



RSL

Mount Barker
Sub Branch



Newsletter

September 2026

Inside this issue

Presidential Ponderings	2
Secretaries Scribbles	3
Treasurer's Tidbits.....	3
Craft for Fun	4
The Australian Veteran	5
Battle of Britain	6/7
June Perry—Update	8
New Artwork.....	9
Bingo	10
Friday Meals Menu	11
Sudoku	12
Sponsors.....	13
Significant Dates.....	14
Membership Forms.....	15/16

Don't Forget

5th Sep—BBQ's
20th Sep — Aston Hills
Showground
Craft Day— 19 September

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.

General Information

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LEST WE FORGET



Well, September is upon us, and with spring just around the corner, there is plenty happening around the Sub-Branch. It's hard to believe how quickly the year is moving, and before we know it, we'll be talking about Christmas again!

I'll actually be away for a couple of weeks during September, but I'm confident the Sub-Branch will hum along quite nicely without me!

We have a great team of volunteers and committee members who know what needs to be done, so I have no concerns about things continuing as normal while I'm away. In fact, it will probably be good for everyone to have a break from my reminders for a little while!

With spring approaching, it's also time to give the Sub-Branch a bit of a spring clean. There will be plenty of activity both inside and outside the building, including some maintenance and improvement works that have been planned for some time. Some of the work may cause a little disruption along the way, but the end result will be well worth it.

Tuesday Bingo continues to go from strength to strength. It has been fantastic to see new players joining us, and the growing numbers are very encouraging. Apart from being a great social activity, Bingo has become an excellent income stream for the Sub-Branch, providing a worthwhile return for a relatively small amount of effort. A big thank you to everyone involved in making it happen each week, particularly those who regularly give up their Tuesday afternoons to help.

Our Christmas Raffle is also starting to take shape. We are still looking for support from local businesses and members of our community who may be able to donate prizes, vouchers or other items. If you know someone who may be willing to help, please let us know. The raffle is an important fundraiser for us and every donation, regardless of size, is greatly appreciated. It is also a great opportunity to showcase the RSL and the work we do within the local veteran and wider community.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to encourage more members to get involved and volunteer when they can. You don't have to commit to every event or spend hours every week. Even giving up a little of your time occasionally can make a big difference. Our Sub-Branch relies heavily on volunteers, and the more people who pitch in, the easier it is for everyone. Volunteering is also a great way to meet other members and be part of what makes our Sub-Branch tick.

Our Vietnam Veterans' Day commemoration was held in August and went very well. While numbers were a little lower than we would have liked, being held on a weekday meant that many people were unable to attend because of work commitments. It was particularly pleasing to see that most of those who attended the service came back to the RSL afterwards for refreshments and a chat. These occasions are important, not only for remembering and honouring those who served, but also for bringing our veteran community together and ensuring their stories and sacrifices are not forgotten.

Finally, we are always looking for ideas and suggestions for activities for our members. If there is something you would like to see happening at the Sub-Branch — whether it's a social activity, a day trip, a themed lunch, a guest speaker, a craft activity or something completely different — please let us know. We want the Sub-Branch to be a place where members enjoy coming together, not simply somewhere we meet for formal occasions. You never know, your suggestion might be the next great activity on our calendar!

As always, thank you to everyone who supports the Mount Barker RSL Sub-Branch. It is our members and volunteers who keep the place moving, and together we can continue to make the Sub-Branch a welcoming, active and enjoyable part of our veteran and local community.

I look forward to seeing everyone when I return — hopefully to find that everything is still standing and the Treasurer hasn't spent all the money while I was away!



September is shaping up to be another busy month at the Sub-Branch, with plenty happening behind the scenes as well as around the club.

I'll be taking on the role of Bingo Caller a couple of weeks. Thankfully, I have some wonderful volunteers who have put their hands up to help in the kitchen during this time, so everything

should continue to run smoothly. A big thank you to those who are helping out!

Our Christmas Raffle preparations are also continuing, but we are still seeking support from the local community. If you know of a business or individual who may be willing to donate a prize, voucher, product or service, please let me know. Every donation, large or small, helps us make the raffle a success and supports the work of our Sub-Branch.

Finally, I'll be hosting a Craft Day on Saturday, 19 September. And apparently, beads are all the rage! So, if you enjoy getting creative, trying something new, or simply having a chat and a cuppa while making something, come along and join us. No previous crafting experience is required — just bring yourself and your enthusiasm!

As always, thank you to everyone who continues to volunteer, participate and support our activities. It really is the people who make our Sub-Branch such a great place to be.

"The mind is everything. What you think you become"

~ Buddha



It is pleasing to report that the Sub-Branch is currently in a good financial position. Careful management of our finances and the continued support of our members and volunteers have placed us in a sound position as we head into the remainder of the year.

Bingo continues to be a great source of income for the Sub-Branch. It provides a steady and valuable contribution to our finances while requiring relatively little effort compared with some of our other fundraising activities. A big thank you goes to everyone who helps make Bingo such a success each week.

Looking ahead, we do have some planned expenditure on the building and internal fixtures. These costs have already been considered in our budgeting and have been approved, so members can be assured that this spending is planned and within our financial capacity.

Finally, I would once again like to acknowledge our wonderful volunteers. Without the time, effort and commitment of our volunteers, the Sub-Branch simply could not operate as successfully as it does. Whether helping with Bingo, meals, fundraising, maintenance or our commemorative activities, every contribution makes a difference.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Mount Barker RSL Sub-Branch.

The good news is we're in the black—the bad news is I still can't find my black pen!

CRAFT DAY

Beading

♥ GET CREATIVE, HAVE FUN AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS! ♥

SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

STARTING AT 2:00PM

MOUNT BARKER RSL
23 Hutchinson Street, Mount Barker

EVERYTHING SUPPLIED
Just bring yourself and your creativity!

ONLY \$20 PER PERSON

Come along, enjoy a cuppa and a chat, and make something special to take home.

Booking required | **BY 16 SEPTEMBER 2026**
Don't miss out – places are limited!

Everyone Welcome!



Come and join our Secretary who will help you with an individual beading project. Below is a photo of the beading projects available. \$20 will cover the cost of the project, but also provide a \$5 donation to the Mount Barker RSL.



The Australian Veteran

The Changing Face of the Australian Veteran!

When we hear the word “veteran”, many of us may picture a soldier returning from the battlefields of the First or Second World War. But the Australian veteran community has changed dramatically over the past century. Today, the term encompasses men and women from many generations, backgrounds and forms of military service.

Following the First World War, Australia’s veterans were predominantly young men returning from the trenches of Gallipoli, France and the Middle East. Many came home carrying physical and emotional scars, at a time when very little was understood about what we now recognise as post-traumatic stress. The RSL movement grew from the need to look after these veterans and their families and to ensure their service was remembered.

The Second World War created another enormous generation of Australian veterans. Hundreds of thousands served across the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, the Pacific and closer to home. They included soldiers, sailors and airmen, as well as nurses and other support personnel. When they returned, many simply went back to work, raised families and got on with life. Their contribution helped shape post-war Australia.

The Vietnam War brought another generation of veterans, and their experience was very different. Many Vietnam veterans returned home to a country divided over the war and, in some cases, did not receive the welcome that earlier generations had experienced. Over time, Australia came to recognise the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans, and commemorations such as Vietnam Veterans’ Day ensure their contribution is remembered.

Since then, Australian veterans have served in places such as East Timor, the Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as in numerous peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world. The nature of military service has also changed. Modern veterans may have spent much of their careers working with highly sophisticated technology, operating alongside international forces or undertaking missions that were very different from the large-scale conflicts of previous generations.

Another important change is the make-up of the veteran community itself. Australian Defence Force service is no longer predominantly a male experience. Increasing numbers of women have served across the ADF, including in roles that were once closed to them. Today’s veteran community also includes people from a wide range of cultural, professional and social backgrounds.

What has not changed is the importance of mateship and looking after one another.

The challenges facing veterans may have changed, but the need for connection remains. Some veterans experience physical injuries, while others carry invisible wounds. Some transition smoothly into civilian life, while others find the change from military service challenging. For some, the RSL becomes an important place to maintain friendships, find support and simply spend time with people who understand the military experience. This is where organisations such as the RSL continue to have an important role. We are not simply custodians of the past. We have a responsibility to support today’s veterans as well as those from previous generations. At Mount Barker RSL, we are fortunate to have members representing different generations of service. Their experiences may be separated by decades, but there is common ground in the values of service, mateship, commitment and looking after our fellow veterans.

As we look towards the future, the face of the Australian veteran will continue to change. New generations will return from service, and the challenges they face may be different again. Our responsibility is to ensure that they are welcomed, remembered and supported — just as previous generations have been.

The uniform may change. The technology may change. The conflicts may change. But the commitment to our veterans should never change.

Battle of Britain

September marks the anniversary of one of the most famous campaigns of the Second World War — the Battle of Britain. Fought between 10 July and 31 October 1940, it was the first major military campaign fought entirely in the air. For Britain, defeat could have opened the way for a German invasion. For the Allies, victory meant that Nazi Germany had failed to gain control of the skies over Britain.

Following the fall of France in June 1940, Britain stood largely alone in Western Europe. The German Luftwaffe turned its attention across the English Channel, seeking to destroy the Royal Air Force's Fighter Command and establish the air superiority required for a possible invasion.

The Luftwaffe had significant numerical advantages and consisted of experienced aircrew who had already fought during the German campaigns across Europe. Against them stood the RAF's fighter squadrons, operating aircraft that have since become legends of military aviation — particularly the Supermarine Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane.

But the Battle of Britain was about much more than aircraft. It was a battle of radar operators, intelligence staff, ground crews, mechanics, controllers, observers and countless civilians who supported the defence effort. Britain's developing radar network gave Fighter Command vital warning of incoming German formations, allowing its relatively small number of fighter aircraft to be used where they were needed most.

The Blitz Begins

Initially, German attacks concentrated on shipping and coastal targets before turning towards RAF airfields and radar installations. The aim was to destroy Fighter Command's ability to resist. By August 1940, the fighting had become intense. RAF pilots were flying repeated sorties each day, sometimes returning to their airfields with aircraft damaged by enemy fire before being sent back into the air again.

Then the Luftwaffe made a crucial change.

German attacks increasingly shifted towards British cities and civilian targets. London became a major target, beginning what became known as the Blitz. While the bombing of Britain's cities was devastating, the change in German strategy also gave Fighter Command valuable breathing space to repair aircraft, train replacement pilots and reorganise its squadrons.

Battle of Britain Day – 15 September

On that day, large formations of German bombers and fighters crossed the English Channel. RAF Fighter Command committed almost everything it had available, with hundreds of Hurricanes and Spitfires taking to the skies over southern England.

The resulting aerial battles were enormous. Aircraft fought at high speed and at relatively close range, with pilots relying on skill, instinct and courage. For many of the young men involved, each sortie could be their last.

The RAF's ability to continue putting aircraft into the sky convinced German commanders that Fighter Command had not been defeated. Hitler subsequently postponed his planned invasion of Britain, Operation Sea Lion. The invasion never took place.



Battle of Britain (Continued)

Australia's "Few"

Although the Battle of Britain is often remembered as a purely British struggle, Australians played their part. Around 35 Australians flew combat operations during the Battle of Britain, serving in RAF squadrons as well as with Australian and other Allied units. The Australian War Memorial records that at least 10 Australians serving with Fighter Command were killed, while several Australians became fighter aces.

One of the most successful Australian pilots was Flight Lieutenant Pat Hughes, from Cooma, New South Wales. Hughes flew with No. 234 Squadron RAF and became one of the leading Australian fighter pilots of the battle. He was credited with 14 enemy aircraft destroyed, placing him among the leading aces of the Battle of Britain. Hughes was killed in action on 7 September 1940, when he was shot down while intercepting German bombers over Kent. He was only 30 years old.

Australia's contribution extended beyond fighter pilots. No. 10 Squadron RAAF was serving in Britain with RAF Coastal Command, while the Royal Australian Navy cruiser HMAS Australia operated with the Royal Navy's Home Fleet during the campaign. Australians also served in British units and contributed in numerous supporting roles.

More Than Spitfires

The popular image of the Battle of Britain often focuses on the Spitfire. While the Spitfire became an enduring symbol of the battle, the Hawker Hurricane actually formed a substantial part of Fighter Command's strength and played a critical role.

Behind every aircraft was a team.

Ground crews worked long hours refuelling, rearming and repairing aircraft. Armourers loaded ammunition, mechanics repaired battle damage and controllers directed pilots towards incoming German formations. Radar operators and observers provided vital information about the enemy's movements.

The battle was therefore a remarkable example of teamwork — from the young pilot climbing into his cockpit to the mechanic working through the night to ensure that aircraft was ready for another sortie the following morning.

Remembering "The Few"

The men who flew the fighters became known as "The Few", following Winston Churchill's famous tribute to Fighter Command. His words captured the extraordinary debt owed to those who had defended Britain at a moment when the outcome of the war remained uncertain.

The Battle of Britain did not end the war, and Britain would continue to endure the terrible bombing of the Blitz. But the RAF had prevented Germany from achieving the air superiority it needed for an invasion. For Australians, the Battle of Britain is also a reminder that our servicemen and women have often served far from home, alongside allies and in circumstances that were difficult to imagine.

The young Australian pilots who climbed into their Hurricanes and Spitfires in 1940 could never have known how history would remember them. They simply did their job, day after day, against an enemy that greatly outnumbered them.

More than 80 years later, we remember their courage, their sacrifice and their service. The Battle of Britain remains a powerful reminder that sometimes the defence of freedom can depend upon the courage of a very few.

Lest We Forget.

June Perry—Update

As most of our members know, June Perry has been experiencing declining health over the past 12 months. June has now been in Strathalbyn Hospital for around ten months, and regular visits have become an important part of keeping her connected with her RSL family.

On Monday, 17 August, Rod, Chris, Ralph and Mozart paid June a visit. It had been several weeks since our last visit, partly because of illness and our desire not to pass anything on to June.

Initially, things didn't look promising. June's room was empty and her bed was made. As we headed towards the nurses' station to find out where she was, we discovered her sitting in the common room. She appeared to be asleep, and our gentle, quiet hellos didn't seem to get much of a response. Every now and then an eye would open briefly, but she didn't appear able to communicate with us.

It looked as though we might leave without having had any real interaction with her.

Then Mozart stepped in!

He gently nudged June, and suddenly an eye opened — and there was recognition. Within moments, June was wide awake, smiling and talking. For the next 45 minutes, she chatted away while Mozart sat beside her. She couldn't get enough of giving him pats and, even while talking to us, was constantly reaching out to find him. It was genuinely wonderful to see.

In fact, this was the best we have seen June in many months. We know that June's health may never improve significantly, but for those 45 minutes, none of that seemed to matter. She was happy, engaged and surrounded by people — and, of course, had Mozart right beside her.

When we left, we knew that we had done something very simple but very important. We had put a smile on June's face and, for a little while, made her day a better one. Sometimes it's the smallest things — a visit, a familiar face, a gentle pat from a four-legged friend — that mean the most.

And judging by the number of pats Mozart received, I think he enjoyed the visit just as much as June did.

Keep smiling, June. We'll see you again soon.



New Artwork



Going back to Anzac Day, member of the Mount Barker RSL attended Oakfield Lodge to help them commemorate Anzac Day there for the first time. While there we noticed a handmade tribute to Veterans. It was simple, but stood out for all the right reasons. We asked the staff where they had sourced the item. The reply was that one of their residents had made it. We enquired whether she would be interested in make another similar item for the Mount Barker RSL. On Wednesday 19 August, Ralph and Jenny were invited to go to Oakfield Lodge to pick up the finished item! Many thanks to Ruby Cameron (93 years old) for her sewing efforts—and the very kind donation of her time and materials!



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 — September



Friday 4th of September

- ✓ Crumbed Prawns with Salad and Chips
- ✓ Pavlova with fruit and fresh cream



Friday 11th of September

- ✓ Roast Lamb with vegetables and gravy
- ✓ Steamed golden syrup pudding with custard



Friday 18th of September

- ✓ Butter Chicken, rice and pappadums
- ✓ Fruit Salad and ice-cream



Friday 25th of September

- ✓ Fellowship Evening....
- ✓ Food and activities to be advised

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

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

Harvey Norman

Mount Barker



Specsavers

NOVA

HAIR & BODY

Tim Adams

CLARE VALLEY

urbancellars

Woolworths



NAIRNE
COMMUNITY
PHARMACY



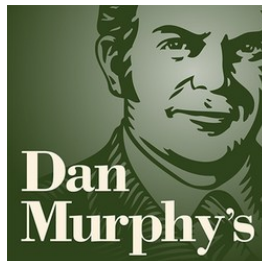
Mount Barker Central

Simply Style

Mount Barker



FROM THE FAMILY FARM
BEERENBERG
SINCE 1839



ROOS
MBFC

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—7 Sep 2026 Monday—5 Oct 2026 Monday—2 Nov 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
2 Sep	Battle for Australia Day	Commemorated on the first Wednesday of September
11 Sep 1914	Battle of Bitapaka	Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force landed in New Guinea
15 Sep 1940	Battle of Britain	Involvement of Australian Airmen
20 Sep 1999	INTERFET	Arrival of the International Force East Timor led by Australia
26 Sep 1943	Operation Jaywick	Commando raid by the Z Special Unit in Singapore Harbour
29 Sep 1918	Hindenburg Line	Allied forces including Australian Corps breaks the line



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: _____

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