

REDLANDS SUB BRANCH

BUGLE

FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION

"Honouring The Fallen By Serving The Living!"

WAR
ANIMAL
DAY

TUESDAY
24
FEBRUARY

REDLANDS RSL SUB BRANCH: 1925-2026
Information for all Veterans, Ex-Service
& Serving Men & Women in the Redlands



IN MEMORIAM – MR IAN GRAY –

It is with deep sadness that we inform members of the passing of our former Deputy President, Mr Ian Gray, on 21 January 2026. Ian's funeral was held on Monday, 2 February.

Ian was a devoted Service Member of Redlands RSL for more than 23 years and served on our Executive Committee for 19 years, including as Vice President and, from 2012, as Deputy President. Throughout his decades of service, he was instrumental in preserving our history through the Library & Museum, representing our Sub-Branch at District and State level, mentoring young people as Cadet Liaison Officer, helping organise the Honour the Fallen projects, and faithfully contributing to The Bugle to keep members informed and connected.

Ian's leadership, wisdom and quiet dedication left a lasting mark on our Sub-Branch and the wider community. He will be remembered not only for his many achievements, but for his kindness, integrity and unwavering commitment to veterans and members alike.

We extend our sincere condolences to Esther, Ian's family, and loved ones. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.



President's Report

I hope this finds everyone in good health.

I begin this report with a tribute to our past Deputy President, Mr Ian Gray, who sadly passed away after my last report went to print. Ian was a stalwart at this RSL for many years. A humble volunteer who always went the extra mile, put his hand up for anything when others were slow to respond, and could be relied upon at all times. Above all, he was a gentleman in every sense, respected by all, both within this sub branch and elsewhere, and a role model to many. The attendance at his funeral early this month was a testament to how much he was loved and respected. Lest We Forget.

A big thankyou to all our Volunteers who do so much for this sub branch. You clocked up a massive 9,998 hours last year, nearly breaking the 10,000 hour barrier. Imagine if wages had to be paid for the work that our volunteers do, there would be very little left to fund all our programs. Well done and I look forward to your continued support.

Australian War Animal Day is observed on February 24 each year to commemorate the sacrifices and contributions of animals that served alongside military personnel during conflicts. This day, recognises the bravery and loyalty of various animals, including horses, donkeys, dogs, camels, pigeons and even kangaroos, who have played significant roles in military history. This day was officially recognised in 2019, and it encourages Australians to wear a purple poppy in honour of these animals' contributions.

Accordingly, Redlands RSL Sub Branch will be holding a commemorative Service on Tuesday 24th February, in Anzac Memorial Park beginning at 10am to commemorate Australian War Animal Day. I encourage all members and guests to take time to attend this service.

Take care.

Rob Wilson
PRESIDENT, REDLANDS SUB BRANCH



Previous Minutes

Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch)
Redlands RSL Sub-Branch

LEAGUE GATHERING MEETING MINUTES

SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2025

MEETING OPENED: by Rob Wilson at 10.30am

ODE RECITED

REMEMBERING:

Raymond Finlayson – ARMY

Christopher Robinson – Royal Navy/Royal Australia Navy

ATTENDANCE: A total of 60 as per the attendance book (48 League, 12 Visitors)

APOLOGIES: As per the apologies list in the attendance book.

Moved: M. McDonnell

Seconded: B. Griffioen

That the Attendance and Apologies be accepted . . Motion 1: Carried

NEW MEMBERS: Clint Russ and Frank Plake

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES: Bruce Readman (86th Birthday)

PRESIDENTS OPENING REMARKS:

Some of you may be aware we have a new National President. On the 16th October, Peter Tinley AM, was elected as President of RSL Australia, replacing retired President, Major General Greg Mellick AO RFD.

Peter Tinley served 25 years in the Australian Defence Force, including 17 years with the Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment. Rising from enlisted soldier to Major. His military service spanned Lebanon, Syria, Bougainville, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Following his military service, Peter Tinley served in the Western Australian Parliament for 15 years, where he held numerous, complex portfolios including serving as Minister for Veterans Issues, Housing, Asian Engagement and youth.

On a different note, my personal thanks to all who made the Remembrance Day Commemorations such a success. I don't usually single out anyone, because everyone who was involved in the Commemorations, from services at schools and aged care facilities, to selling badges, did such a fine job. I will however make an exception

this time and congratulate League Secretary, Michael McDonnell for all the research and planning he put into this important commemorative event on our calendar. Well done Michael.

Since this is our last meeting for the year, at the conclusion, we will have light refreshments and camaraderie here in the Gallipoli room.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: As presented in the Bugle - Page 4-9

League Gathering Meeting Sunday 28th September 2025

Moved: R. Khan

Seconded: I. Cuthbertson

That the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted.

. Motion 2: Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

Moved: Nil

Seconded: Nil

PRESIDENTS REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 3

President Rob Wilson introduced Wal Konowec, President of Bayside South RSL Sub Branch, who has been invited to the meeting. His presence will become obvious in General Business. Please make him welcome.

President Rob Wilson paid tribute to Alan Harcourt on being awarded the RSL Meritorious Service Award. An award to life members only, who continue to do outstanding service in their Sub Branch.

Moved: R. Wilson

Seconded: M. Taylor

That the Presidents Report be accepted Motion 3: Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: As presented by League Secretary – Michael McDonnell

Inwards:

- The Australian Federal Veterans Wellbeing Grants Program for 2025-2026 for projects supporting health and wellbeing closed on Friday 14th November.
- Confirmation was received from the local MP's that they will attend Remembrance Day service.

Outwards:

- Griffith University is running a program "Empowering Veterans" which is an initiative that uses breathwork to support the mental health and wellbeing of veterans. This program runs from the 1st to 5th December at Stafford Family Wellbeing Centre.
- RSL Qld is offering RSL sub branches the opportunity to screen a

production of “Forged Under Fire”, a powerful new documentary film that tells the story of the role of the Australian Light Horse Brigades played in the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire in WW1. This opportunity is available anytime from now through to the lead up to Anzac Day 2026.

Moved: M. McDonnell

Seconded: B Griffioen

That the correspondence be accepted Motion 4: Carried

TREASURERS REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 10-11

Moved: P. Field

Seconded: R. Heath

That the Treasurers Report be accepted. Motion 5: Carried

WELLBEING REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 12 - 13

Moved: L. Harcourt

Seconded: A. Dunker

That the Wellbeing Report be accepted. Motion 6: Carried

DEPUTY PRESIDENT REPORT: Nil

Moved: Nil

Seconded: Nil

CADETS REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 13 – 17

Moved: D. Field

Seconded: A. Dunker

That the Cadets Report be accepted. Motion 7: Carried

SED REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 10

President Rob Wilson expanded on the address by Warrant Officer Alesha Rollinson – Royal Australian Navy, in the report that RSL Sub Branches are going to have to provide facilities for families if they are to attract the latest veterans.

Moved: R. Wilson

Seconded: G. Hinson

That the SED Report be accepted Motion 8: Carried

LEAGUE SECRETARY REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 18

Moved: M. McDonnell

Seconded: B. Reedman

That the League Secretary Report be accepted. . . . Motion 9: Carried

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN REPORT: No Report

Moved: Nil

Seconded: Nil

RAAF ASSOCIATION REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 19

Moved: R. Wilson

Seconded: D Palmer

That the RAAF Association Report be accepted . . Motion 10: Carried

NAVAL ASSOCIATION REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 20

Moved: I. Cuthbertson

Seconded: R. Khan

That the Naval Association Report be accepted . . . Motion 11: Carried

WOMEN’S AUXILIARY REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 21

Moved: D. Lingard

Seconded: C. McKay

That the Women’s Auxiliary Report be accepted . Motion 12: Carried

LIBRARY MUSEUM REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 22-23

Moved: Marty Rabjohns

Seconded: A. Bailey

That the Library Museum Report be accepted . . . Motion 13: Carried

VETERANS AND WELLBEING REPORT: As presented in the Bugle on Page 24

Greg Saunders provides a wrap-up of the veterans and wellbeing excursion trips, highlighting the hard work of a great team within the Redlands RSL helping to make the excursions such a success. Greg also commented on the recent trip to the Breakfast Creek Hotel, where the venue lived up to its name praising the steak meals. We did not receive one negative comment about the excursion.

Upcoming Veterans and Wellbeing Excursion 2026

Greg announced an upcoming trip to Maleny, which will be subsidized by DVA, and thanked the members for their continuing support.

Moved: G. Saunders

Seconded: M. Rabjohns

That the Veterans and wellbeing Report be accepted Motion 14: Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Deputy President’s Position

President Rob Wilson reiterated the appointment of Philip Barnes to fill the Deputy President position and that this move has left the Director’s position vacant. The board has decided that this position will remain vacant until the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 22nd March 2026. Phil Barnes has also agreed to be nominated as the second delegate to represent the Redlands RSL Sub Branch.

Moved: I. Cuthbertson

Seconded: M. Rabjohns

That Phillip Barnes as a second delegate be accepted Motion 15: Carried

New Motion to foster Bayside South as a chapter

Redlands RSL has been approached by SED to foster Bayside South Sub Branch as a chapter in accordance with RSL Queensland By-Law 12.

The chapter systems are designed to allow small sub branches the opportunity to retain a sole presence if they are unable to continue to operate and function as a Sub Branch.

It allows the members time to reform a committee as required by the constitution, with a view to once again become a Sub Branch. The time factor is indeterminate in accordance with the By-Law. There are financial and administrative requirements by both parties, and they would be known as Bayside South Chapter of Redlands RSL Sub Branch.

If we don't accept them, the next port of call is SED. It was noted that the board didn't have a negative or positive view about the fostering of the sub branch but would like feedback from the members. Beau King commented that concept was good due to the fact that the more veterans that can be encouraged to be part of a small community the better.

The President of Bayside South RSL Sub Branch, Wal Konowec, addressed how the fostering worked financially. The Redlands RSL would take over the financial and property obligations of the Bayside South Sub Branch and would approach Redlands RSL for finance through a separate sub account that only operates for the chapter.

It was noted that the Bayside South Sub Branch has approximately 60 members but out of that only a maximum of 15 members attend meetings. Generally, this is because of the age group. The President of Bayside South RSL Sub Branch also noted that they wished to partake in the Redlands RSL Sub Branch social events to aide running effectively as a Sub Branch and encourage increased membership. Discussions continued with changes being implemented to help with bringing in new members, asking for Redlands RSL support until the Sub Branch can become viable again.

Redlands RSL League Secretary, Michael McDonnell, raised questions about plans Bayside South RSL Sub Branch have implemented to encourage new and younger members.

Wal Konowec responded to the questions advising that Bayside South RSL Sub Branch has been approached by Bay FM to advertise with, as well as the local Bayside Bulletin.

There has been discussion amongst Bayside South RSL Sub Branch to change the timing of their Tuesday meetings, to better suit all age groups.

A member of the meeting expressed Bayside South RSL Sub Branch is a lot larger by number compared to a lot of the other Sub Branches. Questions were raised as to what difficulties Bayside South RSL Sub Branch are currently facing.

Wal Konowec responded with age difficulty being the main difficulty as well as not having that necessary bond with the community of Redland Bay.

Noel Newton put forward the idea that it may be simpler for Bayside South's members to join the Redlands RSL, rather than proceeding with the Redlands RSL fostering Bayside South.

Wal Konowec responded that they have a responsibility to the Redland Bay areas and the communities and that would not be looking towards a future of growth within the club given the tremendous population growth in the area.

Wal Konowec sees this as a transition that needs the time to make the club viable again, whilst remaining independent, and the solution to achieve this is Redlands RSL fostering the Sub Branch.

Essentially Redlands RSL will act as management for Bayside South, including committee responsibilities. As a method of communication Bayside South would have one representative that will be on the Sub Branch committee who attends meetings in the interest of the club, but will hold no voting rights.

Whilst Redlands RSL decide on the fostering of Bayside, current members of Bayside South RSL Sub Branch will need to be approached in the New Year to also vote on the matter.

The first step is to have Redlands RSL accept and then move forward with Bayside South RSL Sub Branch members voting, however in discussions with Bayside South RSL Sub Branch members thus far, there has been no negative responses to the idea.

Council currently hold the licence for the premises in which Bayside South operate from. The license is renewed every two years. Parking around the premises is difficult and discussions are continuing with council as to a solution. In order to grow membership, Bayside South RSL Sub Branch are considering possibly relocating depending on SED decision on an alternative location when the time comes.

Phil Barnes raised a question on the possibility of Redlands RSL managing Bayside South's Anzac Day and other ceremonies.

Wal Konowec responded that all avenues are in consideration at the moment, as discussions with Redlands RSL League Secretary, Michael McDonnell, external event managers and Redlands council moving

forward. Once the financial outlay is determined we hope to have a better idea.

President Rob Wilson asked the meeting if Redlands RSL Sub Branch should accept Bayside South Sub Branch as a chapter by a show of hands. A majority of members voted in favour.

NEXT VETERANS CUPPA: Wednesday 10th December 2025 in the ANZAC Lounge at 9am.

RAFFLES: Drawn and Won

NEXT QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING: Will be held on Sunday 25h January 2026 at 10.30am

NEXT LEAGUE GATHERING MEETING: Will be held on Sunday 22nd February 2026 at 10.30am

MEETING CLOSED: by Rob Wilson at 11.24am

Treasurer's Report

A steady start for 2026.

If the year continued along a similar way it would be a tremendous result by December. Personally, I believe the recent increase in the interest rate by the Reserve Bank will only have a mediocre effect, however if the prediction of 2 additional increases comes true, it could become a real problem for future trading results.

Now the operations of the organisation have returned to normal following the Christmas break. Our wonderful Volunteers have and always will have my total support. Their continuing contribution is impossible to measure. A simple "Thank You" seems such a trivial way to repay their work.

I have confirmed with the Financial Controller that all statutory payments including Employee Entitlements are up to date.

The challenges facing Australians during 2026 will most certainly be likewise shared throughout all our membership, especially those relying on a steady interest rate. It's going to be a challenging year, financially.



Paul Field

TREASURER, REDLANDS SUB BRANCH

SED REPORT

The last SED Meeting held on Thursday 5th February developed into the most unusual SED meeting I have attended. Before the meeting began, the usual one guest speaker became three and by the time they had finished, there was no time for the meeting business. However, the messages provided by the three speakers were very important and timely.

The first two speakers were from DVA, Alison Frame, The Secretary and Tara Hatzismalis, Deputy Commissioner for Queensland, Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs including the new Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) effective from 1 July 2026, as well as the new Institute of Veterans' Advocacy (IVA).

Their messages to the Delegates present focused on:

- The difficulties being faced by the Department and Advocates with the move to MRCA, and the changing claims landscape.
- The introduction of the IVA, which will hopefully set the benchmark for Advocates and counter freelance Advocates charging Veterans outrageous fees.

The third presentation was from Leigh Buckingham, Registrar, RSL Qld on By-Law 7 - Discipline and Disputes. His presentation provided Delegates with an interesting insight focusing on RSL QLD By Law 7 and a 'roadmap' on how to handle disputes at the lowest possible level.

To conclude the night, SED President Kerry Gallagher opened the meeting, recited the Ode, and proceeded to transfer all remaining business to the next meeting, much to all our relief.

Report provided by

Rob Wilson

Wellbeing Report

It is my pleasure to present the February Wellbeing Report to this meeting.

Headquarters has had a busy month and welcomed Alissa and Nicole to the staff at HQ. Among their many tasks will be assisting Michael with our 2026 Anzac Day preparations. This will be the 100th year that the Sub Branch has been conducting Anzac Day Services in the Redlands.

Our Advocates are busy as usual with interviewing and assisting clients by lodging claims with the Department of Veteran Affairs.

The Wellbeing Support Officers met in early February to discuss what had happened over the past month and those who have visited clients reporting on these outcomes. Sub Branch representatives have conducted a number of poppy services in the past month.

Our Facebook posts with Sub Branch wellbeing information have been well received and we will continue to post regularly to assist our veteran community and their families. Thanks Karleigh and Claire for coordinating this. In the past week we have posted info on the Golden Oldies and also details of the Ex-Service organisations that meet at the RSL.

Our first Bus Excursion was on 19th February to Maleny, which sold out very quickly. Thank you to the Department of Veteran Affairs for the grant for Veteran's Health week of \$1,000.00 to assist us with the cost of the trip.

Just a reminder if you are unfortunate enough to have to be admitted to hospital please let the Sub Branch know so we can visit and supply you with a hospital gift pack.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of National Service. To all our members who gave two years to service their country, a job well done.

The anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin is on 19th February. After a request from SEDRSL we attempted to contact any of our members who were involved. One of our members is being interviewed by the Courier Mail as part of a story they are doing to commemorate this important part of Australia's history.

Thank you all who have helped look after our Service members and their families in the last month in many ways. Your time and energy is much appreciated.

Please see page 25 of this Bugle to see some of the services that we provide to veterans and their families.

Warm Regards,

Linda Harcourt

WELLBEING CO-ORDINATOR

Email: linda.harcourt@redlandsrsl.com.au



Cadet Liaison Report

All three cadet units have commenced training for the year with renewed enthusiasm. Whilst the Navy and Army cadets have been recruiting, 217 Squadron has not had to due to 35-40 recruits joining.

There are possibly three major changes to the cadet organisation:

- Army changing from meeting on a Monday to meeting on a Wednesday for stability as there are several Mondays during the year designated as public holiday.
- The Air Force cadets have a new Commanding Officer in Pilot Officer (AAFC) Peter Eikenloff.
Immediate past CO, Squadron Leader (AAFC) Tony McKeaton has been re-located to 201 Sqn.
- There is a possibility of the Air Force cadets changing meeting location.

Roland Heath and I have been meeting with the cadets and attended all three units final meeting for 2025. We have also been liaising with leaders by email and recently attended an Army cadet recruitment information evening at the RSL Club with mums and dads accompanying the 'wannabe' cadet. There were forms to be completed by both parents and cadets along with about 90 minutes of presentations by the OC. At this stage, all three leaders are aware of their commitment to the RSL Club with regards Anzac Day, Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day. A discussion is still to be had with regards holding their celebration functions in the RSL Club.



TS NORFOLK AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADET UNIT

TS Norfolk has had a busy start to the 2026 year, during the Christmas break staff created a permanent classroom area to focus on the learning curriculum of the ANC. Cadets and staff attended Gallipoli Barracks for a whole 7-days for Cadet Training in Skill at Arms, Robotics, Drones, Drumming, Petty Officer training and Chief Petty Officer training. TS Norfolk had many cadets attend and complete their levels and be awarded during the ceremony on the last day, this includes one soon to be Petty Officer and two soon to be Chief Petty Officers.



TS Norfolk has already attended a Maritime training day this year at Wellington Point Jetty where we undertook Powerboat training and Kayaking activities. We have started our 2026 ANZAC Day planning with cadets already excited for the day.

Coming later in 2026 we have booked with Kindilan at Mt Cotton to undertake an adventure weekend full of activities designed to take cadets out of their comfort zone and challenge them to succeed, while this is not a cheap exercise the benefits to our cadets will be massive.

As Commanding Officer at TS Norfolk I am looking forward to a very exciting and rewarding year for the cadets. We have adopted a new joint venture with TS Diamantina which will see us parade together at TS Norfolk on the last Thursday of each month to undertake advanced ceremonial training.

For further enquiries, please contact TSNorfolk@navycadets.gov.au

— Report provided by Lt (ANC) Matt Firth, CO TS Norfolk

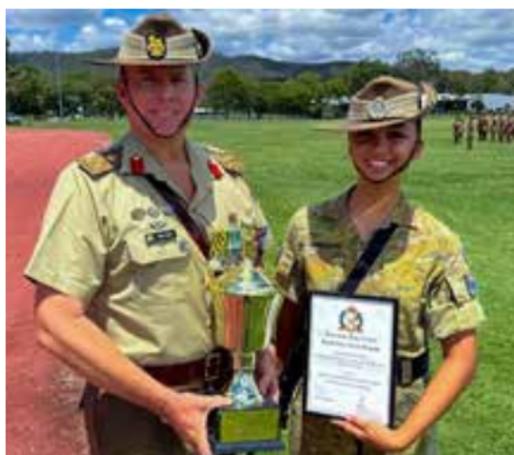


136 AUSTRALIAN ARMY CADET UNIT

As we enter 2026, 136 Army Cadet Unit (ACU) is delighted to welcome 17 new recruits who are eager to carry forward the traditions of military

dress, discipline, and bearing that define our organisation. This year stands out for our unit, marked by a series of well-deserved promotions that highlight our dedication to shaping future leaders in the Redland community. Seven cadets have moved up to CDT Lance Corporal, six have become CDT Corporals, and three have achieved the rank of CDT Sergeant. Among these, CDT Sergeant Lily Lleno-Harrington has taken on the role of Company Sergeant Major, while Marcus Burton has earned promotion to Cadet Under Officer (CUO).

During the summer, four members attended the Sergeants and CUO course where Sergeant Lily Lleno-Harrington received the esteemed Leadership Award, reflecting her commitment and outstanding discipline.



She further expanded her skills with advanced training at the Drone Course held in Adelaide this January.

Community involvement continues to be a vital part of our unit's values. Through the Bendigo Bank Victoria Point "Token of Appreciation" initiative, supporters can visit the branch to place a token in our bucket, helping secure funding for ongoing activities. Your support allows our cadets to build military expertise, leadership abilities, and a strong sense of community service.

Our senior leadership team has renewed the focus on discipline and structure, ensuring that our training program adapts to our evolving needs.



The calendar this year is filled with opportunities for cadets to demonstrate teamwork and discipline, including a joint exercise with three other units that will strengthen bonds and camaraderie. Exciting and challenging events are scheduled throughout the year, such as recruit and Lance Corporal courses at the Battalion level. For

more details about upcoming plans, please visit our Facebook page.

We would also like to recognise Cadet Sergeant Olesen-Warltier, who will represent 136 ACU and the SQLD BDE at the RSM-Army Drill Competition in Canberra this April. It has been many years since one of our unit members has made it onto the team and we are confident she will perform admirably.

Sadly, the 136 ACU had the honour of forming part of the guard for Mr. Ian Gray, who passed away in January. Ian will be deeply missed, but his legacy continues to inspire all Cadet Units in the Redlands.

At 136ACU, we remain steadfast in our mission to instil discipline and leadership values throughout our program. We look forward to another successful year of growth, achievement, and service, proudly upholding the standards that make the Army Cadets respected within the community. Recruitment for our next intake begins in May, with new recruits starting in July—so keep an eye out for our announcements!

— Report provided by CAPT (AAC) Craig Buckingham, OC 136ACU

Email: Craig.Buckingham@armycadets.gov.au

Unit Duty Number: 0479 136 106



217 SQUADRON, AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

The new year sees the squadron starting the year with a good number of recruits. Such is the interest in the AAFC, that the squadron did not have to resort to active recruiting and will most likely fill their establishment and have a waiting list. The numbers being recruited by the squadron will be in the vicinity of 35 to 40 new cadets each and for the second year running, retention rates are quite high, which is no doubt a reflection of the new cadet training regime and a more progressive policy on promotions.

At 217SQN, PLTOFF(AAFC) Peter Eikenloff has been appointed as the new Commanding Officer. Peter has been at the squadron for the last 12 months and is a Registered Nurse with service in the Australian Army. The outgoing CO at 217sqn, SQNLDR(AAFC) Tony Mckean has been appointed CO at 201sqn at "Churchie" following the sudden resignation of the CO.

The focus of the squadron for the next 3 months will be training and kitting the new recruits in preparation for ANZAC Day and the

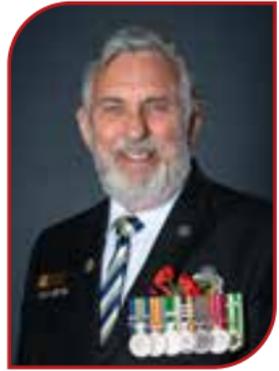
consolidation of new levels of training for the more senior cadets.

— Report provided by Chris Howitt (FLTLT AAFC)

Cadet reports compiled by

David Field

VICE PRESIDENT, REDLANDS SUB
BRANCH, & CADET LIAISON OFFICER

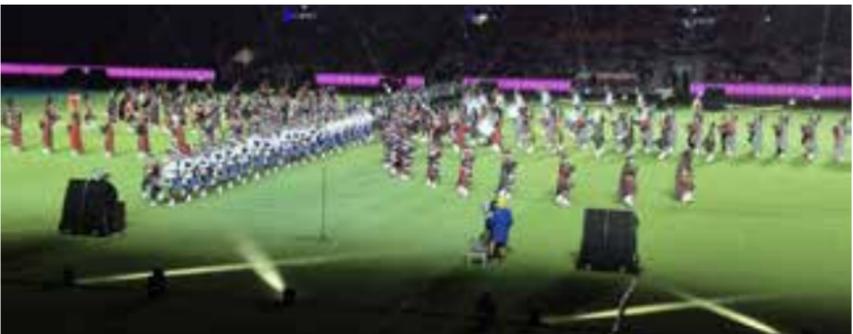


THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

I was lucky enough to win two tickets to the Edinburgh Tattoo at the last Redlands RSL Sub Branch meeting.

The show was excellent with over 1100 performers and a full house at Suncorp Stadium. The rain did not take anything away from the show. Thanks Redlands RSL for the chance to win the tickets.

Frank Williams.



League Secretary Report

Good morning everyone, planning is well underway towards Anzac Day. This is a gentle reminder to notify me if you would like to lay a wreath, or ride in a golf buggy. NOTE limited number of buggies this year, first in first served.

Dawn Service is the highlight each year. The VETERANS ONLY march begins after the Gunfire Breakfast. Being a veteran and marching, makes the hairs on your neck stand up, as there are so many members of the public standing in silence as you march to Centenary Park. We normally have about 200 veterans who march to a waiting crowd of about 10,000. If you have not marched in previous years please consider this year. Anzac Day being the conclusion of Redlands RSL's 100 year Sub Branch celebration.

If the Dawn Service is not your thing, the Main Service and March is very well attended, led by the Australian Light Horse, re-enactment group, RAAF from Amberly, an Army Unit, our three Cadet Units, marching bands, Veterans and support groups plus a large number of local schools who support us each year. Don't forget we have the RAAF 6 Squadron EA-18G Growler contributing with the Fly over.

War Animal Day is celebrated on Tuesday 24th February 2026. A wreath laying ceremony is conducted at the War Animal memorial in Anzac Memorial Park at 10.00am. We invite all members of the public to attend. The President will lay a wreath after a short address about the War Animals in service.

Michael McDonnell

LEAGUE SECRETARY,
REDLANDS SUB BRANCH



**2026 COMMEMORATES REDLANDS RSL
SUB BRANCHES' 100TH ANZAC DAY!**



WAR ANIMAL DAY

24TH FEBRUARY

Lest We Forget

TUESDAY

24TH FEBRUARY 2026

10am COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE
ANZAC MEMORIAL PARK, CLEVELAND

Join us in honouring the courage, sacrifice, and service of the animals who stood alongside our armed forces.

Recognising the loyal horses, donkeys, camels, dogs, pigeons and other animals who served - and often gave their lives - in times of war and peace.

Animals have been put to many uses in war, serving as transport, beasts of burden, messengers, protectors, mascots, and pets.

They have played an important part in all wars in which Australians have been involved.

PURCHASE A PURPLE POPPY BADGE

Wearing a purple poppy is a simple but powerful way to honour the animals who served alongside Australia's military personnel.

By purchasing an official badge, you help raise awareness and support ongoing remembrance activities.

**THE SELFLESS WORK OF ANIMALS OF WAR
IS NOT FORGOTTEN!**

RAAF Association

REDLANDS BRANCH

Redlands Branch of the RAAF Association continued with promoting the wellness and benefits of members and supporting the Australian Air Force Cadets.

The first Branch Restaurant Dinner for the year was at The Sands Hotel, Cleveland on Tuesday 20th January 2026. This was followed by lunch in the RSL Sails Restaurant after the AGM on Sunday 8th February. The following committee was elected at the AGM:

President: Rob Wilson

Deputy President: Eric Shaw

Secretary/Treasurer: David Field

Committee: Gary Olsen, Evelyn Pointon, Noel Hendrix

The Branch informal wellbeing gatherings in the ANZAC Lounge of Redlands RSL on Wednesday afternoons are still having good regular attendances. The monthly RSL 'Veterans Cuppas' have also been popular with members. Branch members are also looking forward to the next RSL Wellbeing Bus Trip, many thanks to Greg Saunders for organising these activities.

The next meeting of RAAFA Redlands Branch, will be a General Meeting on **Sunday 12th April 2026 in Redlands RSL at 10:30am.** This will be followed by lunch in Redlands RSL Sails Restaurant for those who can attend after the meeting.

Rob Wilson

PRESIDENT, RAAF ASSOC.
REDLANDS BRANCH



Anyone interested in joining the Royal Australian Air Force Association (Redlands Branch), please phone the secretary, David Field on 0439 855 894.

Naval Association

BAYSIDE SUB SECTION

The February Bayside Naval Association Annual General and Monthly meetings were held in the Tobruk Room, Redlands RSL, 7 February 2026 at 1200 with 39 members in attendance.

Annual General Meeting

The President declared all positions vacant and invited the nominated returning Officer Adrian Sellars to take the chair and conduct the elections. As only one nomination was received for each Management Committee position, voting is not required and the sitting executive committee were reelected unopposed for 2026.

A big thank you and BZ was tabled from Bayside members to the committee for their outstanding efforts and success in 2025.

Bayside Outstanding Member of the year 2025

Following a review by our Bayside President of members nominations for this award has resulted in a popular decision. A very well deserved award for our Secretary Ian Cuthbertson. Ian's contribution and tireless efforts to the Bayside Sub-section in several formal and informal roles particularly stand out and makes a difference to what we accomplish.

Ian's dedication and passion deserves a massive (Bravo Zulu) well done mate.



Veterans Cuppa

Members are reminded that the Redlands RSL Veterans Cuppa mornings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 0900. Please inform the RSL front desk if you are attending.

Jack Memorial South Bank

The next ceremony at Jack will be for HMAS Voyager to be held on 26 February 2026 starting at 1100. Fellowship to follow at the Ship Inn on Completion.

Yours Aye,

Colin Saxby

NAVAL ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA, BAYSIDE SUB SECTION INC.



Library Museum

Good morning all, hope you are well.

It's been quite a start to the year. Both the women's and men's art groups started back this month. We have welcomed a new volunteer to the Library Museum, who was introduced at last month's meeting. Tim will be teaming up with Aaron, helping out every second Thursday.

Carmel McKay and her new husband Chris are currently in Norway. We hope they have a great time and wish them safe travels.

I would like to thank all of the returning volunteers. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication and look forward to the year ahead.

Marty Rabjohns

LIBRARY MUSEUM CURATOR



Opening Hours:

Mondays through to Fridays from 10am to 2pm.

Christmas Closure: Wednesday 17th December,
re-opening Monday 12th January 2026.

For any enquiries or group bookings,
please contact Martin Rabjohns on 0438 229 763.

'CONTACT' AIR, LAND AND SEA NEWS

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link: <https://www.contactairlandandsea.com/>

VETERANS & WELLBEING EXCURSIONS

Another year of excursions is ahead of us.

I would like to thank you one and all for your support in 2025, it was extremely successful. Suffice to say we covered a wide variety of trips that went down extremely well.

Our first trip of the year is to Maleny Bird World park. The trip includes morning tea followed by a two-course lunch at Nambour RSL. It is worth noting that the trip sold out in a little over 1 hour which was exceptional. We would also like to acknowledge the Department of Veterans Affairs for the grant of \$1,000.00 as part of Veterans Health week, which helped subsidise this trip.

Our second trip for 2026 will be to Noosa where we will have morning tea on the way. After morning tea, we will then move on to the Noosa Marina, where we will board an all electric boat for an hour and a half cruise on the Noosa River using electric power. After arriving back at the Noosa Marina at 12.30pm, we will have lunch at the Royal Mail Hotel in Tewantin overlooking the Noosa River. This trip also sold out on the day that tickets went on sale, however if you are interested in attending, please phone reception on 34881199 and add your name to the waitlist. We usually have a couple that need to cancel.

Our trips thus far are very well supported. The year ahead will be a little different to last year.

Thank you all for your great support.

Til' next time,

Greg Saunders,

CONVENOR OF VETERANS &
WELLBEING EXCURSIONS



NOT RECEIVING EMAILS OR SMS NOTIFICATIONS?

If you are NOT receiving our emails or texts about excursions or Sub Branch meetings etc, please phone reception on 34881199 to ensure we have your correct details on file.

National Service Group

REDLANDS BRANCH

No report.

Eric Shaw,

PRESIDENT, NATIONAL SERVICE GROUP
REDLANDS BRANCH



Women's Auxiliary

No report.

Desley Lingard

PRESIDENT, WOMEN'S AUXILIARY



PEACE POLE

On Saturday 6th December, we had a dedication of the Peace Pole at Wellington Point Village Green. Myself, together with Redlands City Councillors, Capalaba and Wellington Point Rotary members, and the local public were in attendance.

Graham Hinson

REDLANDS RSL SUB-BRANCH WELLBEING OFFICER,
COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER



ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS?

Redlands RSL Sub Branch is here to support veterans and their families, helping them find purpose, connection, and assistance whenever it is needed.

From time to time, veterans ask what the RSL can offer them if they become members of our Sub Branch. Every Sub Branch is different. Some have fewer than 20 members, while others have over 2,000. Each Sub Branch works within its available resources to support veterans and their families and to uphold the Objects of the League.

Located at RSL Headquarters, 1–11 Passage Street, Cleveland, the Redlands RSL Sub Branch provides a range of services and activities, including:

Advocacy - Free assistance from qualified ADTP Advocates with DVA claims and appeals.

Commemorative Services - Support and participation in Anzac Day, Vietnam Veterans Day, Remembrance Day, Honouring the Fallen, and AWAMO Remembrance services.

Poppy Service - For a deceased veteran, provided at the request of the next of kin.

Wellbeing Support Officers - Home visits, transport assistance (where not covered by DVA entitlements), and referrals to appropriate support agencies.

Social Connection -

- **Golden Oldies** – every second Tuesday, free of charge for those over 80.
- **Veterans Cuppa** – on the second Wednesday of each month.
- **Bus excursions** – approximately every six weeks at reasonable cost.

Member Involvement - Monthly meetings where members can contribute to decisions affecting the Sub Branch followed by camaraderie.

Practical Assistance - Gardening assistance for eligible veterans.

Communication - Monthly Bugle newsletter, Redlands RSL website, Facebook updates, and information displayed at the RSL.

Community Engagement -

- Collaboration with other ex-service organisations (contact details available in the Bugle and on RSL TV screens).
- **Joint Venture** Indoor Bowls held weekly in the Tobruk Room at the RSL.
- Military memorabilia displayed in the Library Museum and throughout the Redlands RSL Club.
- Service members visiting local schools on request for commemorative occasions.

Most of these services are delivered by our dedicated team of volunteers, who work tirelessly to support veterans and their families.

For more information, please contact us on 3488 1158.



75th anniversary of National Service

1951-1972

COMMEMORATING 75 YEARS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF NATIONAL SERVICE (CONSCRIPTION) IN AUSTRALIA

To mark the 75th anniversary of National Service (1951-1972), the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) held a National Commemorative Service at the Great Hall, Australian Parliament House, Canberra on National Servicemen's Day, 14 February 2026.

Background

National service refers to two conscription schemes for the armed forces that operated during the Cold War. Both schemes saw young men conscripted into Australia's armed forces for full-time and part-time service. Those who served in the national service schemes were affectionately known as 'Nashos'.

- The **National Service Training Scheme (NSTS) ran from 1951 to 1959**. It required nearly all 18-year-old males to be registered for national service and undergo between 3 and 6 months of full-time training in one of the armed services followed by a part-time service commitment in either the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, Citizen Military Force, or Citizen Air Force.
- The **National Service Scheme (NSS) ran from 1965 to 1972**. This scheme required males turning 20 and resident in Australia to register for potential national service and then men were selected for national service by a ballot system. Those selected were required to complete 2 years of full-time service with the Australian Regular Army or six years of part-time service in the CMF (Alternative Service). Nashos in this scheme could serve in Australia or overseas, including in Vietnam, Malaysia (including in the Indonesian Confrontation), Singapore, and Papua New Guinea.

Over 280,000 young men were called up for national service between 1951 and 1972 with the last Nashos discharged originally determined to be 14 February 1974. 212 died on active service overseas in Vietnam and Borneo and others died while serving in Australia including 33 Queenslanders. The latter will be recognised at Wacol after our AGM on 14 March at 2pm with the unveiling of a memorial plaque by the Governor and possibly a flypast by an RAAF 6 Squadron EA-18G Growler. Although many young men were proud to serve their country in uniform, national service came at a personal cost for all Nashos, irrespective of the nature and location of their service.

BOMBING OF DARWIN

19 February 1942

Just before 10am, on 19 February 1942, World War II forced itself onto Australia's mainland for the first time, when formations of 188 Japanese aircraft mounted a deadly air raid on Darwin, dropping more bombs than were used in the attack on Pearl Harbour. On that fateful day at least 235 people were killed, more than 400 were wounded, 30 aircraft were destroyed, 11 ships were sunk and many civilian and military facilities were damaged. This attack marked the first of at least 64 air raids on Northern Australia and attacks continued until 12 November 1943. The devastation suffered was profound.

In 2011 Bombing of Darwin Day joined Anzac Day and Remembrance Day as a National Day of Observance. On Bombing of Darwin Day we reflect on our past, pay tribute to the service men and women who courageously defended our country, and remember all those who were affected by the war fought over Northern Australia.

DENNIS WELLBELOVE

One of our Redlands RSL Sub Branch members, Mr Dennis Wellbelove, was interviewed by The Courier Mail on Sunday 15th February to recall and share his memories from The Bombing of Darwin.

Dennis is now 104 years old. He joined the Army as a Reservist when he was 17 years old. At the age of 20, he was called up to serve in the 61st Battalion during World War II. When it became clear that enemy forces were advancing towards Australia his battalion was sent to Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea to hold defensive lines. As enemy forces landed on the banks of Milne Bay, Dennis and his fellow soldiers bore the brunt of the attack and were forced back to the air field. Although sustain heavy casualties, the Allied Forces were able to push back the enemy with the help of air support.

We look forward to reading Dennis' story when it is published.





Veterans Cuppa

**KEEPING OUR REDLANDS RSL SUB BRANCH MEMBERS
SOCIAALLY CONNECTED!**

Our Veterans Cuppa takes place on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and remains a popular morning tea gathering. Veterans enjoy exclusive early access to the Anzac Lounge before the club opens to the public, providing a relaxed social setting where they can connect with fellow Sub Branch members over a barista-crafted coffee and a freshly baked scone or muffin.

NEXT VETERANS CUPPA:

9AM, WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2026

COST: ONLY \$5.00

PRE-BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL - PHONE 3488 1199

*Strictly available for Redlands RSL service members only,
with one accompanying partner/carer.*

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2pm, excludes Sundays and Public Holidays.
Table reservations recommended,
phone 3488 1199.*



THIS MONTH IN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY

History

FEBRUARY

DATE	TITLE	EVENT
1 Feb 1943	Last Australian forces sail for home from the Middle East	Japan's entry into the war forced the Australian Government to decline British requests to concentrate on the war in North Africa and Europe. Australia began to 'look to America' for support and concentrated the bulk of her forces against the Japanese.
2 Feb 1942	First Japanese air attack on Port Moresby	The Japanese had hoped to occupy Port Moresby as a base from which to cut off shipping to Eastern Australia. Their defeat in the Battle of the Coral Sea thwarted the planned naval attack and invasion against Port Moresby.
3 Feb 1943	Australians counter-attack at Wau	Having failed to take Wau the Japanese were forced into retreat. At the end of the fighting some 1,200 Japanese had been killed as had some 300 Australians.
12 Feb 1940	First convoy of Second AIF reaches the Middle East	Australia's first land campaign of the Second World War took place in North Africa against the Italians.
13 Feb 1965	First Australian SAS Squadron advance party departs for Borneo	The SAS served in Borneo during Confrontation to gather intelligence, conduct reconnaissance patrols and collect information on topography.
19 Feb 1915	Allied warships shell Dardanelles	This was the first allied attempt to force a passage through the Dardanelles and attack the heart of the Ottoman Empire. Its failure ultimately led to the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.
19 Feb 1942	First Japanese air raid on Darwin	The city was bombed 64 times between February 1942 and November 1943.
19 Feb 1943	Defence Bill approved	Parliament approves Defence (Citizen Military Forces) Bill introducing conscription for service in the south west Pacific war zone.
23 Feb 1942	Main Australian force on Timor surrenders to the Japanese	Those Australians who remained waged a guerilla war against the Japanese on the island.
27 Feb 1942	Battle of Java Sea	In two separate actions off the coast of Surabaya involving heavy losses in Allied shipping. HMAS Perth was involved in the battle and was one of the few allied ships to survive. The action delayed Japanese landings in Java by only one day.
28 Feb 1991	Gulf War ends	With Iraqi forces having been driven from Kuwait and defeated in the field the coalition forces called a halt to the fighting.

WITHOUT HISTORY, THERE WOULD BE NO FUTURE!

Associated Groups

	<p>AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (RAAFA) REDLANDS BRANCH Meetings held 2nd Sunday every second month at 10.30am in the Gallipoli Room. Social get-togethers held Wednesdays at 3pm in the Anzac Lounge. Contact: President Rob Wilson 0419 688 014</p>
	<p>NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (BAYSIDE SUB SECTION) Meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month at 12 noon. Contact: Graham Hargreaves 0431 349 688</p>
	<p>NATIONAL SERVICE GROUP REDLANDS BRANCH Meetings are held on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10.30am in the Gallipoli Room. Contact: Eric Shaw, President on 0407 158 886</p>
	<p>T&P ASSOCIATION MORETON BAY SOUTH Meetings held on the last Wednesday of the month in the Veterans Community Centre. Contact: Jeff Graham - 0438 584 376 Greg Hambridge - 0422 300 242</p>
	<p>REDLANDS RSL SUB BRANCH WOMEN'S AUXILIARY Meetings held the 1st Monday of the month at 10am in the Meeting Room. Contact: Desley Lingard 0409 060 267</p>
	<p>REDLANDS SUB BRANCH AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS (QUEENSLAND) Meetings are held the last Friday of the month in the Maritime Room of the club commencing at 10.30am. Contact: Jenny Cockroft, President on 0417 795 567</p>
	<p>REDLANDS LEGACY CARE GROUP Meets on the 1st Friday of each month in the RSL Club Maritime Room commencing at 10.30am. Contact: Shree Rogers, President on 0416 062 115</p>
	<p>YOUNG VETERANS REDLANDS Contact: Geoff Hooper on 0419 649 925. E: chev1950@bigpond.com Facebook: Young Veterans Redlands</p>

DISCLAIMER -

The Bugle is intended for members and friends to be informed of the club activities and to be entertained with articles that may, or may not, be relevant to the Clubs activities. The material is contributed from far and wide and therefore may not necessarily be the views of the Redlands RSL.

The Redlands RSL can take no responsibility, under any circumstances, for any material contained, in any part, of this publication.

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LAST POST

NAME	DECEASED DATE	SERVICE
John Etherington	Unknown	ARMY
Frank Featherstone	Unknown	ARMY
Gary Mapson	September 2025	ARMY
Maurice Ellem	17th December 2025	AIR FORCE
Sean McMullen	11th January 2026	ARMY
Ian Gray	21st January 2026	ARMY

Lest We Forget

REDLANDS SUB BRANCH

1-11 Passage Street, Cleveland. Q 4163

PO Box 1228, Cleveland. Q 4163

Phone HQ: (07) 3488 1158

Email: league@redlandsrsl.com.au

or subbranch@redlandsrsl.com.au

Website: www.redlandsrsl.com/sub-branch



**“HONOURING THE FALLEN
BY SERVING THE LIVING”**