

THE FURPHY

ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

June 2026 Edition



**1 Commerce Ave, Armadale, WA 6112
PO Box 697, Armadale, WA 6992**

Ph: (08) 9497 1972

email: secretary@armadalersl.com.au

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General Meetings:

Second Sunday of the month at 1100hrs

Annual General Meeting:

Second Sunday of September

Committee Positions

Armada 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	Mr Keith Northcott
Membership Officer	Secretary
Committee	Mr Geoff Scott
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 June

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
Sunday	7 th	Social Committee Meeting	1100
Tuesday	9 th	Management Committee Meeting	1100
Sunday	14 th	General Meeting	1100
Sunday	28 th	Heartbeats Band	1230



Land Mines were not fun

Secretary's Notes

Hi Everyone,

The month of May has been a little quieter now all things ANZAC are over.

I guess we now commence planning for Remembrance Day!

We have been advised that 14 Sub-Branches have qualified for the Veterans Facilities Grant, however at the time of printing this edition, we have not been made aware whether Armadale are one of those or not. The President will keep you informed.

Heartbeats Band are returning at the end of the month, they are always very much appreciated and well patronised. Please understand that there are no table reservations so first in gets their choice.

State Congress will be held on Saturday 27th June and we will communicate items of interest in the next Furphy for your information.

Best regards as always,

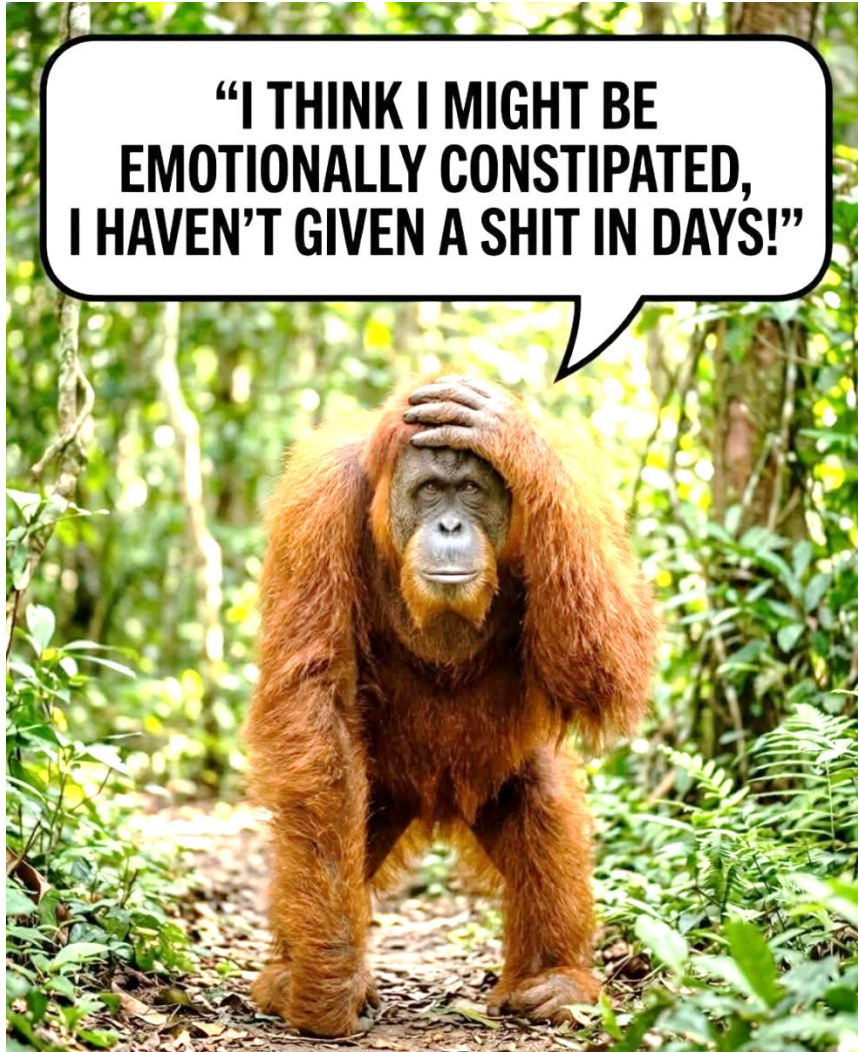
Carol King

Sub-Branch Secretary

e-mail: secretary@armadalersl.com.au



**"I THINK I MIGHT BE
EMOTIONALLY CONSTIPATED,
I HAVEN'T GIVEN A SHIT IN DAYS!"**



**Did you see me
leave that bar sober.
I really proud of
myself.**

**It was a
salad bar.**



*Just one Goat.
Just one Drink.
Just one Alcoholic
Goat.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Members,

The issues of Wreath laying order and the dipping of hand-held flags have been brought up again at our May General Meeting. All available documentation will be reviewed at the next Management Committee meeting where a final decision will be made. The outcome will be communicated to you at the June GM.

Remembrance Day planning is commencing. We will need to re-evaluate fundraising for the Poppy Appeal. For the ANZAC stalls there were 4 shifts not covered due to a lack of volunteers. This means we may need to re-evaluate whether 3 days of stalls is still appropriate. We might have to reduce this down to 2 days to maintain coverage which would be a shame as this is a very important part of our annual fund-raising.

That's about all from me for now,

Mike Fairweather

President

Returned Services League Armadale Sub-Branch

Ph: (08) 9497 1972. M: 0403 980 290

1 Commerce Avenue Armadale WA 6112 | PO Box 697 Armadale WA 6992

e-mail: president@armadalersl.com.au



I am not sure who is the
mechanic But I'm really sure
the car owner is a woman.

Membership Update

As at 31st May 2026:

Service Members:	147
Affiliate Members:	40
Social Members:	<u>77</u>
Total:	<u>264</u>

Service Reconciliation with Head Office is ongoing, so if you are one of the Service Members who paid directly on-line through RSLWA recently, it would be appreciated if you would let me know. There are 36 people I have not yet been able to confirm payment for.

For those who have received duplicate Membership Cards from Head Office, the reason is that the Crest has been updated. The most up to date one is shown below.

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

Carol King

Tel: 9497 1972

e-mail: secretary@armadalersl.com.au

NEW



OLD





June Service Members:

Bell	Mr	Timothy	26/06	Chesson	Mr	Adrian	13/06
Copley	Mr	Leonard	28/06	Cowie	Mr	Graeme	18/06
Curry	Mr	Robert	08/06	Davey	Mr	Murray	02/06
Ferguson	Mr	Peter	11/06	Geraghty	Mr	Patrick	08/06
Granland	Ms	Margaret	25/06	Hine	Mr	Paul	14/06
Millar	Mr	Garry	03/06	Pearce	Mr	Rod	21/06
Peisley	Mr	Andrew	16/06	Symes	Mr	Jonathon	08/06
Wright	Mr	James	05/06				

June Affiliate Members:

Cowie	Mr	Michael	06/06	Craster	Mrs Irene	11/06
Ewers	Mrs	Felicidad	27/06	Jordan	Mr Barry	28/06
King	Ms	Carol	16/06	King	Mrs Val	14/06
Richardson	Mrs	Sandra	10/06			

June Social Members:

Boyce	Mrs	Christine	19/06	Fowler	Mr Steven	04/06
Gyde	Mr	Jason	03/06	Hutchinson	Mr David	22/06
Spark	Mr	Scott	08/06	Welch	Mr Graham	23/06

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



Here's why the B-29 could have had a higher loss rate than the B-17 and B-24 over Germany in 1943



Obstruction made of fallen trees on a road near Ypres, planned by 2nd Lieutenant K Dormer (later killed in action). October 1914

Bar Manager's Report

G'day All,

Attendance is still relatively low, and I would encourage you to consider not only coming in to increase our patronage but also to bring others with you if possible.

Now things have settled down a bit, I will be making the time to review bar prices. It is likely that these increases will be implemented in early June.

Cheers for now,

Stormy

You've seen elf on the shelf. Now get ready for





I refer to testicles as "wonkas" because they're in between a willy and a chocolate factory.





Vickers Victory, a British 'super-bomber' concept circa 1943



Our camel corp 1918



A German UBoat U534 trapped on the bottom of the Atlantic for decades is lifted up by a ship somewhere in the Atlantic

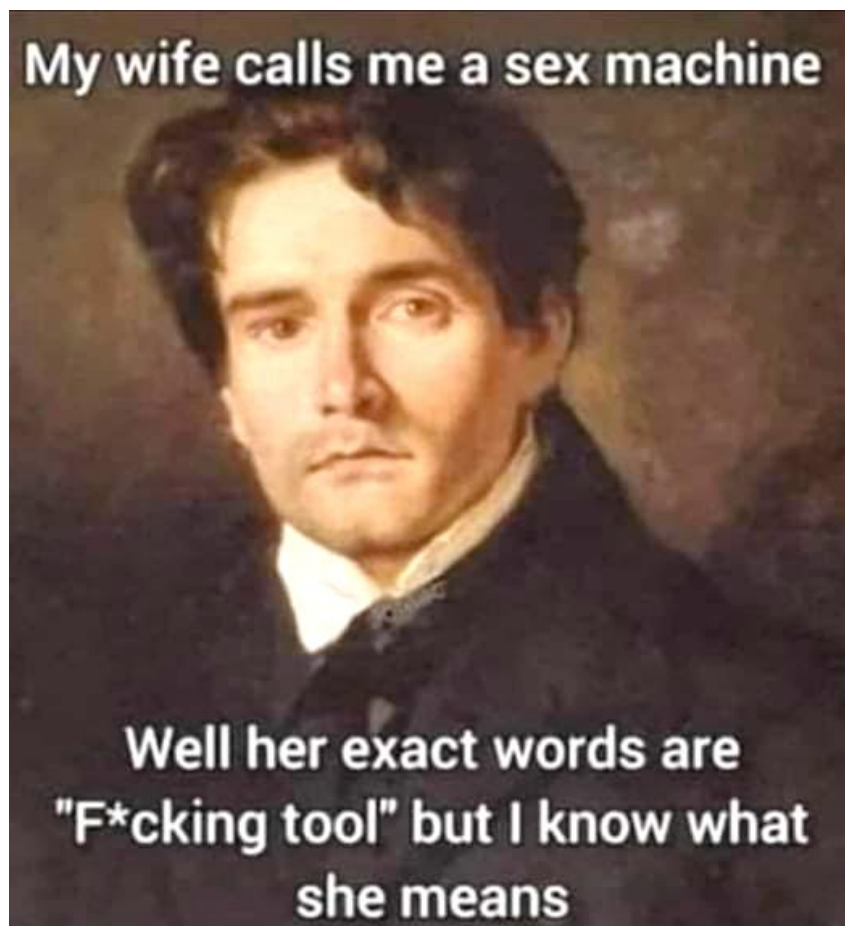


The MG-15: A Flexible Aircraft Machine Gun Pushed into Infantry Service

The Deadliest cartridge known to man....👍👍👍



My wife calls me a sex machine



Well her exact words are
"F*cking tool" but I know what
she means

Heartbeats Band

***Appearing at the
Armadale RSL***



Sunday, 28th June - 12:30pm

***Get a group of friends together and join
us for a great afternoon of musical
entertainment***

BYO Snacks / Nibbles

Free Entry



The location of No.18 Squadrons well at MacDonald Field base camp Northern Territory Australia in 1999



Washing a Huey Near Camp Radcliff, 1966 - These guys used to land right in the little river that ran through Camp Radcliff (the 1st Air Cavalry base in An Khe Vietnam).



An unidentified group of seven bakers at the 1st Australian Field Bakery on the island of Imbros, close to the Turkish coast. Two of the men are about to carry away a batch of newly baked bread. Along with the islands of Lemnos to the west and Tenedos to the south, Imbros was lent by Greece as a base for operations in Turkey



The de Havilland Mosquito was a sleek, fast, and deadly aircraft



The ANZAC class guided missile frigate HMAS TOOWOOMBA was commissioned. TOOWOOMBA was laid down in Tenix Williamstown Dockyard, VIC, and launched on 16 May 2003



A Matilda tank of 'B' Squadron, 2/4th Australian Armoured Regiment, with supporting Infantry moving along the Buin road, South of the Hongorai River during mopping-up operations on Bougainville in the South Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea 1945

Volunteering and the war effort in Australia during World War II

Thousands of Australians volunteered for the war effort during World War II. They provided comforts from home for people serving overseas. They also kept the nation clothed, entertained, fed and safe. Many people joined volunteer organisations like the Red Cross and the Australian Comforts Fund. Others trained to protect against possible enemy attack. Special entertainment and education units formed to keep troops entertained. Even children helped out as part of Australia's 'all-in' policy.

Defending the home front

On 15 February 1942, Singapore fell to the Japanese. Prime Minister John Curtin made the difficult decision to call Australian troops back from the Middle East in preparation for a war closer to home. Defending Australia would now need all the country's available resources. Four days later, on 19 February, the Japanese bombed Darwin for the first time.

In April 1942, Curtin addressed a rally in Sydney's Martin Place. The purpose was to launch a 35-million-pound fundraising drive for the war effort. In a stirring speech, Curtin called on all Australians to unite and defend Australia.

With Japan's entry into the war and the bombing of Darwin, Prime Minister John Curtin and his government put Australia on a total war footing. In a newsreel footage, we see the Prime Minister of Australia, John Curtin, speaking about Australia's war efforts in April 1942. This film would have been shown at cinemas throughout Australia.

“The full cabinet today directed the war cabinet to get the necessary regulations for the complete mobilisation and the complete ordering of all the resources, human and material, in this Commonwealth, for the defence of this Commonwealth. That means, clearly and specifically, that every human being in this country is now, whether he or she likes it, at the service of the Government to work in the defence of Australia.”

Australians were encouraged to volunteer in some capacity. Curtin did not distinguish between military personnel and civilians. In his view, everyone, including children, had a part to play if Australia was to be victorious. Even those in paid employment were expected to volunteer in some way.



By 1942, Australians felt anxious about the war, as shown in this cartoon published in Sydney's Daily Telegraph. Following Japan's victories throughout South-East Asia and the Pacific, many feared Australia would be next to fall. Defending Australia became an urgent priority.

Civil defence measures

Although enemy forces did not attack mainland Australia frequently or heavily, the country did experience air and sea attacks during the war

Between 1940 and 1945, more than 50 German and Japanese ships and submarines attacked Allied shipping in Australian waters.

On 19 February 1942, 188 Japanese planes attacked Darwin. Over the next 2 years, northern Australia experienced almost 100 air attacks.

Various organisations staffed by volunteers responded to protect the home front, including:

- Naval Auxiliary Patrol, which patrolled the coast for enemy ships
- Volunteer Air Observers Corps (VAOC), which spotted planes
- Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC).



Informal group portrait of female drivers of Australia's National Emergency Service who were qualified to drive motor transport, including buses.

The service had some 550 trained women drivers in uniform. The drivers were thoroughly trained in motor mechanics and running repairs, and held high-grade certificates in first aid and Air Raid Precautions (ARP) work.

Air-raid precautions

Different organisations were responsible for air-raid precautions in each state and territory. They were responsible for appointing and training community air-raid wardens.

Blackout restrictions and air-raid warning instructions were introduced from late 1941. Air-raid sirens were set up. Men, women and children began building air-raid shelters, trenches and bunkers.

In New South Wales, more than 115,000 volunteers joined the National Emergency Services (NES). Almost half of these were wardens.

NES volunteers had many roles. These included:

- building air-raid shelters, including at schools and colleges
- checking blackout conditions
- maintaining air-raid security.

The NES was disbanded after the war.

Feeding and clothing the nation

During the war years, the role of keeping the country clothed and fed fell to Australian volunteers. Many families already had a vegetable garden or backyard orchard. But, with the promotion of the 'Dig for victory' campaign, more people took to growing their own food with enthusiasm.

Prime minister John Curtin launched 'Dig for victory' in January 1942. It became a practical way for Australians of all ages to 'do their bit' for the war effort.

Planting fruit and vegetables in home gardens and neighbourhood plots:

- helped feed families and communities
- connected neighbours in a common cause
- improved wartime morale
- raised much-needed money for charities, such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Legacy and YWCA.

As the war continued, these 'victory gardens' served an even more urgent purpose. Growing food became less about patriotism and frugality and more about food security.

More fresh produce was needed to replace that being sent to the United Kingdom (UK) for its war effort, as well as to feed Australians at home. Increased food production was also needed to feed the influx of United States (US) troops who swelled Australia's population by late 1942.



Volunteers prepare a 'victory garden' as part of Australia's 'Dig for victory' campaign, Toorak, Victoria, 1942.

Entertaining service personnel

Volunteer and paid performers were recruited early in the war to entertain service personnel. They performed at training camps and service bases across Australia, Europe, the Middle East and New Guinea.

Wartime concert and theatre programs show personnel attended:

- comedy
- concerts
- dance
- female impersonators
- juggling
- movies
- radio broadcasts
- theatre shows
- ventriloquist acts.

By the end of the war, the Army's 1st Australian Entertainment Unit had given more than 12,000 performances.



Members of the Australian Entertainment Unit perform a variety show in Khassa Camp, Palestine, June 1941



Miss Joan Porter of 'Porter's Mob', a famous Australian Army entertainment unit. She displays coconut masks given to her by some of the Australian troops while the entertainment party was on tour in New Guinea, 7 December 1943

Female volunteers

Women of all ages and social classes were quick to volunteer for the war effort.

They joined a diverse range of organisations, including:

- Air raid precautions organisations
- Australian Comforts Funds
- Australian Red Cross Society
- Australian Women's Land Army
- Country Women's Association
- various church and community groups
- Women's Australian National Service
- Women's Emergency Signalling Corps.

Many women volunteered to join Australia's armed services to serve in Australia and overseas:

- Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS), serving as Army nurses in Australia and overseas
- Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS), supporting the Army by taking over duties like driving, clerical work and operating searchlights
- Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS), working as telegraphists, drivers and clerical staff
- Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force (WAAAF), handling ground crew roles, signals and administrative duties.

Other women contributed in less formal ways. Some knitted during their lunch breaks. Others raised money for established charities, such as the Australian Red Cross and the Australian Comforts Fund. Countless more cooked millions of meals for service personnel around the country. Some signed up as entertainers, touring the country and the world.



Jean Warrall and Mabel Hartley were 2 of the many women who volunteered during World War II. As members of the Militors, a small Melbourne-based volunteer organisation, they trained in first aid, military drill and rifle shooting

Australian Women's Land Army

Some 3,000 women joined the Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA).

Most recruits came from cities and often were unskilled in farm work. Women who lived in rural communities were not eligible to join.

Members of the AWLA played an essential role in maintaining rural production. They grew and harvested food for Australian personnel serving at home and overseas. They helped feed US personnel stationed across Australia and the south-western Pacific region. And they also produced wool, cotton and flax to clothe and equip service personnel.

AWLA members were paid, but at a lower rate than men in similar jobs.

Women in rural and regional areas contributed to the war effort in other ways.

Many women on family farms took responsibility for running them in the absence of male family members serving overseas. Others volunteered for the Women's Agricultural Security Production Service (WASPS) or helped out where and when they could.



Australian Women's Land Army member, June Ayre, inspects supplies and recruitment posters at Land Army headquarters, Melbourne, Victoria, 1943

Australian Red Cross

Some 600,000 Australians, including children, supported the war effort through the Australian Red Cross.

Red Cross volunteers provided medical, welfare and other auxiliary services, including:

- blood donation drives
- cooking at military hospitals and bases
- driving the sick and wounded to medical care
- food parcels for prisoners of war
- fundraising
- hospital visits
- immunisation programs
- library services.

During and after the war, members of the Australian Red Cross helped look for missing persons, bringing loved ones home and giving some closure to the families of those who did not return.



An Australian Red Cross bulk storeroom at Lae, New Guinea, 6 September 1944. The storeman, Corporal Frank Law of Casino, NSW, is with his New Guinean assistant, 'Money'. The Australian Red Cross Society supplied hospital patients with pyjamas, dressing gowns and sandals, as well as amenities for patients in hospital and convalescent depots

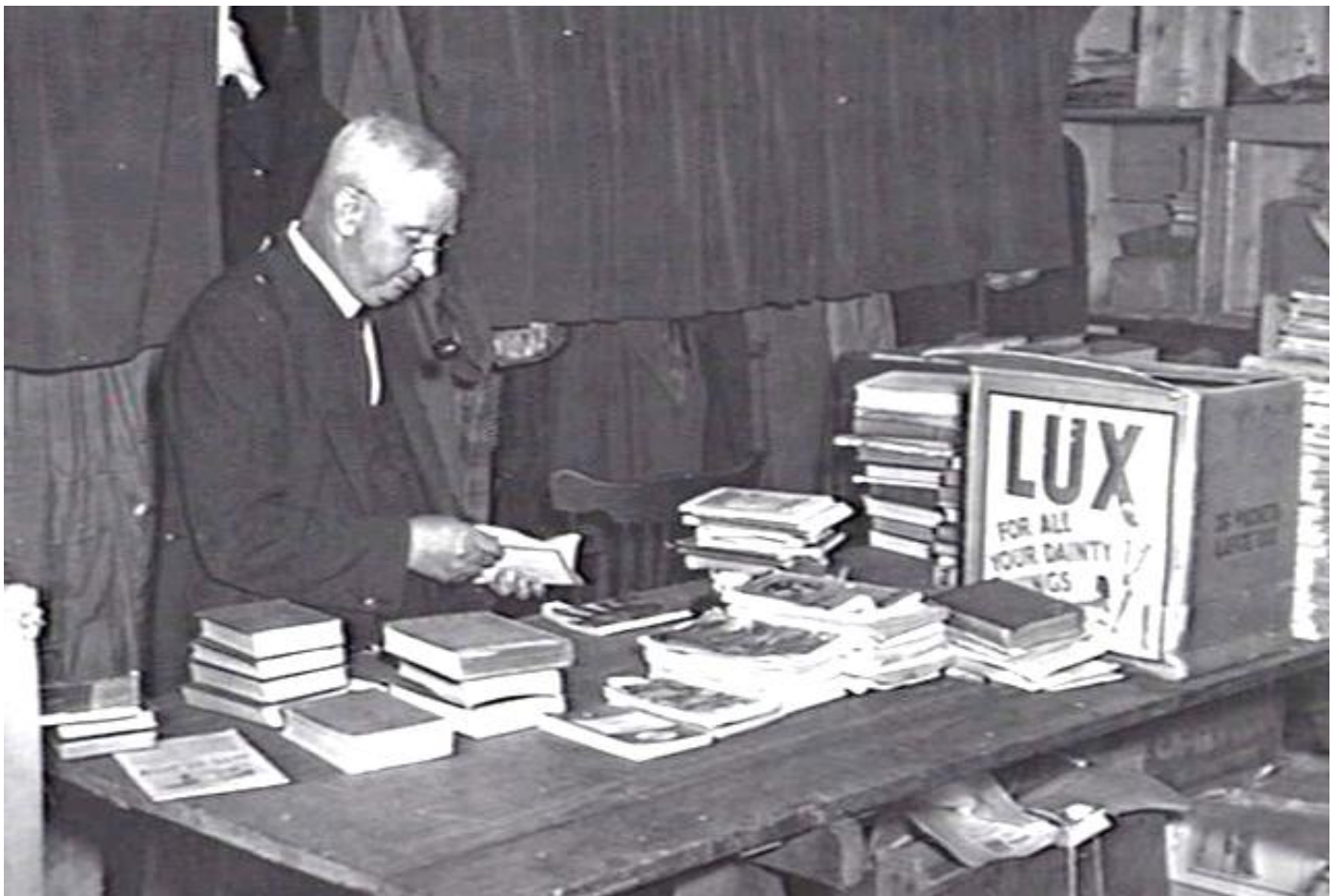
Voluntary Aid Detachments

Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) served in Australia and overseas. They received a wage from 1940.

VADs received basic medical training in patient care. But unlike nurses, VADs had no formal qualifications. Their role was a supporting one, serving in hospitals, convalescent homes and on troopships. Duties varied, but included:

- basic patient care and hygiene
- cooking, clerical and laundry duties
- driving patients to appointments
- emptying bedpans
- making beds
- taking blood.

In December 1942, the growing number of VADs was incorporated into the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS).



In the library section of the Australian Red Cross Society, volunteer Mr K. Douglas sorts books, magazines and newspapers into categories for boxing into parcels to be sent to Australian troops, Melbourne, Victoria, 13 May 1943

Australian Comforts Fund

The Australian Comforts Fund (ACF) was a voluntary organisation that provided service personnel with the comforts of home. First set up during World War I, the ACF was reinstated in 1939.

The ACF was mostly staffed by female volunteers. Not only did they raise money for care packages for people serving overseas, but they also packaged and sometimes distributed these.

Near the battlefields, the ACF also funded and staffed facilities, such as tea rooms for soldiers.



A tearoom run by the Australian Comforts Fund for Australian military personnel serving in Tel Aviv, Palestine, 3 June 1940. The tearoom offered a free cup of tea and a biscuit to each serving member. As well as organising personal care items, the ACF provided recreational equipment. Sporting equipment, record players and music were always appreciated by service personnel far from home. The ACF also handed out paper and pens so people could write to their loved ones



Volunteers from the Australian Comforts Fund packing Christmas hampers for Australian service personnel, Melbourne, Victoria, 29 August 1944

Each serviceman received a personal care package when he embarked for service, including:

- books and magazines
- canned food
- cigarettes
- clothing
- razor blades
- soap.

Servicewomen were not forgotten by the ACF. Their comforts of home included sanitary items, talcum powder and skincare products.

By the time it closed on 27 June 1946, the ACF had funded, packed and distributed more than 1.5 million Christmas hampers.



*Members of Junior Red Cross sorting used postage stamps during their school holidays,
Melbourne, Victoria, 19 May 1943*

The Victorian Philatelic Patriotic Committee would then classify and sell the stamps.

They raised over 600 pounds in 8 months.



Children line up with their prams and billy carts at a woodyard to buy a meagre ration of firewood, Collingwood, Victoria, 1942



These 3 girls collected pots and pans for the war effort, Brisbane, Queensland, 1942



RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH

Your RSL