THE FURPHY

ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

December 2026 Edition



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PO Box 697, Armadale, WA 6992

Ph: (08) 9497 1972

email: secretary@armadalersl.com.au

Website: www.armadalersl.com.au

Social media: **Facebook**

General Meetings:	**Second Sunday of each month at 1100hrs**
Annual General Meeting:	**Second Sunday of September**

Committee Positions

Armadale Sub-Branch Committee	
President	Mr Mike Fairweather
Vice President	Mr Bob Giles
Secretary	Ms Carol King
Treasurer	Mrs Cheryl Cowie
Warden	Mr Graeme Cowie
Warden	Vacant
Membership Officer	Ms Carol King
Committee	Mr Ken Beven
Committee	Mrs Lois Davis
Committee	Mr Ken Hepburn
Committee	Mr Tom Rynn
Advocate / Welfare Officer	Mr Brent Errington
Bar Manager	Mr Mike Fairweather

ADVOCATE / WELFARE

Brent Errington "Erro" is available as follows:

At the Armadale RSL Sub-Branch:

Monday: ***by appointment only***
Thursday: ***between 0900 - 1400hrs***

Weekday Contact Details:

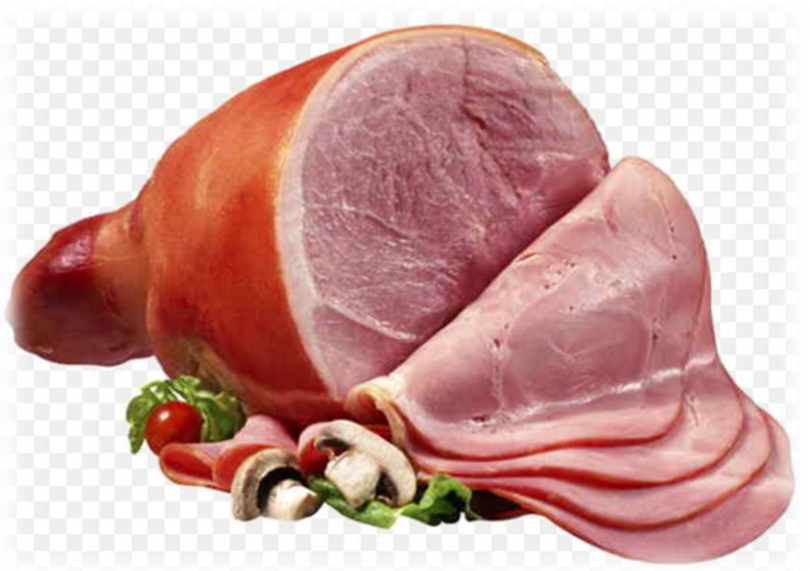
Mobile: ***0407 449 150***
e-mail: ***welfare2@armadalersl.com.au***

Diary Dates for December

Day	Date	Event	Time
Sunday	6th	Social Committee Meeting	1130
Tuesday	8th	Management Committee Meeting	1100
Sunday	13th	General Meeting	1100

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Includes Ham, a Bottle of Bubbles and lot of other Christmas Goodies!



$2 per ticket

Will be sold and Drawn at the GM
Sunday 13th December

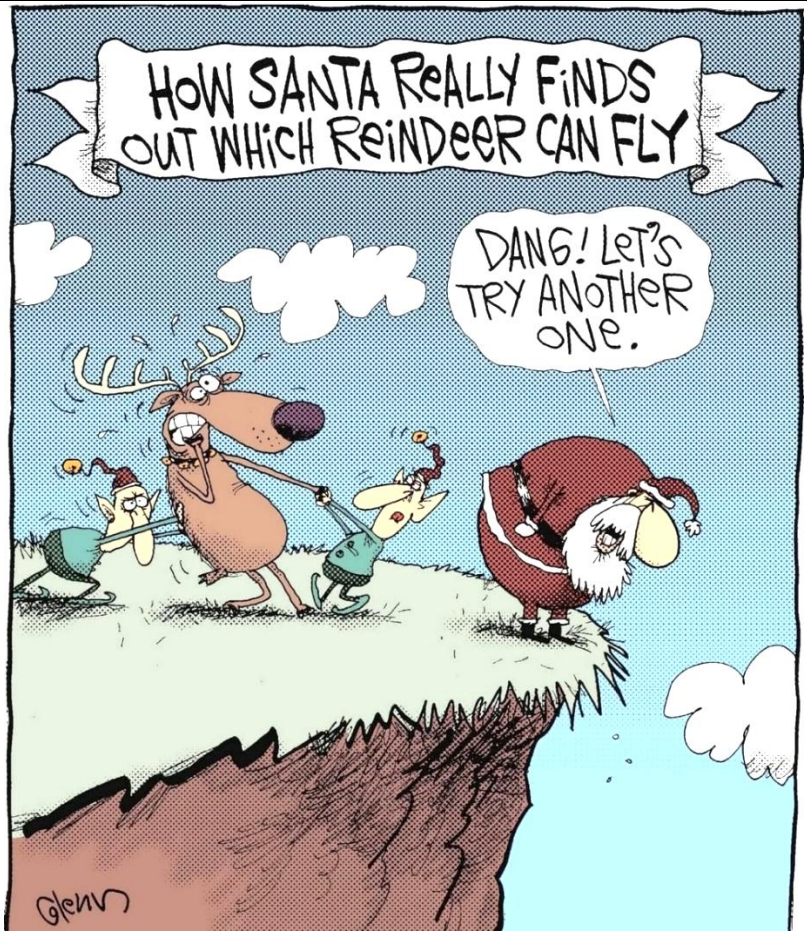
REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026



Thanks to everyone who made our Remembrance Day a success

We can't provide these Commemoration Services and after functions without the fabulous support from our loyal volunteers

Your assistance is so very much appreciated by not only our Sub-Branch Members, but also the local Community


HOW SANTA REALLY FINDS OUT WHICH REINDEER CAN FLY
DANG! LET'S TRY ANOTHER ONE.
glenn


Man, I hate houses without a chimney!
Search:35030744
Randy McIlwaine

Australian Comforts Fund

In terms of money raised, active volunteers and community support, the Australian Comforts Fund (ACF) was the second largest patriotic fund during World War II. The original ACF disbanded at the end of World War I, but its national framework was re-formed in January 1940. The ACF was made up of individual State-based patriotic funds: New South Wales was represented by the Lord Mayor's Patriotic Fund; South Australia had its Fighting Forces Comforts Fund; and Western Australia initially had the Victoria League Camp Comforts Fund, which changed its name to the WA Division of the ACF in 1941. In Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland, the organisation was simply called the State division of the ACF. The federally based ACF was run out of Sydney, with Sir Clarence (Roy) McKerihan, a World War I veteran and head of the Rural Bank of New South Wales, as its honorary federal administrator.

As well as the Salvation Army, YMCA, and later YWCA, the ACF looked after the 'fit and well' serviceman and woman. Wherever the troops were, these organisations were not far behind. The essential aim was to provide comforts, sporting equipment, recreational centres, clothing and a range of personal items such as toothpaste, razor blades, cigarettes, pens and paper to help the morale of the Australian troops. The regular parcels and Christmas hampers were especially welcomed. Thousands of volunteers raised money, either bought or made a range of items to put in the parcels, then packed the parcels up carefully before shipping them to New Guinea, the Middle East and across Australia, where ACF Commissioners worked with the troops in distributing the comforts parcels. Almost £7 million was raised across Australia during the war on behalf of the ACF; it was disbanded in 1947.

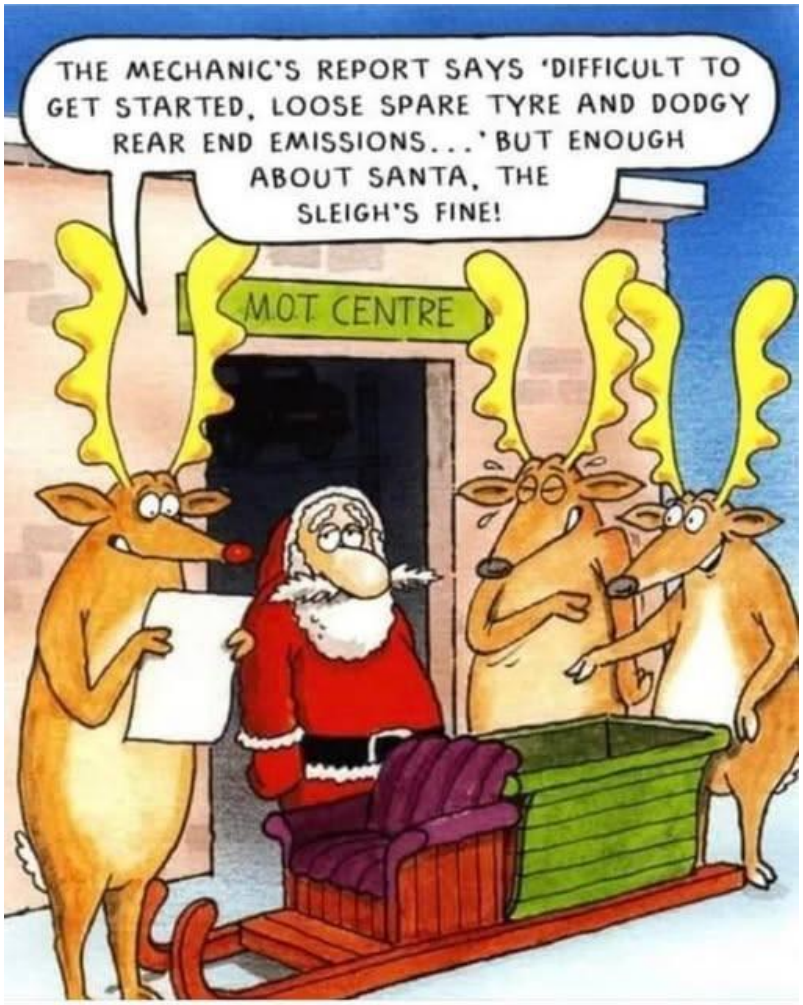


ACF women volunteers pack Christmas comforts boxes for the soldiers. The idea was that each fit and well soldier received a parcel of his own.


The Elf was delicious!
Had the cookies for dessert.
Thanks! SANTA


I just got my Christmas tree.
Are you planning on putting it up yourself?
Riker's Beard
Riker's Beard
No, you weirdo, I'm putting it up in my living room!


WELL, THAT'S THE LAST TIME
facebook.com/DiedLaughing
I BITE THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS


THE MECHANIC'S REPORT SAYS 'DIFFICULT TO GET STARTED, LOOSE SPARE TYRE AND DODGY REAR END EMISSIONS...' BUT ENOUGH ABOUT SANTA, THE SLEIGH'S FINE!
MOT CENTRE



TWAS THE KNIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS...



A few days before Christmas, a mom calls her daughter: “Hey, I know this might come as a shock, but I’m pregnant.”

“How could this happen?” the daughter responds, shocked. “You’re 46! Oh my god, this is horrible.”

“It was an accident,” the mom says. “Please just call your sister and tell her. Have to go!”

The daughter frantically calls her sister who immediately calls her mom: “I don’t understand,” she says. “The two of us are flying home right away. I’m booking the flights now. This is unbelievable!” She hangs up the phone.

The woman pops a bottle of wine, pours two glasses, and turns to her husband: “Honey, the kids are coming home for Christmas. And they are paying for their own plane tickets.”





The Christmas Carol That Paused a War



Members of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), decorate a rubber tree with Christmas tinsel at their base in Vietnam, December 1967

Secretary's Notes

Hi Members,

Thanks to all our Volunteers who've kept us afloat during the past year under sometimes trying situations.



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year.

Looking forward to our Members continuing to support us in 2027.

Take care over the Festive Season and best regards as always.

Carol King

Sub-Branch Secretary

e-mail: secretary@armadalersl.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Members,

The Veterans Facility Grant refurbishments are ongoing. The new Solar panels have now been installed which will assist greatly with our electricity bills.

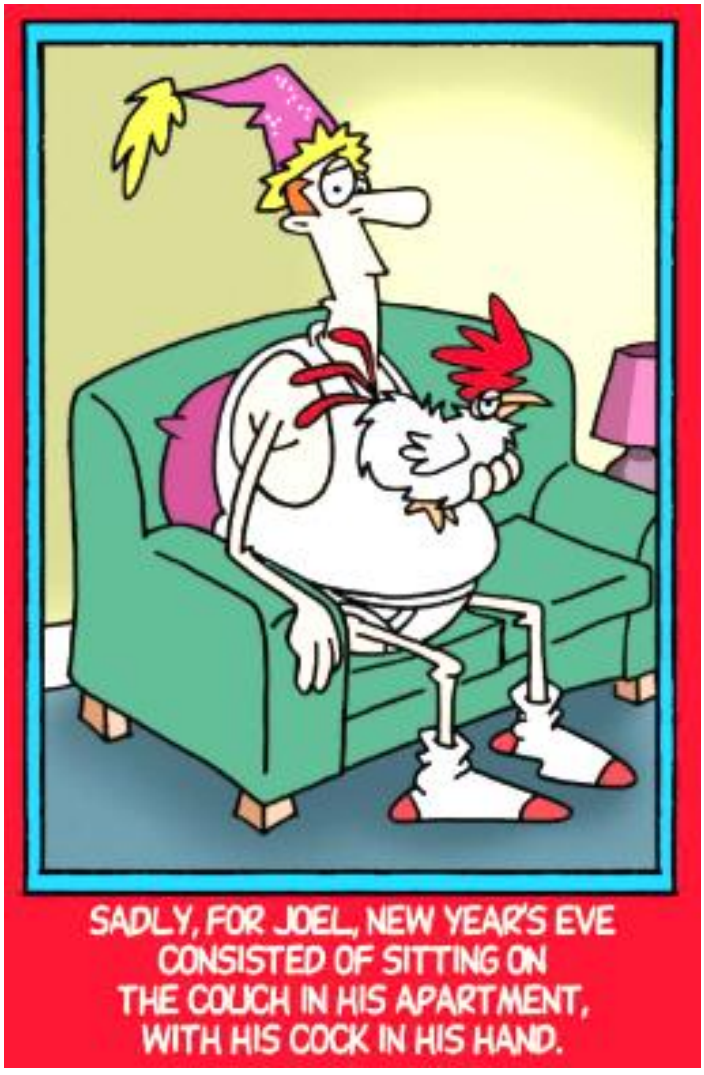
I hope you have a great Christmas and wish you all the best for the New Year.

Thanks for your support, and that's about all from me for this year (in print at least) !

Mike Fairweather

President

Returned Services League Armadale Sub-Branch
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1 Commerce Avenue Armadale WA 6112 | PO Box 697 Armadale WA 6992
e-mail: president@armadalersl.com.au





Eve Warnaby, a motorcycle messenger for the National Emergency Service, checks out her vehicle, Sydney, April 1941. Volunteers had to provide their own uniforms and motorcycles



A WRANS signaller checks her equipment, Fremantle, Western Australia

Membership Update

As at 30th November 2026:

Service Members:	**120**
Affiliate Members:	**43**
Social Members:	**87**
Total:	**250**

- ***2 new Social Members during the month.***
- ***Most Memberships will expire on 31st December. Please check your Membership Cards and renew before the expiry date. To avoid discrepancies between our records and those of RSLWA it is preferred that renewals are processed through the Sub-Branch rather than through the RSLWA portal.***
- ***There is a form at the end of this Newsletter, or they are available from the Notice Board. Payments can be made over the bar any Friday or Sunday from 12 noon.***

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Carol King

Tel: 9497 1972
e-mail: secretary@armadalersl.com. au





December Service Members:

Caunce	Mr	Bernard	08/12	Edhouse	Mr	Jason	20/12
Errington	Mrs	Deborah	01/12	Legg	Mr	James	01/12
Lucas	Mr	Alan	21/12	McNeill	Mr	Peter	17/12
Tryde	Mr	Geoff	04/12	Van Opijnen	Mr	Terry	10/12
Winter	Mr	Graeme	01/12				

December Affiliate Members:

Cowie	Mrs	Sandra	13/12	Newton	Miss	Bev	31/12
Whitehead	Mrs	Jacki	13/12				

December Social Members:

Brokas	Mr	Peter	06/12	Cowie	Mr	Eric	28/12
Evans	Mr	Matthew	09/12	Hodges	Mrs	Michelle	07/12
Kent	Mr	David	11/12	Mashinkila	Miss	Samantha	19/12
Pegler	Mr	Peter	09/12	Smith	Mr	Harold	30/12

If there are any errors or anyone has been missed off the list, please advise
The Secretary (Membership Officer)

These members may collect a free drink of their choice during the month

We hope you have a very special Birthday



A Spitfire MkVcT of No. 457 Squadron RAAF lifts off from Livingstone Field Northern Territory Australia in early 1943



Vietnam - 1966 - The men of 5RAR are enjoying Christmas lunch at their mess at the 1st Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat. It is traditional for officers, warrant officers and sergeants to serve the troops on Christmas day with lunch.

Christmas Trading

Friday 25th December

Closed

Sunday 27th December

Open from 12 noon



The President represented the RSL at a Remembrance Day Service at Pioneer Village School on 10th November, 2026







Bar Manager's Report

G'day All,

Due to CPI, additional Excise and the ongoing fuel delivery levy, we are going to need to re-visit our prices shortly.

I'll try to keep any increase to a minimum and will keep you informed.

Cheers for now,

Stormy



They asked me to dress the turkey. I hope I did it right







HMA Ships QUADRANT and QUEENBOROUGH, (destroyers), were docked in the Captain Cook Graving Dock at Garden Island. They were the first ships of the RAN to use the dock. All previous dockings were of ships of the British Pacific Fleet



Happy 70th anniversary to the UH-1 Iroquois, better known as the Huey!
On October 20, 1956, the Huey became the first turbine-powered helicopter to serve with the U.S. military and went on to become one of the most iconic rotorcraft ever built

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMASES AT WAR

For the past century, many Australian servicemen and woman have had to celebrate Christmas away from their families and home in foreign lands. Through images and memories, this article details some of the Christmas experiences that soldiers have had.

In the first year of the Great War, many Australians of the newly formed Australian Imperial Forces were stationed in Cairo, Egypt waiting to be deployed in battle and thus had a very unique Christmas spending time bartering in marketplaces with the locals and generally having a good time. From home they received packages from home that contained items such as tinned pudding, biscuits and cakes.



Lines of the Australian 9th and 10th Battalions at Mena Camp, looking towards the Pyramids

Later years in the war were far different experiences for Australian soldiers with many having no choice but to spend the holiday in the trenches or at military hospitals not far away.



These patients at the No 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Middlesex, England, are ready for their 1918 Christmas celebrations

During World War Two, Australian servicemen and women once again left the comfort of home to fight the enemy across the globe. Many Australian soldiers also received food and gift packages from home and used Christmas as a brief time where they could relax and have fun.



El Daba, Egypt. 25 December 1943. Members of No. 451 (Spitfire) Squadron, RAAF, sit down to Christmas dinner



Troops of the 9th infantry battalion enjoying Christmas dinner

During the Korean War, Australian forces were a part of the larger United Nations forces fighting against the forces of the North.

Australian servicemen and woman had to deal with the freezing temperatures of the Korean Peninsula while they celebrated the Christmas season.



Korea. 1 January 1953. 28290 Private Lawrence Charles (Larry) Hopson of Turramurra, NSW, and of D Company, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), enjoys a bottle of beer from a Christmas parcel, despite the fact it is half frozen.

In the Vietnam war thousands of Australians once again left their homes, this time to fight in the tropical land of Vietnam.

But it was now Christmas, Binh Ba-style. First came a stirring message from Task Force Commander Brigadier Jackson. He sent us best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, 1967.

"In our seven months of action we have come a long way together. Much has been achieved, but we all know there is much to be done. I know well that on many occasions a great deal has been asked of you, and always without fail you have responded in the true tradition of the Australian soldier. I am deeply proud of your achievements and you have every cause to share in that pride.

During this time of celebration and thanksgiving we will all be pausing in our rare quieter moments to think of our families and friends at home, the events of the past few months, our fellow soldiers who are no longer here, and the future. Many thoughts and prayers will be with each of you, and from them we can all draw strength and determination for re-dedication to our tasks her in Vietnam.

We need to have no fears for the future. It is now clear that Communist aggression against the people of South Vietnam will fail.

Good luck".

We cut down a lemon tree in the backyard of the Binh Ba villa and decorated it with toilet paper, string, barbed wire and bits of silver from cigarette packets. Blue and Bernie organised their sections to hang ration cans on the tree as ornaments, and I took my men out to scrounge for fruit and for spare hootchies to use as tablecloths – anything that would take our minds off war.

As one of those more touching gestures, most men found something to give their mates: a pocket knife, a torch, playing cards – anything that didn't resemble Army issue. John Lea-Smith and Mick Deak drove into Ngai Giao and procured cartons of American beer. Each small thought and action had a huge impact on all of us: Christmas was a small piece of normality in a place that was everything but normal. Deak later spoke quietly to us about Reconnaissance Platoon being a family. Those words, from someone as tough as a grunt's boot, had a further soothing and cheering effect on men who were close to running on empty.



Reconnaissance Unit at Binh Ba, Christmas 1966

The more recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have also forced Australian Servicemen and Women to spend Christmas away from their families but this has not stopped them getting together for a bit of fun!

Throughout the history of Australia's military involvements, we can see that scenes of servicemen and women getting together to celebrate the traditions of the holidays is a constant feature.

These traditions have helped soldiers deal with being away from their families it difficult times.



Australian Soldiers from Mentoring Task Force Three (MTF3) enjoy time out for Christmas lunch at Tarin Kot, Afghanistan, 2011




Happy
New Year
2027

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2027

Please leave this completed Form in a sealed envelope and either hand to the Membership Officer or place in the Membership Box (located under the main Notice Board)

Your Receipt and Social Card will be available for collection within one week

Service and Affiliate Cards will be issued from Head Office

RENEWAL to 31st December 2027

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... **Post Code:** .....

Current: **Phone:** .....

e-mail: .....

SERVICE	AFFILIATE	SOCIAL
$40	**$40**	**$20**
Service or ID No.	***ID No.***	



RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH

Your RSL