



City of Albury RSL Sub-Branch

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Newsletter

February Edition 2024

City of Albury Sub-Branch 2023 Committee

Patron The Hon Sussan Ley, MP

Historian Howard Jones ,OAM



President

Graham Docksey,
OAM, OAM(Mil), JP



**Vice President
& Welfare**

Harry Hacking, JP



Secretary

Mark Lunnon



Treasurer

Brett Newman

Committee Appointments 2023/24

Vice President: (2nd)VACANT

Assistant Secretary: Pauline McLeod

Assistant Treasurer:: VACANT

Assets Officer: Les Crofts

Funerals Team: Harry Hacking JP, Graham Docksey OAM,JP

Activities Officer: Gary Treeve, OAM

Security Officer: Mark Lunnon

ANZAC Day Coordinator: Les Crofts

Purchasing Officer: Noel Francis

IT Officer: Noel Francis

Media Officer: Graham Docksey, OAM, JP

Fundraising Officer: Amanda Duncan -Strelec

Newsletter Editor: Jan Francis

Library Coordinator: Vacant

Welfare Team: Harry Hacking JP,

Fundraising Team: Amanda Duncan-Strelec,Pauline McLeod, Jan. Francis,
Karyn Edwards.

Chaplain: Fr AlanKelb,OAM

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

General Meeting 18th February

Guest speaker :Warrant Officer Class One Racheal
Sheppard RSM ADF School of Health

Annual General Meeting 17th March

Update on the World War Two Memorial Bowl
by Albury Staff

General Meeting 21st April

Guest Speaker: Chaplain Richard Whereat
“A Chaplain at War”

General Meeting 19th May

Guest Speaker: NSW RSL Life Care
Cath Allen

General Meeting 15th September

General Meeting 20th October

General Meeting 17th November

**SUB-BRANCH OFFICE HOURS
TUE., WED., THU. 10am -2pm**

PRESIDENTS CORNER – FEBRUARY 2024

Welcome to the first edition of the sub-Branch Newsletter for 2024. Thank you, Jan, for your work in pulling together the newsletter that keeps our members informed on the happenings in their sub-Branch and across the veterans network. Please feel free to share this information with other veterans or their families.

This year will see further services offered to our members, the first being the establishment of two Compensation Advocates working in ANZAC House by appointment on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Also, a representative of RSL NSW Life Care will be available by appointment at ANZAC House. The Advocates will be available for pensions advice/applications, pension and other reviews and information for veterans on medals.

A reminder to start considering your Flu injection, top up your COVID injections and consider the Shingles jab. Enough needling from me on the matter. Another reminder about the Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP). The schedule of items, the guidelines and forms are available on www.dva.gov.au. (RAP program). I strongly encourage you to look at the schedule and then discuss this with your GP or Health professional. Your continued health is important to not only you but to your family. If you are needing assistance around the house like cleaning, washing windows, cleaning gutters etc speak with your GP and Occupational Therapist for advice.

This is your sub-Branch, so please get involved whether it be doing a few hours on the reception desk or assisting on Remembrance or ANZAC Days. If you are interested, please talk to the Secretary.

As I now plan for ANZAC Day this year, I am looking for volunteers to assist with marshalling of the marching groups and the school groups. Schools are again welcome along with community groups and First Responders. I consider this to be our major and highly visible community activity which is what we do for the Albury community along with Remembrance Day and assisting veterans in need. Please step-up to help.

Presidents corner cont..

The sub-Branch is active in conjunction with AlburyCity with planning now becoming a reality at the World War Two Memorial Bowl with \$740k being recently provided by the NSW Government towards the project. The remaining funding will come through AlburyCity. The project will see a covered children's play station, a covered exercise station, a water station and much needed landscaping and will be wheelchair friendly. A new interpretive panel will tell the story of what happened in Albury during World War Two. A presentation by AlburyCity staff on the upgrade will happen at the AGM on the 17th of March.

The 2023 Remembrance Day Service was again held in St Matthew's Church Albury and saw our largest attendances recorded. 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. Often, we have a guest speaker on a subject of interest to our members.

The AGM will be held on Sunday the 17th of March and kindly consider nominating for positions on your sub-Branch committee. Training will be provided.

We continue to support DVA sponsored activities such as Veterans Health Week with further details to be provided by DVA later in the year.

We are continuing along the path to incorporation with only a couple of hurdles to step over.

Your sub-Branch is in a sound financial position, and I continue to remain grateful for the support of my committee and our members. Kind regards to you all.

Graham

Membership fees

You may have read in the Reveille that RSL NSW requires no membership fee. The sub-branches have now been informed that they can set their own membership fee to cover administration and will be known as Administration Fee.

Your Sub-branch Administration fee covers, free lunches for the AGM and Christmas. subsidised lunches at General Meetings and Newsletters

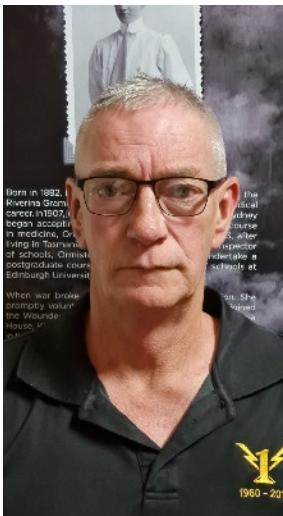
2024 Administration fees are now due and will be \$15.00

New faces at the Sub Branch

I would like to introduce Wayne McMillan and Wayne Taylor who have taken up Compensation Advocate positions within the Albury RSL Sub Branch. Wayne McMillan is qualified ATDP compensation Level One and Wayne Taylor is qualified ATDP compensation Level 4.

Currently our compensation opening hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays form 10am till 2pm, with the first appointment being 10.30am. Should you need assistance with your compensation claims or appeals, please call the Albury RSL Sub Branch on:

02 6021 1341.



Wayne McMillan



Wayne Taylor

ANZAC DAY Thursday 25th April 2024

The programme for the day is as follows:

5.30am Dawn Service at War Memorial

9am Dean Street March

Assemble at Dean Street near the theatre
from 8.30am

10am Main Service at the War Memorial.

Host School: Murray High

ANZAC BADGE DAY

As usual we are calling on volunteers to help sell badges prior to ANZAC Day. Each year our assistant Secretary spends hours phoning volunteers. This year we would greatly appreciate it if you would come forward if you are willing to assist,. Please don't leave it until the last minute.

Every site is contacted and permission sought to sell badges it is quite embarrassing when we have permission and don't have the sellers available. The site is then left empty.

ANZAC badge day is

April 19th 2024

PENSION AND WELFARE HELP???

Don't forget that if you require a pension 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

Ex Service Women's Association - Albury/Wodonga

Our Ladies would very much like to welcome any ladies that are current or ex Defence members, who are interested in joining us.

Our members range from WWII onwards.

Membership is \$5 per year.

Meetings are held from February to December on the second Tuesday of each month at 11.30am at ANZAC House 527 Wilson Street Albury, in the function room.

A Welfare Officer is available for anyone requiring help with a DVA claim or advice.

For further information please contact President Marj Howard on 6025 8197 / 0409038953, or Secretary Kim Turner on 6036-2252 or 0419953563.

We would love for you to join us, you may meet

Link Christmas at Thurgoona Country Golf Club Resort



Harry Hacking Vice President of Albury RSL Sub Branch (on the left) presenting Ken Anderson with his 5 years volunteer service pin. Ken is our exercise leader with themed fun activities which divert the mind from realising that you are really doing a mild work out.

Link Activities

Melbourne Cup *Fashions* On the Field



Best Dressed Lady
Judith

Best Dressed Man and right
up to date with the new rules
for the Members Stand, Tony

Special Birthdays



Edith 96 years young



Link RSL Day Club has
turned 16.

Danny our long serving
\coordinator cuts the cake on
behalf of all the members.



Jan 's 80th



Want Something to do on Thursdays?

Why not come and join in with the fun and frivolity of our Day Club?

We meet each Thursday at ANZAC house in Wilson Street Albury from 10am-2pm and is open to senior members of the Albury community.

Our programme includes: Gentle exercises, quizzes, games, social activities, guest speakers, entertainment.

We have morning tea and lunch every week
Contribution weekly is \$10. If you need door to door transport, this can be arranged.

For information about becoming a member please contact :

The Link Club coordinator:

Danny on 047 224 751

We are back and observing COVID rules so feel safe to come along and enjoy one another's company.

Veterans Health Week 2023



Bowls Gr8for Brains opened the morning with a session of bowling then to ANZAC House for a talk on Mental Health and Healthy Eating by Gary Treeves. Lunch followed thanks to Jenny and Pauline who organised the catering.



Sub Branch Christmas 2023





Remembrance Day 2023







Story of the Fig Tree on next page.

The Fig Tree

The original Fig Tree was within the defensive position of the area occupied by the 2/23rd Battalion (Albury's Own) during the Siege of Tobruk in North Africa in World War Two. Cuttings from this tree have over the years been propagated. After the Remembrance Day service, a cutting was presented to St Matthews Church as this was the original church for the 2/23rd when it was raised in Albury in August 1940 and was the home of the Battalion Colours before they were totally destroyed when the church caught fire and was gutted. The tree was presented by Helen Schiele, the President of the 2/23rd Battalion Association whose Father was a member of the Battalion.



Thank you

To all the volunteers who help:

Manning the Reception desk, looking after Pensions and Welfare, assisting in the kitchen, catering, cleaning up, setting up the meeting room, cooking on the BBQ, gardening and lawn care, setting up chairs at outside events and the committee for their ongoing dedication and compassion for their fellow members.

New signage at ANZAC House



YOUR SUB-BRANCH

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

Volunteers include 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 Veterans Support Centre relies on generosity of donations to off-set our running costs.

Situation Vacant: Newsletter Editor.

If you can open a computer then you will need no other qualifications.

Full instruction will be given. A template is already in place.

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