



# City of Albury

## RSL Sub-Branch

**527 Wilson Street ALBURY NSW 2640**

**Postal address: PO Box 175 ALBURY NSW 2640**

**Phone: 02 6021 1341 fax: 6021 0009**

**Email: [information@alburyrsl.org.au](mailto:information@alburyrsl.org.au)**

**Website: [www.alburyrsl.org.au](http://www.alburyrsl.org.au)**



# Newsletter

## June Edition 2016

# **City of Albury Sub-Branch 2016 Committee**

**President:** Graham Docksey, OAM, JP

**Vice Presidents:** Mark Dando, Harry Hacking, JP

**Secretary:** Mark Lunnon

**Assistant Secretary:** Pauline McLeod

**Treasurer:** Jan. Francis

**Assistant Treasurer:** Noel Francis

**Committee:** Don Dennis, John Gunton,

Barry Howard, Peter Loudon

**Trustees:** Barry Howard, Marlene Sullivan, John Gunton

**Pensions Officer:**

Harry Hacking, JP

**Welfare Officer/s:**

Harry Hacking JP, Barry Howard & Dani Jourdain

**Hospital/visitation:**

Peter Jansen & Isaac Adams

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped in manning the : Reception desk, looking after Pensions and Welfare, assisting in the kitchen with catering and cleaning up, setting up the meeting room, cooking on the BBQ, setting up chairs at outside events and the committee for their ongoing dedication and compassion for their fellow members.

**Would you like your newsletter emailed in glorious colour then please send an email to [treasurer@alburyrsl.org.au](mailto:treasurer@alburyrsl.org.au)**

**Your Sub-Branch meets the third Sunday  
of each month at ANZAC House  
Commencing at 11am**

Light lunch follows the meeting at a minimal cost.

**Meeting dates:**

19th June 2016

17<sup>th</sup> July 2016

21st August 2016

18<sup>th</sup> September 2016

16<sup>th</sup> October 2016

20<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**SUB-BRANCH OFFICE HOURS  
TUESDAY- THURSDAY  
10am to 3.30pm**



**Poppy Day 4<sup>th</sup> of November**

Volunteers are needed to sell poppies.

Please call in to ANZAC House to register  
your availability.

New volunteers are always welcome.

School student Poppy sellers 3<sup>rd</sup> of November

Disclaimer: Every effort is made to ensure that all articles in this publication are correct at time of printing. Opinions expressed herein whether political or sectarian will be deemed to be the opinion of the signature below the article. The Sub-Branch Executive, nor its members, nor the editor will be deemed responsible. Editor: Jan Francis

Detailed report on the RSL NSW Congress in the next newsletter;

**Special Note:** On leaving Town Hall on Tuesday for lunch a young man on a skateboard stopped, picked up his board and carrying it under his arm turned to me and said "I just noticed all the men wearing RSL badges and felt I should show them some respect" After he had passed he put the board on the ground and rode off.

## Recent Veterans Forum

We had a very good turn up for the Forum on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May. There were five couples and 4 veterans without partners. The exercise was a positive one for all concerned with information shared.

The presenters were the RSL National President, Ken Doolan, the Deputy Commissioner Department of Veterans Affairs NSW/ACT, Jennifer Collins and RSL DefenceCare General Manager, Robyn Collins.

They all presented the current and future up dating of their departments and organisations for the benefit of veterans.

Vice President Mark Dando gave a presentation on his experiences and PTSD.

The weather was not conducive to assist us with a rainfall of more than 25 mm (just over half an inch in the old scale).

The visiting veterans found the forum to be very informative and thanked the Sub-Branch for conducting the forum. Further forums are being planned as they are proving to be beneficial to both the recent veteran and the members of our Sub-Branch.



RSL National  
President Rear  
Admiral Ken Doolan  
AO, RAN,(Retd)



Deputy Commissioner  
Department of  
Veterans Affairs  
Jennifer Collins



General Manager  
RSL DefenceCare  
Robyn Collins



Vice President Mark Dando giving his address at the Forum.

### **PENSION AND WELFARE HELP???**

Don't forget that if you require a pension review or welfare assistance,  
please phone

ANZAC House (Albury) 02 6021 1241 for an appointment.

If you would like a home visit, please leave your details at  
ANZAC House

527 Wilson Street Albury NSW 2640

### **MEMBERS INFORMATION**

#### **Federal Parliament election**

2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2016

Polling booths open at 8am and close at 6pm

#### **Local Council election**

10<sup>th</sup> of September 2016

Polling booths open at 8am and close at 6pm

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE**

## A Big RSL Thank you



A presentation to thank Yvonne and John Gunton for all their hard work over many years in catering for our meeting lunches and other special events. The menu's have been many and varied and they will be big shoes to fill. From a very grateful Sub-Branch thank you and good luck with your new found leisure time.

Photo taken by Harry Hacking:

Yvonne, President Graham Docksey and John.

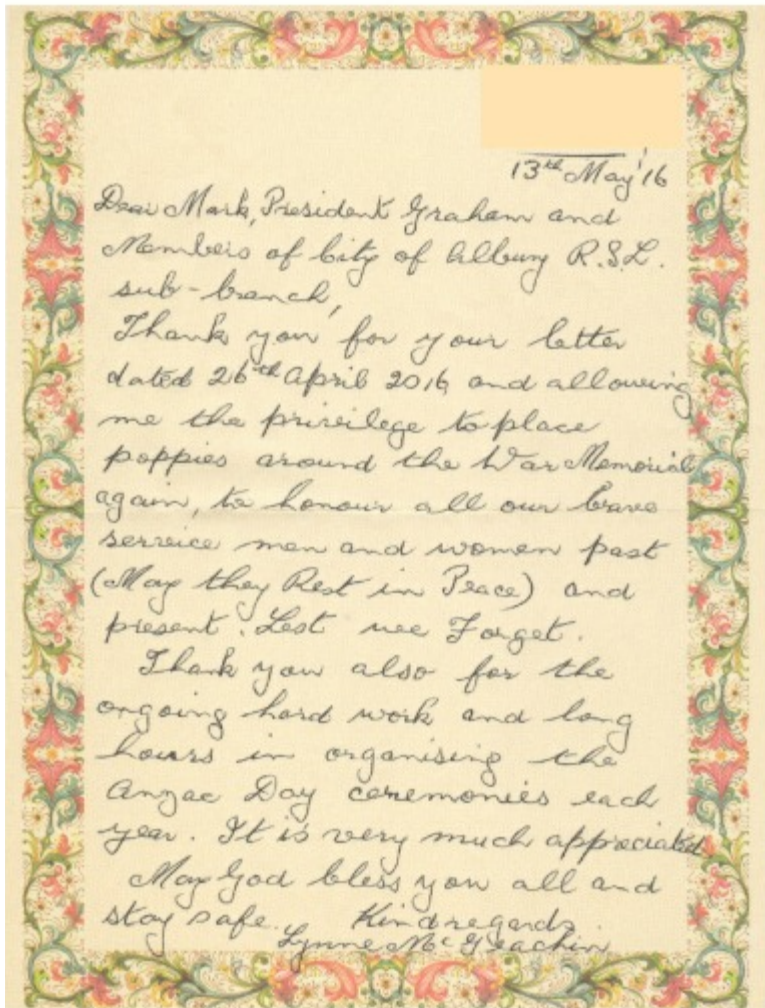
### **Ex Service Women's Association - Albury Wodonga**

Welcome to our news again and a reminder that we would still very much like to welcome any ladies interested in joining us as a member. Meetings every second Tuesday 1.30pm with a cuppa together at ANZAC House.

We have lunches arranged - day trips to enjoy and now Xmas coming up, lots to look forward to, finishing the year with our Xmas lunch at ANZAC House.

We have our own Welfare Officer for anyone needing help or advice. Please ring Barbara (6021 3858) if you would like to enquire about coming along. Love to see you - join us and meet some old and new friends.





Dear Mark, President Graham and Members of City of Albury RSL sub-branch, thank you for your letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and allowing me the privilege to place poppies around the War Memorial again, to know all our brave service men and women past (May they Rest in Peace) and present. Lest we Forget. Thank you also for the ongoing hard work and long hours in organising the Anzac Day ceremonies each year. It is very much appreciated  
May God bless you all and stay safe.

Kind regards  
Lynne McGeachin

# ANZAC DAY 2016







## ANZAC Field of Remembrance

This fitting tribute came from an idea originated by the late Mrs C J Pope, widow of Rear Admiral Pope. While visiting London she was impressed by a Field of Remembrance Day held each year in the old churchyard at St Margaret's alongside Westminster Abbey. The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory initiated the Field of Remembrance – a day on which small wooden crosses were planted in memory of the fallen.

On her return to Australia Mrs Pope enlisted the NSW Guild in assisting her to organise the first Field in the grounds of St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. She continued with her work until her death in 1963 when the War Widows' Guild (NSW) took over.

The first ANZAC Field of Remembrance was held in 1952, and has been held every year since to commemorate those who gave their lives in the service of their country. A non-denominational service is held prior to ANZAC Day at St Andrew's with the lesson read by the Governor of New South Wales. After the service and the reading of the 'Ode to the Fallen' by the Guild's President, the Governor plants the first cross in the Field of Remembrance in memory of the Unknown Warrior. The Governor is followed by representatives of the City of Sydney, the New Zealand Government and the three Services, who also plant crosses, the RSL and the Guild State President.

The Field of Remembrance is open from the service until the late afternoon on Anzac Day for war widows and members of the public to place small wooden crosses in personal remembrance of their husbands, relatives and friends who died during or following war service.

## Field of Remembrance Ceremony at St Matthews Church





## **Albury War Widows Service in keeping with the history of the Field of Remembrance**

Crosses are supplied by the Widows, Red for Army, Lt Blue for Air Force, and Navy blue for the Navy.

The Field of Remembrance was situated in St Matthews Church and crosses placed there a week before ANZAC Day. A closing service is held the day after ANZAC Day and the crosses are collected and held by a local funeral director.

When a Returned Service person passes away the relatives are asked permission to cremate the crosses with that person, the ashes of the crosses are then scattered in a ceremony held at the Albury War Graves Cemetery around the base of the Cross of sacrifice by a member of the Albury RSL Sub-Branch.

## **The Purple Poppy**

Throughout history, in war and in peacetime, animals and mankind have worked alongside each other. As beasts of burden, messengers, protectors, mascots, and friends, these war animals have demonstrated true valour and an enduring partnership with humans. The bond is unbreakable, their sacrifice great- we should honour the animals of war. It is estimated that approximately 400,000 horses left Australia for war and only one has ever returned. Even Simpson's Donkey didn't come home.

Dogs have a long history of service during times of conflict, Today the use of military dogs in the ADF is actually increasing. This is primarily due to Military Working Dogs and Specialist Explosive search dogs being used to combat Terrorist activities in both homeland defence and offensive operations.

Buying a purple poppy from the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation will help to continue the good work of the AWAMO

<http://purplepoppies.com.au/buy.php>



**LEST WE FORGET OUR FOUR-LEGGED DIGGERS**





## LINK RSL DAY CLUB

Every Thursday over 30 members and volunteers meet at the Link RSL Day Club at ANZAC House to enjoy social interaction, a tasty meal, quizzes, games and lots of fun. Throughout the year special theme days are held such as Movie Day when members enjoy hot popcorn while watching a movie projected on the 'big screen'. Easter and St Patricks Day see the Leprechaun pictured above.

Ask members what they like best about Link Club and you will hear:

*The friendly, happy, cheeky people.*

*Lunch with friends.*

*The variety of activities.*

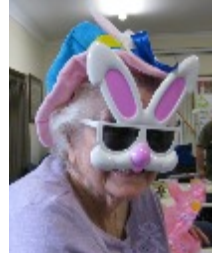
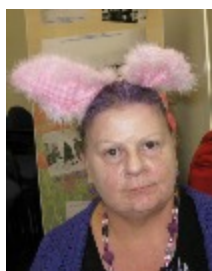
*The volunteers do so much for us.*

*Meeting different people and making new friends.*

*The great Christmas party.*

Among Link Club members there is over 2400 years of collective wisdom. What a wonderfully rich, diverse, wise and happy group of people.

For information about volunteering or becoming a member at the Link RSL Day Club please contact the coordinator, Judith Fenton, on **6059 1890**.







## MEDIA RELEASE

THE HON DAN TEHAN MP

MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE MATERIEL

20 March 2016

### VETERANS PENSIONS SET TO INCREASE

Veteran pension payments will increase in March in line with the biannual indexation process.

Pension recipients including veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia will see the increase from 20 March 2016.

Due to pension rates calculating on a daily basis, the first pension paid after the indexation on payday 31 March 2016 will comprise both the old and new rates.

The new pension rates will be fully effective from payment date 14 April 2016.

The table below highlights the new fortnightly rates.

SERVICE PENSION	Old rate (fortnightly)	New rate (fortnightly)	Increase (fortnightly)
Single person	\$867.00	\$873.90	\$6.90
Couples (each)	\$653.50	\$658.70	\$5.20
Single person – transitional	\$731.50	\$737.20	\$5.70

## **PRESIDENTS CORNER – WINTER 2016**

Welcome to the winter edition. Thank you Jan for your work in pulling together the newsletter.

All executive positions will be declared vacant at the AGM in February with known vacancies being for President, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. Appointments are for three years. If you are you thinking of nominating seek details from present executive members. This is your Sub-Branch so get involved.

I am pleased to say that the Sub-Branch is in a very sound financial position and is able to pay all operating expenses and the up keep of ANZAC House. We are presently looking into a refurbishment of the kitchen which is long overdue. War Widows now meet at ANZAC House as does the RSL Day Club members both having recently relocated from Legacy House. Pension claims and reviews have remained steady throughout the first quarter. Welfare, Hospital and Nursing Home visits have continued to increase in line with our aging membership. Let me at this time thank Peter Jansen, Harry Hacking and Barry Howard for their commitment and hard work with regards welfare, pensions and visits throughout the year.

The Sub-Branch is active with continued improvements to the Albury War Memorial and is working closely with the Albury City Council for further works to continue over the next couple of years.

ANZAC Day 2016 was very well attended with one of the largest crowds turning out to watch the March. Both the Dawn and 10am Services were also very well attended and drew many very positive complements.

Planning is already underway for the 2016 Remembrance Day Service to be held in St Matthew's Church Albury. Monthly meetings continue to be very well attended and most productive with many members remaining for the luncheon afterwards and a friendly chat. So come along you are most welcome.

The Sub-Branch continues to support DVA sponsored activities such as Veterans Health Week.

On a final point, the Hyde Park Inn in Elizabeth Street Sydney is half price for Sub-Branch members including Affiliates. I stay there on most occasions when I am in Sydney. Great value and a great location.

Best wishes to you all.

*Graham*, May 2016

## More ANZAC Day



***Albury RSL Sub-Branch***  
***PO Box 175***  
***Albury NSW 2640***