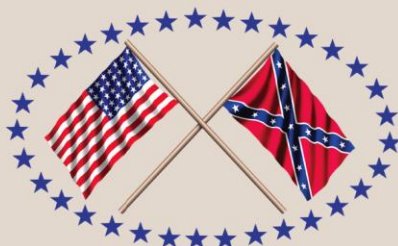
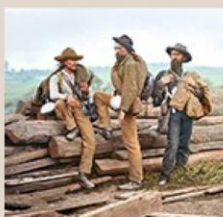


Sumter to Appomattox



American Civil War Round Table of Australia (New South Wales Chapter)

www.americancivilwar.asn.au

Patron: Prof the Hon Bob Carr

Number 133 Oct. – Nov. 2025

President's Message

2025 AGM President's Report

We have gone a whole year without changing the venue for our meetings. I attribute this to the reception and co-operation we get at the Chatswood Club. It has been good to have a year without any serious issues that could not be easily fixed.

Our Committee has proposed that, at the AGM, we increase the number of Committee members from seven to nine. The main reason for this is to provide options in the event that any current Committee members are not able to continue with their Committee duties. We are aware that we are all getting older. The Committee is also interested in being aware of any ideas or preferred approaches that may be current in any of the various groups that make up our membership. We want to be inclusive. I personally think that the NSW Chapter of the Round Table is a wonderful example of the essence of modern Australia. We have amongst us members who started their lives in numerous other places around the world. We of course are unlikely to get representatives of every group that makes up Australia, but in terms of people likely to be interested in a War that happened in another country more than 150 years ago, I think we are doing OK.

The Committee for 2025 has again been John Morrison (Program Director and Vice President), Dan Howard (Secretary), Wayne Morrison (Treasurer), Jannette Greenwood (Newsletter Editor), Peter Zacharatos (Membership Director), and Bruce McLennan (Immediate Past President). (*cont. p.2.*)

Our Next Meeting

**Monday, 1st December from 6pm
Christmas Dinner**

– **Spouses and friends welcome**

The Chatswood Club, 11 Help Street

Cost: \$45 for an excellent buffet dinner including wine on the table

Booking required -

<https://www.trybooking.com/DHNLU>

Bookings close 27 November

Reflections on Gettysburg Address



We are privileged to have as special guests:

the **Hon. Bob Carr**, who will deliver **the Gettysburg Address**

and renowned author, and our Life Member, **Tom Keneally**, who will **reflect on the Gettysburg Address**

Life Member **Len Traynor** will present the **Len Traynor Award**

(cont. from p.1.) The Committee has held six formal minuted meetings and many additional informal discussions throughout the year.

We held member meetings on 2 December 2024, 24 February, 14 April, 16 June, 18 August and 20 October and now this AGM on 1 December 2025. Six excellent editions of the newsletter have been published in 2025. The recipient of the Len Traynor Award for contribution to the Newsletter in 2024 was Tom Dixen for his fascinating and detailed article he termed "Hospital Sketches" – about Louisa May Alcott. The awardee for 2025 has been chosen and it will be presented at our December meeting.

I acknowledge and applaud the contribution of our Committee: John Morrison for steering the programs, Dan Howard for keeping us organised, Wayne Morrison for keeping us solvent, Jannette Greenwood for the wonderful newsletters, Peter Zacharatos for spreading the word about the Round Table, particularly to Rotary Clubs in recent times, and Bruce McLennan for being custodian of our web site and providing a liberal input of general wisdom (and our book raffles).

The newsletters record that presentations throughout the year included **"Fascinating Facts about Union Generals"** (Len Traynor), **"Pre & 'War of States Rights' Training of Officers"** (Ian Wolfe), **"The \$6,000 Coles Quiz"** (Len Traynor), **"Reconstruction"** (Professor Frances Clarke), **"The Sword and The Stone – The Story of Captain Phineas Solomon and his Sword"** (Dr Lisa. V. Brown), **"Dec 1862 - Fredericksburg and the Mud March"** (Bruce A McLennan), **"Captain Horatio Eaton 1839-1864 Company E, 6 Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Died of Wounds 16 May 1864, Drewry's Bluff, Virginia"** (Peter Headley), **"The Vicksburg Campaign"** (John Morrison), **"Grant's Canal"** (Ian McIntyre), **"Lee's Finest Hour – the Battle of Chancellorsville"** (Peter Zacharatos), **"The East Cavalry Battle at Gettysburg 3 July 1853: General Robert E. Lee's real plan"** (Rob Muscat), **"Gettysburg: The Battle That Changed America, My favourite monument"** (John Morrison), and **"Barlow's Knoll"** (Peter Headley).

Best wishes to all for 2026.

Ian McIntyre

Club Parking

The club offers free parking, with ample space for up to 50 vehicles. The parking lot provides direct access to the club.

How to Access the Parking:

The entrance to the parking lot is located at the back of the club, accessible via McIntosh Street.

For GPS directions, enter '12 McIntosh Street, Chatswood.' This will guide you to the general area. Upon arrival, look for the parking complex with signage that reads 'Club Parking' in black lettering. The following image should assist you:



12 McIntosh St

IMPORTANT: You may need to phone the number on the post outside to get the gate opened. There are internal stairs up to the Club (there's a door on the landing on. The right on the top level, just down from the gate) or you can catch the lift to G, then exit the glass doors and enter through the adjoining glass doors.

Our Last Meeting



Our last meeting was well-attended and guests enjoyed a buffet dinner while listening to three interesting and informative presentations.

The East Cavalry Battle at Gettysburg 3 July 1853: “General Robert E. Lee’s real plan” Rob Muscat

We were fortunate to have as our guest Rob Muscat. Rob is the President of the Military History Society of NSW. Professionally he is Principal of St John Paul II Catholic College, Schofields & Nirimba. He has a major interest in Australian Military History and is also a keen student of the American Civil War.

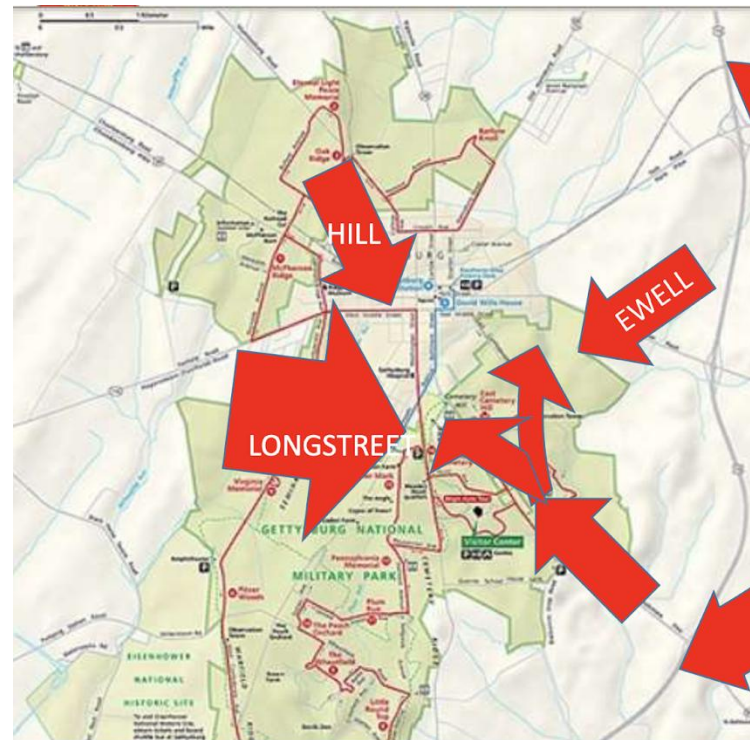


The historian Tom Carhart, in his book *The Lost Triumph*, proposes the theory that the clash at the East Cavalry battle on the 3 July was not a sideshow but part of an integrated operation involving a frontal assault by Pickett and Pettigrew Divisions and also an attack by Johnson’s Division of Ewells’ Corps on the Union far right flank, known as the “fishhook”.

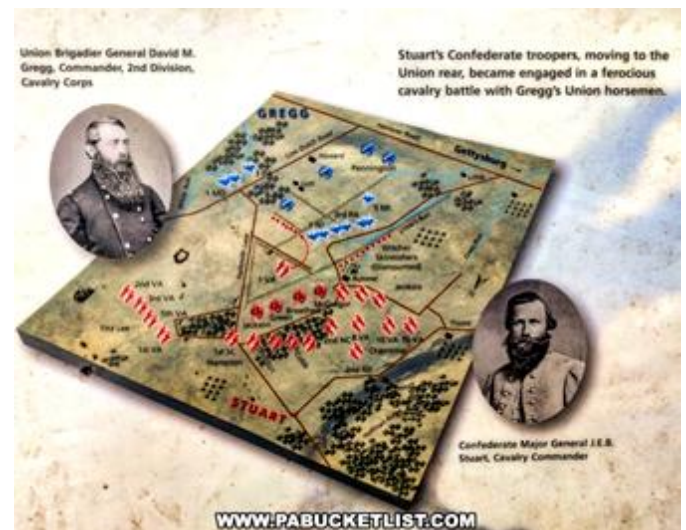
The author suggests that General Lee conferred with Gen. JEB Stuart on the afternoon of 2nd July and, although what was said had not been recorded, a plan was discussed for Stuart’s Cavalry to manoeuvre around the Union right flank and perch itself on Cress Ridge overlooking a valley through which the Confederates would ride towards Baltimore Pike. They would then turn right and emerge behind the Union line south of Culp’s Hill. Lee believed that the shock of Confederate troopers at the time of the other assaults would prove the breaking point of the larger battle and give the Confederacy the military and political victory it has been pursuing since 1861.

What Stuart or Lee had not counted on was a small but determined Union Cavalry force under the command of General David Gregg comprising of a Brigade of Michigan troopers led by the indomitable Brigadier General George A. Custer which halted the Confederate

plan and gave rise to the reinvigorated reputation of the Union Cavalry Corps.



At 1100hrs on the morning of the 3 July, JEB Stuart’s Cavalry Division, comprising Hampton’s Brigade (1740 troopers), Fitzhugh Lee’s Brigade (1920 troopers), Chambliss’ Brigade (1160 troopers) and reinforced with Jenkins’ mounted infantry Brigade (1000 men), was positioned on the reverse side of Cress Ridge north of Rummel’s farm. Stuart also had four guns as artillery support located on the right flank. At that moment, as instructed by General Lee, Stuart fired off four cannon shots across the valley to signal to Confederate HQ that he was in position. Unbeknown to him, these shots alerted General Gregg, who had Col. McIntosh’s Brigade and Brig. General Custer’s Brigade formed along Hanover and Low Dutch roads, protecting the Union rear against any possible Confederate assault.



Gregg ordered units to ride towards the fire. Once they were seen by Confederate scouts, Stuart ordered units to engage the oncoming enemy. Just after noon, fighting broke out between the 24th VA versus 1st NJ, 3rd PA and 1st MI regiments. Confederate troopers had a muzzle-loading rifle whilst the Union men had breechloading single shot which took less time to load.

At first the Union men repelled the attack but, when the rest of Jenkins' Brigade fell upon their line, Union regiments withdrew toward the Low Dutch Road. After the initial clash, there was a lull in the fighting. The guns shook the ground and Union cannons were extremely effective. Custer sent the 5th MI on foot to push Jenkins' Brigade as far back as Rummel's Farm but again they were overwhelmed this time by Fitzhugh Lee Brigade and further by Chambliss 9th VA and 13th VA troopers.

There was a brief skirmish at which both sides fired off shots, with the Union troopers withdrawing once Confederate reinforcements started to converge on the site. In support of the Union troopers, Gregg ordered his horse artillery to silence Confederate guns, which they did extremely effectively. A lull in the fighting developed until 1300 hrs when the first of two charges took place.

Custer would not allow the 5th MI to be driven off so easily. He launched his first Union mounted charge. He led the 7th MI shouting – "Come on, you Wolverines!!!" They rode five ranks deep. Once they turned left towards Rummel's farmhouse, they hit a wooden fence which did not fall. At that moment they become a mass of blue and an easy target for Confederate fire. Custer decided to withdraw and ride to the Union gun position, with the 1st VA, 9th VA and 13th VA hot in pursuit. In turn they were also fired upon and returned to their original positions.

At 1500hrs the Confederate artillery barrage on Cemetery Ridge was scheduled to stop. Stuart was expected to be in position behind Union forces at Culp's Hill. He ordered his entire Division (Hampton Brigade in the lead) to move off Cress Ridge towards Hanover Rd and sweep right onto Baltimore Pike as planned. He had 30 mins to be in position.

Stuart had the men in column formation, which was described by witnesses as a magnificent sight, with sabres glimmering in the sun. Custer led the 1st MI with "Come on, you Wolverines!" to meet the oncoming Confederates. Custer had his men drawn up in line formation which caused the Confederates to disperse, thus causing confusion. Witnesses describe the thud

of horses, steel clashing and shots spurting in all directions.



Capt. William Miller of the 3rd PA regiment led his men from east of the battle, cutting Stuart's column in half and again on his return. He won the Medal of Honor for his actions.

"...when suddenly a crash, like the falling of timber, betokened the crisis. So sudden and violent was the collision that many of the horses were turned end over end and crushed their riders beneath them. The clashing of sabres, the firing of pistols, the demands for surrender and cries of the combatants now filled the air".

The Union Cavalry repelled the Confederate assault, resulting in thwarting Lee's plan of winning his climatic battle.

Gettysburg: The Battle That Changed America

My favourite monument

John Morrison

Rob's presentation was followed by a short talk by M.C. John Morrison about his favourite monument at Gettysburg.

Gettysburg is one of the pivotal battles of the Civil War and is often seen as a turning point in the war. It was certainly a major tactical engagement, although it represented only the half-way point of the war.

Our October Meeting was the first of three meetings scheduled to consider various aspects of the battle. Most of our membership has visited the Battlefield and are familiar with the large numbers of monuments there. My personal favourite is the North Carolina Monument.

I love the way it depicts the interaction between the Officer, the NCO, the old veteran, and the new recruit.



Gettysburg is also famous for President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address - 268 of the most powerful words that have ever been spoken. This address, along with some of the lesser-known aspects and personalities from the Battle, will be our focus.

John J Morrison

Barlow's Knoll Peter Headley

Our third speaker, member Peter Headley, gave a very comprehensive presentation on General Francis Channing Barlow after whom the feature known as 'Barlow's Knoll' is named.



Peter noted that Barlow was known for his rapid progression from Private to General and also for being one of the "Boy Generals" due to his youthful and clean-shaven appearance.

In his talk, Peter discussed Barlow's participation in the Barlow's Knoll battle as well as other battles. He spoke also of Barlow's love for his wife Arabella and also about an event involving a Confederate general that became famous years after the War.



Barlow grew up in Brooklyn and was working as a lawyer for the *NY Tribune* in 1861. In that same year, on 20 April, he married Arabella, interestingly 10 years his senior. On the same day, he enlisted, serving first with the 12th and then joined the 61st New York Volunteer Regiment, becoming Lt. Col. of that unit and then, at the Peninsula Campaign, becoming Colonel of the Unit.

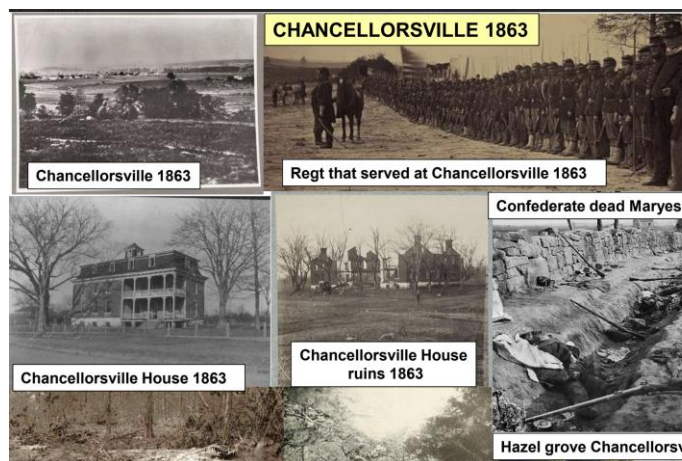
Peter spoke about the inadequacy of the Army medical services during the early battles of the Peninsula Campaign. Neither the Union or Confederacy were structured, or prepared, to meet the medical needs of the war.

There was no system for collecting wounded soldiers and transporting them to treatment centres. Consequently, public charitable and Christian organisations stepped in, with women taking an active role. This led to the creation of The Women's Central Association of Relief (WCAR) and then the U.S. Sanitation Commission. These organisations raised tremendous amounts of money for materials such as food and medication as well as construction of hospitals and hospital ships, among other services. They contributed \$90m. in today's money.



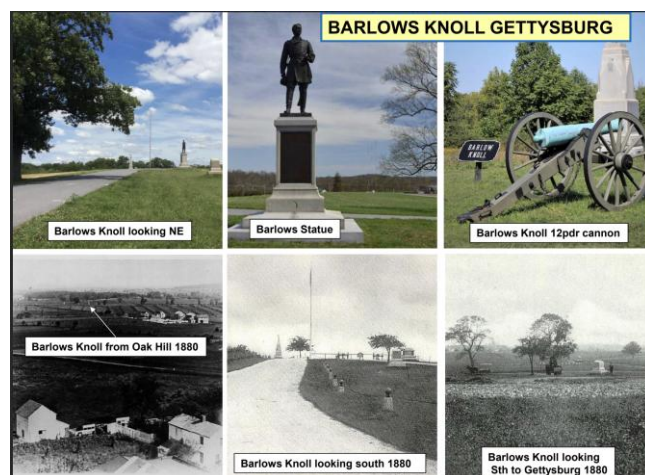
With no family or relations, Arabella joined the Sanitary Commission as a volunteer nurse in 1862 and, being located near her husband, was able to follow him and the battles he was engaged in. At Antietam, where he served, she was near the battle and, in fact, was present when he was brought in wounded and was able to tend him then and in the following weeks during his slow recovery. After this battle, Barlow was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers.

Although he had not fully recovered, he returned to the army in April 1863, commanding the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 11th Corps at Chancellorsville. However, his Brigade during the battle was attached as support to the 3rd Corps so he was able to avoid the censure that the 11th Corps got for its poor performance at Chancellorsville.



Barlow next served at Gettysburg, where he commanded the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division 11th Corps, the same Corps that he had led, and which was held in disrepute because of their rout at Chancellorsville.

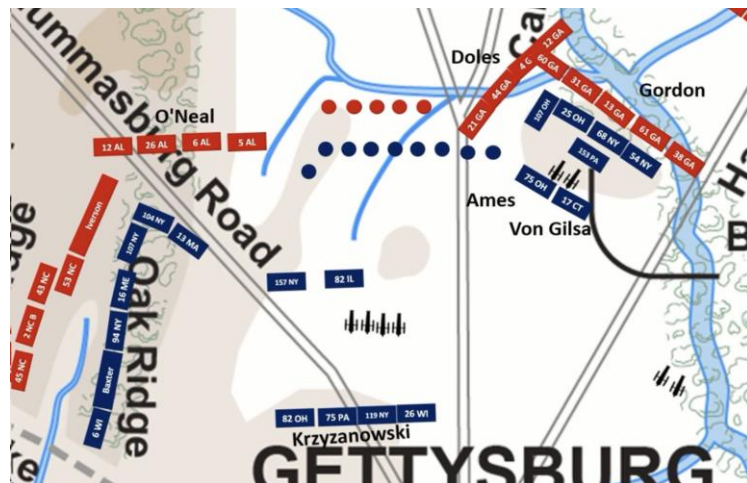
On Day 1, he positioned his brigade north of Gettysburg to meet Confederate Units at a site known now as Barlow's Knoll. The subsequent battle is considered to have been a rout.



The Battle

The first map below shows that Barlow had moved his brigade up from just to the right of Krzyzanowski's brigade i.e. just above the SBURG lettering up to where they were in contact with the Confederates under Gordon.

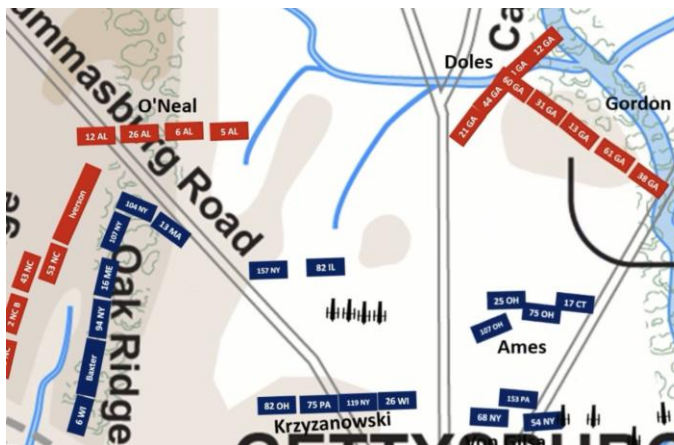
Krzyzanowski commented that Barlow's forward movement was stupid as it stretched the thin Union lines even further, which they now had to hold against over whelming odds. The dotted blue line represents the Union skirmish line and the red dots the Confederate skirmish line. The Union skirmishers occupied the positions previously held by the Confederates.



Barlow brought up 4 guns under Lt Wilkinson (only 2 on the map) while across Rock Creek Gordon had positioned 14 guns. Barlow's units included the 107 Ohio, 75 Ohio, 25 Ohio, 17 Conn, 153 Penn, 68 NY and 54 NY. They were outnumbered 2 to 1 by the Confederates and outgunned by 14 to 4. The Confederates suffered heavy casualties crossing Rock Creek and ascending the slight rise to the Knoll where Barlow's 4 guns stood.

Gen. Gordon ordered his guns to concentrate on the young officer (Wilkinson) on a horse directing the guns and holding up his advance. A Confederate cannon ball took off his leg below the knee (Wilkinson himself cut the rest free with his penknife) and Confederate numbers began to overwhelm parts of the Union line. In fact, the standard bearers of the 25th Ohio and the Georgia 31st regiment fought hand to hand.

It was Barlow's right flank which failed first followed by a general abandonment for the rear by the rest of his Union troops (see map 2). It was during this rout that Barlow was wounded attempting to stop the collapse of the Union line.



With the collapse of Barlow's line, Krzyzanowski was forced to move his brigade to the right in an attempt to stop the Confederate advance together with survivors of Barlow's command. Understandably, he was not able to hold the Confederates as he also came under pressure from Confederate units advancing on his rear down the Mummasburg Rd. The remnants of the two Union brigades fell back to Cemetery Hill and dug in.

During the battle, Barlow was hit in his left side while trying to halt the rout. He was helped by two men to the rear, where one was killed. Barlow recalled being helped by a Confederate Major Pfizer into some shade before being moved to a Confederate Field Hospital, where surgeons declared the wound mortal.

After the Battle

His wound was dressed and he was cared for in a house which had been the Confederate 2nd Corps headquarters. It was here, while the battle still raged, that Arabella found him. It seems that Confederate General John Gordon (whose wife also followed him on the battlefield) had earlier attended Barlow, who, when wounded on the battlefield, had asked Gen.

Gordon if Arabella could be granted free escort to him behind the battlefield line. Gordon granted this and Arabella was reported riding side-saddle and being escorted by two Confederate soldiers.



When the Confederates retreated from Gettysburg, they left him behind, considering him to have unsurvivable wounds. However, the bullet hadn't penetrated his perineum, so Arabella was able to move him to Baltimore where he slowly recovered.

He was back in the army in Spring for a number of battles. Arabella, meanwhile, continued to tend the sick and wounded. She also scoured the countryside looking for supplies, acquiring the nickname "Raider". She worked tirelessly and became very run-down. By the time of the Petersburg Siege, Barlow sent her to Washington to a military hospital to recover from typhoid. Unfortunately, she did not survive and died on 27 July 1864.

Barlow was 'entirely incapacitated' by her death and, after burying her, resigned his commission and went to Europe, not returning to the army until the Appomattox Campaign. He was promoted to Major-General in 1866 by which time he had left the Army.

After the War, Barlow went on to a successful legal and political career and remarried in 1883. Both he and Gordon became successful politicians, Barlow as a state representative and Gordon as a Federal Senator. There is no record of his meeting Gordon until 1879, when they met at a Washington dinner party and were astonished to find they were the same men who had met on the battlefield at Gettysburg. Each had believed the other had died. This meeting led to a life-long friendship which lasted until Barlow died of Bright's Disease in 1896.

Arabella Barlow in Fredericksburg 1864



Arabella's grave July 1864

Union wounded & US Sanitary Commission Nurse Abby Gibbons Fredericksburg 1864



This publication is the official newsletter of the American Civil War Round Table of Australia (NSW Chapter). All enquiries regarding the newsletter should be addressed to the Secretary of the Chapter by phone on 0411 745 707 or email: secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au

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On our Website you will always find the date of our next meeting.

www.americancivilwar.asn.au

Call for short talks

Our short ten-minute presentations on a particular battle or person have been a great success in revealing the depth of talent within our group.

Remember that we are a group of friends and a friendly audience. I know there are several amongst us who have not yet broken cover but who would be interesting and insightful presenters.

Please do not hesitate to volunteer to myself or John Morrison on a topic of your choice, be it short or long.

Ian McIntyre

Any members wishing to contribute should contact John Morrison on

johnhmmorrison@bigpond.com or 0411 197 935