



RETURNED and SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
EPHING RSL SUB-BRANCH
ROUTINE ORDERS



Vol 28 No5

October-December 2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Victory in the Pacific ceremony was quite successful and was conducted by John Curdie our Senior Vice President due to my hospitalisation. Our next remembrance ceremony will be Remembrance Day on Tuesday 11th November 2025.

Ceremonies of remembrance bring to mind the state of our present Defence Force. I was reading the Autumn 2025 edition of SALUTE, the official journal of the TPI's. Apart from a number of interesting articles they have a "History of Conscription in Australia". There certainly was conscription during World War 1 1914 - 1918; then again during World War 2 1939-45. And there was conscription from 1950 - 1953 for the Korean War; later 1955-1972 for the Vietnam War.

It is interesting to think that we have, over the years, always required conscription to bring our Defence Forces up to the required personnel level. Presently, I understand that we are 8% short of the number of ADF personal allowed in the budget. You may wonder why there are more people watching the football grand finals than are defending Australia.

On the brighter side it is really good that our honoured Sub-Branch Secretary is out of hospital and resting back home.

I know that you will all wish him well as he recovers from his illness.

Kind regards to all,

Brian Swan AM
President
Epping RSL sub-Branch

**SUB-BRANCH MEETINGS FOR
FEBRUARY 2026**

The Epping Club planned refurbishment of the function rooms during January and February 2026 will result in the unavailability of a room for our sub-Branch meetings.

Arrangements are in place to hold our meetings relocated outside of the Club Building.

Temporary accommodation will be arranged in the Boronia Lodge Community Hall, Function Room 2, the building behind our Cenotaph area in Boronia Park which is accessed from the car park and from the driveway beside the Epping Club Building with entry off Rawson Street.

As the scheduled date for the sub-Branch meeting on Monday 26 January 2026 coincides with the public Holiday of Australia Day, the January meeting will now be held on the first Monday in February, on 2 Feb.

The normal February meeting of our sub-Branch will be on 23 February, which will be followed by the sub-Branch AGM.

These meetings will commence at 7:30 pm.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025

A commemorative service will be held at the Boronia Park Cenotaph commencing at 1045 hours. Assemble at 1030 h.

Medals to be worn.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

VALE

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

During the months of July-September 2025, advice has been received of the passing of the following service members.

NAME	RANK	SERVICE	UNIT	SERVICE NUMBER	DATE JOINED	DATE DECEASED
TOVEY William Henry	PTE	ARMY	7 RAR	3788961	17/05/1994	03/10/2024

WELLBEING SUPPORT OFFICER

Andrew (Andy) Brayshaw

Mobile: 0435 879 258

Email: wellbeing@eppingsubbranch.com

Visit Andy in the sub-Branch office on Monday mornings between 9 a.m. and noon.

WSOs can offer:

referrals for training and employment pathways, housing providers, counselling and health services, and claims and compensation advocacy

support to claims Advocates,

visits to veterans at home, and in hospital and aged-care facilities

support services, such as driving and shopping trips

support at funerals

assistance organising domestic assistance or home maintenance services

assistance with administrative duties in a volunteer capacity

support organising and conducting social, family and Sport & Recreation Program activities

non-clinical and non-advocacy support to a veteran's family during time of grief, loss, and bereavement

FAMILIES OF VETERANS GUILD - WAR WIDOWS

Coordinator: Heather Gillam 9876 3588

Treasurer: Heather Gillam

Meetings: First Monday in month at 10.30 a.m.

Monday October 13 (Note Monday 6 October is Labour Day Public Holiday)

Monday 3 November

Monday 1 December 2025 Christmas luncheon. No meeting.

Monday 2 February 2026 First meeting for 2026.

ROUTINE ORDERS is issued 5 times per year, in January, April, June, August and October.

Contributions for inclusion in ROUTINE ORDERS, such as forward activities, interesting personal notes etc. are always welcome. Items for the next issue on Monday 2 February (*January meeting*) are required before Wednesday 14 January 2026 .

Earlier would be appreciated. Electronic copy preferred if possible. *Routine Orders* editor Barry Hoschke bhoschke@tpg.com.au.

EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23RD FEBRUARY 2026

The AGM in February 2026 will be the commencement of the next Triennial term of sub-Branch office bearers and management committee. This year, at the AGM, there will be an election for the 5 sub-Branch executive positions: president, 2 vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and for 3 committee members.

Under the NSW State Constitution, Affiliate Members of the RSL NSW can hold all offices and management positions in a sub-Branch except that of the President and the 2-vice presidents which must be held by Service Members.

Please consider the future of our sub-Branch. Its future is with us now.

Please contact the President or any members of the executive and management committee for further details on sub-Branch operations and management of the sub-Branch.

John Curdie OAM

Vice President Epping RSL sub-Branch

Email vicepresident@eppingsubbranch.com

jkcurdie@gmail.com

STAND EASY

Stand Easy is an informal daytime gathering on the third Wednesday of the month between 1300 and 1500 hours. It is held in 45 on Rawson at The Epping Club.

This provides an opportunity for all members of the sub-Branch to relax with a drink and nibbles and solve the problems of the world. Those who are unable to attend the evening monthly meetings catch up on sub-Branch activities and enjoy companionship.

Upcoming Stand Easy meetings will be held on:

15 October

19 November

17 December

21 January 2026

18 February 2026

REMEMBRANCE DAY

awm.gov.au/about-us/history-and-research/traditions/remembrance-day

On the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, a minute's silence is observed and dedicated to those soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation.

At 11am on 11 November 1918, the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender.

The conflict had mobilised over 70 million people, left between 9 and 13 million dead, and as many as one third of these with no grave.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. It became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war.

Originally known as Armistice Day, it was renamed Remembrance Day after World War Two to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars.

Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day.

We will remember them. Lest we forget.

REMEMBRANCE POPPY

The red poppy is a powerful symbol of Remembrance Day, representing the memory of those who have died in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations, particularly those from World War I. Its significance stems from the fact that poppies bloomed in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium, with their scarlet petals echoing the bloodshed. Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae immortalized this connection in his poem "In Flanders Fields". The tradition of wearing a red poppy began in the early 1920s and has since spread across the Commonwealth and other allied nations.

Victory Pacific Day 15th August 2025 Boronia Park Cenotaph



Photos Irene Rowe

Arr. John Curdje



Effective C2 (Command and Control Infrastructure) the key to IAMD* (Integrated Air and Missile Defence)

**Max Blenkin, Canberra, 17 September 2025,
Australian Defence Magazine**

When Iran launched a missile attack against the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in late June, US missile defences promptly blew incoming rockets from the sky, with no casualties and only minor damage to the facility.

Thirteen missiles were shot down by US Patriot missile batteries, with another allowed to crash harmlessly off target.

As impressive an outcome as that was, it required around 50 Patriot PAC-3 MSE missiles, said Kenn Todorov, Vice President and General Manager for Northrop Grumman Defence Systems.

According to media reports, that was the largest single Patriot engagement in US military history. It was likely also the most expensive as each Patriot PAC-3 MSE costs as much as US\$7 million.

“Now if you think about the economics of that, it’s not sustainable,” he told *ADM*.

Todorov, a former deputy director of the US Missile Defense Agency, said Northrop Grumman modelled the engagement to see how it could have turned out using their Integrated Battle command System (IBCS), which is able to link multiple different sensors and effectors - even from different companies and different nations.

“I can’t give you the exact number, but I will say that the number of interceptors we had to launch to take down those 13 threats was much closer to one to one,” he said.

Todorov said Patriot was a fantastic weapon, albeit decades old, designed to operate autonomously as a standalone deployed system using its own radar, command and control node and missiles.

He said IBCS was a revolutionary system that completely modernised Patriot.

IBCS integrates radars, command nodes and missiles, even from sources such as Aegis warships and F-35 aircraft, allowing coordination of launches and prioritisation of targets. In the Al Udeid engagement, it would appear some or all threats were targeted by multiple Patriots.

This is a current capability, in service in Poland and in full rate production in the US for the US military.

“IBCS is likely the system of choice for the US Golden Dome capability for IAMD for something that the architects of Golden Dome are calling the under layer, which is surface to somewhere short of the exo-atmosphere,” he said

“IBCS will be the controlling battle command system for missile defence for the US homeland.”

It’s a capability which could be of interest for Australia’s Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD) system being acquired through Project Air 6500. Phase one will deliver a Joint Air and Battle Management System (JABMS).

Todorov said he had discussed IAMD with Australian defence officials during his recent visit to Australia.

The Australian Defence Force is now standing up a Joint Air Battle Management System under Project Air 6500, with Lockheed Martin Australia chosen as prime contractor. That will create the architecture at the core of the Australian Defence Force’s future Integrated Air and Missile Defence capability.

That doesn’t rule out a role for Northrop Grumman’s IBCS.

“Where the Commonwealth comes in, in my view, is that if there’s a need for a present day capable here and now IAMD system, if the Commonwealth wanted that capabilities in the short term, it’s something that should be considered,” Todorov said.

“I have had some conversations with some leaders from the defence community about integrated air and missile defence, about some of the things around the globe. The threat is incredibly challenging and is only getting more so.”

He said the missile threat had advanced in terms of quantity, with more missiles out there. Their quality had improved with higher lethality, greater range and less susceptibility to countermeasures.

“One of the key things which I really think has changed the game in the last 5-10 years is missile threat diversity. There are so many kinds of threats. It used to be we just worried about a ballistic trajectory,” he said.

“Now we have 300 drones flying simultaneous to a ballistic missile launch, simultaneous to a cruise

missile threat at low level. Now you add hypersonic threats into the mix.

“The diversity of the threat has made the IAMD problem so much more challenging. That’s why we think a system like IBCS is so vitally important.”

*IAMD stands for Integrated Air and Missile Defence, a holistic military strategy that combines various capabilities to protect against air and missile threats. It involves creating a synchronised, layered, and interoperable defence system to counter a wide range of threats, including ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones. Australia is developing its own IAMD capability, known as [AIR6500](#), to enhance its national security and regional stability.

New tank simulator ramps up the realism

**Sergeant Matthew Bickerton, Defence News,
16 September 2025**

As the driver moves an M1A2 Abrams main battle tank into position, the crew commander identifies an enemy infantry fighting vehicle.

He directs the loader to load a sabot round and delivers a fire control order to the gunner to engage.

Target destroyed.

This was not done in the field, but inside Army’s newest M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams immersive tactical trainer (ITT).

Housed in a cargo container, the trainer replicates each tank crew station with displays, buttons and sighting systems, down to the last toggle.

Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Craig Cole, of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, said the ITT provided crews with realistic training and imagery to hone their skills and speed up crew drills, without putting wear and tear on the actual vehicle, while saving fuel and ammunition.

WO2 Cole said the realism was unmatched compared to previous simulators, with the effects

of firing engagements creating authenticity.

“When firing machine guns or the main armament in real life, dust and smoke blur the sighting systems. The ITT now replicates these consequences of fire, which wasn’t available on the previous simulation systems,” WO2 Cole said.

In this generation of simulator, he said the enemy was smarter, faster and more elusive.

The simulations also introduce vehicle failure modes, such as losing equipment to enemy fire, which forces crews to adapt and operate in degraded environments.

Crew Commander Sergeant Aidan Jackson said the new features helped to promote crew cohesion, boost their confidence and provide a higher level of proficiency before deploying on exercises.

Australian designed and built in NSW, the ITTs can be scaled up and networked into troops, squadrons and higher to achieve specific Army Training Levels across multiple units.

A total of 16 ITTs are to be delivered under Army’s Land 907 Armoured Combat \$2.4 billion project, comprising both containerised fixed classroom variants.

GRANDPA JOKES

I was visiting my son and daughter-in-law last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

“This is the 21st century, old man,” he said.

“We don’t waste money on newspapers. Here, you can borrow my Tab.”

I can tell you , that fly never knew what hit it...

Every time I go to a wedding my Grandpa pokes me and says, “You’re next.”

So then every time I go to a funeral with him, I poke him and say, “You’re next.”

EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY OCTOBER 2025 – FEBRUARY 2026

OCTOBER 2025

Sunday 5 Daylight Saving Time begins

Monday 6 Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 13 Families of Veterans Guild of NSW -War Widows 1030

Monday 13 Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting 1800

Wednesday 15 Stand Easy 1300

Friday 24 – Sunday 26 RSL NSW Congress at Tamworth

Monday 27 Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting 1930

NOVEMBER 2025

Monday 3 Families of Veterans Guild of NSW -War Widows 1030

Monday 10 Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting 1800

Tuesday 11 Remembrance Day Commemoration, Boronia Park Cenotaph 1030
Assemble at 1030, service commencing 1045

Wednesday 19 Stand Easy 1300

Monday 24 Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting 1930

DECEMBER 2025

Monday 1 Families of Veterans Guild of NSW -War Widows 1030

Sunday 7 Epping RSL sub-Branch Christmas Luncheon 1200

Monday 8 Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting 1800

Wednesday 17 Stand Easy 1300

Thursday 25 Christmas Day

JANUARY 2026

Monday 12 Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting

Wednesday 21 Stand Easy 1300

Monday 26 Australia Day Public Holiday

FEBRUARY 2026

Monday 2 Families of Veterans Guild of NSW -War Widows 1030

Monday 2 Epping RSL sub-Branch January General Meeting 1930
Boronia Lodge Community Hall

Monday 9 Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting

Wednesday 18 Stand Easy 1300

Monday 23 Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting and AGM 1930

Boronia Lodge Community Hall