



RSL

Mount Barker
Sub Branch



Newsletter

July 2026

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Don't Forget
BBQ's
4th July—Aston Hills
19st July— Showground
Xmas in July—25th July

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

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- ABN: 19 270 627 978
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- **Secretary—Jenny Love**
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- **Treasurer—Rod Cooper**
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As we move into the middle of winter, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their ongoing support of our Sub-Branch and the activities we undertake throughout the year.

One initiative that continues to exceed expectations is our BBQ at the Mount Barker Market. What started as a fundraising opportunity has quickly become a valuable source of income while also raising our profile within the local community. The success of this venture would not be possible without the dedicated members who volunteer their time to set up, cook, serve, and pack away. On behalf of the Committee, thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Given its success, we intend to continue participating in future markets whenever possible.

A reminder that our **Christmas in July Dinner** will be held later this month on **Saturday, 25 July**. We have deliberately scheduled the event on a Saturday evening to give those members who work the opportunity to attend and enjoy the occasion. This year's dinner has been designed as a semi-formal event, providing a chance to dust off some of those outfits that rarely see the light of day. Priority attendance will be given to financial members, and RSVP confirmations must be received by **15 July**. Any remaining places will then be made available to non-members, who will need to confirm their attendance by **22 July**.

It is pleasing to report that our membership has continued to grow steadily over the past 12 months. While growth has been gradual, every new member strengthens our organisation and helps ensure the long-term future. I encourage all members to continue thinking about friends, family members, veterans, serving personnel, and community-minded individuals who may benefit from becoming part of our **RSL family**.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributes to the success of our Sub-Branch. Whether you volunteer at events, attend our social activities, assist with maintenance, support our fundraising efforts, or simply participate in our gatherings, your involvement makes a difference. The strength of our organisation comes from its members, and I am grateful for the continued support, friendship, and camaraderie that you bring to our RSL community.

Stay warm, stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

"The Mind Is Everything. What You Think, You Become"

~ Buddha



Winter has certainly arrived, but activity around the Sub-Branch remains strong. It is pleasing to see members continuing to support our regular activities, fundraising events, and social gatherings throughout the colder months.

Planning is already underway for our annual Christmas Raffle, one of the Sub-Branch's most important fundraising activities of the year. The raffle provides valuable funds that help us continue supporting veterans, their families, and our local community. As we begin seeking donations, I encourage members to think about any local businesses, organisations, or individuals who may be willing to assist. If you have a contact who may be interested in supporting the raffle, please let me know and I can provide a letter outlining the purpose of the fundraiser and how their contribution will be recognised.

A sincere thank you goes to all members and volunteers who continue to support the Sub-Branch. Whether assisting at the Mount Barker Market BBQ, helping with maintenance projects, supporting fundraising activities, or simply attending our events, your contribution is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to catching up with many of you during the month ahead..



As we pass the halfway point of the year, I am pleased to report that the financial position of the Sub-Branch remains stable. While operating costs continue to rise, our fundraising activities and the ongoing support of members are helping to ensure that we can continue delivering services, maintaining our facilities, and supporting veterans and their families.

A particular highlight has been the success of our Mount Barker Market BBQ. Not only has this activity generated valuable income for the Sub-Branch, but it has also provided an excellent opportunity to promote the RSL within the wider community. Thank you to all members who have volunteered their time and effort to make this venture such a success.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, preparations are beginning for our annual Christmas Raffle. This fundraiser makes an important contribution to our annual income, and I encourage members to support the raffle in any way they can, whether through obtaining donations, purchasing tickets, or helping with ticket sales later in the year.

Good financial management is a team effort, and I thank all members for their continued support of our fundraising activities, social events, and Sub-Branch initiatives. Every contribution, no matter how large or small, helps strengthen the future of our organisation.

Thank you for your continued support.

Seven Rules of Life

1. *Let It Go* - Never ruin a good day by thinking about a bad yesterday.
2. *Ignore Them* - What other people think of you is none of your business.
3. *Give It Time* - Time heals everything.
4. *Don't Compare* - The only person you should try to better, is yourself from yesterday.
5. *Stay Calm* - It's okay not to have everything figured out. In time, you will get there.
6. *It's On You* - Only you are in charge of your happiness.
7. *Smile* - You don't own all the problems in the world.

DVA Legislative Reforms

Positives

Simpler System

For many years, veterans and their families have had to navigate three separate compensation and rehabilitation Acts, each with different eligibility requirements, benefits, and claims processes. Under the new arrangements, future claims will be managed through a single legislative framework. This simplification is expected to reduce confusion, make the system easier to understand, and lessen the administrative burden on veterans seeking assistance.

Easier Access to Benefits

A single legislative framework should make it easier for veterans and their families to identify the support available to them and understand how to access it. By removing the need to determine which Act applies to a particular period of service, veterans can focus on obtaining assistance rather than navigating complex legislative requirements.

Existing Entitlements Protected

A key feature of the reforms is that existing payments and benefits under the Veterans' Entitlements Act (VEA) and Defence-related Claims Act (DRCA) are protected. Veterans currently receiving pensions, compensation payments, Gold Card benefits, or other entitlements will continue to receive them. These benefits will remain subject to normal indexation arrangements and will not be reduced as a result of the legislative changes.

Accepted Conditions Remain Accepted

Conditions previously accepted by DVA do not need to be re-proven under the new framework. Veterans whose accepted conditions worsen over time can continue to seek support without having to establish liability again. This provides certainty for veterans and reduces the stress and administrative burden often associated with making further claims.

Improved Rehabilitation Support

Rehabilitation services are now delivered under a single framework, creating a more consistent approach regardless of when a veteran served. This should help ensure that veterans have access to similar rehabilitation opportunities and support services, whether they require assistance returning to work, improving their health, or maintaining independence in daily life.

Potentially Better Incapacity Payments

The harmonised legislation includes provisions that may provide more favourable incapacity payment arrangements for some veterans. While outcomes will vary depending on individual circumstances, the reforms are intended to create a fairer and more consistent compensation system that better reflects contemporary rehabilitation and income support principles.

Reduced Administrative Delays

With only one set of legislation to administer, DVA should be able to process claims more efficiently and train staff more effectively.

Recommendation of the Royal Commission

The reform addresses a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, which identified legislative complexity as a significant source of frustration for veterans.

Future-Proofing the System

Having one legislative framework should make future improvements easier to implement and understand.

DVA Legislative Reforms (continued)

Main Concern for older Veterans

For veterans with older service (VEA or DRCA eligible service) who had not lodged claims before 1 July 2026, the main concerns are not that they lose existing entitlements—because there were no existing entitlements in place—but that they lose the ability to have new conditions assessed under the older legislation. All new claims must now be lodged under MRCA. **The most commonly discussed negatives are:**

Loss of Access to Some VEA-Specific Benefits

Prior to 1 July 2026, eligible veterans could lodge claims under the Veterans' Entitlements Act (VEA), which had some unique compensation structures and pension-based benefits. Those pathways are now closed to new claims. A veteran who delayed lodging a claim can no longer choose to have that condition assessed under the VEA framework.

No Choice of Legislation

Previously, depending on service history, a veteran may have been able to access VEA, DRCA, or MRCA provisions. After 1 July 2026, there is no election available—all new compensation and rehabilitation claims are assessed under MRCA.

Different Compensation Methodology

The MRCA uses a "whole-of-person impairment" assessment system, whereas VEA and DRCA used different approaches. While this will benefit many veterans, there are some individual circumstances where a veteran may have achieved a better outcome under the previous legislation, particularly where a single condition attracted a high level of compensation under DRCA or where a veteran preferred the VEA pension structure.

Missed Opportunity to Establish Legacy Entitlements

Veterans who lodged claims before 1 July 2026 retain access to benefits associated with those claims under the legislation under which they were lodged. Veterans who delayed lodging now enter the system solely through MRCA and cannot establish new VEA or DRCA entitlements.

Some Outcomes Remain Uncertain

The new arrangements are still in their infancy. While the Government has stated that the reforms are intended to improve outcomes and simplify the system, there is limited real-world experience with how some provisions will operate over time. Some advocates remain cautious until a body of case law and review decisions develops.

What Is Not a Negative

It is important to note that veterans who had not yet lodged claims have not lost the ability to claim. They can still claim service-related injuries, illnesses, and psychological conditions. Existing Statements of Principles still apply, accepted conditions can still be recognised, and many veterans may actually receive better outcomes under the enhanced MRCA arrangements. The Government and RSL Australia have both stated that the reforms were designed to simplify the system and not to reduce veterans' entitlements.

In Plain English

The biggest concern for veterans who delayed lodging claims is not that they can no longer claim compensation—it is that they have lost access to the old VEA and DRCA claim pathways and any advantages those pathways may have offered in their particular circumstances. Whether that results in a better or worse outcome depends very much on the individual's service history, accepted conditions, level of impairment, and family circumstances. For many veterans, the difference may be negligible or even beneficial; for a smaller number, the older legislation may have produced a more favourable result.

More Information

Contact DVA or an accredited advocate. There is also much information online. Ask us if you need help.

Montevideo Maru Sinking

The sinking of the Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942 remains one of the greatest tragedies in Australian military history. Despite the enormous loss of life, the story remained relatively unknown for many decades. Today, it stands as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by Australian servicemen and civilians during the darkest days of the Second World War.

Following the outbreak of war in the Pacific and the rapid Japanese advance through South-East Asia, Australian forces stationed in New Guinea found themselves increasingly isolated. In January 1942, Japanese troops launched an assault on Rabaul, located on the island of New Britain. The small Australian garrison, known as Lark Force, was heavily outnumbered and unable to withstand the attack. Many soldiers were killed in action, while others attempted to escape through the jungle. Hundreds were captured and became prisoners of war.

In June 1942, the Japanese decided to transport many of the captured Australians from Rabaul to the Chinese island of Hainan. The prisoners included members of the Australian Army, merchant seamen, civilians, government officials, plantation workers, and missionaries who had been living in the territory before its capture.

The vessel chosen for the journey was the Japanese transport ship Montevideo Maru. On 22 June 1942, approximately 1,054 prisoners were loaded aboard in overcrowded and difficult conditions. The ship carried no markings indicating that prisoners of war were on board, a practice not uncommon during the war but one that would have devastating consequences.

In the early hours of 1 July 1942, while travelling north-west of the Philippines, the Montevideo Maru was sighted by the American submarine USS Sturgeon. Unaware that the vessel was carrying Allied prisoners, the submarine attacked and struck the ship with torpedoes. The transport sank rapidly.

While many of the Japanese crew and guards survived and were rescued, none of the Australian prisoners are known to have survived the sinking. The tragedy claimed the lives of approximately 979 Australian citizens, including around 850 military personnel and more than 200 civilians. The loss exceeded the combined Australian deaths suffered aboard the HMAS Sydney, HMAS Perth, and HMAS Canberra during the war.

For the families of those aboard, the suffering did not end with the sinking. The Australian Government had little information about the fate of the prisoners, and many families spent years hoping their loved ones were still alive. It was not until after the war, when Japanese records became available, that the full extent of the disaster was confirmed. The uncertainty and prolonged grief endured by families added another painful chapter to the tragedy.

The sinking of the Montevideo Maru highlighted the harsh realities of war. The American submarine crew acted entirely within the laws of war and had no way of knowing that Allied prisoners were aboard the vessel. The tragedy was the result of circumstance rather than intent, demonstrating the terrible consequences that can occur in wartime.

In recent years, efforts have been made to ensure the story of the Montevideo Maru is properly remembered. Memorials have been established across Australia, and descendants of those lost have worked tirelessly to preserve their relatives' stories. In 2023, a major breakthrough occurred when the wreck of the ship was located more than 4,000 metres below the surface of the South China Sea. The discovery provided a measure of closure for many families and confirmed the final resting place of those who perished.



The Battle of Fromelles—Australia’s Darkest Day

On 19 July 1916, Australian soldiers faced one of the most devastating battles in our nation's military history. The Battle of Fromelles, fought in northern France during the First World War, resulted in the heaviest loss of Australian lives in a single 24-hour period.

The battle was intended as a diversion to draw German forces away from the larger Allied offensive taking place on the Somme. Australian troops of the 5th Division, alongside British forces, were ordered to attack heavily fortified German positions near the village of Fromelles.

Unfortunately, the attack was launched across open ground against well-prepared enemy defences. German machine-gun fire and artillery inflicted terrible casualties on the advancing troops. Despite acts of extraordinary bravery and some initial success in capturing sections of the German trenches, the Australians were unable to hold their gains and were forced to withdraw.

By the end of the battle, Australia had suffered more than 5,500 casualties, including almost 2,000 men killed. Many of these soldiers had enlisted only months earlier and were experiencing their first major combat action. For decades, Fromelles received less attention than battles such as Gallipoli and Villers-Bretonneux. However, the sacrifice of those who fought there has since gained greater recognition. In 2008, the discovery of mass graves containing Australian and British soldiers led to the establishment of the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery, where many of the fallen were finally laid to rest with honour.

Today, the Battle of Fromelles stands as a solemn reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and endurance of Australian soldiers. As we remember those who served, we honour the men who gave so much on that tragic day and ensure their sacrifice is never forgotten.

Australian Military Chaplains—Serving Those Who Serve

Throughout Australia's military history, chaplains have played an important role in supporting the men and women of the Australian Defence Force. While they do not carry weapons or take part in combat, chaplains often serve alongside troops in some of the most challenging and dangerous environments imaginable.

The role of military chaplains dates back to the earliest days of Australia's armed forces. Chaplains accompanied Australian troops during the Boer War and have served in every major conflict since, including the First and Second World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and numerous peacekeeping operations.

Military chaplains provide spiritual care, pastoral support, and a compassionate listening ear to personnel regardless of their faith, beliefs, or background. They offer guidance during times of stress, grief, and uncertainty, helping service members and their families cope with the unique challenges of military life.

During wartime, chaplains have often displayed remarkable courage. Many have ventured into the front lines to comfort the wounded, conduct burial services, and support troops under fire. Several Australian chaplains have been decorated for bravery, while others have made the ultimate sacrifice while caring for those in their charge.

Today, Australian Defence Force chaplains continue to serve across Australia and around the world. They assist personnel dealing with operational pressures, family separation, mental health challenges, and personal loss. Their role remains one of service, compassion, and care.

Whether on the battlefield, aboard ships, at air bases, or during humanitarian missions, military chaplains embody the values of dedication and selfless service. Their contribution may not always attract headlines, but their impact on the wellbeing of countless Australian service men and women has been profound.

As we reflect on the many roles that contribute to military effectiveness, we should also remember the chaplains who have faithfully served those who serve our nation.

★ STATE OF ★ ORIGIN

QLD

VS

NSW

MAROONS



WEDNESDAY 8 JULY



1730 DOORS OPEN

★ WEAR YOUR **TEAM** COLOURS ★

\$10.00

COST PER PERSON
(PIZZA OR SIMILAR)



Christmas IN JULY DINNER



Date: Saturday, 25 July 2026



Time: 1800hrs



Dress: Semi-Formal
(no denim/sportswear)



Place: Mount Barker RSL



Cost: \$30 per person

Entrée and dessert will be alternate drop –
Main will be Ham/Turkey with trimmings.

RSVP:



Members – 15 July 2026



Non-Members – 22 July 2026

*Celebrate the season,
share good company and
enjoy a festive evening together!*

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 — July



Friday 3rd of July

- ✓ Roast Beef, Vegies and Gravy
- ✓ Sticky Date Pudding with Toffee Sauce



Friday 10th of July

- ✓ Chicken Parmy with Wedges and Salad
- ✓ Pineapple Cheesecake



Friday 17th of July

- ✓ Slow Cooked Lamb & Barley Stew, Winter Vegies & Mash
- ✓ Apple Crumble Cake with Icecream



Saturday 25th of July

- ✓ See separate flyer....
- ✓ \$30 per head— No Free meals for this event.
- ✓ No dinner for Friday 24 July.

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.

Sudoku

Easy

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

Harvey Norman

Mount Barker



Specsavers

NOVA

HAIR & BODY

Tim Adams

CLARE VALLEY

urbancellars

Woolworths



NAIRNE
COMMUNITY
PHARMACY



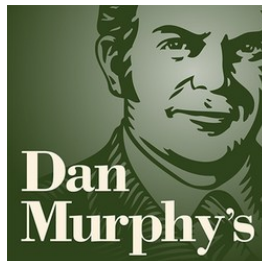
Mount Barker Central

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



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 Jul 2026 Monday— 3 Aug 2026 Monday—7 Sep 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
1 July 1902	Formation of Corps	Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps; Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.
1 July 1903	Formation of Corps	Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.
1 Jul 1942	Montevideo Maru Sinking	Loss of 979 Australian POWs
4 July 1918	Battle of Hamel, France	Australian and US forces take 93mins to take the village.
11 Jul 2021	Afghanistan	All ADF departed.
19 Jul 1916	Battle of Fromelles	France—Largest Australian casualties in 24 hour period.
21 Jul 1942	Battle of El Alamein	Australian involvement in daring coordinated night raids
23 Jul 1916	Battle of Pozieres	Grueling six week battle (23,000 Australian casualties)
24 Jul 2003	Solomon Islands	Arrival of RAMSI forces
27 July	Korean Veteran' Day	Honours thousands of Australian who served in Korea.
28 Jul 2023	Crash of "Bushman 83"	MRH-90 Taipan Helicopter crashed near Hamilton Island, QLD, killing all four crew membdrs.
31 Jul 1960	Malayan Emergency	Official end of the counter-insurgency campaign.



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: _____
Accepted by Sub-Branch: Sub-Branch Member _____ Sub-Branch Member _____
(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: Sub-Branch Member _____ Sub-Branch Member _____
(Honorary Secretary) Date: _____

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