



City of Albury

RSL Sub-Branch

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Newsletter

February Edition 2017

Missing from Photo: Scott Threlfall & Peter Loudon, Danny Jourdain



Photo by Amy

City of Albury Sub-Branch 2017 Committee

President: Mark Dando

Vice Presidents: Harry Hacking & Peter Loudon

Secretary: Trish Taylor

Assistant Secretary: Pauline McLeod

Treasurer: Jan Francis

Assistant Treasurer: Scott Threlfall

**Committee: Graham Docksey, Noel Francis, Mark Lunnon, Bill Godde,
Brett Newman, Barry Howard, John Gunton**

Trustees: Barry Howard, Marlene Sullivan, John Gunton

Pensions Officer:

Harry Hacking, JP

Welfare Officer/s:

Harry Hacking JP, Barry Howard & Dani Jourdain

Hospital/visitation:

Would you like to receive the newsletter by email? This will save cost of postage and printing. Contact: treasurer@alburyrsl.org.au

William (Bill) Bell Memorial



The service was conducted
by Vice President Harry
Hacking





SGT Real Desmarets

La Defense Belge SC



Left: CA Lt General Angus Campbell;

Middle: SGT Real Desmarets;

Right: A WO Don Sparks



2016 Albury-Belgium Connection to WW1

In southern Belgium around the district of Ypres, a serving Belgian soldier has adopted a number of Australian WWI soldier's graves for which he gives regular care because relatives of these fallen soldiers cannot.

SGT Réal Desmarests - La Défense Belge works for the Bomb Disposal Unit at Poelkapelle (West Flanders) where he and his colleagues collect and dispose of the unexploded ammunition from the 1914-1918 war in the area around Ypres.

Despite the time since World War I, this is still a very dangerous occupation. Farmers still find ammunition every day and sometimes still filled with gas.

SGT Desmarests recently had a meeting with the Australian Chief of Army - CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell at the 'Plugstreet 14-18 experience' Museum in Comines-Warneton in Belgium. During this visit to Belgium for the Western Front Centenary commemorations, SGT Desmarests was commended for his work by Lt Gen Campbell with the Australian war graves.

SGT Desmarests recently did a ground search and took photographs of the area when looking for the grave of missing Albury WWI Soldier 7234 Gunner Geoffrey Rosborough.

The Albury based research has revealed that there is a distinct possibility of a undiscovered grave site for Gunner Rosborough located at Chester Farm near Voormezele, just a few kilometres south of Ypres.

We are indebted to SGT Réal Desmarests for his ongoing contribution to this research.

Chris McQuellin A&DHS 2016

Remembrance Day 2017

Thank you St Matthews church for providing the venue for the Remembrance Day Service. This venue has proven to be popular with everyone. It brings the reverence that Remembrance Day deserves.

Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers who help 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 the BBQs, and the committee for their ongoing dedication and compassion for their fellow members.

YOUR SUB-BRANCH


Volunteers are the mainstay of operations, without them your Sub-Branch would not continue to exist.

Volunteers include trained Pension & Welfare Officers, who work closely with all ex-service organizations and the Department of Veteran's Affairs.


We also need volunteers to look after the reception desk.

***We are always looking for volunteers.
If you have some spare time on your hands,
please give us a ring***

The Sub-Branch relies on the generosity of donations to off-set our running costs.



Aglow International Australia Albury-Wodonga Branch



Meets 1st Wed. Of Every Month (except for Nov.)

At : 10am To 12 pm

Entrance Fee: \$7.00

At: ANZAC HOUSE, 527 Wilson Street. ALBURY.

If you are looking for answers in your life?

Aglow is a safe, friendly environment where you will have support, a caring heart and listening ears, and you will find a sense of belonging and purpose.

Aglow is an interdenominational CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION for women and now men; We are in over 170 nations of THE WORLD.

‘Every nation touched, every heart changed’

For all information contact **Shirley** on **0429 630 989**

Hi Everyone- from the **Ex-Service Women’s Association –**
Albury-Wodonga District

Our meetings are friendship based get togethers for ladies that were in any Service covering all the years of WW11 and thereafter. Australian, British or others are welcome to join us.

We meet monthly - have afternoon tea and catch up with friends. We have planned outings and the Commercial Club hosts us for Dining Room luncheons twice a year.

Our Club would like to see some new members and if you are interested and can come along please ring Barbara on 6021 3858 for any information.

Our meetings are held at ANZAC HOUSE Wilson Street on the 2nd
Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm

Love to see you- come along and meet some old and new friends.

**The Sub- Branch
meets on
the third Sunday
of every month.
(Except December
and when it falls on
Easter)**

**Commencing at
11 am.**

**Light lunch follows
the meeting .**

**Sub-Branch meeting dates
for 2017**

19th March Monthly Meeting

9th April Monthly Meeting

21th May Monthly Meeting

18th June Monthly Meeting

16th July Monthly Meeting

20th August Monthly Meeting □

7th Sept. Monthly Meeting

15th October Monthly Meeting

19th November Monthly Meeting

PENSION AND WELFARE HELP??

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

ANZAC House (Albury)

02 6021 1341

for an appointment.

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

ANZAC House 527 Wilson Street Albury NSW 2640

Or email: information@alburyrsl.org.au

WARNING: All Gold Card holders:

**The RSL suggests that before making a specialist
appointment you check to ensure that they accept Gold Card.
Not all specialists accept Gold Card. The cost, without
approval from DVA, could be considerable.**

Token Days 2017

**School students Token Day
Friday 19th April**

**Shopping Centres etc
Thursday 20th April**

Volunteers are always welcome to assist with the selling of ANZAC tokens.

If you can help please contact
ANZAC House at (02) 6021 1341.



Find us next to Kmart
at the Westend Plaza
Ph: 02 6021 1557

**BULK BILLED EYE TESTS
ALL HEALTH FUNDS ACCEPTED
QUALITY LOW COST SPECS**

**DVA CLAIMS
NSW SPECS SCHEME**

100% PROUDLY AUSTRALIAN OWNED

So you're guaranteed quality
and service every time.

**OPTICAL
SUPERSTORE**

SUPER SERVICE. SUPER SAVINGS.

ANZAC DAY PROGRAMME

- 5.30am Dawn Service at the Albury War Memorial on Monument Hill.
- 7.30am Service at SS & A Club Memorial Wall.
- 8am Waugh Road Memorial:
Service conducted by National Servicemen's Association.
- 8.30am Assemble for Dean Street March
Eastern end of Dean Street.
- 9am March commences down Dean Street
The march will terminate in either Townsend or Elizabeth Streets, as directed.
- 10am Service at the Albury War Memorial on Monument Hill

Guest Speaker:
Commodore Michelle Miller RAN

**Host High School this year:
James Fallon High School**

LINK RSL DAY CLUB

The Link RSL Day Club meets each Thursday at ANZAC House, from 10am to 2.30pm.

The Club provides a range of activities such as gentle exercises, quizzes, games, entertainment, guest speakers and special events.

Lunch and morning tea are provided and transport may be arranged, to and from the Club.

The Club is a financially independent and is a not-for-profit organisation. A fee of \$5.00 usually applies: \$10 if you use the transport.

Don't forget membership is open to all older people, both veterans and non-veterans.

Phone Judith Fenton on 02 6059 1890 for details.

There is only one thing left for you to do - round up your friends and come along and spend an enjoyable day at your RSL Day Club.

RAPID PROMOTION

A crusty old General died and found himself standing before Saint Peter at the pearly gates. Saint Peter welcomed him warmly, 'Come right in, General!' 'You've served your country well and you may enter into Heaven!'

The general looked through the gates and stepped up to Saint Peter, 'Just one thing, sonny. I hope there are no warrant Officers here. They are a dreadful lot, beastly chaps, jolly well awful and not at all refined. If there are any of them here, I'm not going in; I'd rather go to the other place'.

'Don't worry, General,' said Saint Peter. 'NO Warrant Officer has ever made it into Heaven. You'll find none of them here'. With that the General enters into heaven. Minutes later, he comes upon an amazing sight. It is a swaggering figure in full ceremonials, cap cocked slightly on his head, a large almost empty bottle of scotch in one arm and a beautiful woman in the other arm. Incensed, the General rushed back to Saint Peter and bailed him up, 'Hey! You said there were no Warrant Officers here! So what the hell is THAT?'

'All is well, General' says Saint Peter gently. 'That's God. He just THINKS he's a Warrant Officer'.



CHRISTMAS 2016

Santa's been at it again. Lots of laughter and frivolity (as you can see) What a way to wind up a very busy year.

Congratulations to the Winners of the Annual Appeal:

1st Roy BUTTERWORTH

2nd Ian & Kerrele PEARSONS

3rd M. SCOTT



PRESENTATIONS TO PAST PRESIDENT & PAST SECRETARY BY INCOMING PRESIDENT MARK DANDO



**Graham Docksey &
Mark Dando**

**Mark Lunnon &
Mark Dando**



A large collage of 20 photographs capturing various moments from a community Christmas party. The images show people of different ages socializing, eating, and posing for photos. Several individuals are dressed as Santa Claus, adding to the festive theme. The setting appears to be an outdoor area with brick walls and greenery in the background. The overall mood is cheerful and communal.

CITY OF ALBURY RSL SUB-BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday the 19th of February 2017

OUT-GOING PRESIDENTS REPORT

Members and guests, today I stand down as your president secure in the knowledge that I leave the sub-branch in far better shape than when I was elected your president four years ago.

MY FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW:

Upon becoming president I asked the previous Secretary '*was there any asbestos in the building*' and was told that there was none. Not feeling too comfortable about that answer, I arranged for an asbestos inspection, which resulted in asbestos being discovered in several places in the building. The asbestos was subsequently removed and a register was raised. I also saw several trip hazards, a leaking roof, falling roof tiles, rotting roof timbers and leaking gutters. simply the building did not fully comply with health and safety requirements. This was a major concern to me as we were allowing members and other community groups to use ANZAC HOUSE.

This became my first real challenge as I came to grips with the situation I was now morally responsible for. I arranged for a full audit of the building and a detailed report was duly provided. A price to rectify these urgent safety matters was also obtained at this time for the committee to consider. the funding for this project came from several sources including kind donations from the Wagga Wagga and Smithfield RSL Sub-Branched and the builders contribution. When the old carpet was being torn-up it was discovered that white ants had been eating away at the floorboards in several places including later the kitchen. To our horror we were told that electrical wiring under the old carpet was a potential fire hazard and the building was at real risk of fire. A grant was obtained to rectify these critical matters. I also considered that the layout of the offices was not functional. for example the two vital positions of president and secretary were operating out of separate offices. I applied for another grant for new office and meeting room furniture and moved the secretary and assistant secretary into the same office as the president and vice president. this has been very successful and allowed for the smooth running of the sub-branch with both positions being fully up to date across all day-to-day issues. The treasurer and assistant treasurer were then given the secretary's old office. then when the new carpet was being laid we refurbished the reception office in a more functional layout.

We have repainted the building both inside and out, put up new signs on the front of the building and next to the front gate. we have re-done the foot paths and front ramps that had been poured covering the under building vents which would later have been a major issue. We have established new gardens and an outdoor commemoration area. new outdoor furniture will be ordered from money from a grant.

A lot of grant funding has gone into refurbishing the building including, solars panels on the shed, provided power and lighting to the shed that had not been considered when erected, a shade sail for sun protection, ceiling fans in the meeting room, kitchen and outdoor area, an awning over the side door, a cover over the side ramp, the overhead projector and screen, speakers in the ceiling and a new sound system. new kitchen equipment and a new flag pole. we also had new doors and security screens and doors fitted. what is in progress over the next couple of weeks. A new awning along the eastern side of the building and covering the BBQ has been ordered. But, the project that I am most proud of, is the \$64 k for the long over due refurbishment of the kitchen. This project was vital to the growing needs of ANZAC HOUSE with more community groups using the facility. I have asked if the *Minister for Veterans' Affairs* when he is here in May for the RSL STATE CONGRESS could formally open the kitchen after all it was his \$64 k.

Outgoing President's Report continued

Two years ago and after a lot of procrastination over some ten years, we produced the history of the sub-branch written by Howard Jones. Through another grant we have been able to print, publish and distribute an additional newsletter for our members with additional information. I estimate that over the last four years we have received close to \$180 k in grants and donations.

I am proud to say that we make sure that we attend far south western district council meetings and the annual state congress to ensure that your voice is heard and we remain up to date with matters as they effect the Sub-Branch.

Whilst our older members are passing on, we are still attracting new members both service and affiliate, but need to continue to attract younger veterans. this is the challenge I leave for the new committee. We continue to provide an RSL eulogy at funerals when requested by family members. Last Wednesday and again on Friday I delivered a eulogy at both funerals. Through strong lobbying and in conjunction with Albury City Council we have managed to attract the state congress to Albury for the next three years.

For several years now, I have been working towards major improvements to the Albury war memorial. as most of you are aware detailed plans have been drawn up and were put out to the community for comment. The plans were approved last Monday night at the planning and environment committee meeting so now go to the full council meeting on the 27th of this month. as a councillor I will be pushing for council to approve these plans and to cost them into the budget.

My one regret is that i was not able to complete the project of awarding certificates of appreciation to members that have provided outstanding service to the sub-branch. this i now pass to the new committee for them to complete.

In conclusion, I thank you all for your loyalty and support over my four years as your president and to those that have supported the annual badge and-poppy days appeals. I take this final opportunity to thank my committee members. I will not name you all one by one but each of you know just how hard you have worked for not only me but for the sub-branch. i sincerely thank you.

I leave the position of president in the full knowledge that the *sub-branch* is in very good shape and is in a very sound financial position.

I wish the new committee the very best as the *sub-branch* continues to go forward in the support of veterans.

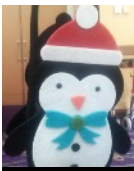
My final words of wisdom are simply that the new committee must work together as we exist for the veteran community and not ourselves.

THANK YOU.

GRAHAM

GRAHAM DOCKSEY, OAM, JP

OUT GOING PRESIDENT



Members of Link RSL Day Club enjoying their Christmas breakup



ANZAC HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS



President

Incoming Speech 19th February 2017

I am pleased to take up the position as your president and look forward to representing you in a number of forums and working with those who are remaining on the committee and the new members over the next couple of years. Everyone as a volunteer offers their time freely to support you, the members.

It would be remiss of me not to say something about the committee from the past few years and I will comment on some of their efforts during their tenure.

Graham Docksey

Graham has done a fantastic job as our president and whilst he said he didn't want any accolades, I would just like you to look around this building and recognise the changes that have occurred. The seats you are sitting on, the carpets, the paintwork, the new furniture, the overhead screen you see here behind me are just some of the things resulting from his efforts. More recently of course is the kitchen upgrade. The money for all of these projects has come from grants with very little of our RSL funds used. Graham, thank you for everything you have done during your time as president

Mark Lunnon

Mark is one of those quiet achievers who also doesn't like to be placed in the limelight. However he has not only carried out the duties of secretary in a most professional manner but has always been instrumental (with Jenny) in keeping our grounds looking neat and tidy. Mark has had the happy knack of being able to anticipate the needs of the president and vice presidents and more often than not put the letters for signature in front of us advising us on what he has organized or responded to on our behalf. Whilst he is standing down as secretary, he has offered to take care of our garden/lawns etc and also if approved by the new committee take on some of the projects that we may have. Thanks Mark for your support to the RSL.

Noel Francis

Noel is standing down from the position of assistant treasurer and moving to badge/token and technical "go to" person and has offered to continue in a technical support role.

Thank you Noel for what you have done over the past few years with the website and all of the other duties that you have willingly taken on.

Harry Hacking

Harry has not only carried out the duties of vice president but just as importantly if not more so, been a pensions and welfare officer and is going to continue in those roles.

2.

Jan Francis

Jan is one of those people who has risen to the challenge of not only the Treasurers role which she has done admirably but also to any projects that have been passed on to her by Graham and the Committee. The kitchen is her latest project and you only have to look at the outcome to see the diligence she shows to her responsibilities. As a treasurer of course she has ensured that our annual audits are well presented and our audit comments that come back are positive. Thank you Jan for another job well done.

Pauline McLeod as the assistant secretary has been an excellent support and backup for Mark Lunnon and a constant beaver when there is a deadline to be met.

Thanks Pauline, I just know you are going to continue to annoy me until I meet those deadlines.

The three blokes on the desk, Richard, Peter and Barry who ensure that when someone comes through the front door, that person is either given the support required or direct the visitor to someone who can help them.

Trustees

The three Trustees, Marlene, Barry and John who actually own the building on behalf of the members have a particularly responsible job in ensuring that all financial expenditure is in line with RSL NSW by-laws.

We have a catering committee, Yvonne, Jenny and Kaye who always make sure that we are well catered for at monthly meetings and other special occasions such as

Remembrance Day and the annual Christmas party.

Behind each of those mentioned is someone who also gives their support to the RSL.

The volunteers who sell our badges are in my opinion absolute gems.

Thank you all for your support over the past years and please continue to provide that support so that we can do what we are here for and that is provide support to those veterans who need it.

Thank you.

Mark Dando

Albury RSL Sub-Branch
PO Box 175
Albury NSW 2640