



ANZ Banking Group Retired Officers' Club of South Australia

Newsletter No. 360 – 6th January 2026

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THE 56TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ANZ RETIRED OFFICERS' CLUB SA & NT INC.

will take place on **Monday 2nd February** at the Strathmore Hotel, (Balcony Restaurant 1st floor) 129 North Terrace, Adelaide. Bar will open at 11.45 am. Lunch cost is **\$30.00 per person** and this will cover the cost of the meal, soft drinks, bottled wine, bubbles and beer between 11.45 am and 2.00pm.

Order forms for lunch will be on the tables, so please complete them as quickly as possible after your arrival to assist staff to deliver our meals promptly. You can pay cash on the day or EFT to the ANZROC Account No. 6525 94422 BSB 015-300 a day or so prior.

Please advise Secretary Lyn by e-Mail, SMS or telephone if you will be attending - contact details above – this will assist the Strathmore staff with setting up.

Our birthday draw will cover the months of March and April 2026, but to be eligible to claim a prize you will need to be in attendance. Raffle tickets will be on sale for \$5.

Committee Election

The Club's Constitution provides that "At every Annual General Meeting all Members of the Committee shall retire and their places filled, as hereinafter provided. Retiring Members shall be eligible for re-election, except that the President, having held that position for a maximum period of two years, shall be ineligible for re-election until that person has been out of the office for two years".

Should you wish to nominate for a position on the Committee for 2026 please contact Secretary Lyn for a nomination form, which when completed would need to be in her hands prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

How good was the Christmas lunch on 2nd December? I thought that the 2024 show was big but this one was even bigger ... we had 200 attendees who spent the afternoon catching up with old friends. It really is wonderful to see so many people talking, laughing and generally having a good time. Lots of good and some not so good (but funny all the same) stories were told and re-lived.



On a personal front I was pleased to be on the **Ceduna** table with 9 others who all worked there in the 1970s. Would have been 10 others except that **Russell Jolly** was a late withdrawal ... hope that you are feeling better now Russell and can make it next year.

We were privileged to welcome **Mr Tony Perugini** who joined us for lunch as our guest and as the representative of the ANZ Bank. ANZ continues to be a very strong supporter of our Club financially and in other ways and in fact I am yet to hear of any employer who is more supportive of their Retired Staff than ANZ is of us. For that we remain very grateful.

Every successful function needs a good organiser and we are lucky to have one of the best. I thank our Secretary **Lyn Roberts** for doing such a great job with the Christmas Lunch again.

Last report as President

Well, the time has come to say farewell. This is my 12th and final report as President and I simply I want to say how much I have enjoyed the role. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve as President of such a great Club. I think that all of us are extremely fortunate to have worked during a great era in banking and then in our retirement to have a Club that holds functions and provides newsletters etc to enable us to maintain contact with old colleagues and friends. It really is special ... and I take great pride in telling non ANZ people just how special it is.

Committee 2025

I have been fortunate to work with a terrific Committee during my time as President ... every person on the Committee contributes strongly as evidenced at the Christmas lunch via the room set up, name tags, welcoming team, the raffle sales, the special guest Father Christmas and his elves and so on. As a Club we are fortunate to have people who are so willing to be involved and I thank all Committee members for their work this year. A special mention and thanks to three of our Committee members who have served 10 years or more ... Stan Batten 31 years, Marilyn Osborne 13 years and Peter Crowder 10 years.

AGM on 2nd February

We will be honouring our Life Members and Honorary Members at our AGM and I invite all members to come along and acknowledge the pioneers of ANZROC for the work that they did in the early days that gives us the Club that we have today. Who knows, without their efforts we may not even exist anymore or for that matter the Club may not have even started up! We owe them so if you are able, please come along on Feb 2. Hope to see you there.

Cheers BP

HONOURING AND RECOGNISING OUR HONORARY MEMBERS AND LIFE MEMBERS

At our February lunch we will be feting our **Over 80's (Honorary Members) and Life Members**, in a break with the tradition of conducting this recognition at November lunches (where Melbourne Cup celebrations overtake).

Whilst February is also our Annual General Meeting (this doesn't take long) there will be ample time for us to hear from some of the "Hons" attending.

We recognise it is a little bit more difficult to get out and about when the "big 8" comes along and appreciate so many of you who are still regulars at our lunches. President Brian and Committee Members look forward to especially welcoming you on 2nd February.

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Let's look back. **Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2026.**

The merger between the Bank of Australasia and the Union Bank of Australia took place on Monday 1st October 1951 thus forming the ANZ Bank. At that time there were more than 5,000 employees.

The Bank of Australasia was established in 1835 and the Union Bank of Australia in 1838. Both banks were originally founded in London with operations in Australia. The Union Bank of Australia was also New Zealand's first bank when it opened in March 1840.



In October 1951 –

- Sir Robert Menzies was Australia's Prime Minister
- Sir Thomas Playford was Premier of South Australia
- The Adelaide News was being sold for two pence.
- Homes had kerosene refrigerators
- Carlton Brewery was warning about beer shortages in the lead up to Christmas



A full-page advertisement appeared in the "Melbourne Sun" newspaper declaring the merger of the banks. It stated:

"The traditions of service, courtesy and goodwill which have always characterized the relations of the Bank of Australasia and the Union Bank with their customers will be full maintained by the Australia and New Zealand Bank Limited"

Our membership currently lists four former Union Bank staff – **Don Ebsary, Arthur Beckman, Dawn Forde and Bob Fosdike** – with just the one Bank of Australasia staff member, **Don Nenke**. (Hope you don't mind me mentioning you are all over 90 years of age!!) Fingers crossed our records are correct.

DECEMBER LUNCH REPORT by Marilyn Osborne

An amazing roll up for 2025 Christmas lunch – 200 Members! The smiles on faces, the noise and fun were a joy to behold.



President Brian (Barney) Pedler welcomed everyone including several Members who had travelled long distances to join former colleagues – Ian Hackett from Scotland, Leonie Thornton from London (England), Wayne Kraft from Alice Springs, Shane and Glenda Thornton from Darwin, John and Ruth Whitehill from Indooroopilly, Qld, Neville and Nicole Woolley from Melbourne, David and Denise Lawrence from Woodend, Vic, Ray and Jenny Pietsch from Melbourne. It was wonderful to see you all there enjoying the day.

Members attending their first lunch included Leonie Thornton, Jenny Wilson, Karen Erlandsen, Keith Hoffman, Simone Barlow, Bec Cialini, Tracy McIvor and Shane Thornton.

There were 14 apologies received – David Shannon, Jeff Pinkerton, Robert Brooks, Geoff Glynn-Roe, Carol Lake, Phil Pizimolas, Beth Polacek, Shane Pudney, Bob Petney, Zena Chapman, Ray Nicholson, Norma Williman, Steve Crawford and Rob Rault.

President Brian announced the drawing of the Birthday raffle for the months of January and February. Those with birthdays in these months had to be present to be eligible. Winners were Cor Schaftenaar and Michelle Humphries.

The arrival of Father Christmas was greeted with shouts of delight. With a sack full of raffle tickets, the draw began with the first ten winners receiving a bottle of wine or a complimentary lunch for next year – Denise Lawrence, Kathy Mangelsdorf, John Garrett, Mike Edson, John Whitehill, Cathy Downey, Dennie McCloud and Harry Downey were the first winners. Second prize was a \$50 Coles Myer voucher and this was won by Anne Sanderson. Brenda Dombi took out the big one - \$100 Coles Myer voucher. Congratulations everyone.

While the raffle was in full swing Father Christmas' helpers – Kay Jeffree, Sue Phillips, Jenny Short and Jane Crowder dressed in their festive attire distributed small gifts to attendees.

Staff at the Strathmore all did a fantastic job of looking after everyone – Louis had the bar running at full steam – and the food was excellent as always. Shortly before 4 pm those still chatting were moved downstairs and I believe it was very late when the last of them departed for home. Sometimes you just don't want a good day to end.

Congratulations to my fellow Committee Members who organised the day so well. I am sure you will agree it was a great team effort.



Committee Members ready for the arrival of Members – Marilyn Osborne, Jenny Short, Kay Jeffree, Mike Edson, Lyn Roberts, David Peacock, Sue Phillips, Peter Crowder, Colleen Dwyer and President Brian Pedler. (Treasurer Stan missed the photo shoot!)

CHRISTMAS LUNCH PHOTOS See lots more on our website anzrocsant.net



Left: Shane Thornton, David Lawrence and Tom Rundle.

Right: Moira Blair-Beal, Leonie Thornton, Frances Uggias and Simone Barlow



Left: Nicki Fantasia and Nella Boffa



Left: Paul Begg and Keith Hoffman

Above: Santa and helpers – Jenny Short, Jane Crowder, Santa, Kay Jeffree and Sue Phillips



Left: Jenny Wilson and Mike Cresp

Right: John Garrett, Caroline Wright and Ian Hackett

Below left: Sharon and Kevin Rock

Below centre: Tracy Mclvor and Stella Raschella

Below right: Wayne Kraft, Helen Egan, Peter Kelsh Kay Kelsh and Neville Woolley



60 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN DECIMAL CURRENCY

In 1910, nine years after Australia federated as a nation, a national Australian currency was formed, based on the British money system of pounds, shillings and pence.



Australia's change to decimal currency on **14 February 1966** was not just a change in numbers; it was a cultural shift. Gone were the days of pounds, shillings and pence



and their complex calculations. In their place a simple, modern system of dollars and cents. Schools, businesses and households had to adjust to a new way of counting, and the Government launched one of the most memorable public education campaigns in Australian history. Enter "Dollar Bill", a friendly cartoon character who popped up on television, posters and pamphlets, cheerfully explaining the new system. His catchy jingle, *Decimal Currency - The Easy Way!* was designed to ease fears and help people make the transition smoothly.

The lead-up to decimalisation took years of planning. A Decimal Currency Board was established to guide the process, and a nationwide competition was held to choose a name for the new currency. When Changeover Day arrived, it was met with a mix of excitement and trepidation. Shopkeepers and banks braced for confusion, but thanks to extensive public education, the transition was smoother than expected.

The Royal Australian Mint is the sole producer of the nation's circulating coins, transforming raw metal into the everyday change in your pocket and meticulously crafted collector coins.

Before decimal currency, many Australians enjoyed the Christmas tradition of putting threepences and sixpences in their Christmas puddings, to be found by lucky family members during Christmas lunch. Sadly, decimal coins are made of different metals and are not suitable to mix with food. (many of us miss this.....a lot!!)

Many of Australia's one and two cent coins were melted down to be turned into the bronze medals for the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. These coins had been to many places in the country, and had been touched by many different people.



As Bankers many of you reading this story will have memories of the old currency and the changeover to the new. Let us know if you have a changeover story so that we can share with everyone in the next newsletter.



BIRTHDAY WISHES

Congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to our members who are celebrating birthdays during the months of March and April

MARCH

APRIL

2	Stan Batten (87)	1	Brian Pedler
3	Jenny Short	1	Michael Matuschka
7	Brenda Dombi	2	John Symons
8	Cain Parkin	3	Barry Phillips
9	Graham De Brenne (82)	3	Rob Staples
9	Peter Carr	5	Ken McEwin (97)
9	David Jeffree	7	Brian Knight (83)
10	Leigh Albertson	10	Phil Higgins
11	Roger MacLean (82)	10	Denis Pellizzari (84)
11	Ross Mullan	11	Marie Horvath
11	Graham Coulter	11	M'Liss Steel
12	Kevin Tolley	11	Lyn Shoemark
12	Ernie Koch (94)	12	Jane Fleming
12	Graham Buck (84)	13	Margaret George (84)
14	Anne Sanderson	13	Jenny Morten
14	Christine Pierson	14	Brian Monson 90)
16	Bill Watson (85)	17	John McDougall (87)
16	Cheryle Ouston	18	Richard Tucker
17	Jim Clark	18	Jenny Wilson
17	Greg Morse	19	Bob Milgate
18	Deb Tucker	19	Christine Clark
19	Peter Twigden (83)	20	Jim Little
19	Wayne Francis	20	Des Quirke (87)
20	Mark Meeke	21	Jan Collins (86)
21	Jeff Sander	23	David Lawrence
22	Jim Probert (85)	24	Bill Fitzgerald (89)
24	John Case (88)	26	Tanya Crawford
25	Trevor Wenzel (84)	26	Glen Forgan (88)
25	Tony Del Duca	27	Dorothy Hall
25	Geoff Mudge	28	Jock McDonald (88)
25	Bruce Forster	28	Peter Matthew
26	Lyn Roberts	29	Jenny Edwards (84)
27	Brenton Henschke	29	Jeff Coley (82)
28	Ray Pietsch	29	Garry O'Callaghan
28	Deb Flanagan	29	Deb Mackay
29	David Mann	29	Glynn Milton
30	Rod Kennedy	30	Jeff Roberts
30	Hilaire Neller		
31	Sarah Rule		

TRIBUTES



We are saddened to record the death of Club widow Member Barbara Simon on 27th November 2025 just 14 days short of her 102nd birthday. Barbara's husband Jack Simon died in 1978.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new Members to our ANZROC family –

Ian Ruth, Adrienne Yam and David Yeomans



Secretary Lyn posts or e-Mails birthday wishes to Honorary Members and photo of the former ES&A Bank (pictured left) was on the card sent to **Geoff Loveday** who celebrated his 83rd birthday on Christmas Day.

Geoff advised this branch is where he had his interview with the Staff Officer on 23rd February 1958. He started work the following Monday (Training School in Pultney Street) making it 68 years ago. Geoff commented “no wonder it takes me longer to tie my shoe laces”.

LUNCHEON MEETING DATES FOR YOUR 2026 DIARY

Monday 2nd February (AGM and Over 80's)

Monday 13th April

Monday 1st June

Monday 3rd August

Monday 2nd November (Melbourne Cup)

Tuesday 8th December



Don't forget to check out our website -

www.anzrocsant.net

We have had some absolutely fabulous stories in the newsletter– please send us some more so that we can share with all our Members.

Newsletter Editor Jenny