

The Returned & Services League of Australia

Forestville sub-Branch



Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2017

Contact editor via email: newsletter@forestvillersl.org.au or via post: 22 Melwood Ave, Forestville, NSW 2087

President's Report

As you read this report, half of our year 2017 will have passed. How time goes!

The first six months have been very busy and, at times, a little dramatic with RSL NSW matters. These are now under review by the incoming State President, District Council Presidents and the newly elected State Council. We have been assured that regular updates on progress will be made available and we will keep our members fully informed.

On the home front, our Christmas in July bus trip is about to take place, and we look forward to our VP Day Luncheon on Sunday 13th August.

Our Marketing team have held a detailed meeting as per our Strategic Plan, with particular emphasis on updating and simplifying our website for the benefit of our members. This is a priority and will be followed in detail at our next Committee meeting.

We continue to operate with only seven Committee members, with everyone committed to working in a diligent manner on behalf of our members. In this regard, we are blessed to have two charming and very capable ladies assisting us – namely Sue Duchesne and Leonie Wright. Their female touch, in a male-dominated domain, is greatly appreciated and warmly welcomed. Thank you, ladies!

Our Acting Treasurer, Alastair Turnbull, will be away on well-earned leave for some time and Bill Hardman has kindly offered to take over in his absence.

Finally, our two newly elected Trustees are in the process of being registered with RSL NSW.
Look after yourselves.

John Scifleet
President

Whats On

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Winter Yulefest
"The Fiddler"- Rouse Hill
Tues 4th July

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Monthly General
Meeting
Wednesday 5th July,
7.30pm

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Membership Update

Sadly, we report the passing of the following dear members:

BUCK Frank Stanley ARMY
GOULD Norman Edward ARMY
CARVALHO Erlam William INDIAN ARMY
CROMACK Norman Richard RAAF

Our sincere condolences are passed onto families and friends.

We have the pleasure of welcoming one new sub-Branch member:

Robert James CRAWFORD

Current membership totals 450

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

Changes To Your Membership Details

Your advices of any change to personal details eg new address, phone number, email address, next of kin would be appreciated. Also please call us if you wish to check any of your information.

Email address is:

membership@forestvillersl.org.au

Our Cenotaph and Memorial Walkway

Memorial Pavers

Orders are now being taken for Remembrance Day in November. Closing date for orders is 25th September, 2017. Cost for pavers for sub-Branch members is \$35.

Our volunteer worker Leonie Wright, a sub-Branch member, unfortunately cannot continue working, and we thank her for her dedicated work. Consequently, we are looking for a new volunteer gardener. The job is not onerous, being bi-monthly, one work day a week for about one hour with times to suit you personally. We would love to hear from one of our 266 sub-Branch members in the Forest area to volunteer for this. Please get in touch with Geoff Brown.

Geoff Brown, Membership Officer and Cenotaph and Memorial Walkway Co-ordinator

AUSTRALIA MY COUNTRY COMPETITION

Jonathan O'Dea, State Member for Davidson, presented winning students with certificates and prizes on 13th May for the Australia My Country Competition.



Winners were drawn from the entire Forest area including Wakehurst, Terrey Hills and Forestville Public Schools as well as Davidson and The Forest High Schools and Covenant and Northern Beaches Christian Schools.

The Women's Auxiliary

Our July BBQ was fun. A big thank you to our Chefs and our kitchen helpers. We all had a few laughs. Our **NEXT MEETING is on MONDAY 7th AUGUST at 1.00 pm.** It is a General Meeting followed by Our Guest Speaker who is **KAREN M. DAVIS.**

Karen is a Crime Fiction Author. Her Books include "**DEADLY OBSESSION**" and "**SINISTER INTENT**". So, come along and maybe learn **HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER! Husbands are very welcome.** I am looking forward to meeting Karen to learn how she comes up with her ideas for the stories. All are invited so come and join in the fun. At our August meeting we will taking names for our 63rd Birthday Lunch which will be held on Monday 4th of September. If you can't come to our August Meeting, please give me a ring on 94020882 and I will put your name down to join us for our special celebration lunch.

Ladies on the sick list we wish you a speedy recovery.

Regards

President Annie

Percy Valentine Storkey



PERCY VALENTINE STORKEY enlisted in the AIF on 10 May 1915 at Liverpool, New South Wales as a Private and was posted to a Depot Training School.

On 16 August he was transferred to C Company, 30th Battalion where he attended an NCO Development School and qualified for promotion to Sergeant. On 3 September 1915 Sergeant Storkey applied for a commission.

On 7 September 1915 he was transferred to the 7th Reinforcements of 19th Battalion. His application for a commission was approved and gazetted on 24 September 1915. Second Lieutenant Storkey embarked for service overseas on A29 HMAT *Suevic* on 20 December 1915.

On 14 November 1916 he was taken on the strength of 19th Battalion which was then located north of Flers in France. On the first day with his battalion he was wounded during an attack on Gird trenches, north of Flers and was evacuated to England and after recovering from his wounds rejoined the Battalion. On 1 January 1917 he was promoted to Lieutenant and on 10 October 1917 was again wounded when his battalion was engaged in the Third Battle of Ypres.

For his actions during the combined 19th and 20th Battalions' attack on Hangard Wood, south of Villers-Bretonneux, on 7 April 1918 Lieutenant Storkey was recommended for a Military Cross on 11 April 1918. The original recommendation was altered, upgrading the recommendation to the Victoria Cross. The original recommendation for a Military Cross dated 11 April reads:

Lieutenant Storkey was in charge of a Platoon [1] which took part in the attack at Bois de Hangard [Hangard Wood] on the morning of 7th April, 1918. On emerging from the wood the enemy trench line was encountered and Lieutenant Storkey found himself with six men. While continuing his move forward a large enemy party – about 80 or 100 strong – armed with several machine guns, was noticed to be holding up the advance of the troops on the right. Lieutenant Storkey immediately decided to attack this party on the flank and rear, and while moving forward to the attack, was found by Lieutenant Lipscomb and

“Under the leadership of Lieutenant Storkey this small party of two Officers and 10 Other Ranks charged the enemy position with fixed bayonets, driving the enemy out, killing and wounding about 30 and capturing the remainder – three Officers and 50 men, also one machine gun. The splendid courage shown by this Officer in quickly deciding his course of action, and by his skilful method of attacking such great odds removed a dangerous obstacle to the advance of the troops on the right, and inspired the remainder of our small party with utmost confidence when being led forward to the objective line.”

The following month Storkey was appointed temporary Company Commander and temporary Captain; on 10 June he was confirmed in this rank. Storkey returned to Australia on 26 November 1918 and his AIF appointment ended on 31 January 1919; he was allocated to the Reserve of Officers on 1 July 1920. He resumed his Law studies at Sydney University and passed his final examinations while an associate to Mr Justice Wade of the Supreme Court. He was admitted to the bar on 8 June 1921. In May 1939 Percy Valentine Storkey was elevated to the New South Wales District Court Bench and was a Judge of the Northern District until his retirement in December 1955. On his retirement he and Minnie went to England to live in Teddington, Middlesex, where he died on 3 October 1969. He is commemorated at the South-West Middlesex Crematorium, Hanworth, United Kingdom.

Captain Storkey bequeathed his Victoria Cross and medals to his old school, Napier Boy's High School in New Zealand. In 1983 there was considerable controversy when the school's Parent League wanted to sell the Victoria Cross to finance student scholarships. However, wiser heads prevailed and his Victoria Cross was transferred to the Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum (now known as The National Army Museum) on a long term loan where it is still located. A replica copy of Storkey's VC is displayed at the Napier Boy's High School

Contributed by:

Committee member, Sandy Howard

Dates to Remember in 2017

Tuesday 4th July	***	Christmas In July The Fiddler, Rouse Hill
Wednesday 5th July	***	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 2nd August	***	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 13th August	***	1200 VP Day Luncheon
Wednesday 6th September	***	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 4th October	***	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Monday 23rd October	***	1200 sub-Branch Widow's Luncheon
Wednesday 1st November	***	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 11th November	***	1030 Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday 15th November	***	1200 Narrabeen War Vets Luncheon
Sunday 3rd December	***	1800 sub-Branch Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 6th December	***	1930 Monthly General Meeting

VP DAY LUNCHEON

Sunday 13th August 2017

This function is only for members of the RSL sub-Branch, Women's Auxiliary and their partners and Service Widows

The luncheon will commence at 12 noon, with the doors opening at 11.30.

TICKETS—on sale from Monday 10th July, initially from the sub-Branch office and then from the reception desk of the Club.

COST—\$35 per person (cash only please)

CLUB BUS—will be available from 10.30am, until late afternoon, with bookings for the bus being made personally at the reception desk of the Club or by phoning the reception desk on 9451 1011.

DRESS—**SMART CASUAL** with an Hawaiian theme.

MENU—A two course meal, "Main and Desert" will be served with alternates on each course with refreshments and lucky door prizes.

sub-Branch Office

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*"And the world is a little poorer, for a soldier died today"
...Lest We Forget...*