



THE DISPATCH

From RSL Morphett Vale & District Sub Branch

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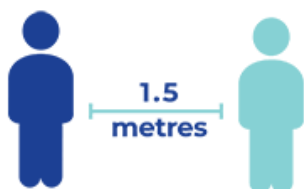
June 2020

Welcome Back to the RSL

President Ron and the Committee, in consultation with the RSL caterers and Bar Manager, announce that that the RSL will re-open for business as of Friday June 12th, subject to any changes in government regulations.

Current South Australian government regulations, with 1 person allowed per 4 square metres means that we can have a maximum of 40 people in the building. So we can have 20 in the hall and another 20 in the patio area.

Patrons will need to advise in advance that they will be attending on a Friday night, by contacting the Secretary on 0433 793 347, emailing morphettvale@rslsa.org.au or through Facebook.



On entering everyone will need to use the hand sanitiser and record their details on a guest record sheet.

Table service for drinks will be offered to those in the patio seating area and there will be no vegetable and salad bar.

Standard Covid-19 precautions need to be observed by guests and staff, including regular hand washing, social distancing and sanitising of tables after use.

Volunteers Please

In order to have the RSL ready to re-open, a working session will be held on Tuesday June 9th from 10am to prepare for re-opening. Furniture will need to be repositioned and the venue will need cleaning. Please consider helping.

NEWS from Sub-Branch Meeting Minutes

- Last year, through Clubs SA, we received a free year's insurance cover for our volunteers. This has now expired and the committee has arranged continuing insurance coverage for our volunteers.
- Southern Districts Pipes & Drums have stopped using the RSL hall but have requested that they continue to use their storage shed, for a nominal weekly fee, until a new venue is arranged.
- The Bonsai Club have chosen to no longer meet at the RSL.
- An email from Jeff Podger, OC 430 Army Cadet Unit, has advised that army cadet units are being established in schools and that participation will become a school subject, for those who wish. It is understood that Keswick barracks will be supplying all the uniform and equipment requirements.
- Mark Wheaton has checked the roof above the cross, where the leak has been coming through to the ceiling, and has sealed the joins, seams and screw heads.
- With an unknown time frame for lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, it has been decided that this year's annual dinner be cancelled.
- Reynella Medical Centre was given permission to use the RSL car park to supply flu shots to the public. This was approved by an 'out of sessions' email meeting of the committee after reference to Clubs SA regarding Covid-19 restrictions on the use of licensed premises.
- The lawn area to the south of the main building is slowly recovering now that vehicles have been excluded.
- The ANZAC Badge Appeal raised \$468.00 from the sites where badges were made available.
- Cleaning of the hall chairs has been carried out by the Women's Auxiliary in time for them to dry out before the sub-branch re-opening.
- Some regular Hall Hirers will commence using the facilities from June 1st, subject to Covid-19 precautions and government regulations being observed.
- Although Bunnings BBQs will not be restarting soon, the committee is investigating other fund raising opportunities, including Quiz Night, Games Night and other small events and activities.

Virtual ANZAC Dawn Service

For those who missed seeing the Morphett Vale RSL video, it is still available at: <https://youtu.be/GfdyiHzZi1c>

An ANZAC Legend

Did you know... that the only combat soldier to have been awarded the Victoria Cross twice was a New Zealander? Charles Hazlitt "Pug" Upham was a second lieutenant and an infantry platoon commander in the New Zealand 20th Battalion when he won his Victoria Cross for a series of remarkable exploits, showing outstanding leadership, tactical skill and utter indifference to danger during the German invasion of Crete between 22 and 30 May 1941. These included capturing three machine-gun posts on 22 May, leading his platoon forward while under heavy fire on 25 May, and on 30 May he sprang an ambush on an advanced party of the enemy, killing 22. For these actions, he was recommended for the VC. When advised of the award, his first response was "It's meant for the men."

He was evacuated from Crete to Egypt and fought in North Africa. During the First Battle of El Alamein, he was commanding a company of his battalion and had the rank of captain. At El Ruweisat Ridge on 14-15 July 1942, he took out a tank, several other vehicles and guns with hand grenades and killed a truckload of the enemy.

During the fighting he was shot in the elbow but continued to lead his men until exhausted and suffering from serious blood loss, he went to the regimental aid post for treatment. He immediately returned to his men and remained with them throughout the day during heavy artillery and mortar fire. He was again severely wounded and with his company reduced to just six men, he was captured.



He made several unsuccessful escape attempts during his captivity and was eventually sent to Colditz Castle where serial escapees were held. When King George VI was told of the recommendation that Upham receive the Bar to the VC, he asked firmly, "Does he deserve it?" His divisional commander replied, "In my respectful opinion, sir, Upham won the VC several times over".

After the war, Upham was invested with the bar to his VC for his actions at the First Battle of El Alamein. He was also mentioned in despatches and received the Greek Order of Honour.

The most highly decorated Commonwealth soldier of World War II, he returned to his native New Zealand and became a successful farmer. He died on 22 November 1994, aged 86. His medals are held at the National Army Museum in Waiouru.

Thank you to Gordon Curtis for this information.

Reminder: RSL Committee and General Meetings now on Mondays**Dates to Remember:****June**

Tuesday	9	10.00am Working Session at Sub-Branch to prepare for re-opening
Friday	12	Sub-Branch re-opens for night meals and fellowship
Monday	15	7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

July

Monday	6	7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Monday	20	7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

August

Monday	3	7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Saturday	15	Veterans Day activity (TBC)
Monday	17	7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting
Saturday	22	6.00pm Sub-Branch Annual Dinner

September

Monday	7	7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Friday	4	Father's Day theme night
Monday	21	7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting

October

Monday	5	7.30pm Sub-Branch/Auxiliary General Meetings
Monday	19	7.30pm Sub-Branch Committee Meeting