

The Returned & Services League of Australia

Forestville sub-Branch



Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all!

Those of us with registered RSL NSW email addresses received the promised survey for sub-Branches and members to complete and return by end February. We hope you took this opportunity to provide your feedback on the draft Constitution. Results will be published on the RSL NSW website, with a summary of issues raised and RSL NSW Board's response to each. We will then await further advice on a revised draft Constitution for consideration by members, and when State Congress will be scheduled accordingly.

As expected, our Nepean Belle River Cruise Day Trip on Thursday 14th March has proved to be very popular, and all tickets have been sold. We thank you for your early and strong support, and we trust you will all have a most enjoyable day.

Work continues by your Committee on our Strategic Plan 2017/2020. This includes activities to generate new members from our Forest area catchment, involving development of a new brochure and securing costs for letterbox drops. Modifications to our website are also ongoing so that potential new members can access relevant information when considering membership, including downloading a membership application form.

Other upcoming sub-Branch events include:

AGM – Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm
AMC Competition Judging – Saturday 6th April at 9am
Anzac Sunday March and Service – Sunday 14th April at 2.40pm
Anzac Day Dawn Service – Thursday 25th April at 5.30am

With the RSL NSW Act proclaimed on 31st December 2018, under our charity status, for our Anzac Day Dawn Service, we can now only provide free breakfast to past and current Service members with medals. The cost for members of the public will be \$10 per person, adult or child. These details are on display in the Club, and in the Club's social media activities, in order to ensure members of the public are aware of this change. We would appreciate your assistance in explaining this change to members of the public as well.

Finally, our sub-Branch will host the Northern Beaches District Council AGM at Forestville RSL Club on Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm, with Bill Hardman OAM in the chair as President.

Please enjoy our (hopefully) milder Sydney autumn weather, and call us if you are in need.

Bob Lunn
President

What's On

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AGM

7.30pm

Wednesday - 6th March

General Meeting

7.30pm

Wednesday - 3rd April



In this issue:

- Membership Update
- RSL Auxiliary News
- Dates to Remember
- Contact details
- Pre-paid Pavers
- Nepean River Cruise update
- John Platt CSC (Retd) Guest Speaker February
- Anzac Heroes in the Forest
- John Balfour OAM - Life Membership
- Breaking Down The Barriers

Membership

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

KEANE, Laurel Lesbia - Australian Womens Army Service
HODDINOTT, Norman - Australian Imperial Force

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

Kenneth William WALLER, ARMY

Sadly, we report the resignation of our long term member for personal reasons: Maurice John RICHARDSON - RAAF and also the transfer of Michael BEERGAH to Dee Why sub-Branch.

Current membership totals : **421**

Introductions from our members' family and friends for new membership are always welcome.

Changes to your Membership Details

Your advices of change to personal details—new address, phone number, email address and in particular **next of kin and other details** would be appreciated. **Call us if you wish to check any of your information.**

Our Cenotaph and Memorial Walkway

Unfortunately our garden area is suffering from the continuing hot weather and only occasional rain. However, our new (contracted) gardener is working hard to overcome any problems.



MEMORIAL PAVERS

Orders for new pavers will be closing 15 March. These will be laid prior to ANZAC Day.

Prepaid Pavers:

Members are reminded that you can order and prepay your own paver at any time if you wish.

Cost for pavers for sub-Branch members is \$35.

***For all Membership enquiries: Please get in touch with Geoff Brown
Membership Officer and Cenotaph and Memorial Walkway Co-ordinator
Email: membership@forestvillersl.org.au***

GUEST SPEAKER

6th FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

COL John Platt CSC (Retd)

COL John Platt CSC (Retd) was our guest speaker at our February General Meeting. John is Chair of Warringah Australia Remembers Committee which organises the annual Defence of Sydney commemoration held at North Head. He outlined the role, objectives, achievements and current projects of the committee and updated us on the memorial plaque program which is being implemented within the Warringah Electorate. This program is designed to place memorial plaques commemorating significant military service of citizens in the electorate. Two plaques are presently in place recognising the achievements of SQNLDR John 'Willy' Williams and 2LT Cecil Healy. Further plaques are contemplated and the sub-Branch was requested to assist financially in purchasing a plaque.

Appreciation of his address was extended by Bob Lunnon and the meeting joined in acclamation.



RSL AUXILIARY

Our next Meeting is on Monday 4th March at 12.30pm. It is our AGM then our General Meeting, and BBQ to follow with our very popular Chefs cooking up a storm. If you were not present at our February meeting and don't have your name down for March please give me a call on 94020882, cost is \$12. Looking forward to seeing you there.

At our March meeting we will be collecting the money for your yearly subscription. This year it is \$12. If you are unable to come to the meeting, could you please leave the money in the Auxiliary Box at Club Reception, as we have to send all the information into Head Office by the end of the month. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Our April Meeting is on Monday 1st at 1pm with our Guest Speaker Anna Delong who is a Holocaust Survivor. I am sure it will be of interest to us all. All are welcome.
For those on the sick list we hope to see you soon.

Regards
Annie Betts
President

ANZAC HEROES IN THE FOREST



An **'ANZAC Heroes in the Forest'** free guided tour of the picturesque Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery will be held on Wednesday 24th April 2019, 9.30am- 12 noon. Join us to hear amazing stories of the many heroic diggers who served Australia in all military engagements, and who rest peacefully at Frenchs Forest. You will be enthralled and entertained by the narratives and biographical accounts based on the history of Australia's involvement in world hostilities.

The volunteer historians will also relate astounding anecdotes about many well-known personalities, European nobility, media and sporting celebrities, POWs, and even some infamous rascals. The tour group will move slowly amongst the tall towering gums, where level paths provide a pleasant stroll in this historic site. The guides encourage the broader community to learn and appreciate the cemetery for the historical significance of the space, the memorials, the people interred there and their stories. These stories are based on captivating epitaphs ranging from the serious and bland to the personal and even the absurd.

Bookings are essential. For more information and bookings, please email Beth Robertson, FFBCfriends@aapt.net.au, PH: (02) 9452 2396 [9am-5pm].



NEPEAN BELLE RIVER CRUISE DAY TRIP THURSDAY 14th MARCH

SOLD OUT!

We travel west to the Penrith area for sightseeing and morning tea on the banks of the Nepean River. We then board the Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler for a delicious buffet-style lunch while we cruise the picturesque Nepean River, followed by dessert.

After lunch, we board our coach for the trip home, making an afternoon stop at Sweeties Confectionery to stock up on some goodies.

Departure is from the lower car park at 8.30am, returning around 4.30pm. **Please park in the lower car park, as we will be on tour all day.**

Your day includes Five Star luxury air-conditioned coach travel, full commentary by an experienced Coach Captain, morning tea,

Congratulations!

**John Balfour OAM
Life Membership**



Veterans Centre
Sydney Northern Beaches

Breaking Down the Barriers - Veteran Mental Health Symposium

The VCSNB in collaboration with Phoenix Australia's Centenary of Anzac Centre is proud to host a **FREE** closed session on 15th March 2019 for families and mates of Veterans to come and learn about mental health signs, symptoms, treatments and services available.

There will also be information stalls about Veteran support services across Sydney.

To register follow this

link: <http://breakingdownthebarriersvcsnb.eventbrite.com.au/>

Come along and enjoy free morning tea and lunch on us!



Dates to Remember in 2019

Wednesday 06 March	*	1930 AGM
Thursday 14 March	*	Nepean River Cruise
Wednesday 03 April	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 14 April	*	1440 Anzac Sunday Service & Street March
Thursday 25 April	*	0530 Anzac Day Dawn Service
Wednesday 01 May	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 05 June	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 03 July	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Tuesday 16 July	*	Christmas In July Coach Trip
Wednesday 07 August	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 11 August	*	1200 VP Day Luncheon
Wednesday 04 September	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 02 October	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Monday 14 October	*	1200 RSL sub-Branch Widows Luncheon
Wednesday 06 November	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Monday 11 November	*	1030 Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday 20 November	*	1200 Narrabeen War Veterans Luncheon
Sunday 01 December	*	1800 sub-Branch Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 04 December	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting

Special Request to Members

Sending monthly newsletters to you electronically by email will help us to be more sustainable, save time and reduce our mailing costs etc.

Please advise your email address details to us at:

membership@forestvillersl.org.au

sub-Branch Office

Office: secretary@forestvillersl.org.au
Phone: (02) 9451 1221

Office Hours:
Monday: 0900 to 1200 and 1245 to 1400
Friday: 0900 to 1200

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

Useful Links

Visit the following sites for more information:

Forestville RSL sub-Branch website:

<http://www.forestvillersl.org.au>

Forestville RSL sub-Branch Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ForestvilleRSLSubBranch/>

Forestville RSL sub-Branch Instagram page:

[forestvillerssubbranch](#)

The Forest Club website:

<http://www.forestvillersl.com.au>

RSL NSW website:

<http://www.rslnsw.org.au>

RSL Membership Advantage website:

<http://www.memberadvantage.com.au/rslnsw>

The Veterans Centre Sydney Northern Beaches website:

<http://www.vcsnb.org.au>

The Australian War Memorial website:

<http://www.awm.gov.au>

RSL NSW Mailing List Contact Details:

<http://www.rslnsw.org.au/update-member-details>

Sub-Branch Resources and Presentations:

<http://www.forestvillersl.org.au/resources>

RSL Lifecare At Home

<https://rsllifecareathome.org.au/>