

THE FURPHY

ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

November 2026 Edition



**1 Commerce Ave, Armadale, WA 6112
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
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

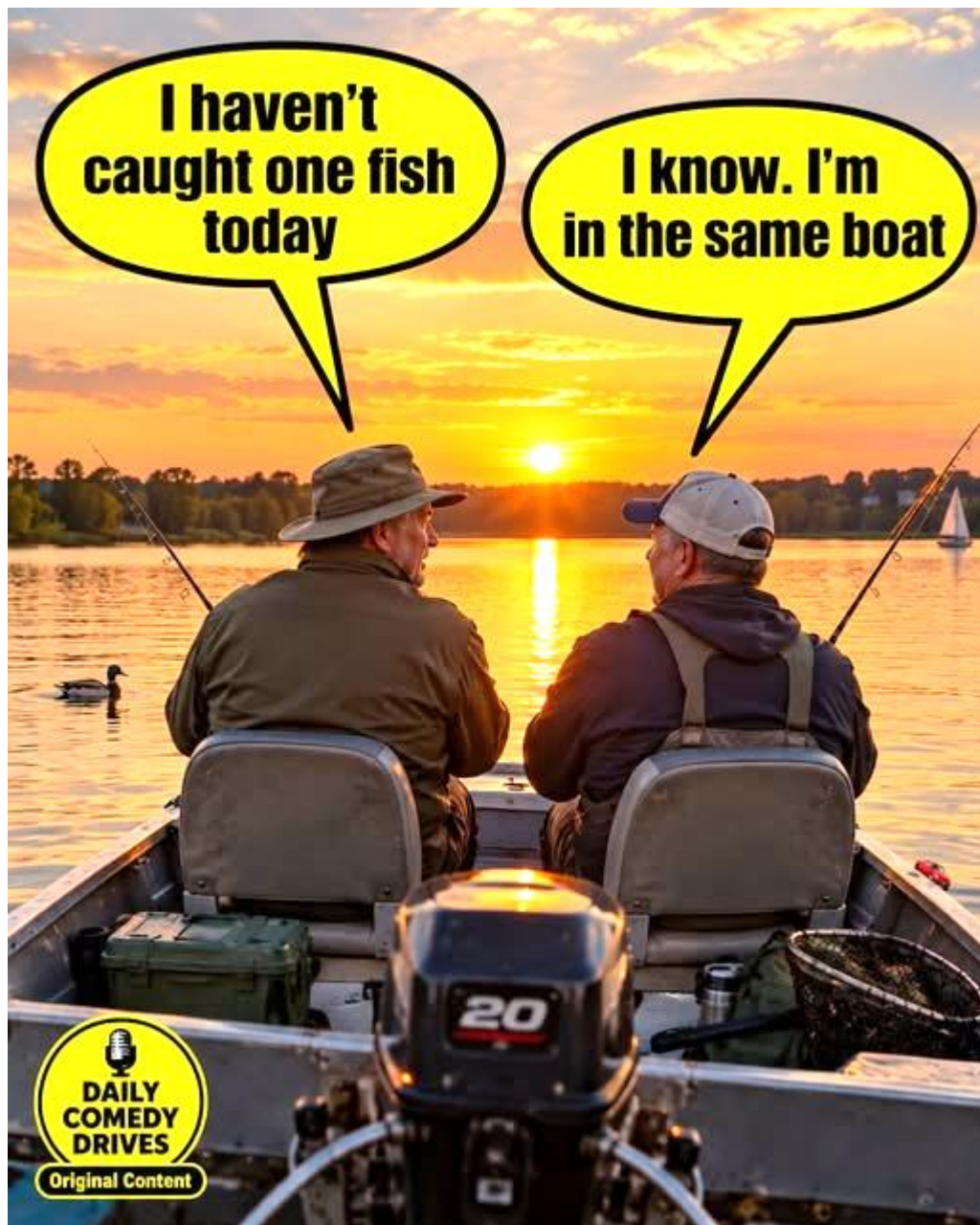
Weekday Contact Details:

Mobile: 0407 449 150

e-mail: welfare2@armadalersl.com.au

Diary Dates for November

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
Sunday	1 st	Social Committee Meeting	1130
Wednesday	4 th	Management Committee Meeting	1100
Sunday	8 th	General Meeting	1100
Sunday	15 th	Midnight Angel Band	1230



NEW RSL ILLUMINATED SIGN



The Sub-Branch extends their sincere appreciation to Quikfire Electrical (Kelmscott) for kindly DONATING the design, fabrication and erection costs of this fabulous new sign which is now on the Eastern wall of our Building.

Please support those businesses who support our RSL



1800 307 211



(Photo courtesy of Lyndon Jackson)

Saturday 24th October, 2026

It's so very disappointing to see this lack of respect for not only the Cenotaph at Memorial Par, but also around our general area.

The Secretary has escalated the issue to both the City of Armadale and the Armadale Police



Secretary's Notes

Hi Everyone,

VFF Grant implementation is in full swing and ongoing.

All spots for the Poppy Appeal stalls have now been filled – thanks so very much to everyone who volunteered. As you are aware, this is a very important fund raising initiative for our Sub-Branch.

We are still looking for people to help with the Busy Bee to be held on Friday 6th November.

Please set aside Sunday 15th November to come and join us when the Midnight Angel Duo join us again. BYO snacks and nibbles.

The list of names for the Members luncheon on 22nd November is at the Bar. For catering purposes, no names will be taken after close of business on Sunday 8th November (GM day).

Remembrance Day is Wednesday 11th November and following the service, a sausage sizzle will be held at the hall. Thanks to Rob and Keith for again helping out as our “Snagga Chefs” for the day.

Best regards as always,

Carol King

Sub-Branch Secretary

e-mail: secretary@armadalersl.com.au

WHY DON'T WITCHES
RIDE THEIR BROOMS
WHEN THEY'RE ANGRY?



THEY'RE AFRAID THEY
WILL FLY OFF THE HANDLE.



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.

We sincerely thank Quikfire Electrical for their very generous donation of the new sign. They are the same company who performed our re-wiring and replaced the switchboards. We can't speak highly enough of their work ethic and professionalism.

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

My ducks are absolutely
NOT in a row.

I don't even know where
some of them are...

And I'm pretty sure one
of them is a pigeon.



Membership Update

As at 31st October 2026:

Service Members:	120
Affiliate Members:	43
Social Members:	<u>85</u>
Total:	<u>248</u>

- *We were sorry to hear that long time member George Stevens passed away peacefully on 14th October, aged 97.*
- *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



**I found a wine that
supposedly stops
those midnight
bathroom trips. It's
called Pinot Mor.**

BUSY BEE



FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER, 2026

9:00 – 12 noon

***To be followed by a light lunch with drinks for
Volunteers***

Tidy up outdoor areas in preparation for Remembrance Day

Names on the board

**Will glass coffins be
a success?**

Remains to be seen.



November Service Members:

Enright	Dr	Leo	24/11	Evans	Mr	Steve	04/11
Fairweather	Mr	Mike	15/11	Ferrari	Mr	Michael	02/11
Gillam	Mr	Gordon	29/11	Grimes	Mr	Wayne	14/11
Harding	Mr	Andrew	01/11	Palmer	Mr	Glen	11/11

November Affiliate Members:

Matthews	Mr	Russell	24/11	Murphy	Mr	John	03/11
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November Social Members:

Bowen	Mr	John	28/11	Colley	Mr	James	16/11
Evans	Mrs	Maralyn	16/11	Hodges	Mr	Clayton	03/11
Jolly	Mr	Shaune	16/11	Lewis	Ms	Susan	12/11
Neasmith	Ms	Amanda	22/11	Skehan	Ms	Jackie	13/11
Wood	Mr	Paul	15/11				

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

LEST WE FORGET



Remembrance Day

**The Armadale RSL Sub-Branch will be hosting
a Community Remembrance Day Service**

Venue: ***Memorial Park, Armadale***
Date: ***Wednesday, 11th November***
Time: ***10:45am***

**The RSL Bar will be open from
11:00am with a Sausage Sizzle lunch
on sale from 12 noon**

Public Welcome



I just saw a
facebook
status....lonely
man seeks
wife....He had
265 replies, all
of them saying
"You can have
mine!"

Bar Manager's Report

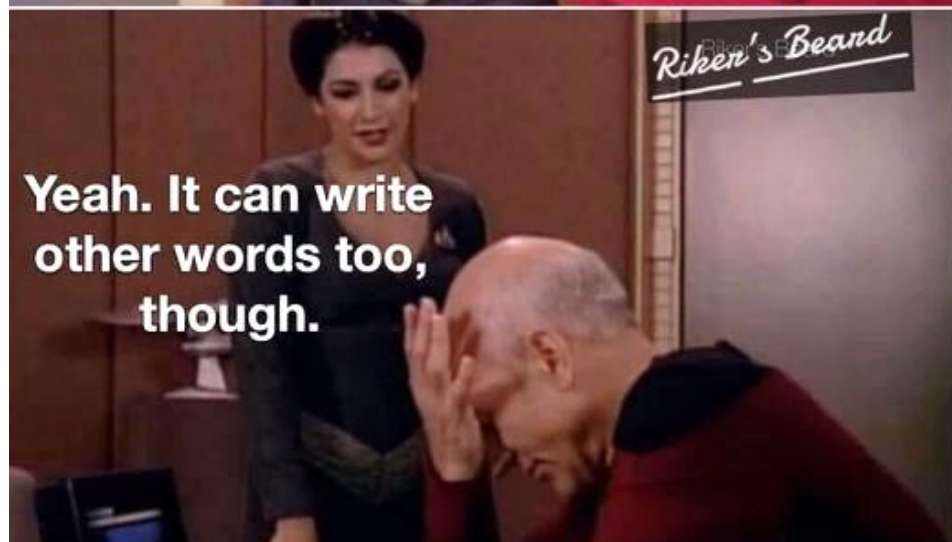
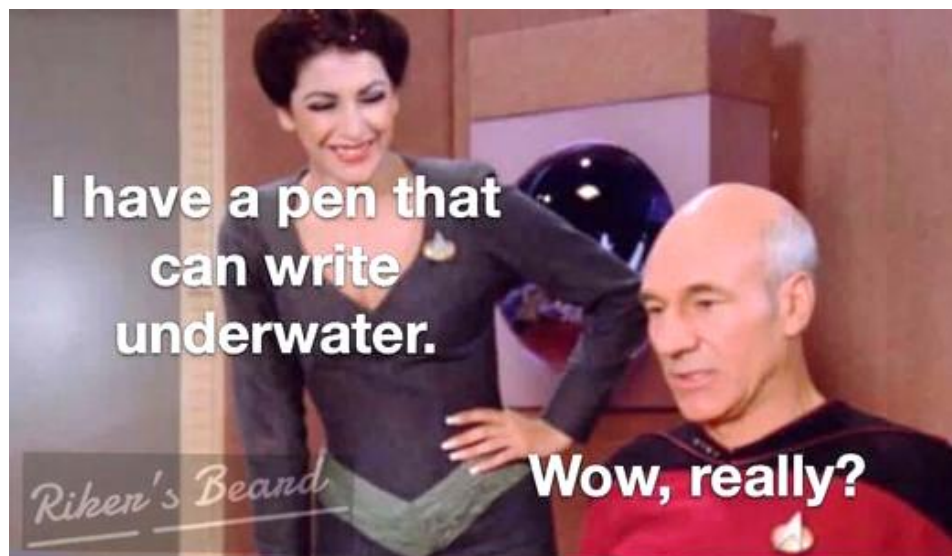
G'day All,

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

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

Cheers for now,

Stormy



Battle of Hamel 4 July 1918

The Battle of Hamel in World War I was a small-scale, brilliantly successful attack made by elements of the Australian Corps and United States (US) troops with British tanks and air support. It was the first set-piece operation planned by Lieutenant General John Monash since taking command of the Australian Corps the previous month. Under Monash's strategy, infantry, tanks, artillery and air support worked together on the battlefield for the first time under Australian command. In just 93 minutes, the Allies captured 1,600 enemy soldiers. Around 1,380 Australian and US personnel were killed or wounded in the battle. It was the first time that Australians and Americans fought together on a battlefield. The planned attack became a model for innovative tactics, which the Allies repeated on larger-scale advances from 8 August and helped to end the war in November 1918.

Role of the Australians

The Allies aimed to take the high ground east of the village of Le Hamel, south of the River Somme. They knew the Germans needed to occupy the ridge at Le Hamel if they planned to capture Amiens, about 20 km west. Moreover, to the Allies, taking the ridge would help their advance further east, along both banks of the Somme.

The operation was planned and executed under the leadership of Lieutenant General John Monash. He wanted to show the effectiveness of combined arms tactics and coordination between infantry, artillery, tanks and air support. As a result, the Australian armed forces played a crucial role in the battle, contributing to the attack's success and achieving the objectives set by the Allies.

- The Allied attack involved:
- 4th Australian Infantry Brigade
- 6th Australian Infantry Brigade
- 11th Australian Infantry Brigade
- 1,000 infantrymen from the US Army 131st and 132nd Infantry Regiments
- 60 British Army tanks of the 5th Tank Brigade.

Each US platoon was attached to an Australian company. It was the first time US soldiers had served in combat under a foreign commander.

Elements of the 7th Australian Infantry Brigade – the 25th Battalion and a company from the 27th Battalion – also supported the 6th Brigade's sector. In terms of firepower, there were 8,000 Allied personnel with 550 guns, 60 tanks and 85 aircraft in support. They were facing around 5,000 German troops. In just 93 minutes, the Australians had taken all their objectives, advancing the Allies 2 km along a 6 km front.

At the same time as the attack on Le Hamel, the 15th Australian Infantry Brigade launched a 'feint' or diversionary attack. The men successfully captured the new German front line east of Ville-sur-Ancre.

Planning and preparation

Monash meticulously planned the battle using innovative tactics and techniques. He integrated intelligence, reconnaissance and thorough briefings to ensure all units understood their roles.

In addition, the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) provided Allied officers and soldiers with extensive training, including rehearsal exercises on a full-scale replica of the battlefield.



The village of Le Hamel, France, in July 1918, around the time of the battle of Hamel. Looking towards Corbie, as it would have been seen from the German-held trenches until the battle on 4 July 1918. The enemy front line on the morning of the 4 July was on the crest of the hill in the middle distance.

After the successful attack, the Allied supports occupied the trench in the foreground some 200 yards (182 m) behind the new front line. AWM E02844B

Surprise and speed

The Allies aimed to achieve complete surprise and rapid penetration of enemy lines.

Allied aircraft bombed the village of Hamel to mask the sound of the British tanks moving into position.

The AIF used a short but intense 7-minute artillery barrage to target specific German strongholds and disrupt their defences. The Artillery units precisely coordinated their fire with the infantry assault. This tactic ensured the troops advanced immediately behind the creeping barrage.



Dawn at Hamel, 4 July 1918. A 1921 oil painting by Australian official war artist George Bell shows the approaches to Hamel and Wood on the right.

Combined arms tactics

The Allied forces effectively employed combined arms tactics, integrating infantry, artillery, tanks and air support.

The artillery created a protective 'rolling barrage' ahead of the attacking infantry. This minimised casualties of infantrymen and allowed them to maintain their momentum.

Tanks provided crucial support by neutralising machine-gun nests and fortified positions. This enabled the infantry to advance.

Finally, the Australian Flying Corps provided aerial reconnaissance, bombing support and protection from enemy aircraft.



A British RE8 aircraft shot down at Bois de Vaire (Vaire Wood) during the Battle of Hamel on 4 July 1918

Well-coordinated assault

The Australian troops, supported by US soldiers, launched a precisely timed attack on the German lines.

The soldiers moved swiftly and efficiently. They cleared trenches, captured key objectives and neutralised enemy strongholds.

The Australians demonstrated their tactical skill and disciplined coordination by advancing synchronously and avoiding unnecessary casualties.



Two members of the 42nd Australian Infantry Battalion, part of the 11th Australian Infantry Brigade, with 5 unidentified Australian and United States soldiers. They are in a trench in the Hamel area just after the Battle of Hamel, 4 July 1918

Objective capture and consolidation

The main objectives of the battle were to capture the town of Le Hamel, secure the high ground and create a defensive flank for future offensives. The Australian forces successfully achieved these objectives within a remarkably short time.

In addition, they captured around 1,600 German prisoners, gained control of strategically important positions and consolidated their gains to withstand subsequent counterattacks.



Members of the 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion escorting German prisoners of war from the Battle of Hamel to their compound at Bertangles, France, 4 July 1918.

Casualties of the battle

The Allies had lost around 1,380 men, including some 1,062 Australians and 176 US soldiers at Hamel and another 142 Australians at Ville-sur-Ancre. The Germans may have lost over 2,000 personnel.

The Official Histories gives a breakdown of Australian casualties by brigade and battalion.



Australian soldiers bringing wounded soldiers from the Battle of Hamel to the 4th Brigade Headquarters near Hamelet, France, 4 July 1918.

One veteran's reflection

2879 Lance Corporal John Stalley Tillbrook of the 43rd Infantry Battalion sent a letter from France to his father at Yacka, South Australia. An extract from Tillbrook's letter was published in *The Register* newspaper:

"It was the pleasure of our battalion (43rd) to pass through the village of Hamel and take it. This was the first time we had jumped over the top since October 4, 1917. Our casualties were light. We had a magnificent barrage, and the tanks went through with us, doing excellent work. While we were digging in a piece of shrapnel hit me on the shoulder and just cut my skin; nothing to even have to dress. My section of Lewis gunners got through with only one wounded; the section on my right had two killed and three wounded. Two days before we took Hamel we walked 18 miles in one day.

Gen. Monash visited us and said that these of us who took part on March 27 had won an honour for Australia that would live in history for generations. Our brigade was in the real piercing point in that action. I got a nice pair of field glasses of Fritz's, which I am going to send home. I am writing this letter on the bank of the River Somme. I wish you could see some of the crops here; they are in the right condition for hay cutting, and I would like to have a go at them.

The other day one platoon was given short notice to move off. It has turned out a pleasant surprise. I am on the best job I've had here - great work, four hours on and 12 hours off. We are beginning to stir things up a bit now. The Yankees liked our boys when they were mixed up with us to go over the top on July 4, and after we came out and they had to go back to their own lot they were quite disappointed. They are good fellows. Their general told them when they were coming to the Australian,s that they were going over the top with the best soldiers in the world. The night after I went to hospital with influenza our battalion was badly gassed. Our fellows are paying Fritz back in his own coin and I think he is sorry he started it. I shall never forget when we came down here seeing the poor people traversing the roads, some in carts, some walking and carrying their babies, some with a few things on wheelbarrows, other leading their cows. Shells were dropping in the town. We dumped our packs, went out to meet the enemy, and have knocked him back and taken quite a lot of villages. I have seen towns with not a wall standing above the windows. I hope to be home by Easter”.

John was a farmer who enlisted in the AIF on 23 September 1916 when he was 26.

He served on the Western Front and was wounded in action twice - on 4 October 1917 and 8 August 1918.

The war ended while he was recovering in England. John sailed home on HMAT *Kanowna*, disembarking in Adelaide on 26 February 1919.



Group portrait of the football team of the 14th Training Battalion, 3rd Brigade, Hurdcott, about November 1918. These soldiers had been recovering from wounds and sickness at the AIF Group Hospital, Hurdcott, England. Pictured: Private (Pte) Oscher (?5046A Anthony Julian Oschar, 32nd Battalion (1); 653 Sergeant (Sgt) Frederick William Woosnam MM, 29th Battalion (Bn) (2); Pte Hall (3); Captain (Capt) Trounson MC, 31st Bn (4); Lance Corporal W. Robertson, 59th Bn (5); Pte Tillbrook (6); Pte Mayo (7); Sgt A. V. Atkins, 57th Bn (8); 1219 Sgt Robert Alfred Rahilly, 29th Bn (9); Pte Monkhouse (10); Pte Read, 29th Bn (11); Chief Sergeant Major J. Brady, 29th Bn (12); Lieutenant (Lt) C. H. Davis MC, 57th Bn (13); Lt Norman William S. Hamilton, 30th Bn (14); Capt J. B. Laing MC, 57th Bn (15); Pte Glover (16); Corporal Beck (17); Lt E. M. Burns, 60th Bn (18).

Legacy of the battle

Historians regard the Battle of Hamel as a turning point in the war. It showed the effectiveness of combined arms tactics and the successful coordination between infantry, artillery, tanks and air support. Under Lieutenant General Monash's leadership, the Australian armed forces demonstrated their strategic and tactical prowess, achieving their objectives and contributing to the overall success of the Allies. The battle's innovative approaches and lessons learned also had a lasting impact on future military operations.



Commemoration

The Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel sits on a small hill near the remains of German bunkers, overlooking the small French town of Albert. The name 'Hamel' is also inscribed on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux.



MEMBERS LUNCHEON

Sunday 22nd November, 2026

(1230 hours)



Roast: Beef or Pork

***Dessert: Sticky Date Pudding
Apple Crumble Pie***

FINANCIAL MEMBERS ONLY

\$15

Book and Pay by Close of Business 8th November



MIDNIGHT ANGEL

***are returning to the
Armada RSL***

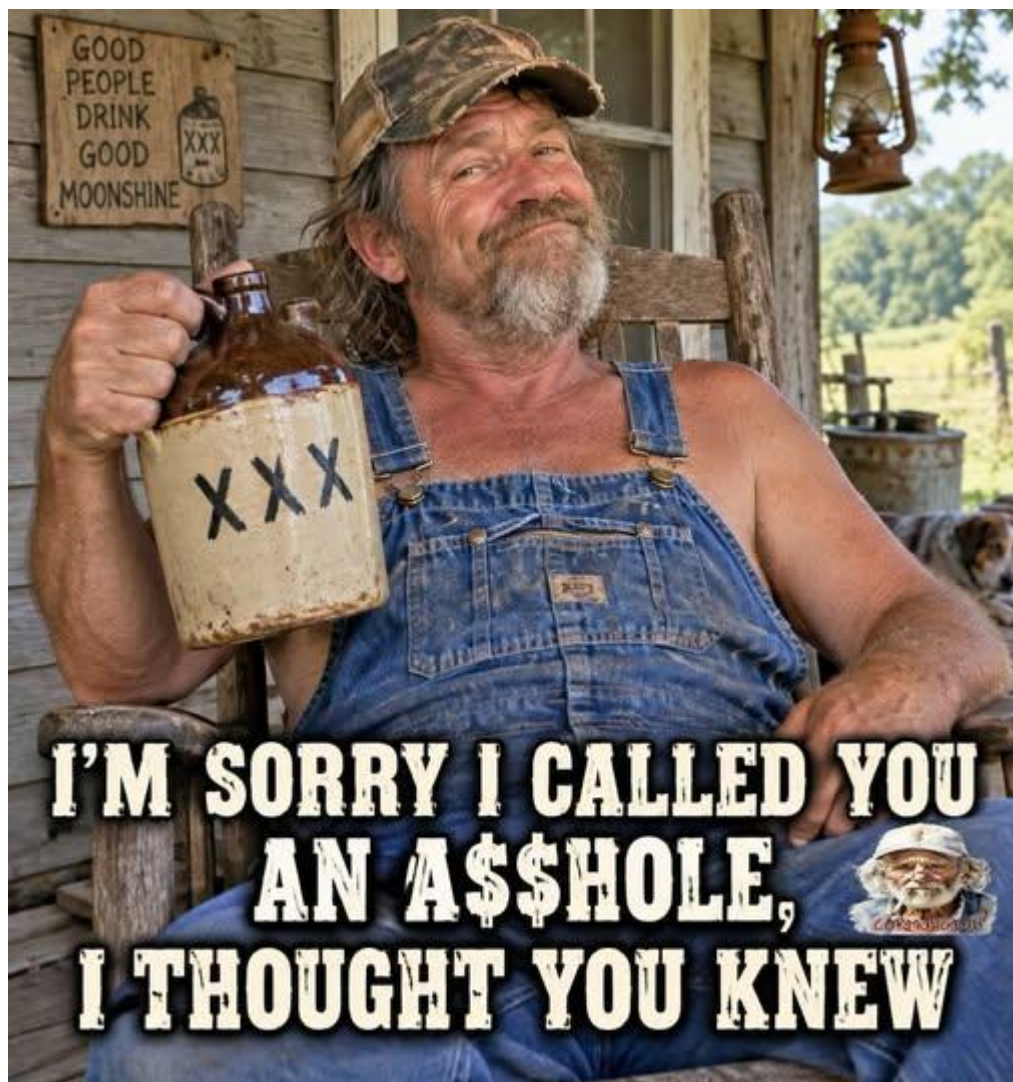


Sunday 15th November

12:30pm

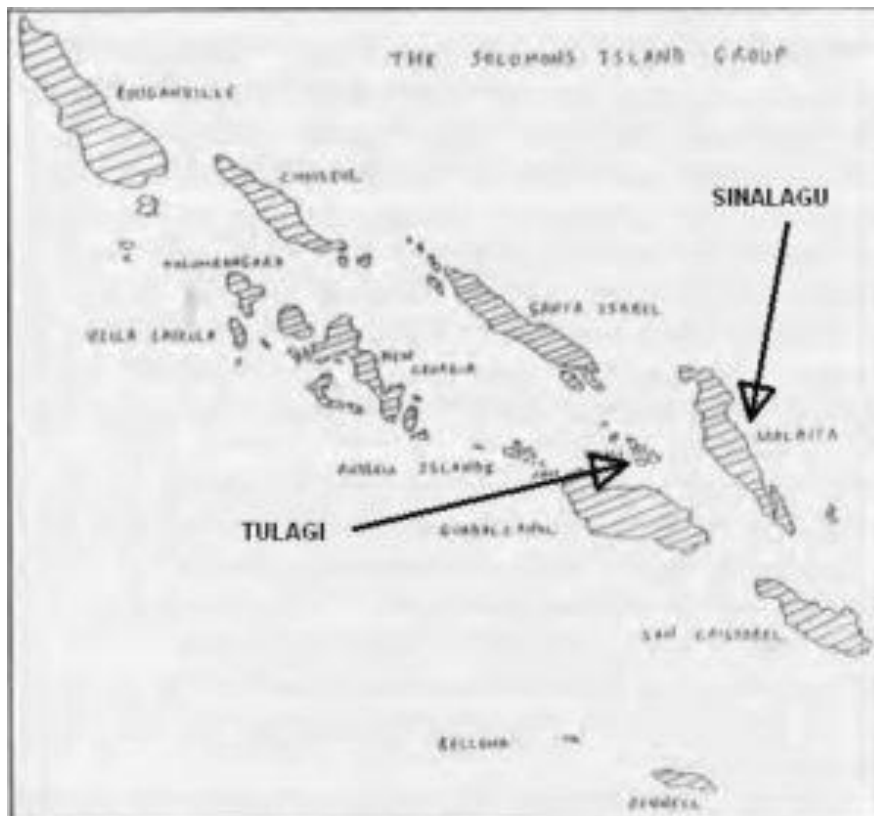
***Get a group of friends together and
join us for a great afternoon of
musical entertainment
BYO Snacks / Nibbles***

As a child we
were so poor, my
clothes came
from an army
surplus store. I
was the only
Japanese
General in
my class.



HMAS Adelaide – Malaita Expedition 1927

In early October 1927 the Town Class cruiser HMAS ADELAIDE lay alongside Garden Island in Sydney, having just returned from a cruise to the Solomon Islands, when news was received that there had been a bloody native uprising on the island of Malaita in the Solomons group.



The Solomons Island Group

The events leading up to the “native uprising” stemmed mainly from the Malaita natives intense hatred of the newly introduced annual “head tax”. This required every able bodied man to pay five shillings a year to the government of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate (BSIP).

The tax was very much taxation without representation, as the natives received very little in services for their five shillings. The tax had been introduced in an attempt to force the natives onto the

British plantations in the Solomons which were short of labour. It was only on the plantations that a native could hope to earn enough cash in order to pay the tax. The natives also resented the gradual inroads into their traditional way of life that were being made by the BSIP authorities, missionaries and traders.

On 3 October William Robert Bell, the District Officer for Malaita, Cadet (Patrol Officer) K.C. Lillies and about 15 native police arrived at Sinalagu (Diamond Harbour) to collect the annual head tax from the local natives. Bell had been District Officer since 1915 and knew Malaita and its people well. Lillies was an ex British Army officer who had been Bell's assistant since late 1925.

The next day Bell and Lillies sat at a desk outside a newly constructed "tax hut" as the natives filed up to pay their taxes. For most of the morning all went well despite warnings Bell had received that the local natives intended to oppose him over the collection of taxes.

Suddenly one of Malaita's prominent warriors, Bassiana, stood in front of the desk as if to pay his taxes. As Bell looked up from the desk Bassiana produced a hidden rifle and clubbed Bell to death. This was the signal for other natives to attack. Although only armed with spears and a few old rifles the natives quickly overwhelmed the native police, armed with .303 rifles, killing nine of them and putting the rest to flight.

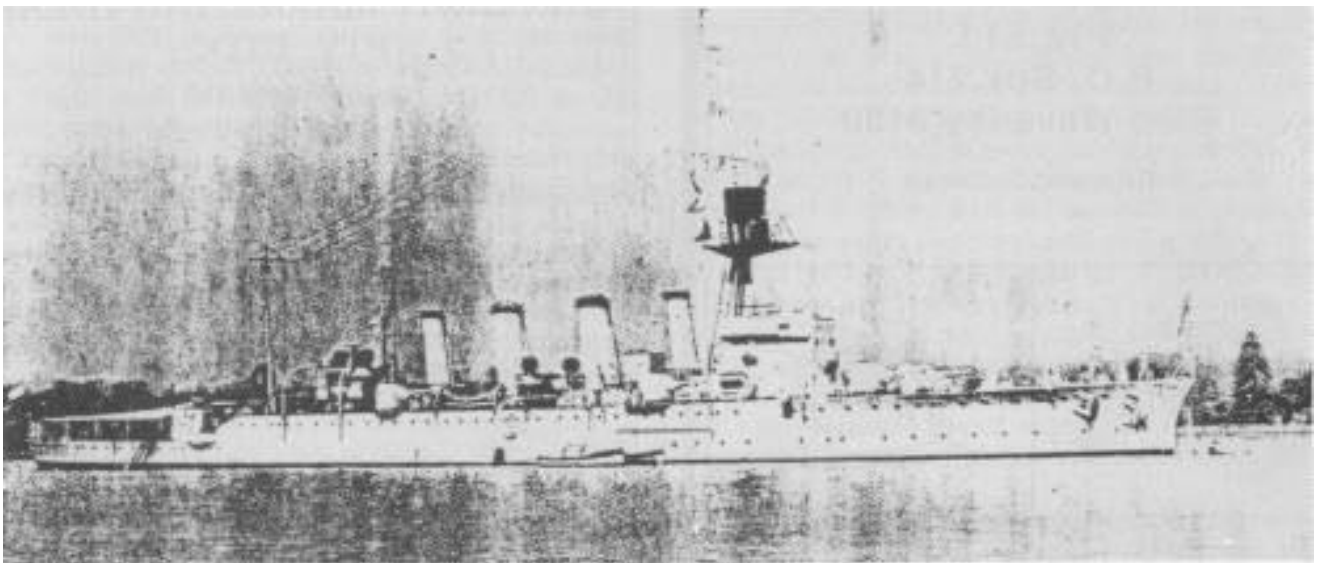
Several of the attacking natives were also killed or wounded in the brief skirmish. Cadet Lillies opened fire with his pistol wounding two natives before he was shot in the chest and killed. Later one of Lillies's hands was allegedly cut off and taken as a battle trophy.

Anchored in the harbour at Sinalagu was Bell's motor boat AUKI and the schooner WHEATSHEAF, and it was to here that the native police who had survived the attack fled. Although some had been badly wounded they managed to swim out to these vessels and raise the alarm.

Those onboard the vessels were uncertain of the situation ashore, apart from the fact that Bell and Lillies had been killed, so decided to sail to Tulagi and inform the authorities there. Tulagi, the administrative centre for the Solomons, was reached 18 hours later.

The massacre caused an instant uproar at Tulagi as the local white population believed it was only the start of a full scale native uprising. There is no evidence to suggest this was more than an isolated case of violence, however, the Resident Commissioner immediately cabled the Colonial Office in London and requested a warship be sent to the Solomons. The Colonial Office passed the request to the Admiralty who in turn passed the request to the Australian Naval Board in Melbourne.

Eventually the Minister of Defence authorised the involvement of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).



HMAS ADELAIDE, mid 1920s

Two 6-inch guns are sited forward of the bridge, one on each beam; two searchlights amidships and abaft the fourth funnel; a wireless cabin is sited between the fore and second funnels and the control top and director tower are painted black.

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
<i>Service or ID No.</i>	<i>ID No.</i>	



RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH

Your RSL