PM Keys Number: _____ Rank: _____
Service: ☐ Air Force ☐ Army ☐ Navy Type: ☐ Regular ☐ Reserve ☐ National Service ☐ Other
If Other: (Provide Details) _____
Date of Enlistment: _____ Discharge Certificate No (if applicable): _____
Date of Discharge: _____ Length of Service: _____ Years: _____ Months: _____
Campaign & Service Medals: _____

Theatres of Operations or Conflicts (Check all applicable)

☐ World War 2 ☐ Vietnam ☐ Peacekeeping ☐ Regular Forces ☐ East Timor
☐ Korea ☐ BCOF (Japan) ☐ Somalia ☐ Reserves / CMF ☐ Afghanistan
☐ Malayan Emergency ☐ Borneo Confrontation ☐ Gulf War / Kuwait ☐ National Service ☐ Iraq
Other: _____

Previous Membership Details (If applicable)

Previous Membership: ☐ Yes ☐ No Date first joined the League: _____
Badge number of previous membership: (if applicable) _____
State & Sub-Branch of previous membership: (if applicable) _____

Declaration and Agreement

☐ I declare that the above information is true and correct.
☐ I agree to uphold the Constitution of the League and its By-Laws

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____
Proposed By: _____ Seconded By: _____
Sub-Branch Member Sub-Branch Member
Accepted by Sub-Branch: _____ (Honorary Secretary) Date: _____

Privacy Statement

We will not use any of the information on this membership form without your specific permission in writing, other than to record you as a member of the League and will not pass that information to anyone outside the League.
ABN 19 219 796 904

October 2017



RSL-SA Application for Affiliate Membership

I hereby apply to be admitted as a Affiliate Member of the Returned & Services League of Australia and a member of the: _____ Sub-Branch.

Personal Details

Title: _____ Given Names: _____
Surname: _____
Sex: _____ D.O.B: _____ Country of Birth: _____
Postal Address: _____
Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____ State / Country: _____
Phone(W): _____ (H): _____ (M): _____
Email: _____

Are you related to a Service person ☐ Yes ☐ No
If "yes" please specify: Service Number: _____ Name: _____
Unit Served With: _____ Conflict: _____

Previous Membership Details (if applicable)

Previous Membership: ☐ Yes ☐ No Date first joined the League: _____
Badge number of previous membership: (if applicable) _____
State & Sub-Branch of previous membership: (if applicable) _____

Declaration and Agreement

☐ I declare that the above information is true and correct.
☐ I agree to uphold the Constitution of the League and its By-Laws

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____
Proposed By: _____ Seconded By: _____
Accepted by Sub-Branch: _____ (Honorary Secretary) _____ Date: _____
Sub-Branch Member Sub-Branch Member

Privacy Statement

We will not use any of the information on this membership form without your specific permission in writing, other than to record you as a member of the League and will not pass that information to anyone outside the League.
ABN 19 219 796 904

October 2017