MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2026

RSL WANGARATTA

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER 2026

Every Monday - Veteran's ½ Price Lunch – Available for all service members and their partners. 50% off a main meal each. 12pm to 2.30pm. Must present your RSL members card.
Every Monday - Craft & Games Group, 1.30pm at the RSL
Every Sunday - Live Music 2pm - 6pm. See schedule inside
Fortnightly Thursdays - Vietnam veteran's meet at 12pm for lunch
Oct 6 – Hoy Day – 11am to 3pm at the RSL. $20 entry – lunch included. See inside for details
Oct 10 – RSL Active Clay Target Shoot. FREE Event. 10.30am. See inside for details
Oct 13 - Veterans and Family Morning Tea. 10.00am - 11.30am. Enter via the back river deck
Oct 20 - Women's Auxiliary Meeting - 10.30am at the RSL Annexe
November 1 – RSL Working Bee – 9am – see inside for details





BOB ISKOV KOKODA SCHOLARSHIP 2026

A large crowd gathered for the 2026 Bob Iskov Kokoda Scholarship Presentation Night, celebrating the incredible journey undertaken by this year's scholarship recipients. The panel discussion was facilitated by Megan Iskov, granddaughter of the late Bob Iskov, Kokoda veteran and Wangaratta RSL member. Megan did a wonderful job guiding the discussion, asking thoughtful questions that gave Fern, Angela, Beth and Cooper the opportunity to share their experiences, reflections and memories from their time on the Kokoda Track. The students spoke honestly about the physical and emotional challenges they faced, as well as reflecting on the local soldiers who lost their lives along the Kokoda Track. They also shared some of the lighter and more memorable moments of their journey, including playing with village children and visiting local schools.





It was wonderful to welcome previous scholarship recipients Zoe Baguley (2023) and Charli Wright (2025), who joined us for the evening and helped celebrate the continuing legacy of the scholarship.
The evening also provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise and thank our Kokoda Scholarship sponsors, whose generous support makes this experience possible for local students each year. We are incredibly grateful for their ongoing commitment to the scholarship and to helping young people learn about the experiences and sacrifices of those who served on the Kokoda Track.



Fern, Beth, Angela and Cooper will now continue their role as ambassadors, presenting at information sessions at their schools before joining us for the Remembrance Day Service at the Wangaratta Cenotaph on 11 November. A heartfelt congratulations to all four students on their remarkable achievement and their commitment to honouring the legacy of those who served on the Kokoda Track.



And finally, a special mention to Richard Iskov, whose wonderful photography captured so many moments from the evening.





REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

Those we have farewelled in 2026
The following is a list of veterans from our RSL community who have passed during 2026. We remember their service, their contribution to our community and the memories they leave behind.

Lou Dei-Rossi	**226140 - ARMY**	**09/01/2026**
Russell Keeys	**37949 - ARMY**	**06/02/2026**
Jake Hales	**3/772357 - ARMY**	**16/02/2026**
Brian (Bluey) Bettles	**3165059 - ARMY**	**04/04/2026**
Kevin Howard OAM JP	**3129346 - ARMY**	**21/04/2026**

With sadness we farewell the following veterans and extend our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.



DAVID WILLIAM GRAINGER
3714117 - ARMY
08/09/2026



BRIAN KENSINGTON
RNZN2762 - Navy
20/09/2026

Lest we forget

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
BRUCE COOMBS

This month, we shine the spotlight on Bruce Coombs, a much-valued member of our volunteer team who is always willing to lend a hand wherever he is needed. Bruce is known for his friendly nature, happy attitude and willingness to get stuck into any task. Over the years, he has become someone our volunteers and staff can rely on, regularly going above and beyond to make sure things run smoothly.



During our various appeals, Bruce is often one of the first to arrive, setting up tables and chairs for our volunteers and making sure everything is ready for the day ahead. Throughout the appeal, he checks in regularly to see that everyone has what they need and keeps the lines of communication open.



Bruce also helps put up and dismantle the RSL appeal banner for each appeal, assists with RSL Active BBQs, regularly lends a hand at our working bees, and is always happy to drive the bus when called upon. His willingness to help doesn't go unnoticed. Bruce approaches every job, big or small, with the same positive attitude and genuine desire to contribute. He is the kind of volunteer who sees what needs doing and simply gets on with it.



Bruce, thank you for the many ways you contribute to our RSL community. Your reliability, generosity and cheerful nature make a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful to have you as part of our volunteer team.

RSL ACTIVE

ARCHERY
On Saturday 12 September, RSL Active Wangaratta hosted veterans and family members for a fun afternoon of archery at the outdoor range of Wangaratta Target Archers.
The sun was shining, making for a perfect afternoon outdoors. Six archers took part, with almost as many spectators coming along to enjoy the afternoon and cheer them on.
The final scored competition ended in a draw between Vicki Bear and Peter Gilmore - a great result and a fantastic way to finish the afternoon! Some atendees continued celebrations back at the Club, enjoing a few drinks to celebrate Vicki's shared 1st place win and Charles 3rd place win!

METAL DETECTOR FOR HIRE
RSL Active has a metal detector available for veterans to hire, whether you're experienced or simply keen to give it a go! A $50 deposit is required when collecting the detector, which will be fully refunded when the detector is returned in its original condition.

For more information or to arrange a hire, please contact our **RSL Active Coordinator - Vicki** on 0419 288 695.









Wangaratta RSL Active invites Veterans, first responders, carers and their families to attend a

CLAY TARGET SHOOT

10.30am, Saturday 10th October • FREE

WANGARATTA CLAY TARGET CLUB
27 Detour Road, North Wangaratta

RSL Active

For more info or to arrange transport contact:
Vicki Bear – RSL Active Co-ordinator
rslactive@wangarattarsl.org.au
0419 288 695

REGISTER HERE

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE

The Women's Auxiliary recently held their Father's Day Raffle, with three lucky winners taking home some great prizes.

1st Prize - $100 bunnings voucher – Ticket #125 – Robert Jackson
2nd Prize - $50 Bunnings voucher – Ticket #08 – Matthew Whitehead
3rd Prize - $30 Bunnings voucher – Ticket #037 – Jeff Singleton

WAKES

The ladies were kept busy this month, catering for two wakes held at the RSL and providing a warm and welcoming service for family and friends during difficult times. The Auxiliary prepared and served a selection of sandwiches, cakes, slices and hot food for everyone to enjoy. A big thank you to all of our Women's Auxiliary volunteers for the time and effort they put into supporting families when it is needed most.

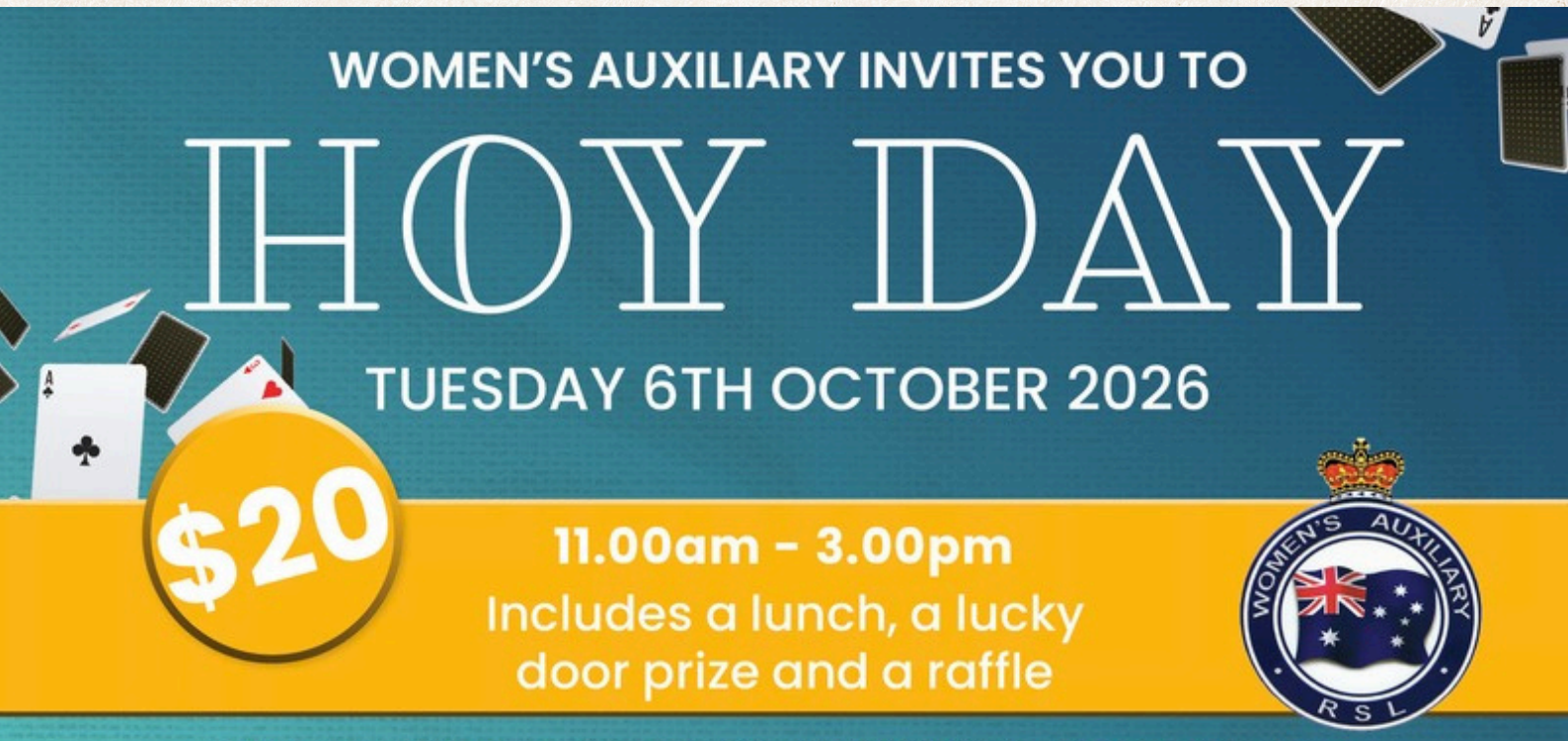
MONTHLY MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 October at 10.30am at the RSL. Following their meeting in September, the ladies enjoyed some morning tea together. If you're interested in getting involved, contact the Women's Auxiliary President, Wilma Bright on 0407810497.



HOY DAY - OCTOBER 6

The Women's Auxiliary are holding another Hoy Day in October. See below for all the details. For bookings, please contact the Club on 03 5721 2501.



RSL MUSEUM

The RSL Museum recently celebrated its first three months of operation with a special get-together for the museum volunteer team.

President Ash Power took the opportunity to chat with volunteers about how things have been going, with some great ideas shared about ways to further enhance the museum's displays and day-to-day operations. Memorabilia Officer Nony Baldwin also shared the fantastic news that the museum has welcomed more than 200 visitors since opening.

Our volunteers continue to work behind the scenes, refining the display information sheets to help ensure visitors have an enjoyable and informative experience. And, perhaps most importantly, the museum's 25-pound gun is now correctly mounted in its display space! This was no small task, requiring plenty of manpower from a highly trained team of athletes.





WORKING BEE

With Remembrance Day just around the corner, we're holding a working bee on Sunday 1 November from 9.00am to give the Club a general tidy-up. We'll be working around the club, carpark and garden beds, making sure everything is looking its best ahead of Remembrance Day.

If you're able to lend a hand, please bring along a rake, broom, cobweb brush and gloves. And, of course, no working bee is complete without a little morning tea! Coffee and cake will be provided at 10.15am, before some volunteers head off to the Remembrance Day briefing with Ceremonial Officer Liz Rouse Salmon at 10.30am.

We'd love to see plenty of volunteers there to help get the club looking its best. Every helping hand makes a difference! For more information or enquiries, contact our **Volunteer Co-ordinator, Craig Iskov** on 0428 737 788

POPPY APPEAL

The Poppy Appeal is coming up, and we're looking for volunteers to help sell poppies and badges throughout the appeal period. A volunteer roster is now available at the Club, so if you're able to spare some time, please put your name down for a shift. Even if you can only help for one shift, your support is greatly appreciated.

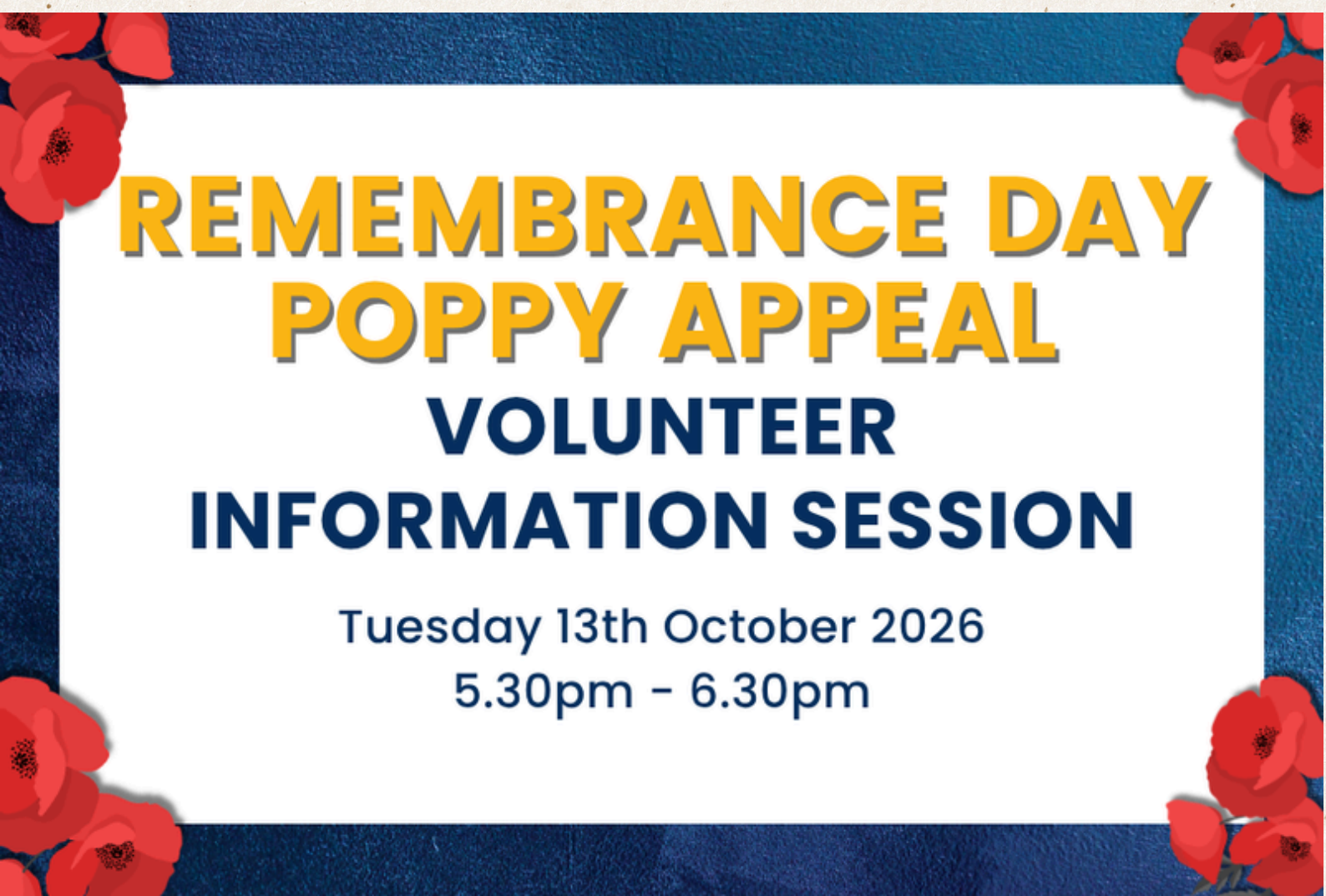


Funds raised through the Poppy Appeal are used to support veterans and their families, helping provide assistance to those in our community who need it. Every badge sold helps contribute to this important work.



For anyone interested in volunteering, an information session will be held for volunteers to find out more about the appeal, what's involved and how you can help. It will be held at the RSL Annexe (10-14 Templeton Street) on Tuesday 13th October.

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact our **Veteran Support Officer - Colleen Davis** on 0447 217 768



SUNDAY SESSIONS

LIVE AND FREE

Sunday Sessions are back! Join us every Sunday from 2pm to 6pm for an afternoon of great live music! Bring your friends and enjoy the music, with food and drinks available all day! Check out this month's schedule below!

OCTOBER SCHEDULE
4TH - Paris Zachariou
11TH - Glenn Starr
18TH - Phill Lewis & Co
25TH - Locky Routledge

Any updates or schedule changes will be posted on our website and socials!



BISTRO - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK







VETERANS MORNING TEA & COFFEE

SEPTEMBER MORNING TEA
Our September Morning Tea was another wonderful morning of friendship and connection with 62 veterans and guests in attendance.

We were pleased to welcome three first-time attendees, who were warmly welcomed by our regular morning tea group. There was plenty of positive and cheerful interaction throughout the morning, making for a relaxed and enjoyable get together.

OCTOBER MORNING TEA
The next morning tea will be held on Tuesday 13th October. All veterans and family members from all regions are welcome to the monthly morning tea.

For transport and all other enquiries, contact our Veteran Support Officer
Colleen Davis - 0447 217 768

Annual Veteran Morning Tea calendars are available at the Club.













VETERAN SUPPORT

VETERAN SUPPORT TEAM
Every Wednesday morning, team members continue to make courtesy phone calls to veterans to check on their wellbeing, have a chat and offer help and assistance where needed. Any concerns are immediately passed onto Colleen for her to follow up. Team members also update veterans of any upcoming events or activities that they may be interested in.

- Services offered by our Veteran Support team include:
- Weekly telephone support calls
- Financial support when necessary
- Hospital and home visitation
- Funeral officer available
- Solar Panel cleaning
- Lawn mowing and gardening
- Gutter cleaning
- Heating/Cooling service
- Appliance test and tag

For any additional services or information, please phone our Veteran Support Officer **Colleen Davis - 0447 217768.**
Office Hours: Wednesday 10am – 1pm
By Appointment: Mondays & Tuesdays

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE
Beyond Blue – 1300 224 636 (fee call) 24 hours/7 days a week

OPEN ARMS – VETERANS & FAMILIES COUNSELLING
Open Arms provides free and confidential counselling and support for veterans & their families, offering a range of programs and services including:

- difficulty adjusting to normal life
- challenges transitioning to civilian life after leaving the ADF
- difficulties with relationships
- managing anger
- depression and anxiety
- substance and alcohol misuse
- past trauma and PTSD

For free support, 24 hours a day, call Open Arms on 1800 011 046.

If you have an article or a story that would be interesting to our readers, please send it in to the email below and we may include it in the newsletter. Just sending a paragraph about it and a photo could help us keep our members informed, and maybe even entertained.
E: newsletter@wangarattarsl.org.au

Thank you to Julia, Craig and Colleen for their valuable contributions to the newsletter, and those who submitted articles.