



THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE of AUSTRALIA **FORESTVILLE RSL sub-Branch**

NEWSLETTER for NOVEMBER 2016

Editor Mervyn Whiting; email: pensions@forestvillersl.org.au or 22 Melwood Ave., Forestville, NSW 2087

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Christmas is quickly approaching with the upcoming functions filling our diaries. Planning for 2017 is underway with next year being the Centenary Year for RSL in NSW. A little slow in NSW, with the State Branch joining the National body on ANZAC Day 1917. The challenge ahead for the RSL in NSW is to remain a major ex-service organisation well into the future. The current 'free' publicity has done nothing to enhance the reputation of the organisation, with disgruntled elements taking advantage of the situation. Hopefully, we are above all that, but I fear that the courts may have to decide (based on the true facts), to ensure procedural fairness to those members involved.

The annual widow's luncheon held at the Club on Monday 17th October was attended by 53 widows and committee members. The sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary and the sub-Branch will again be hosting War Vets on 16th November for the annual Christmas Luncheon. Finally, on Sunday 4th December, we hold our annual Christmas Dinner which is normally attended by approx. 200 members and partners. The Committee is looking forward to meeting many of you over the next two months.

Remembrance Day is approaching with the annual service to be held again on 11th November at the Cenotaph of the Club. Be there around 10.30am and following the Service which will finish just after 11.00am, refreshments will be provided in the Club.

Nominations to fill all positions on State Council have been called for the Congressional Term 2017-2020. Nominations must be lodged at ANZAC House by the closing date of 6th January 2017 with elections in May 2017.

Nominations for sub-Branch Committee at Forestville for the Congressional Term 2017-2020 will open on 1st December 2016 and close on 31st January 2017. We are looking for new Committee Members so don't be shy. Check with Tony Mooney who will provide nomination forms. If you are interested, spend a work day with us to see how we operate.

At the October General Meeting, I advised those present that after 15 years on the committee (13 as President), I will not be nominating for re-election in March 2017. Prior to the last election, I advised the committee that it was time to stand down and give someone else the opportunity. They requested that I complete another term. If there is one thing I have learnt over the years, it is that you must have a succession plan, and remaining in a leadership position for a long period is not a sound strategy. Many organisations now have maximum terms of office, but sadly that is not the practice in the RSL movement. We have a strong and experienced committee who will continue to ensure that our aims and objectives are maintained.

Mervyn Whiting had also advised that he will not be seeking re-election. I am sure that you will see us both at meetings, services, and functions for many years to come. Well done Mervyn.

Check for coming events in this newsletter and on the sub-Branch website www.forstvillersl.org.au

Bill Hardman...President

Why is this Day Special to Australians?

At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years' continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in war. This first modern world conflict had brought the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 123 million, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919, two minutes' silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was working in Fleet Street. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of armistice "which stayed the worldwide carnage of four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom." The two minutes' silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemoration on Armistice Day.

On the second anniversary of the armistice in 1920 the commemoration was given added significance when it became a funeral, with the return of the remains of an unknown soldier from the battlefields of the Western Front. Unknown soldiers were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. The entombment in London attracted over one million people within a week to pay their respects at the unknown soldier's tomb. Most other allied nations adopted the tradition of entombing unknown soldiers over the following decade.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead.

In Australia on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993 Remembrance Day ceremonies became the focus of national attention. The remains of an unknown Australian soldier, exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Memorial's Hall of Memory. Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11am and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence. This ceremony, which touched a chord across the Australian nation, re-established Remembrance Day as a significant day of commemoration.

Four years later, in 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australia to observe one minute's silence at 11am on 11 November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

Mervyn Whiting...editor

WORLD WAR I Battle of the Somme Campaign Ends

On this day in 1916, British Commander-in-Chief Sir Douglas Haig calls a halt to his army's offensive near the Somme River in north-western France, ending the epic Battle of the Somme after more than four months of bloody conflict.

With the French under heavy siege at Verdun since February, the Somme offensive was Haig's long planned attempt to make an Allied breakthrough on the Western Front. After a full week of artillery bombardment, the offensive began in earnest on the morning of July 1, 1916, when soldiers from 11 British divisions emerged from their trenches near the Somme River in north-western France and advanced toward the German front lines.

The initial advance was a disaster, as the six German divisions facing the advancing British mowed them down with their machine guns, killing or wounding some 60,000 men on the first day alone; the single heaviest day of casualties in British military history to that point. The failure of the advance was credited variously to the complete lack of surprise in the timing of the attack, incompetence on the part of Haig and the British command, namely their failure to conceive that the Germans could build their trenches deep enough to protect their heavy weapons or bring them up so quickly once the artillery barrage had ended and the inferior preparation of the British artillery, for which the infantry paid a heavy price.



Over the course of the next four and a half months and no fewer than 90 attacks, the Allies were able to advance a total of only six miles in the Somme region, at the cost of 146,000 soldiers killed and over 200,000 more injured. On November 18, 1916, Haig finally called off the offensive, insisting in his official dispatch from the front in December, that the Somme operation had achieved its objectives. "Verdun had been relieved; the main German forces had been held on the Western front; and the enemy's strength had been very considerably worn down. Any one of these three results are in itself sufficient to justify the Somme battle."

Despite its commander's positive assessment, the Battle of the Somme would remain one of the most controversial operations of World War I. In the war's aftermath, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, a nemesis of Haig's roundly condemned Haig's offensive; "Over 400,000 of our men fell in this bullheaded fight and the slaughter amongst our young officers was appalling. Had it not been for the inexplicable stupidity of the Germans in provoking a quarrel with America and bringing that mighty people into the war against them just as they had succeeded in eliminating another powerful foe Russia, the Somme would not have saved us from the inextricable stalemate."

Reference: I suggest that you may read more about "FIELD MARSHAL SIR DOUGLAS HAIG—World War I's Worst General."

Mervyn Whiting...editor

A Prayer of Remembrance

Almighty and eternal God,
From whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
Either by death or life:
Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember
this day;
Fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
And bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH



CHRISTMAS DINNER



6.30 pm

Sunday 4th December 2016

"For sub-Branch members, Women's Auxiliary, RSL Widows & their partners only."



The cost of tickets is \$30 pp.

Tickets will be available from the sub-Branch Office
on

Monday 7th November 2016

and then from the reception desk of the RSL Club.
"CASH ONLY PLEASE"

PLEASE SUPPLY ALL NAMES WHEN BOOKING.
THE TABLES WILL BE NUMBERED and YOU CAN
CHOOSE YOUR TABLE WHEN BOOKING.
(The Dinner includes a 3 course meal, drinks,
and lucky door prizes.)

DRESS—LOUNGE SUIT (Jacket and Tie)



The Club Bus will be running from 4pm till 12 mid-
night for your convenience.

(This is a free service.)

Contact reception to book your pickup.

**Please note—that there will be NO ENTRY to
the Flight Deck before 6.00pm**

Tony Mooney...Hon.Secretary

'SHAMPOO WARNING'



SHAMPOO WARNING:

**DO NOT wash your hair with Shampoo while in
the shower!**

Many people use shampoo in the shower.
However, when doing so, the shampoo runs down
your body.

It clearly states on the shampoo label
"For Extra Body & Volume".

No wonder people gain weight.

**STOP USING SHAMPOO AND
USE DISHWASHING LIQUID INSTEAD.**

Dishwashing soap labels read "Dissolves fat that is
otherwise difficult to remove"
PROBLEM SOLVED!

With advice from John Balfour

GUNPOWDER



A tough old sheep farmer from Scotland gave some advice to his granddaughter. He told her that the secret to a long life was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder onto her porridge every morning.

The granddaughter followed this dictum religiously until her death at the venerable age of 103.

She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren, 25 great-great grandchildren and a forty foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

Mervyn Whiting...editor

SOME TRUTHS

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he is too old to go anywhere.

Mervyn Whiting

The Priest & The Pilot

A priest dies and he is waiting in line at the *Pearly Gates*. Ahead of him is a man dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket and jeans.

Saint Peter addresses this cool dude: "Who are you so that I may know whether or not to admit you into the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The man gives his name and adds proudly, "I'm a retired Quantas Airlines pilot."

St. Peter consults his list then smiles and says to the pilot, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

The pilot takes the robe and the staff and enters the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now it is the priest's turn. He stands erect and booms out. "I am Father Joe, Vicar of St. Peter's in Melbourne for the past forty years."

St. Peter consults his list and says to the Priest, "Take this cotton robe and a wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the good Father, "that man was a pilot and he gets a silken robe and a golden staff and I get only a cotton robe and a wooden staff. How can this be?"

"Up here we go by results." St. Peter replies. "When you preached—people slept; when he flew, people prayed."

Handyman Husband

Wife texts her handy husband on a cold winter morning:
"WINDOWS FROZEN ~ WON'T OPEN"

Husband texts back:
"GENTLY POUR SOME LUKEWARM WATER OVER THE EDGES AND THEN TAP EDGES SHARPLY WITH HAMMER."

Wife texts back 5 minutes later:
"LAPTOP REALLY BUGGERED NOW."

Mervyn Whiting...editor



Our **October Fashion Parade was a great success**, with about 60 ladies in attendance, some going home with something. Our special thanks to Airs and Graces for supplying the clothes and accessories. Well done to prize winners.

We would also like to thank Denis and Staff for all their help, and to Kim for supplying the lovely cakes for our afternoon tea. Also, our Special Barmen and the ladies, who helped us on the day. Thanks to our Models who did a fantastic job; 'watch out *Cindy Crawford*', and as always the Committee for doing a great job to make it a very special day.

Our **Next Meeting is on Monday 7th November at 1.00 pm**. Our **Guest Speaker is Jesse Steward from Vita Call**, so it should be an interesting topic.

We will be calling for ladies to sell poppies in the Club Foyer on **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8th, 9th & 10th from around 5.30pm to 7.00pm and on Remembrance Day Friday 11th November from 10.40am**.

The War Vets Lunch will be on **Wednesday 16th November at 11.00am**, with the lovely residents coming from the War Vets at Narrabeen, and we are looking forward to seeing some familiar faces.

The sub-Branch **Christmas Dinner will be on Sunday 4th December at 6.00pm** where we will be selling tickets in the **Christmas Hampers**, to be drawn at the Women's Auxiliary Christmas Lunch, with winners to be notified by phone.

Our **Christmas Lunch will be held on Monday 5th December**. We will be taking names of those wishing to attend at our November Meeting.

Wishing our Ladies on the sick list a speedy recovery.

Regards,
President Annie

NATIONAL ANTHEM of NEW ZEALAND

"**God Defend New Zealand**" is one of two national anthems of New Zealand, the other being "God Save the Queen". Legally they have equal status, but "God Defend New Zealand" is more commonly used, and is widely albeit incorrectly referred to as "the national anthem". Originally written as a poem, it was set to music as part of a competition in 1876. Over the years its popularity increased, and was eventually named the second national anthem in 1977. The anthem has English and Māori lyrics, with slightly different meanings. When performed in public, the usual practice is to sing the first verse in both Māori and English.

National Anthem of New Zealand (God Defend New Zealand)	
Māori verse: "Aotearoa"	English translation (Karetu)
E Ihowā Atua,	<i>Lord, God over yonder,</i>
O ngā iwi mātou rā	<i>Of all our nations</i>
Āta whakarangona;	<i>Listen to us gently,</i>
Me aroha noa	<i>With the infinite love</i>
Kia hua ko te pai;	<i>May the goodness bear fruit;</i>
Kia tau tō atawhai;	<i>May your kindness come;</i>
Manaakitia mai	<i>Please give protection to</i>
Aotearoa	<i>Aotearoa</i>

MEMBERSHIP.

Sadly, we report the passing of our dear members during the last month; **BANNYARD, Alfred Patrick RAF, BOOKER, Malcolm Noble ARMY.**

Our sincere condolences are passed onto family and friends.

Current membership totals **464**

Introductions from our members, family and mates for new membership are always welcome.

CHANGES TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP DETAILS. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!**

To ensure that our records are maintained up to date we would appreciate your advices of any **change** as soon as possible including new address, phone number, e-Mail address, **next of kin and any other personal information.**

Failure to advise current details may affect the bereavement payment privilege.

Also please call us if you wish to check any of your information.

NB. For your information our sub-Branch MEMBERSHIP e-Mail address is; membership@forestvillersl.org.au.

Geoff Brown, Membership Officer.

OUR CENOTAPH and MEMORIAL WALKWAY

The three-man crew (normally four) with Jim, Norm and myself are still looking for one more volunteer worker. Jim regrettably has advised he will not be continuing as a volunteer after the end of year. He will indeed be truly missed.

Lawn was fertilized, and further spaying for weeds was undertaken which appear to have the problem under control for now!

MEMORIAL PAVERS;

The paver order for September has been received, and all pavers will be laid by the end of October.

Cost of pavers for sub-Branch Members is \$35.

Geoff Brown, Cenotaph and Memorial Walkway Coordinator.

SPECIAL REQUEST TO MEMBERS

For those of us who are interested in receiving this Newsletter each month, we are able to send it to you electronically (via e-Mail)!

If you would like to provide your e-Mail address we can send the newsletter to you via e-Mail. This would save us the rising cost of postage and time spent with the preparation of envelopes and use of other resources.

To provide your details please contact;
membership@forestvillersl.org.au

Mervyn Whiting...editor

Editorial Note

Other benefits from electronic contact are speed and personalisation. With email we are able to contact and have our newsletter to them all over the World within minutes.

Just last month one of our UK members contacted me within 24 hours of receiving and reading the October newsletter.

Tony Eve; **Chairman & Secretary, Dursley and South Gloucestershire Branch, Royal Air Forces Association**, Field End, Coaley, GL 11 5EL contacted me and wrote;

"Please remember us to all your guys down there and give best wishes from the P.O.M.E. B rgds, Tony"

SUB-BRANCH OFFICE

EMAIL CONTACTS AND PHONE NUMBERS

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Alastair Turnbull (02) 9451 9389 or 0421 010 799

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PADRE.

Rev. Dave Lanham.....(02) 9975 5410

TRAVEL OFFICER

Bob Connors.....(02) 9451 9494

(All non-urgent enquiries should be directed to the Office during normal office hours.)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday.....0900 to 1200 and 1245 to 1400

Friday.....0900 to 1200

(Except for public holidays and special occasions, or by special appointment.)

Anthony (Tony) Mooney, Hon. Secretary.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2016

Wednesday, 2 November 1930 General Meeting
Friday, 11 November 1030 Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday, 16 November 1200 Narrabeen War Vets Lunch
Sunday, 4 December 1800 sub-Branch Christmas Dinner
Wednesday, 7 December 1930 General Meeting

Tony Mooney, Honorary Secretary

SPECIAL NOTICE



The Sub-Branch Office will be closed from Tuesday 20th December 2016 and re-open on Monday 9th January 2017

'And the world is a little poorer, for a soldier died today'

LEST WE FORGET