

The Returned & Services League of Australia

Forestville sub-Branch



Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019



Seasons Greetings to all sub-Branch members and your families. May your Christmas be joyous, peace filled and full of family fun, friendship, food and frivolities!

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

End of year is always a busy time for your Committee, with finalisation of financial reports, preparation of budgets and various events.

The RSL NSW State Congress 2019 was held on 27/30 October in Albury. It was very successful, with 258 out of 348 sub-Branches represented. The new Constitution was approved to become effective on 1st December 2019. The Standard Operating Procedures/SOPs are being completed and will be distributed to the network by 1st December, to replace existing By-Laws and Regulations. The new CEO of RSL NSW, Jon Black, is developing the Strategic Plan as a way forward for our organisation, which will be distributed as soon as it is finalised. The RSL NSW website is also a very good resource for up to date information on all matters.

Our day trip to Old Government House in Parramatta followed by lunch at Seven Hills RSL Club on Tuesday 19th November was successful, although numbers were not as strong as we would have liked. Committee members are attending many High School Year 12 presentations, plus other Public School functions and Cadet parades and dinners, as part of our community service activities and responsibilities.

Our Remembrance Day commemorative services in Forestville and Terrey Hills were well attended in each location this year by around 150 members and their families, dignitaries, and local residents. In the Memorial Garden in Forestville we unveiled the commemorative plaque in honour of five WW1 enlistees from the Frenchs Forest area. Our thanks also go to the ladies of the RSL Auxiliary for serving tea, coffee and biscuits in the Club after our service.

On your behalf, we thank our Committee members, lady Committee volunteers, Cenotaph and Memorial Garden volunteers, photographer Darryl Bullock, Travel Officer Bob Connors, and our Club caterers, for all of their support throughout the year. Special thanks also go to President Annie Betts and the RSL Auxiliary, and President Margaret Campbell and the Widows Group, for their ongoing support and cooperation. Our gratitude goes to Ian Thomson, RSL Club CEO, and to all Club staff, for another wonderful and memorable year. Many innovations are being introduced at the Club, which have been appreciated and supported by our sub-Branch members.

The Australian Government recently announced the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant to build greater community awareness of the service and sacrifice of those who have served. An Oath, Veteran Card and Veteran Lapel Pin support the Covenant and provide further recognition and easier identification of veterans. Eligible veterans and reservists can apply for the Covenant online on the DVA MyService portal on the DVA website: www.dva.gov.au/my-service.

We have listed on page 4 of this newsletter all the **Dates to Remember** for inclusion in your 2020 diaries. Our sub-Branch Office will be closed from COB on Monday 16th December 2019 and will re-open on Monday 13th January 2019. Contact details during this time are listed on page 4.

Best wishes to each of you and your families for a Joyous and Peace-Filled Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please call us if you are in need.

Best Regards,
Bob Lunn

What's On

Christmas Dinner

6.00pm for 6.30pm
Sunday 1st December

*

General Meeting

7.30pm
Wednesday 4th December



In this issue:

- Membership Update
- Pre-paid Pavers
- RSL Auxiliary News
- Contact details
- Dates to Remember
- Remembrance Day 2019
- Significant Anniversaries
- Sue Duchesne - RFS
- Widows Group news
- Education Grants / AMC
- Christmas Dinner
- Office Hours (Christmas/New Year)
- AGM 2020 November Nominations
- Geoff Brown - Life Membership

Membership

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no new membership cards issued by RSL NSW until next year. Accordingly, will you please retain your current 2019 card for use in the meantime.

Membership totals 408 made up of the following age groups:
Over 90 - 64, 80 - 167, 70 - 120, 60 - 29, 50 - 22, 40 - 6

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

Changes to your Membership Details

Please advise any changes to your personal details either by phone to our Membership Officer on 02 9451 1221, or by email to: membership@forestvillersl.org.au

Our Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens

Area is now maintained by our resident greenkeeper.



MEMORIAL PAVERS

All new pavers have been laid prior to Remembrance Day. Orders are now being taken for Anzac Day in April 2020 and these will close on Monday 16th March 2020.

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*

Congratulations Geoff Brown on Life Membership!



Significant Anniversaries

December and **January** are noteworthy for the following significant dates:

13th December - 80th anniversary of the Battle of the River Plate & scuttling of the German pocket battleship Graf Spee (on 17th December)

9th January - 80th anniversary of the embarkation of the first contingent of 2nd AIF for the Middle East

RSL AUXILIARY

Congratulations to the sub-Branch for a wonderful Remembrance Day commemorative service and to the RSL Auxiliary Committee for again serving tea, coffee and biscuits after the service.

The Committee and I would like to thank the sub-Branch for all the help they have given us throughout the year. We would like to thank Ian Thomson and all of the Club staff for their support. There is always someone there to help us at our monthly meetings, and nothing is ever too much trouble. At the sub-Branch Christmas Dinner on Sunday 1st December, the RSL Auxiliary ladies will be selling Hamper tickets which are 3 for \$5. We will be sitting at the entrance of the Flight Deck. We do thank sub-Branch members for your continued support, as this is one of our main fundraisers for the year.

Our next Meeting is on Monday 2nd December at 12pm, followed by our Christmas Lunch. The cost this year is \$38 for two courses, so if you have not put your name down please ring Rae on 99727385, and come along and join us. It should be a great afternoon. If you need to cancel please let Rae know by Thursday 28th November, otherwise the meal will have to be paid for. Hope to see you there.

At our Christmas Lunch on Monday 2nd December we will be drawing the winners of the Hampers. We will phone winners, and please collect your hampers ASAP at Club Reception. Wishing everyone good luck. A big thank you to my Committee for their commitment in making 2019 another successful year. On behalf of the Committee we wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2020.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Our first meeting of 2020 is on Monday 3rd February at 1pm. Our Guest Speaker is Julia Lever who will be speaking on **"HOW TO GET YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER BEFORE YOU LOSE YOUR MARBLES"**, so that should be interesting.

Ladies on the sick list we wish you a speedy recovery. If you need assistance, call me on 94020882.

Regards

President Annie

WIDOWS GROUP

The Widows Group Luncheon hosted by the sub-Branch on 14th October was enjoyed by our members. Our sincere thanks to President Bob Lunnon and his Committee for the Luncheon and assistance given during the year, which is always very much appreciated.

Our November meeting was very disappointing, Gypsy Gifts did not arrive with their range of gifts, we were unable to contact them. Our ladies had their spending money ready. Our apologies, ladies. Our Christmas Luncheon will be on Monday 9th December in the Forest Room at 12noon for 12.30pm. We will be entertained by Mercedes who is always very popular. We might even get a visit from Santa, depending on how good you have been!

To sub-Branch President Bob Lunnon and Committee, Club President Bill Shields and Board members, Club CEO Ian Thomson and especially all staff, we say Thank You and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2020.

Our first meeting for 2020 will be Monday 17th February. See you then. We hope all of our members will be in good health and enjoy the Festive Season, our thoughts will be with you.

Christmas Cheer to All!

Margaret Campbell,
President

AGM 2020 – COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS PROCESS

1st December: Nomination forms available

15th February: Nominations close

March 2020 Newsletter: Include list of nominations received
AGM Wednesday 4th March at 7.30pm – ballots as necessary

THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE, SUE!

Our Committee volunteer, Sue Duchesne, is also an RFS volunteer. She was on call on the catastrophic emergency fire day in NSW on Tuesday 12th November. Sue's crew and other crews successfully saved homes and controlled the bushfire in Turramurra in the late afternoon. In the photo, Sue's the one with the discoloured RFS uniform, as she had to deal with and control a very dirty fire hose!



Remembrance Day Educational Grant and Australia My Country 2020

The Remembrance Day Educational Grant is an initiative of the Forestville RSL sub-Branch to assist eligible applicants with the educational costs associated with moving in to Year 7.

Notice of the Grant's introduction was posted in our Newsletter and on our website. In addition, all primary schools in our geographic area were approached and requested to advertise the Grant in their school newsletters. Despite all of this effort no applications for the Grant were received.

The sub-Branch Committee will now conduct a thorough review of the Grant and report to the December general meeting.

As previously reported the topic for Australia My Country (AMC) in 2020 will be **"They had no Choice-Animals in Australia's Conflicts"**.

We will be writing to all of the primary school principals in our geographic area in December notifying them of the topic and providing them with the key dates for 2020. The letter will also draw the attention of the principals to our website, which contains all the relevant information about AMC 2020.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2019



WWI PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY

Our Treasurer, Alastair Turnbull, unveiled the plaque honouring the five WW1 enlistees from the Frenchs Forest area at our Remembrance Day Service on Monday 11th November 2019 at our Cenotaph and Memorial Garden.



The enlistees were: **William Leslie CARNEY (WIA)**, **William MORRISON (KIA)**, **William James POUND MM**, **Alexander William SHEPHERD** (discharged on medical grounds) and **Alfred THOMPSON (KIA)**.

Our thanks to Alastair Turnbull for his time, effort and commitment in researching these enlistees, and for arranging and unveiling the plaque.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

6pm for 6.30pm Sunday, 1st December 2019

Dress: Jacket & Tie for Gentlemen; Semi-Formal for Ladies

The Club bus will be running from 5pm to 11pm for your convenience. This is a free service.

Please contact Club Reception on 9451 1011 to book your pickup.

Please note there will be NO ENTRY to the Flight Deck before 6pm.

Dates to Remember in 2020

Wednesday 04 December	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 05 February 2020	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 04 March 2020	*	1930 AGM
Wednesday 01 April 2020	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 19th April 2020	*	1440 Anzac Sunday Service & Street March
Thursday 25th April 2020	*	0530 Anzac Day Dawn Service
Wednesday 6th May 2020	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 3rd June 2020	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 1st July 2020	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 5th August 2020	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 16th August 2020	*	1200 VP Day Luncheon
Wednesday 02 September 2020	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 07 October 2020	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Monday 19th October 2020	*	1200 RSL sub-Branch Widows Luncheon
Wednesday 04 November 2020	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Monday 11 November 2020	*	1030 Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday 18th November 2020	*	1200 Narrabeen War Veterans Lunch
Wednesday 02 December 2020	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 06 December 2020	*	1800 sub-Branch Christmas Dinner

CHANGES TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Will you please advise any changes to your personal details either by phone to our Membership Officer on 02 9451 1221, or by email to: membership@forestvillersl.org.au

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.

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

Secretary & General Enquiries:
Tony Mooney
Phone: 9451 1884 Mobile: 0417 023 580

President: Bob Lunnon
Phone 9452 4078 Mobile: 0499 977 111

Treasurer: Alastair Turnbull
Phone: (02) 9451 1221

Welfare, Funerals & Public Relations:
Robin Tapp
Phone: 9451 1221 Mobile: 0425 318 531

Membership:
membership@forestvillersl.org.au

Newsletter Editor:
Bob Lunnon
Phone: 9452 4078 Mobile: 0499 977 111
Email: newsletter@forestvillersl.org.au

Australia My Country:
Phone: (02) 9451 1221
John Scifleet
Mobile: 0428 118 889

Pensions: (02) 9451 1221

Joint Padres
Rev. Dave Lanham Phone: 9975 5410
Rev. Gavin Parsons Phone: 8012 2020

Travel Officer:
Bob Connors
Phone: (02)9451 9494

Widows Group:
President: Margaret Campbell
Phone: 9452 5561

RSL Auxilliary:
President: Annie Betts
Phone: 9402 0882 Mobile: 0478 044 566

Office Hours - Christmas/New Year
The sub-Branch office will be closed from COB Monday 16th December 2019 & will re-open on Monday 13th January 2020

Please use the above contact numbers where necessary.

*"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](https://www.instagram.com/forestvillerssubbranch)

The Forestville Club website:

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

RSL NSW website:

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

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/>

Vet Affairs News

<https://dva.gov.au/vetaffairs>

DVA Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

www.dva.gov.au/myservice