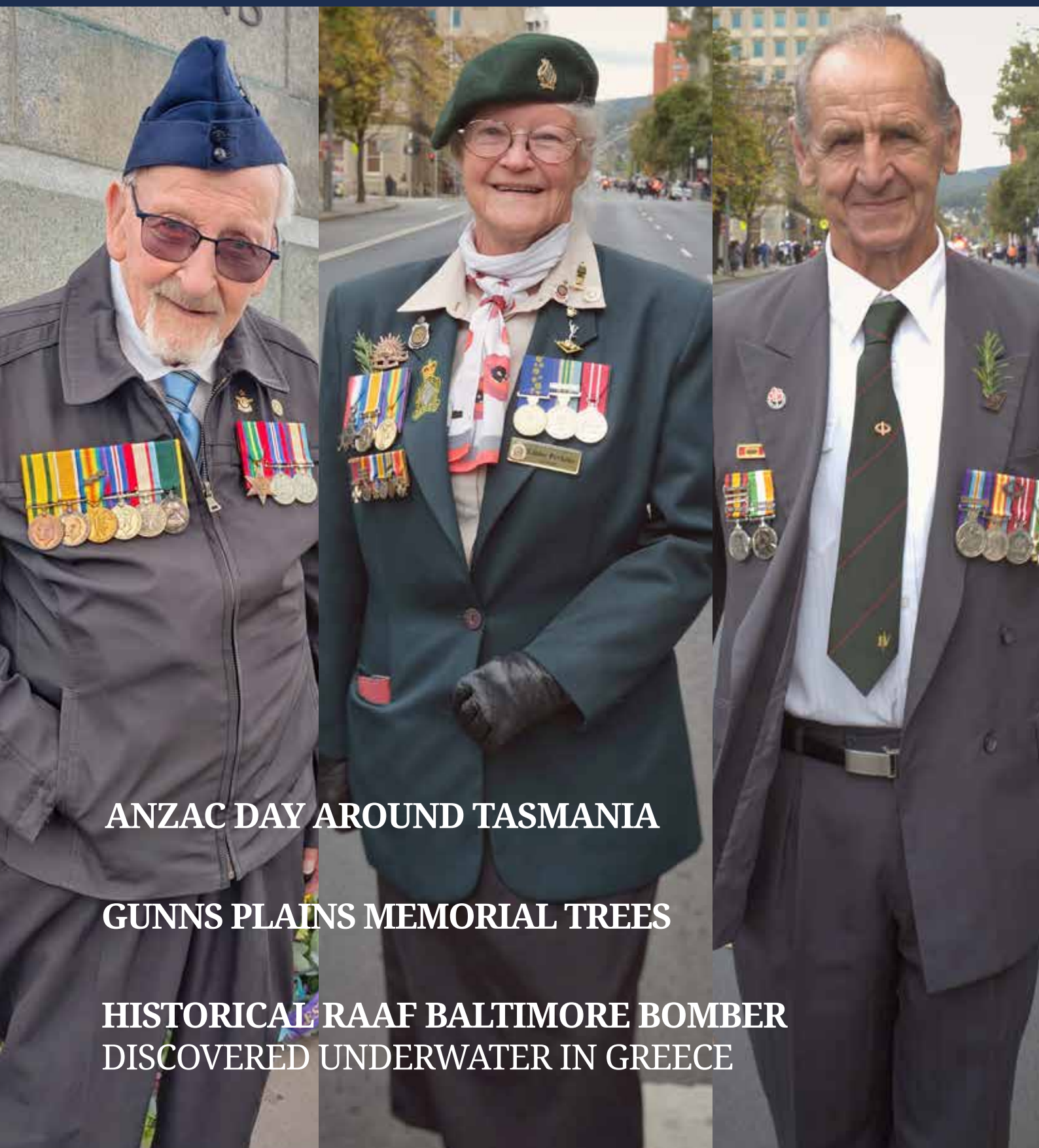




ON SERVICE



ANZAC DAY AROUND TASMANIA

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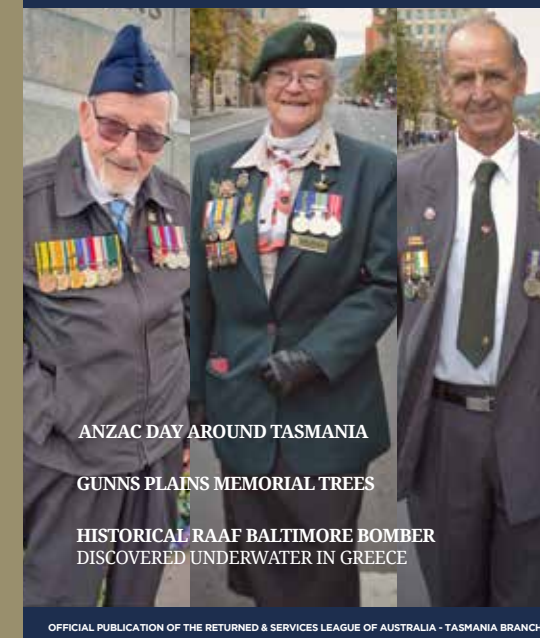


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 **ON SERVICE** No.71 2025



Cover Image:

John T McKenzie, Ex-RAAF WWII Veteran
Libby Perkins OAM JP, Veteran, Vice President Ulverstone RSL Sub-Branch and Life Member of the League
Barry Butler, Vietnam Veteran, Vice-President Clarence RSL Sub-Branch and Life Member of the League

The **On Service** magazine is produced by the Returned & Services League of Australia (Tasmania Branch Inc.) and is issued twice per year. Submissions of articles around 300 words, with accompanying photographs (in digital format) or items for the notices section are encouraged.

Closing dates for submissions are as follows:

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Please email all submissions to: admin@rsltas.org.au

or posted to:

On Service
RSL (Tasmania Branch), ANZAC House,
206 - 208 New Town Road, New Town, Tasmania 7008

Submissions should be free of personal views, political bias and must be of interest to the wider membership of the RSL. Short requests seeking information or contact with ex-service members are welcome.

We reserve the right to edit, include or refuse any submission. Articles based on personal views will not be included unless in the form of a letter to the editor with full name and address of the author.

Disclaimer: RSL (Tasmania) State Branch advises readers who are contemplating agreements with advertisers in this magazine to seek independent financial or legal advice.

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A FINAL MESSAGE FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

As I write my final On Service report as State President, I want to begin by saying thank you.

This journey has been one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of my life, and I couldn't have done it without the support of so many — especially my wife, Vicki. Her patience, encouragement, and unwavering support over the past four years have kept me grounded through the challenges and triumphs.

A special thanks to Mike Gallagher and Peter Williams. It all started with a conversation in 2020 about the future of RSL Tasmania. In 2021, we were honoured to be elected to the Board, and I'm grateful to the Sub-Branches that believed in our vision and backed us.

That year marked a turning point for RSL Tasmania. For the first time, the Board was made up entirely of post-Vietnam War Veterans, a generational shift that brought fresh perspectives and renewed focus on today's Veteran



**RSL Tasmania President
Mr Barry Quinn and wife Vicki**

community. We honoured the past while stepping boldly into the future.

I was elected Vice President and, just three weeks later, found myself stepping into the role of State President. It's a role I embraced with pride, purpose, and a deep sense of responsibility.

Together, we've strengthened governance, grown services, and reconnected with our grassroots. We've modernised while staying true to our core mission, supporting Veterans and their families.

While my time as State President is coming to an end, I leave optimistic about what lies ahead. RSL Tasmania is in a strong position, and I know the momentum we've built will continue.

Thank you for the trust, the camaraderie, and the opportunity to serve. It's been an honour.

**Barry Quinn
RSL Tasmania State President**



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OUR VIETNAM VETERANS - HEROES FROM FIRST DAY TO LAST



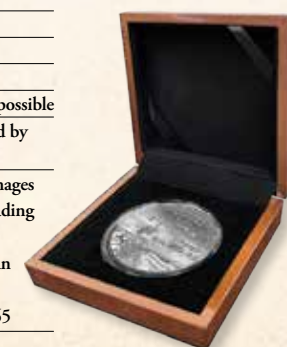
'AUSTRALIAN FORCES ARRIVE AT VUNG TAU COMMEMORATIVE COIN'

Those who served in Vietnam hold a special place in our nation's history - suffering as much at home as they did on the battlefield. Still, they never wavered and with the support of family and each other, they stood proud. On 3 August 1962, thirty Australian officers and senior non-commissioned officers arrived in South Vietnam's capital, Saigon as the newly formed Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) or 'Team' as it became known. Our involvement in a foreign-shore conflict that became a bitter pill for many to swallow, didn't stop there, though. On June 8, 1965, the HMAS Sydney III - a former aircraft carrier refitted for troop transport, arrived at Vung Tau, carrying the bulk of the Australian forces, including the 1RAR. Moving battle by battle - under intense and unprecedented war conditions - our troops fought communist forces in Phuoc Tuy and the surrounding provinces successfully reducing their treacherous attacks. Distinguishing themselves bravely at Long Tan, Coral-Balmoral, Binh Ba and Long Khanh, as well as a thousand minor skirmishes - often in hand-to-hand combat with an enemy indistinguishable from civilians, the Australians added to the ANZAC Legend on a daily basis. Tales of their mateship, courage, commitment and sacrifice was lost under the morass of negative media that flooded the TV screens back home. The Viet Cong's massive 1968 Tet Offensive - though a military failure - convinced many ordinary Australians that decisive victory was impossible, whilst horrific scenes on television screens, sapped support further. Eventually the government responded to public outrage and protest by steadily withdrawing troops and the last arrived home in December

1972. The 'Team' - the first troops to deploy to South Vietnam would be among the very last to leave. In all the AATTV had lost 33 men and saw 122 wounded, with four of its members awarded the Victoria Cross. All told, some 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1973, where 521 died and over 3,000 were wounded. As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the landing at Vung Tau, this .999 Silver Commemorative pays tribute to the heroic qualities which defined our Vietnam heroes from the first day they set foot in Vietnam to the last. We like you, salute those who bravely fought in a war unlike any other.

SPECIFICATIONS

YEAR OF ISSUE	2025
ALLOY	999 Silver
DIAMETER	65mm
WEIGHT	5oz
DENOMINATION	Ten Crowns
MINTAGE LIMIT	299 worldwide
QUALITY	Proof - the highest quality possible
ISSUING AUTHORITY	Ascension Island - approved by Buckingham Palace
REVERSE	Features the fully-etched images of HMAS Sydney III offloading at Vung Tau and members of 1RAR, the first Australian ground forces arriving in South Vietnam in June 1965
OBVERSE	Portrait of His Majesty King Charles III



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RSL TAS CEO'S REPORT

JOHN HARDY

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this edition of On Service, a publication that proudly showcases the dedication, spirit, and achievements of our Sub-Branches, Veterans, and their families across Tasmania.

At the heart of everything we do is the incredible contribution of our volunteers. They are the backbone of RSL Tasmania—quietly and consistently giving their time, energy, and heart to ensure veterans and their families feel supported, remembered, and valued. This edition stands as a tribute to them. Without their tireless work, none of what you'll read in these pages would be possible.

This year's ANZAC Day commemorations again demonstrated the strength of that commitment. Across the state, from bustling town parades to quiet hillside

dawn services, volunteers brought our communities together in honour and remembrance. Whether it was lifesavers at Penguin delivering a moving tribute, cadets keeping vigil in Launceston, or the Hobart Main Parade culminating at the State Cenotaph—our nation's oldest capital city war memorial—these moments were only possible thanks to the planning, passion, and perseverance of local RSL members and volunteers.

Beyond commemorations, this edition highlights the extraordinary work happening every day within our Sub-Branches—from Gunns Plains' memorial tree project, to community recognition through Australia Day Council Awards in Scottsdale. Across Tasmania, volunteers are making a real and lasting difference, building stronger communities and shaping a more inclusive and supportive future for Veterans and their families.

If you're inspired by what you read, I encourage you to connect with your local Sub-Branch. Whether you're a Service member, an Affiliate, or someone who simply wants to contribute, you'll be warmly welcomed.

To all our volunteers—thank you. Your generosity, your resilience, and your unwavering commitment embody the very best of the RSL spirit. You make Tasmania a better place.

Like me, I hope you enjoy the wonderful images and articles from right across the state. They capture the spirit, pride, and dedication of our communities—made possible by the hard work of our Sub-Branches and volunteers.

John Hardy
CEO RSL Tasmania

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AUSTRALIA DAY COUNCIL AWARDS, RSL AUSTRALIA FOR BELINDA SOMERVILLE HALL

At this year's Australia Day Council Awards Belinda was presented with her Certificate and Medallion by Scottsdale RSL Sub-Branch President, Jan Warner.

The Scottsdale RSL is proud of the tremendous work that Belinda has done for the Veterans of the Dorset area and the Citation is only an indication of her involvement with the local RSL Sub-Branch.

The Sub-Branch Committee and all the Members believe this is a very deserving award for Belinda, as she is and has been the person behind the scenes that not only kept the Sub-Branch alive, but assisted so many Veterans over the years in the Dorset community.

Congratulations and thank you Belinda!



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ANDREW WILKIE

"My job is to represent and help the people of Clark which includes Hobart, Glenorchy and Taroona. As an army veteran of 20 years and a current member of the RSL, I have a particular interest in defence and veterans. Feel free to get in touch to speak with me or one of my staff."



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Authorised by Andrew Wilkie MP 188 Collins Street Hobart

HISTORICAL RAAF BALTIMORE BOMBER DISCOVERED UNDERWATER IN GREECE

A Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Baltimore bomber aircraft, which was lost while on an operational mission during the Second World War, has been discovered off the island of Antikythera in Greece.

The discovery of the wreck of Baltimore FW282 brings to an end 82 years of uncertainty regarding the final resting place of three of the crew, from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, who went missing with the aircraft in December 1943.

The crew of Baltimore FW282 were:

- Pilot: Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) William Alroy Hugh Horsley (RAAF), captured
- Navigator: FLTLT Leslie Norman Row (Royal Air Force [RAFVR]), missing
- Wireless Operator/Air Gunner: Pilot Officer Colin William Walker (RAAF), missing
- Wireless Operator/Air Gunner: Warrant Officer John Gartside (Royal New Zealand Air Force [RNZAF]), missing

In 2024, Greek technical diving group AegeanTec, which specialises in exploring deep-water wrecks beyond the reach of recreational divers, located the wreck in 61 metres of water. Believing it to be a RAAF aircraft, AegeanTec contacted History and Heritage – Air Force (HUWC-AF), which assessed the discovery, and positively confirmed the wreck as RAAF Baltimore FW282.

“This aircraft discovery is significant and offers the chance to provide closure to families,” said Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Stephen Chappell.

“The efforts of groups such as AegeanTec are critical for us in accounting for those 3143 Australian aviators with no known grave from the Second World War and the Korean conflict.

“I am pleased, alongside my colleagues from the RAF and RNZAF, to this week to be able to announce the find and for us to acknowledge, collectively, the bravery

of this combined crew of aviators from our three nations.”

RAF Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton, said the discovery of RAAF Baltimore FW282 highlighted the longstanding relationship between the RAF and the Royal Australian and Royal New Zealand Air Forces.



A Royal Australian Air Force Baltimore bomber aircraft

“It’s an honour to acknowledge the bravery of the multinational crew. This was a generation who embodied the importance of service and comradeship. Their efforts were the base on which the RAF continues to maintain the security of the UK at home and abroad,” Air Chief Marshal Knighton said. “Their sense of duty inspires future generations of all of our Air Forces.”



The wreck site of No 454 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force Baltimore FW282, which was shot down during the conduct of a maritime reconnaissance mission on 3 December 1943.

RNZAF Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Darryn Webb, emphasised that New Zealand was very grateful to AegeanTec for the important discovery.

“I hope will bring some sense of closure for the families. The sacrifice of this brave crew has long been remembered, especially by their families, and we can now honour their final resting-place with the respect they deserve,” Air Vice-Marshal Webb said.

Operated by RAAF’s No 454 Squadron, Baltimore FW282 was returning from a mission over the Aegean Sea on 3 December 1943 when it was intercepted by German fighter aircraft and sustained heavy damage.

While ditching into the ocean, pilot Flight Lieutenant Horsley was knocked unconscious and awoke as water filled the cockpit. After swimming to the surface and realising he was alone, Flight Lieutenant Horsley swam to shore, where he was handed over to German authorities. The pilot spent the remainder of the war as a prisoner of war in Germany. The other three crewmembers were listed as missing, believed killed.

Following discussions with the RAF and RNZAF, it has been determined that there will be no further recovery at the wreck site; however, the RAAF will coordinate a memorial service for the crew.



Support Services

Feeling like you need someone to talk to?
Here are some contact numbers that may be of assistance

Service	Focus	Contact
Open Arms Veterans and Families Counselling (24/7)	National face-to-face, telephone, and online counselling service for people that have served in the Australian Defence Force and their families	1800 011 046
Lifeline (24/7)	National phone crisis counselling service and online counselling for people experiencing emotional distress	13 11 14
Suicide Call Back Service (24/7)	National phone counselling service for people at risk of suicide, concerned about someone at risk, bereaved by suicide, or experiencing emotional or mental health issues	1300 659 467
Beyond Blue (24/7)	Phone support and online chat service and links to local services	1300 22 4636
Mental Health Families and Friends Tasmania	Tasmanian phone support for families and friends supporting someone with their mental ill health, including someone impacted by suicide	03 6228 7448
Mens Line Australia (24/7)	National phone support and online counselling for men	1300 789 978
13 Yarn (24/7)	National phone support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	13 92 76
Qlife	National phone and webchat, and LGBTIQ+ peer support for people wanting to talk about a range of issues including sexuality, identity, gender, bodies, feelings, or relationships	1800 184 527



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GUNNS PLAINS MEMORIAL TREES

About 15 years ago, an elderly resident of Gunns Plains told me about three trees growing in the Valley, which were actually Cedars of Lebanon. She said the seeds had been brought home in the pockets of the returning WWI Soldiers from this farming district. An idea began to develop in my brain but was unable to blossom until two years ago, when a branch came down from one of these trees in a huge wind. I asked the farmer if I could have a piece, as I'd had an idea!

I was going to chat to some mates in the Ulverstone Men's Shed and see if they could make something out of this timber to honour these Soldiers. I didn't dare hope this result could be possible, until Barry suggested, "What about making a Slouch Hat?"

They cut the log and set it to dry to enable it to be carved. They had just the man in mind to do the job!

Only recently has this all been achieved!

In September 2025, the Gunns Plains' Memorial Hall will reach 100 years and I plan to present them with the finished article.

Libby Perkins OAM JP
Vice President,
Ulverstone RSL Sub-Branch



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HOBART ANZAC DAY PARADE

This ANZAC Day, we commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the official formation of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. For over a century, they have secured and relayed critical military communications, from Morse code to today's electronic warfare. In recognition of this occasion, the Corps led this year's Hobart ANZAC Day March.

We thank Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, for her ANZAC Day address. RSL Tasmania would also like to thank everyone who supported the Day's Commemorations. We especially acknowledge:

- Australian Army Band Tasmania
- Hobart City Council
- Australian Defence Force
- New Zealand Defence Force
- ABC Television
- Hobart RSL Sub-Branch
- Andrew Wilkie MP
- Tasmania Police
- Tasmania Fire Service
- State Emergency Services
- St John Ambulance
- The Salvation Army
- Historical Arms & Military Society of Tasmania
- Hobart Legacy
- Tasmanian Lighthorse
- Chaplain Ben Johnson
- 36 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force
- Derwent Scottish Pipe Band
- 12th/40th Battalion, Royal Tasmania Regiment
- 29 Squadron
- St Michael's Collegiate
- The Hutchins School
- Australian Army Cadets
- Scouts Tasmania



ANZAC DAY AROUND TASMANIA

2025 marks 110 years since the Gallipoli landings and thousands of Tasmanians turned out for Anzac Day commemorations right across the state. With in excess of 170 services at over 80 locations spanning King Island to Cygnet and Queenstown across to Sorell, here is just a snapshot.

A heartfelt thanks must go to all those who attended. And to the countless Volunteers statewide for making each and every service possible.





King Island



Penguin



Kingston Beach



Lenah Valley



Lilydale



Railton

At first light on the 25 April 1915, Australian and New Zealand troops landed at ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli, facing their first major battle of World War I.

They fought with endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, and mateship – what we've come to know as the ANZAC Spirit.

We honour their legacy and that of all who have followed in their footsteps. Lest We Forget.



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Marranah



Beaconsfield

The Ode

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

Lest we Forget.



Exeter



Brighton Green Ponds



Brighton Green Ponds

STATE VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

MIKE GALLAGHER

The past six months have proved fruitful with the amendment of By-Laws including the Standard Sub-Branch Constitution. Proactive Sub-Branches have continued to work hard on their Governance requirements and overall a positive improvement has been achieved.

Regional Forums

Regional Workshops were conducted in the North, North-West and South respectively from 4 to 6 April 2025. These workshops again proved very productive with additional changes to By-Laws proposed and discussed and as a result further changes to By-Laws were agreed in principle.

Following the workshops the new proposed changes were reviewed by the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) and submitted to the State Board in late April for consideration. Sub-Branches were subsequently advised of the State Board's decision to support all changes, provided with new amended By-Laws for consideration with a 21 day feedback period provided. Excellent feedback from Ulverstone, Scottsdale, South Arm, Launceston and especially Primrose Sands RSL Sub-Branch was provided. In late May the CRC reviewed and updated all By-Laws which the State Board's approved. Sub-Branches were then provided with a new set of By-Laws effective from 1 July 2025.

My thanks to fellow CRC members (Barry Quinn, Mick Johnson and Graeme Best) for their tremendous input and effort. It again has been a massive task but one that was very necessary and will provide worthwhile guidance to Sub-Branches now and in the future.

United Petroleum Partnership Launch

The launch of the RSL TAS Inc. and United Petroleum Partnership on 23 April 2025 was very well organised and conducted. The launch attracted good media coverage and organisers are to be congratulated on the event. The discount of 4 cents a litre to RSL Tas members

and a one cent a litre payment by United into a Veteran's fund is a great initiative and a first for RSL Tas Inc.

Sub-Branches

Regional Director South, Ross Byrne and I have been working closely with New Norfolk RSL Sub-Branch Inc. in regard to governance issues. The meetings have been productive and the Committee has responded positively. Much work is still to be done but under the leadership of newly elected President Randall Wilton I am heartened by the level of commitment and dedication being shown.

I assisted Primrose Sands RSL Sub-Branch Inc. in reviewing their procedures for the conduct of their AGM which I attended on 31 March 2025. In particular a significant amount of time was dedicated to reviewing the instructions prepared for voters, the Returning Officer and scrutineers. It is planned that this work will be incorporated into our By-Laws.

Commemorative Services

With State President Barry Quinn on leave I acted as President for a short period of time in April/May. As a result I attended a number of commemorative services.

On ANAC Day I attended the Dawn Service at Hobart Cenotaph and then the Lindisfarne RSL Sub-Branch Inc. morning Service at ANZAC Park where I laid a wreath and recited the "Ode of Remembrance". I attended the Lord Mayor of Hobart's morning tea viewed the march past parade from the Hobart Town Hall steps. Following this I attended the main service at the Hobart Cenotaph where I escorted the Governor of Tasmania the Hon. Barbara Baker AC in laying a wreath. I also laid a wreath on behalf of RSL TAS and recited the "Ode". It was a very humbling experience and I thank all for members for their support. A big congratulations to the organisers of the march from Hobart to the Cenotaph and the conduct

of the Main Service at the Cenotaph. I also attended the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Crete ceremony at the Hobart Cenotaph on 10 May 25, laid a wreath and recited the "Ode". Another humbling experience.

Summary

As I reported this time last year I along with Regional Directors have spent a considerable amount of time over the past six months assisting many Sub Branches throughout Tasmania and the islands on the requirements of the State and Sub-Branch Constitutions and By-Laws.

It is pleasing that a significant number of Sub-Branches have sought advice and guidance especially in relation to By-Law 1 – Governance. In seeking advice many misunderstandings have been resolved and valuable time and frustration saved. To those Sub-Branches who may still be struggling I request that you reach out to your Regional Directors who are only too willing to assist.

Kind regards

Mike Gallagher
State Vice President



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Retirement village living offers a unique chance to meet new people, form lasting friendships, and explore new interests in a supportive, community-focused environment. In fact, the Retirement Living Council's Better Housing for Better Health Study (2023) revealed that retirement village residents are five times more socially active and twice as likely to spend quality time with friends and family.

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ANZAC DAY LAUNCESTON RSL SUB BRANCH

Peter Williams, Secretary Launceston Sub-Branch



It started to rain about 1:00am and I thought we were in for a very wet ANZAC Day. So it was with trepidation that I arrived at the Launceston Cenotaph at 4:30am to find the Scout Vigil still in progress despite the inclement weather they had experienced throughout the night.

I was very surprised also as I watched people start to arrive well before the commencement of the Dawn Service. Hundreds of people were coming out in what promised to be a very wet service. By the commencement of the service thousands awaited the start.

The service started with the A Coy 12/40 Royal Tasmania Regiment Cenotaph Catafalque Guard marching on. After commencing the service, our



first guest speaker was FLTLT Anna Fidock RAAF, followed by our student guest speakers Alex House and Grace Webster. All provided their thoughts on the importance of ANZAC Day. Alex and Grace's dual speech was received especially well by the attendees. Alex's part was even more remarkable considering he is visually impaired.

Once again, our resident Chaplin Vic Hinds, participated in what was the best attended Dawn Service I have ever seen. We estimate that attendance was between four and five thousand.

The service was followed by the traditional serving of tots of rum to those who braved the cold Dawn Service morning. I would like to thank the Launceston Pubs and Clubs who support this ANZAC tradition.



The rain held off and the day turned into a very pleasant autumn day. With another big crowd turning out to watch the Civic Service Parade through the CBD. The march commenced with the Vietnam Veterans & Veteran Motorcycle Club leading, followed by a Bushmaster provided by 12/40 RTR. This was



The Launceston Civic Service commenced after the arrival of the huge marching contingent. The service was conducted by Chaplin Vic Hinds supported by Vice President Derek Bruce. Mayor Matthew Garwood opened the Service, thanking all who attended. He was followed by Senator Tammy

this turnout. There was well over one hundred wreaths laid. I would like to thank Veterans, our guest speakers and those that attended and supported our 110th ANZAC Day Commemorations.

Without the support of Launceston City Council and their fantastic staff

followed by vehicles from Defence Transport Heritage Tasmania carrying several of our older Veterans.

The main parade was led by CAPT Kevin Best and Brien Phillips who were followed by one of the largest contingents of Veteran participants that we have had in recent years. They marched past the saluting stand where Mayor Matthew Garwood, CDRE Jan Wiltshire and WGCDR Linda Corbould took the salute from these units and associations.



this year's ANZAC Day would not have happened. The work of their coordinator Jess Horton and her many volunteer assistants was excellent considering the big shoes she had to fill following the retirement of Elizabeth Clark last year.

Thank you all for your support and you are all invited to partake in a tot of rum next year.

Peter Williams
Secretary, Launceston RSL Sub-Branch



Tyrrell who presented a very moving speech. CDRE Jan Wiltshire RAN CSC and Bar, then spoke on her thoughts about the ANZAC tradition. She was followed by student, Ms Tori Hall, who spoke about her attendance on the 2024 Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize Tour to the Western Front and how it changed her outlook about ANZAC Day and its commemoration.

Once again thousands attended the Civic Service and we were stunned by

CHANGE GEAR: VOLUNTEER!

CTST is a not-for-profit organisation that delivers door-to-door transport statewide, as well as home maintenance and social support in Devonport. We are powered by our volunteer workforce of over 350 Tasmanians including many RSL members like Peter, Viv and Peter pictured here. We support people to maintain their independence, live well, and connect with their community. Volunteer today - your time can make a difference in someone's life.



Join our team today at ctst.org.au/volunteer

NORTHERN DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PETER WILLIAMS

It has been a rewarding few months as I continue to work with our Northern Sub-Branches. Visiting in person to hear firsthand how each Sub-Branch is tracking, and I've been genuinely impressed by the dedication, community spirit, and commitment to governance and improvement shown across the region.

Strong Progress on Governance and Compliance

Sub-Branches are embracing the Governance By-Law and making great strides in aligning with our constitutional requirements. The By-Law has empowered committees with practical tools to streamline operations and meet their obligations with confidence.

I'm pleased to report that most Sub-Branches are not only meeting compliance targets but doing so with enthusiasm and professionalism. To further support this progress, we're providing all Sub-Branches with easy-to-use Word templates to help with documentation. We've also introduced a new tool to assist in tracking Welfare Support Officer (WSO) appointments.

Looking ahead, my focus this year will be on reinforcing the use of these governance tools. During my visits, I'll be working alongside Sub-Branches to confirm that AGMs have been held, documentation has been completed using the provided formats, and that Compliance Registers and Governance

Checklists are in place. Just a reminder, only the Governance Checklist needs to be submitted on 14 May and 14 October. When I visit, I'll simply review your Compliance Register, which can be in print or electronic format.

Positive Steps Toward Chapter Model

Congratulations to Bridport and Lilydale Sub-Branches for taking proactive steps and holding Extraordinary General

Meetings to transition to Chapter status. Both have nominated Chapter Representatives and have chosen George Town Sub-Branch as their parent Chapter. A partnership that was warmly welcomed and ratified by George Town's Committee.

This move reflects a flexible and forward-thinking approach to meeting community needs, and I'd like to thank all three Sub-Branches for their collaboration and willingness to adapt for the benefit of local veterans.

Successful Commemorative Events

It was fantastic to hear that so many Sub-Branches reported strong community turnout for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day events. Increased

attendance shows that our local RSL presence remains a vital and respected part of the Tasmanian community. Thank you to everyone who helped organise and deliver these important commemorations with such care and dignity.

Advocacy Committee and Policy Strengthening

The new Terms of Reference for the Advocacy Committee have strengthened our ability to support good governance within VeteranHub Tasmania (VHT). We've already held two meetings and developed a new compliance checklist to guide the review of all VHT policies and procedures. This will ensure our policies stay up to date, aligned with our mission, and compliant with all relevant laws and standards.

Constructive Political Engagement

Our engagement with both State and Federal representatives from all parties remains positive and productive, with strong interest in the work of VHT. A key topic has been long-term operational funding—a conversation that's been reinforced by recommendations from the Royal Commission (notably Executive Summary Rec. 86, pg. 147).

In closing, I want to thank all Sub-Branches, volunteers, and members for the outstanding work you continue to do in support of veterans and their families. Your efforts are making a real difference in your communities, and it's a privilege to be part of it. I'm excited for what lies ahead in 2025 and confident we'll continue building on this strong foundation together.

Peter Williams
NORTHERN DIRECTOR
RSL TASMANIA

DAWN SERVICE WOODBRIDGE

ANZAC DAY 2025

The Channel Sub-Branch of RSL Tasmania has a very close and co-operative working relationship with the Principal, Staff and Parent's Association of Woodbridge School. This year's Dawn Service was no exception.

It was very well supported again this year, with well over 100 in attendance around the Cenotaph in the grounds of the school. The service was led by Graham Rae and Colleen Frost with support from students of the school. More than 20 wreaths were laid.

Ben and Mikaela Chudoshnik of the School Association, along with helpers, turned out a most welcome pancake breakfast enjoyed by many of the attendees, and the student display was again very well researched and presented. The student display gets better every year and is a credit to both the students and their teachers.

School principal, Shannon Bavage goes out of his way to support the Dawn Service. Along with the Tasmanian Song Company, pipers Stewart Ims and



Vietnam Veteran Norm Cairns presented an aspect of commemoration that is often overlooked, with a graphic address about his experiences on the frontline in Vietnam and reminding us that in any conflict it is a minority of combatants facing the enemy directly, the majority of the enlistees are in support roles behind the lines.

Cameron Baxter, bugler Adrian Walker, retired Deputy Principal Caroline Randall, staff and students, and a very mild morning, the Dawn Service at Woodbridge came to a successful conclusion.

Ted Domeney,
Channel RSL Sub-Branch



VETERANHUB TASMANIA – PROGRESS UPDATE

It has been an exciting and productive few months for the VeteranHub Tasmania team as we continue to expand and strengthen our support for Veterans and their families across the state.

The **Virtual VeteranHub** has made significant progress in the past year, evolving into a powerful tool that connects Veterans with the services they need, regardless of their location.

New training resources are being developed and the system continues to evolve in response to feedback from Veterans and staff, ensuring it remains user-friendly and responsive.

Our **Physical VeteranHub** sites are also progressing well:

- **Huonville and Devonport** are now operational, with Railton continuing to provide valuable face-to-face support for Veterans through the VeteranHub model.
- The **Hobart and Launceston** Hubs are both nearing completion of building works and fit-outs.
- **Queenstown** has finished essential infrastructure upgrades and will soon receive furnishings, marking the final step towards its opening.
- The **Wynyard** project remains on hold.
- Georgetown will progress and is undergoing further planning.

At the same time, our **Veteran Acute Housing program** continues to progress, with milestones in place for new housing developments in Primrose Sands and other locations.

While funding limitations present some challenges, we are exploring creative ways to deliver as many homes as possible to Veterans in need.

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, Sub-Branches, and community partners. Together, we're building spaces and systems that make it easier for Veterans to access the support they deserve.

Get Involved:

Whether you're a Veteran, a family member, or someone passionate about supporting those who've served, there's a role for you in the VeteranHub community. Drop into your local Hub,

explore the Virtual Hub online, or reach out to find out how you can volunteer or support our programs.

Together, we can make Tasmania the best place in Australia for Veterans and their families.

For more information, please visit <https://Veteranhub.org.au/>

Tim Hancock
VeteranHub Project Manager



VeteranHub is a free service available to Veterans and their families throughout Tasmania.

- DVA Compensation
- Wellbeing Support and Advocacy
- Employment Assistance
- Social Work
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 (03) 6154 0000

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For more information scan the QR Code Below



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Huon Valley VeteranHub



Veteran Wellbeing Voucher Program

Eligible Tasmanian veterans can receive vouchers to assist in reducing membership or registration fees at any participating activity providers. Activity providers who join the free program will be reimbursed for every voucher they accept.

Join the free Veteran Wellbeing Voucher Program at veterans.tas.gov.au



FRANK MCDONALD MEMORIAL PRIZE

ANNETTE PARKER

In October 2024 it was announced that Mrs Annette Parker, a community member of Spring Bay, had been selected as teacher/chaperone for the Frank McDonald Memorial Prize for 2025. Mrs Parker travelled with a group of 6 Tasmanian students on a study tour of the Western Front, including France and Belgium and attendance at the Anzac Day service at Villers-Bretonneux. At this Service a wreath was laid on behalf of the Spring Bay RSL.

Some highlights experienced were Flanders Field, the township of Fromelle, Pheasant Wood and the experience of 'No Mans Land'. Ypres, the scene of the Battle of Ypres and the location of the Menin Gate was also visited. At the Menin Gate the group attended a Commemorative Service, where Mrs Parker laid a wreath on behalf of our Sub Branch. Amien in France was also visited, this being the area known as 'The Battle of the Somme'.

There were many highlights for the group, in the words of Mrs Parker 'Some sad, some overwhelming, some full-filling and some unsettling'.
LEST WE FORGET

**Margaret McElwee - Secretary
Spring Bay Sub Branch**



RETIRED OR SEMI - RETIRED?

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ANZAC DAY WREATHS IN THE NORTH

For several years the Launceston Sub-Branch has been recommending a single local florist to do the wreaths for our commemoration services. Florist on David in Newstead is a local business owned by Sue Freeman who has offered a full service for the many Veterans, associations and groups who participate in our commemorations. For ANZAC Day this year Sue and her team produced and delivered over 160 Wreaths that were used in services all over the north of the state.



Not only does Florist on David make the wreaths they deliver them to the Launceston Cenotaph. This is not a simple task, taking time and several people to complete. Planning for this activity starts in January each year. What does it take to get this many wreaths completed and delivered on time? Well, it takes the following:

- A single wreath takes approximately 45 mins to create.
- From start to finish this activity takes six days. Sue and her team of five work to ten o'clock at night on three days and on the last few days until three o'clock in the morning.
- Sue orders 160 bases for wreaths.
- The 750 ribbons for the wreaths take six days to prepare in normal business hours.
- Sue orders 320 bunches of Chrysanthemums, 15 bunches of Roses, and 40 bunches Gerberas for the wreaths.



- Sue's husband Tim spends three days cutting greenery for the wreaths which equates to eight ute loads of greenery.
- One day for writing of cards and printing is allocated.
- One day is spent painting flowers to match the many requirements of individual wreaths. Sue has a long list of these requirements.
- Sue now has purpose-built racks for all these wreaths.
- All wreaths are completed in the colours of the associations and groups laying the wreaths. The service wreaths even have Risings Suns, Anchors and Eagles on them.
- Then they must be delivered! This takes two vehicles and three trips stating at 8:00am.

A big job indeed. Sue and her team do an awesome job for ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day and Remembrance Day, but it does not stop when the wreaths are completed. Sue donates \$5.00 for each wreath to the Sub-Branch that she has supplied wreaths to.

Thank you Sue and your team for your support to the Veteran Community and their Families.

**Peter Williams
Secretary, Launceston
RSL Sub-Branch
Northern Director RSL TAS**





Service that respects your service

At Community Based Support (CBS), we honour the dedication and sacrifices of veterans and RSL members by providing the respectful, personalised care you deserve. As a proud Tasmanian not-for-profit aged care provider, we're here to support your independence, helping you live life on your terms, in the place you call home.

Our services are available across southern Tasmania and include:

- **Help around the home:** cleaning, gardening, and home maintenance.
- **Personal care:** respectful support with daily routines.
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Your life, your choice, our focus.



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STATE CONGRESS 2025

The 110th RSL Tasmania State Congress was held at the Eastcoaster Resort, Orford, from Saturday, 14th to Sunday, 15th June. This annual event offers Members the opportunity to hear from a range of Speakers, obtain relevant information, and have their say on a number of issues that affect their Sub-Branches.

Barry Quinn delivered a moving final President's Report, marking the end of his exceptionally successful tenure as State President of RSL Tasmania.

Our Industry Forum, held during morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, was a great success, enabling Delegates to enjoy some excellent fare whilst networking with our ex-service and community partners.

Attendees were treated to two musical performances on Saturday evening, with 'Veteran' Kieran and Sheila Keshan showcasing their talents, followed by the Congress Dinner, featuring live music by Sharn Hitchens.

The dinner also featured a special presentation to outgoing President Barry Quinn, a bespoke, framed RSL/ Tasmanian flag and Challenge Coin as a way of thanking him for his dedication, leadership, and vision over his tenure.

Congratulations to all who attended Congress 2025. The work you do in your respective Sub-Branches is critical to the future of RSL Tasmania, and we are grateful for your hard work and dedication to the Veteran community throughout Tasmania.



LINDISFARNE RSL'S SUPPORT TO THE HAPPY WANDERER'S SUCCESS

As many of us are aware, the 79th Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, which commenced on the 26th of December, proved to be an exceptionally challenging event due to extreme weather conditions, including large seas and strong winds faced by the entire fleet.

The Happy Wanderers: Navigating Challenges with Determination

Rising to the Challenge

The crew of Happy Wanderer approached these challenges with resilience and a clear understanding of the gravity of the situation. Undeterred by the obstacles, they demonstrated unwavering commitment and professionalism throughout the journey.

learn, contributing to the strength and cohesion of the team.

The Vital Role of Sponsorship

Reaching the start line would not be possible without the generous support of proactive sponsors. The leadership team, including Chris Parker and John Cole, along with the dedicated staff at the Lindisfarne RSL, play a crucial role in enabling Veterans to participate in such significant activities. Their forward-leaning approach and unwavering support are instrumental to our success.

Fostering Connection and Relevance for Veterans

For Veterans, participating in events like the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race alongside current members of the

Set Up for Success!

The Happy Wanderer achieved outstanding results in the 79th Sydney to Hobart, securing:

- 12th on Line Honours
- 2nd in Corinthian IRC
- 2nd in Corinthian PHS
- 1st Armed Services Yacht on Corrected Time - OGGIN CUP

Following this success, the Happy Wanderer will return to compete in the milestone 80th Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race before taking a few years off. This remarkable journey and achievement would not have been



Preparing for the Start Line

A key component of the Happy Wanderer program is a two-week intensive training period. This condensed schedule accommodates the operational and work commitments of our team members. Each year, we welcome new participants with varying levels of sailing experience. While some have little to no prior exposure, they are highly capable, adaptable, and quick to

Australian Special Forces community is an invaluable experience. These activities provide a sense of continuity, allowing Veterans to maintain meaningful connections with their former units. It reinforces the message that even after leaving active service, they are not forgotten, and their contributions continue to be recognised and valued.

possible without the dedication of the crew, the rigorous training, and the invaluable support from Lindisfarne RSL and our sponsors.

VALE: RONALD WATLING 13/6/1924 - 26/5/2025

Ron Watling was the middle son out of ten children born to James and Alice Watling of Kempton. He is survived by his younger brother Len aged 96 years.

Ron was very interested in history. He wrote about being a boy at Kempton State School when it was a two roomed building made of sandstone. Prior to Anzac and Remembrance Days, he remembers the Warden of the Council and Boer War Veteran gave the children an address about the war. The children were all expected to attend both Services and join in the Anzac Day Sports.

He also listed the Soldiers remembered along the local Memorial Avenues.

Four of Ron's uncles served in Gallipoli during the First World War. Two of them, Arthur and Alfred were killed in action within two days of each other in August 1915. Edward and Robert returned home in poor health, one never to work again. Sadly, Kempton lost more than 20 men in WWI.



As a result of Ron's research into his family, he became interested in adding to other local families' memorabilia displayed at Brighton Green Ponds RSL

at Kempton. There is now a wonderful display of photos, medals and military objects, along with Honour Boards from our area.

As an Affiliate Member, Ron has been very supportive of the RSL at Kempton, attending all the AGM's, Anzac Day Services, lunches and fundraising raffles. He always donated pies and soft drinks for Anzac Day and apple pies to follow our sausage sizzle at the AGM.

His family annually lays a wreath on Anzac Day and donates books from Legacy for the local Primary School.

For his loyalty to the Sub-Branch and the immense work Ron did with the memorabilia collection, the Sub-Branch made him a Life Member of the Branch. He was a gentleman we will all miss and never forget.

Carolyn Bassett, Secretary/Treasurer Brighton Green Ponds RSL Sub-Branch, Kempton



ANGUS' COLLECTION MILITARY HISTORY

You may remember seeing Angus on the front cover of a previous On Service Magazine, situated in front of the Hobart Cenotaph commemorating Remembrance Day. We're thrilled to share that Angus has continued his passion for military history with an amazing collection he has curated. We thought we'd share an update from Angus in his own words...

My name is Angus Gunn and I have been collecting militaria for over three years. I got my first uniform when I was 5 years old from a Veteran that worked with my dad, I am now 13 so that was seven years ago.

My interest in collecting/preserving military history started around three years ago when the Russia/Ukraine conflict started. I wanted to learn more so I watched the news, read articles, etc.

I had the opportunity to do a project on military history at school, so I took that opportunity as an option to learn more about my Great Grandad.

He was a Driver on horseback during the First World War, he then went to France to fight the Germans on a new front. Late 1916-1917 he was wounded by shrapnel, leaving a lifetime scar up his left arm.

Every year I do an open day of my museum where I give tours during the week of Anzac Day or on Anzac Day.

This year I asked my visitors to bring a poppy to place on a wall to reflect on the times that have been.

RSL Tasmania were thrilled to be invited along to view Angus' collection.

Good on you Angus!



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