



City of Albury RSL Sub-Branch



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Newsletter

June Edition 2026

City of Albury Sub-Branch Committee 2026/27

Patron:

Historian: Howard Jones OAM



President (vacant)

**Vice President
& Welfare
Harry Hacking JP**



**Secretary
Glenda Johnston**



**Treasurer
Paul Dunlop**

Other appointments

Vice President: (2nd): (vacant)

Assistant Secretary: Barbara Chappell

Assistant Treasurer: Kel Lyons

Assets Officer: Les Crofts

Funerals Team: Harry Hacking 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: (vacant)

Fundraising Officer: Jan Francis

Newsletter Editor: Doug Hunter OAM RFD

Library Coordinator: Kel Lyons

Archive Coordinator: Amanda Duncan-Strelec

Welfare Team: Harry Hacking JP

Fundraising Team: Jan Francis, Judith Crawford and volunteers

Chaplain: Fr AlanKelb,OAM

**Your Sub-Branch meets the third Sunday
of the month commencing at 11.00am
followed by lunch.**

Note, no meetings in June or July, also note:

**General Meeting 16 August preceded by
Vietnam Veterans' Day Service 10.00am**

General Meeting 20 September

General Meeting 18 October

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**

For advocates see information on page 17

**SUB-BRANCH OFFICE HOURS
TUE., WED., THU. 10.00am -2.00pm**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Secretary Mark Lunnon, Vice-President Harry Hocking, NSW Acting President Vince Williams, President Graham Docksey, NSW staffers Harry Frost and Jono Tuckfield at the sub-branch AGM on Sunday 15 March.

It was pleasing to have Vince, Harry and Jono in attendance. They were visiting the region as part of a program of face-to-face contact with sub-branches large and small in wider NSW. Yesterday they met in Corowa with representatives of sub-branches on both sides of the border. The Victoria State President also attended the Corowa meeting.

Our meeting, with 23 members present and 6 apologies, heard reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer. Highlights were:- an active year, a hardworking committee and a sound financial position. The auditor's report commended the retiring treasurer Gary Guidotti on his thorough record keeping.

Following elections for executive positions, President Graham, Vice-president Harry and Secretary Mark were unchanged and Paul Dunlop stepped up to take over as Treasurer

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Winter 2026

As I pen my last article for the sub-Branch Newsletter as your President, I reflect on the 13-year journey that we have travelled together. A journey that has brought much needed changes to ANZAC House to bring it up to become a safe and welcoming facility that is also used by several community groups. This has also included many improvements to the efficient and safe running of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Commemorations and to our support of members of the veteran community.

Participation in, and the viewing of the ANZAC Day March has seen some very large attendances, particularly this year. A journey of education of the public with regards to the meaning of the ANZAC Spirit and our customs and traditions.

Your strong endorsement with regards the upgrade of the Albury War Memorial and World War Two Memorial Bowl has been very much appreciated. We also were instrumental with the establishment of the Borella, VC Rest Area North of Albury a couple of years ago. Important because Borella had been a member of the sub-Branch.

The make-up of the committee has played a very important role in maintaining a financially sound and strong sub-Branch. I sincerely thank all past and present committee members for their professionalism, commitment and friendship over that period.

Fund raising this year over the ANZAC period with the direct support of Soldiers and Aviators was very successful.

Belonging to a sub-Branch is both important but also serves to ensure the continued operation for future members. Too many sub-Branches have closed simply because they have allowed their numbers to dwindle and have not accepted Affiliates.

We must always look forward to the future, plan and review where we have been.

I may now not be your President but will continue in a supportive role to assist the newer committee members.

Best wishes and God Bless.

Graham

ANZAC DAY, 2026, REFLECTION, PRIDE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A thousand people gathered in sparkling pre-sunrise at the Albury War Memorial to attend a moving Dawn Service. Guest speaker Colonel Phillip Baldoni noted the Memorial was a tangible expression of Albury's collective mourning, and a symbol of respect



for the courage needed in facing dangers which required so much sacrifice for the nation. MC Nigel Horne told again the origin of the dawn service, replicating the time-honoured practice of soldiers standing to arms in the pre-dawn as a precaution against surprise attack.

Short services at SS&A Club

forecourt and Nasho Park preceded the Dean Street March. The March was led by the Albury RSL sub-branch group, followed by a large contingent of serving soldiers, sailors and airmen from Albury Wodonga Military Area. The contingent was led by two Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicles (PMVs) followed by four 50 strong divisions of troops tailed by two Bushmaster PMVs; then a century-stepback to a mounted



section of Light Horse including a mounted nurse and a led horse wearing the rug of purple poppies commemorating the service of animals in war.

The veterans followed, thick with honour banners, but thinner in numbers that a year ago. Old soldiers faded away inevitably, but the serving personnel and cadets gave assurance that the defence and wellbeing of the nation remain in good hands. The marching columns of school students showed the depth of that assurance. Colonel Baldoni took the salute from the dais at QEII Square.



Commodore Tristan Skousgaard RAN was the guest speaker at the 10 am Service at the War Memorial. A tri-service catafalque party and flag orderlies from ADF School of Health, Bandiana, gave precision and colour to the Service. Albury City Band, Sing Australia Group, singers Dianne McKie and Lisa Cullen, and piper Roger Buck provided outstanding musical support.



At the conclusion, our retiring president Graham Docksey was accorded a standing ovation honouring his decade-plus contribution to the improvements to the Memorial and the adjacent Memorial Bowl and the management of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day commemorations in the city.



The annual ANZAC Day luncheon hosted by the SS&A Club was well attended. An excellent meal was enjoyed. Commodore Skousgaard spoke briefly then joined with Colonel Baldoni to present a plaque the Graham Docksey to thank him for his service to the service community. Moments earlier Graham had



called on Jennifer Dean to accept her well deserved NSW RSL Certificate of Appreciation.



VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK

Fifteen active bowlers participated in a special lawn bowls meeting at the Commercial Club Greens on Thursday morning 19 February as part of Veterans' Health Week.

Following two hours of 'intense' competition, the group moved to ANZAC House for a healthy morning tea of wraps and fruit.

Guest speaker, Catherine Davies of Fuel Your Life, spoke on the importance of a good diet for both physical and importantly, mental health.

Her organisation offers services to veterans including nutrition programs, meal planning, and ingredient label check list. The program can be done on a home visit. A referral from a doctor can initiate the service.



INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION 1963–66

Sixty years ago, August 1966, a peace treaty was signed in Bangkok ending a three-year undeclared war between Indonesia and Malaysia, known as the Confrontation.

Australian naval, army and air forces were involved in the conflict which resulted in 22 Australian deaths.

Indonesia objected to the amalgamation of three former British colonies Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak and British North Borneo to form the Federation of Malaysia. Indonesia launched raids for the purpose of sabotage and propaganda into Sarawak with which it shared a land border. The new Malaysian government responded by requesting assistance from Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

The conflict received little coverage in Australian government and press circles in the initial stages of the dispute. Australia had been reluctant to become involved, not wishing to antagonise Indonesia which had a long border with the then Australian territory of Papua New Guinea.

Clashes with Indonesian regular forces occurred as the conflict intensified on both sides of the border. Further clashes occurred when Indonesia launched amphibious and parachute raids on the west coast of the Malay peninsula.

Australian troops involved in the Confrontation included two infantry battalions, 3RAR and 4RAR, two squadrons of the SAS, a



Map showing area of operations during Confrontation. The border region was heavy jungle with few roads; rivers providing the main lines of communication.

Native population was sparse, living in longhouses and engaging in slash-and-burn agriculture.



**Soldiers of 3 RAR
boarding a Belvedere
helicopter while
engaged in operations
to locate Indonesian
infiltrators in Sarawak,
1965.**

**Confrontation provided
valuable lessons later
applied in Vietnam.
Photo NMA**

troop of the Royal Australian Signals, several artillery batteries, and detachments of the Royal Australian Engineers. Ships of the Royal Australian Navy served in the surrounding waters and several RAAF squadrons were also involved in Confrontation.

The Australian Defence Signals Directorate (DSD) monitored Indonesian military and diplomatic signals throughout the conflict providing vital intelligence to British forces.

The Confrontation coincided with Australia's entry into the Vietnam War. The Vietnam commitment and the possibility of a continuing and widening conflict with Indonesia brought about the re-introduction of National Service in 1964.

* * *



**Soldiers from Albury-Wodonga
Military Area (AWMA) who assisted
with our fund-raising effort**

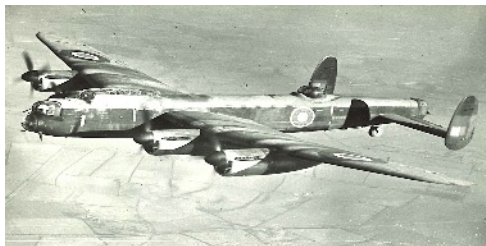
FUND RAISING

Many thanks to Jan Francis and her team for again mounting a magnificent fund raising campaign. Sellers have been out every day for the fortnight leading up to ANZAC Day.

D DAY 6 JUNE 1944 and BOMBER COMMAND

June 6th is rightly celebrated as a turning point in the Second World War. It was the day in 1944 when allied ground forces landed in France and opened a second front, liberating western Europe and hastening the German surrender. Bomber Command dropped more than 5,200 tons of bombs during the final pre-invasion raids to silence enemy shore batteries, the greatest tonnage in one night to that date in the war. Of the 1136 aircraft involved, 168 came from Australian squadrons or had RAAF pilots.

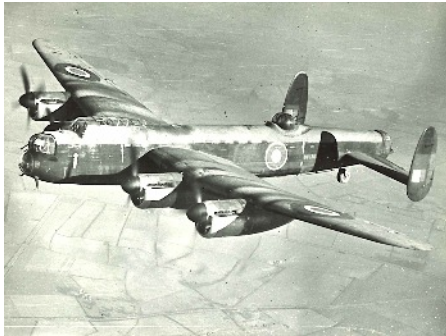
D Day was not the first time Bomber Command had taken the battle to European soil. From very early in the war and certainly after the evacuation of land forces at Dunkirk the Royal Air Force (RAF), later joined by US Air Force (USAF), had conducted a strategic bombing campaign over Germany.



**Wellington twin-engine, long-range
medium bomber**

Bomber Command was formed specifically for the progressive destruction and dislocation of the German military, industrial and economic system, and the undermining of the morale of the German people to a point where their capacity for armed resistance was fatally weakened. It attacked submarine construction yards, airfields and aircraft factories, transportation hubs, oil and chemical plants and other war industry targets and finally cities.

Bomber Command used a variety of aircraft. Four-engined Short Stirling, Avro Lancaster and Handley Page Halifax were the main heavy bombers, together the twin-engined Vickers Wellington. The Pathfinder squadrons used the de Havilland Mosquito for its specialised role of marking targets.



Four-engined Avro Lancaster
heavy bomber

The RAF was greatly strengthened by the inclusion of aircrew from across the Empire. Some 10,000 Australians served with Bomber Command along with others who served with Fighter and Maritime formations.

The air battle over Germany was a costly one. Bomber Command lost 55,573 out of a total strength of 125,000, a death rate of 44 percent, comparable

with the WWI Battle of the Somme. In addition, 8,403 were wounded in action and 9,838 became POW. The AWM Roll of Honour records Australian losses in Bomber Command at 4,149 killed including 610 killed in training accidents.

Albury War Memorial carries 34 names of local RAAF men who died during WW2, of whom 13 were killed in air battles over Europe. Howard Jones' recent book *'Mud, Blood and Tears: 100 amazing tales from Albury War Memorial'* tells the story of nine of these young men.

What was the effect of the highly costly six-year bombing campaign? Albert Speer, who was Hitler's Minister of Armaments and War Production, and was responsible for the manufacture of planes, tanks, guns and ammunition for the hard-pressed German Wehrmacht (Army) and Luftwaffe (Airforce), wrote sometime after the War:

‘The real importance of the air war consisted in the fact that it opened a second front long before the invasion in Europe’.



De Havilland DH98 Mosquito twin-engined multirole aircraft

He explained that so many of the fighter aircraft and anti-aircraft guns his hard-pressed factories produced, were sent all over Germany to guard against the persistent bombers. Similarly, huge quantities of shells were held in dumps across the country.

More damning was the employment of tens of thousands of men, urgently needed at the land battle fronts, on air defence duties.

Speer concluded, *‘this [the air battle] was the greatest lost battle on the German side.’*

NEWSLETTER - SEVENTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Seventy years ago, 1956, the first Albury sub-branch publication was printed. Titled ‘Albury RSL News’ it was the brainchild of then president, Kevin Walls.

It complemented a national RSL publication ‘The Road Back - the Ex-Serviceman’s Handbook’ but aimed to give a local focus to the League. It contained local, state and national RSL news and articles and reminiscences contributed by an interesting trio, Clive Marshall, Albert Borella and Walls himself.

Walls had an unusual wartime career. He was serving with the 2/22nd Battalion at Rabaul when it was

overrun by the Japanese in January 1942. Following a hazardous escape down the New Britain coast he was picked up and returned to Australia. He returned to New Guinea serving with M Special Unit: small groups landed in enemy territory to report on Japanese ship and aircraft movements, all the time evading Japanese search parties. He was awarded the Military Cross for his outstanding work. Kevin Walls moved to Albury after the war and worked as a solicitor. He died in 1968 aged 53.



Clive Marshall, also serving with 2/22nd Bn at Rabaul, was less fortunate. He was captured and spent 4 years a POW, much of the time labouring in coal mines in Japan. He was one of a small group of Australians who witnessed the effects of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the war and enabling their release and repatriation in 1945. Clive Marshall returned to his job at Mate's Ltd after the war, dying in 2000 aged 86.

Borella, a WWI veteran, and both Victoria Cross and Military Medal winner, had served on the Western Front with the 26th Bn. He also served in WWII with the 12th Garrison Bn at Rushworth POW Camp and later with 51st Garrison Bn at the Myrtleford POW Camp. Following the war, he moved to Albury and was a sub-branch member until his death in 1968, aged 86.



In 1956, Borella Road in East Albury was named in his honour. More recently, in 2014 a privately funded statue of him was unveiled, and in 2017 a Hume Freeway rest stop 43 km north of Albury bearing his name was opened.

Editor's Note: Does anyone have a copy of one of those early 'Albury RSL News' publications. Doug Hunter

BRADLEYS HEAD NAVAL MEMORIALS

The Bradleys Head Naval Memorials in Sydney has been officially declared a Military Memorial of National Significance. To achieve this status, a memorial must satisfy a set of criteria under the *Military Memorials of National Significance Act 2008*. It is the only naval memorial to which all naval ships, both Australian and foreign entering Sydney Harbour, must pay ceremonial honours.

The Bradleys Head Memorial honours all Navy personnel who have lost their lives in peace and war. It features the mast of the first HMAS *Sydney* and is surrounded by 23 plaques commemorating Australian ships lost in conflict. It becomes one of only nine Military Memorials of National Significance across Australia. The others are:

- Australian Ex Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat
- HMAS Sydney II Memorial in Geraldton
- Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne
- Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney
- Korean War Memorial in Moore Park, Sydney
- Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney
- Korean War Memorial in Broadbeach, Queensland
- Desert Mounted Corps Memorial in Albany



The mast of HMAS *Sydney* mounted on an old fortification on Bradleys Head, Sydney harbour.

The memorial was first constructed in 1934 to commemorate the WWI action when the first HMAS *Sydney* engaged the German cruiser SMS *Emden* in the Indian Ocean in November 1914. *Emden* was badly damaged and forced to run aground on Cocos Island.

When *Sydney* was decommissioned in 1928, her mast was removed and erected at Bradleys Head.

In 1934, Australia purchased three Leander Class cruisers under construction at British shipyards. One was named HMAS *Sydney*, the others HMAS *Perth* and HMAS *Hobart*. Only *Hobart*



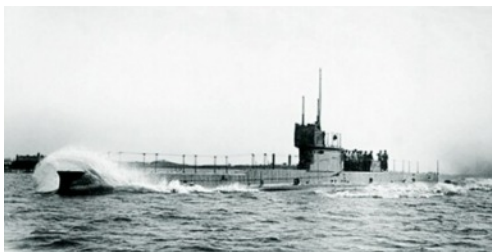
HMAS *Sydney II* lost with all hands off the coast of Western Australia, November 1941.

survived the war although it was severely damaged in July 1943 when torpedoed by a Japanese submarine near the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu).

HMAS *Sydney II*, in an odd sequel, engaged a German raider HSK *Kormoran* off the West Australian coast in November 1941. In this battle however, *Sydney* was lost with all 645 crew. *Kormoran* was left on fire, badly damaged and drifting. She was scuttled and about 100 survivors of her crew were picked up.

Three months later, *Sydney*'s sister ship, HMAS *Perth* was lost in a battle with the Japanese navy in the Sunda Strait, Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). Some of the crew survived the sinking, but became POW. Of her crew of 686, only 218 survived the war.

HMAS *Sydney II* was not the first RAN loss in wartime. That had occurred 27 years earlier, September 1914, when HMAS *AE1*, a submarine, disappeared off the coast of New Britain with the loss of all 35 crew. *AE1* was part of the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) which was tasked in the first months of WWI with the capture of German colonial outposts and wireless stations in New Guinea and New Britain.



HMAS *AE1* lost with all hands off New Britain, September 1914.



ADVOCATE at ALBURY SUB-BRANCH

Wayne Taylor

Wayne Taylor is a Compensation Advocate operating within the the Albury RSL Sub Branch. Wayne Taylor is qualified ATDP compensation Level 4.

Currently compensation opening hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am till 2.00pm, 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.



INTRODUCING SECRETARY GLENDA JOHNSTON

Glenda joins us to take over the sub-branch secretarial duties from long-serving secretary Mark Lunnon.

Glenda has an impressive volunteer history in community organisations and will without doubt be an asset to the sub-branch.

We welcome her to the team.

NEW PHONE/INTERNET SYSTEM

Broadtec Group of Albury has recently completed the installation of a new system to manage the phones and internet services at ANZAC House. This replaces the seriously outdated system which has made the work of our volunteer staff increasingly difficult. The new installation will accommodate future developments in digital services. Thank you to our IT Officer Noel Francis for his work in researching and selecting a system best suited to our requirements.



Day Club members Gwen Anderson and Coral Ferguson celebrated their birthdays at Day Club recently, Gwen 90th and Coral 70th. Coral is an original member of the Day Club starting on day one, 18 years ago.

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

For information about becoming a member please contact Link Club Coordinator: Danny on 0477 224 751

Ex Service Women's Association Albury-Wodonga

We would very much like to welcome ladies who are current or ex Defence members, and who are interested in joining us. Our members range from WWII onwards.

\$10 Annual Membership subscription.

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 0409 038 953 or 6025 8197,
or

Secretary Kim Turner 0419 953 563 or 6036-2252

*We would love for you to join us, you may meet
some old friends and make new ones.*

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP :-

Manning Reception, 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.

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