

The Returned & Services League of Australia

Forestville sub-Branch



Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We're half way through a very busy 2020 for our Committee members, and our Committee volunteers Sue Duchesne and Leonie Wright.

The Queen's Birthday 2020 Honours awards were announced in June. On your behalf, we offer our congratulations to Life Member and Associate member of our sub-Branch, Don Kennedy OAM, for his award for service to veterans and the community. Don is also President of the Merchant Navy RSL sub-Branch. Well done, Don!

I take this opportunity on your behalf to thank our active Committee volunteers, Norm Reynolds, and Bob Connors. Norm Reynolds has regularly been carrying out maintenance activities on our Cenotaph area, including replacing lights and cleaning the fountain, among other things. Bob Connors and his wife Di have been weeding around the Cenotaph area and Club entrance, and Bob has been painting the steps to the Cenotaph area as well as sandpapering/varnishing the handrails leading to the Club. Our sincere thanks, Norm, Bob and Di! You are shining lights to all of us.

RSL NSW in June released draft Constitutions for sub-Branches wishing to incorporate, which are available for review on the RSL NSW website. Our Committee has reviewed the draft Constitution most applicable to our sub-Branch, a Company Limited by Guarantee, and will provide comments to our Northern Beaches District Council, for consolidated feedback to be provided to RSL NSW by mid-July 2020. When the final Constitution is available, we will then ask members at a future General Meeting to approve the process for our sub-Branch incorporation, hopefully to be achieved by the end of 2020 as a goal.

As advised in earlier newsletters, we had cancelled our 3rd June General Meeting, and in its place we held a successful Zoom Update Meeting on Thursday 4th June, attended by 11 members. While numbers were low, we were happy with this initial effort and, as a result, our next Zoom Update Meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd July (in place of our Wednesday 1st July General Meeting which has been cancelled). Details on how to join this Zoom Update Meeting on 2nd July are available elsewhere in this newsletter.

The RSL NSW State Congress 2020 will now be held in Newcastle 6th to 8th December, attended by Bill Hardman and me as Delegates, and Sandy Howard as Alternate Delegate. As this now clashes with our own sub-Branch Christmas Dinner due to be held on Sunday 6th December, our Committee has decided to change the date to Sunday 29th November, in the Flight Deck at Forestville RSL Club. Please note this date change in your 2020 diaries.

COVID-19 has had an effect on entries from schools in our area for our Australia My Country competition, with a total 212 entries received. Judging has now been completed in June, and the presentation ceremony will be held at 11AM in the Club on Saturday 25 July, in conjunction with our awards presenter, the Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP. We again thank our judges for a job well done. Take care with the cold weather and call us if in need.

Best Regards,
Bob Lunn

What's On

General Meeting
7.30pm
Wednesday 1st July
CANCELLED

*

General Meeting
11.00am
Thursday 2nd July
(Meeting via ZOOM)



In this issue:

- Membership Update
- RSL Auxiliary News
- Contact details
- Dates to Remember
- Significant Anniversaries
- July Meeting - ZOOM

CONGRATULATIONS FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB!

**THE CLUB RE-OPENED ON
MONDAY 1ST JUNE 2020**

**NSW GOVERNMENT
RESTRICTIONS APPLY**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CLUB
DIRECT FOR DETAILS &
RESERVATIONS: 02-94511011**

Membership

Membership totals: 405

PLEASE NOTE: the new "perpetual" membership card will be issued shortly -

For the time being please retain your current 2019 card

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



The grassed area & hedges are now maintained by our resident greenkeeper..

MEMORIAL PAVERS

Orders are now being taken for new pavers which will be laid prior to Remembrance 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 our
Membership Officer
Email: membership@forestvillersl.org.au**



VP DAY LUNCHEON

Sunday 16th August 2020



**THIS FUNCTION IS ONLY FOR MEMBERS OF THE RSL SUB-BRANCH, RSL AUXILIARY AND
THEIR PARTNERS & SERVICE WIDOWS**

The Luncheon will commence at 12 noon, with the doors opening at 11:30

TICKETS: on sale from 0915 Monday 13th July, initially from the sub-Branch desk at the Club entrance, afterwards from the Reception desk of the Club. Please provide your Forestville RSL Club membership number and mobile phone number when paying, so we can be in accord with COVID-19 restrictions.

NUMBERS: sadly, due to COVID-19 restrictions, initial ticket sales will be limited to 100

COST : \$40.00 per person (cash only please)

MENU: A two course meal will be served with alternates on each course, with refreshments, and lucky door prizes.

FURTHER DETAILS: will be provided in our August newsletter distributed in late July.

RSL AUXILIARY

Welcome to our July newsletter. I hope that you are finding it a bit easier with some rules relaxing, so that we can spend more time with friends and family.

I am pleased to say the Club has re-opened on 1st June, with various restrictions. We are waiting to see what we can do and can't do, and cooperate with the Club and sub-Branch. As yet, we do not know when we will be able to resume our meetings. By all means give each other a call, or if you need any assistance please ring me on 94020882.

Having visited the Club recently it is looking great with a new makeover and Ian and staff have done a great job. It was nice to catch up with some of them.

Bob and the sub-Branch Committee have been holding the fort, so a big **THANK YOU** to them.

Our July birthdays are Marian Smith 9th, Joyce Tregant 14th, Jacki Pretti 14th, Pam Harvey 15th, Pat Keiran 20th, Marjorie McKenzie 23rd, Carol Hartley 29th. Hoping you all have a wonderful day. For those ladies on the sick list we wish you a speedy recovery.

Regards
President Annie

SUPPORT FOR JIM AND JUNE BRENNAN

Jim Brennan, 89, is a long-standing sub-Branch member who, as a piper, played at our Anzac Day services. He and his wife June (84) are residents of Killarney Heights and both are regularly seen at the Forestville RSL Club enjoying the facilities. On Wednesday 10th June, they turned on the electric blanket in their bedroom at home, which caught on fire, and their uninsured home was completely destroyed by the ensuing fire. Neighbours bravely saved them from their balcony, where they had gone to escape the fire.

Jim and June recovered in hospital, and at the time of publication they were in respite care.

Their neighbours started a Go Fund Me fundraising campaign, to support Jim and June with the unexpected costs they are now facing. When you click on the link below, you will be taken to the Go Fund Me page, then you can click on the Donate Now button to make a donation. All funds raised will be managed directly by neighbours, to support Jim and June in their unexpected time of need. Forestville RSL Club will be also assisting them with meals in the Club. We thank you in advance for anything you may be able to do to assist Jim and June.

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/killarney-heights-couple-in-need-due-to-house-fire?
utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign
=m_pd+share-sheet](https://www.gofundme.com/f/killarney-heights-couple-in-need-due-to-house-fire?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet)

Jim Brennan wrote this poem while in hospital:

*I think I must sit down to write
About my long life's greatest fright
To enter our bedroom that night
In time to see that awful sight
Flames licking up upon our bed
A bolt of fear shot through my head
Our bed on fire, how could that be?
And then an awful thought struck me
Our electric blanket on fire
And thus my only thought, I said
Was get that flame extinguished
My rush for water was too slow
When I got back all was aglow
My wife, hearing my warning shout
Was trying hard just to get out
Neighbours with a ladder came
And that made it a whole new game
They got my wife out of our home
And down a ladder to the lawn
Then came back to assist me
(Blinded with smoke – I could not see)
They dragged me from our burning room
And off to safety – none too soon
Then from the safety of the street
We watched the house burn down complete
Then ... into an ambulance then
And off to hospital again
**MY WIFE AND I JUST WISH TO SAY
"THANK YOU" TO ALL THE STAFF TODAY
YOUR HELP, KIND WORDS AND SYMPATHY***

YOU are invited!

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH MEMBER UPDATE

11AM THURSDAY 2nd July 2020

Forestville RSL sub-Branch is inviting you to join an online Zoom update meeting
Our June meeting was a success, but we would like more of you to join us!

Meeting ID: 370 319 6351

Password: member

There are two options to join the meeting:

1. Using a desktop or laptop: if you are not a confident computer user, see this YouTube video to setup Zoom <https://youtube/9isp3qPeQ0E>, please do this at least 15minutes before the meeting.

However, if you are more confident, on your web browser go to **zoom.com**. In the header bar, select **JOIN A MEETING**. When prompted, enter the Meeting ID (above) and follow the prompts.

2. Using a tablet or smartphone: go to the **store** on your device and search **Zoom Cloud Meetings**. Download the APP, then OPEN to proceed with joining the meeting.

If you are online, here is the direct link to the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3703196351?pwd=MmdyRlduZ0kwenJabDM4UHYZbFpYQT09>

Summary of Committee Resolutions May-June 2020

- That a donation of up to \$1000 be made to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk Appeal
- That the Forestville RSL sub-Branch policy with regard to new and continuing Affiliate members would incorporate the following limitations:
 - * **An Affiliate member cannot be the President, Vice President, a Delegate or vote for changes to the RSL Constitution**
 - * **Affiliate members are not eligible for any welfare related financial support**
 - * **Applications for Affiliate membership must be supported by at least one current Service member of the sub-Branch**
 - * **There can be no more than 30 Affiliate members of the sub-Branch at any one time**
 - * **Affiliate members must commit to attending at least three-Monthly General Meetings per calendar year**
- That the Educational Grant Program for awarding in 2020 for the 2021 school year to consist of up to five grants of \$2000 each.
- That an order for uniform jackets be placed with WildDuck Promotions to a value not to exceed \$1800.

Dates to Remember in 2020

Wednesday 01 July	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting CANCELLED
Thursday 2nd July	*	1100 Update Meeting Meeting via ZOOM
Wednesday 05 August	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting Numbers limited
Sunday 16 August	*	1200 VP Day Luncheon Numbers limited
Wednesday 02 September	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 07 October	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Monday 19 October	*	1200 RSL sub-Branch Widows Luncheon
Wednesday 04 November	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting
Monday 11 November	*	1030 Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday 18th November	*	1200 Narrabeen War Veterans Lunch
Sunday 29th November (note date change)	*	1800 sub-Branch Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 02 December	*	1930 Monthly General Meeting

Significant Anniversaries

July 2020 is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

10 July 1940: Battle of Britain commences

19 July 1940: HMAS Sydney sinks Italian cruiser "Bartolemo Colleoni"

01 July 1945: 7 Div land in Balikpapan

05 July 1945: Death of PM John Curtin

02 July 1950: 77SQN RAAF and RAN units enter the Korean War

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 & 1245 to 1400
Thursday: 0900 to 1200

Secretary & General Enquiries:
Vince Williams
Phone: 9451 1221 Mobile: 0417 430 389

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

Treasurer:
Phone: (02) 9451 1221

Welfare & Funerals:
Stuart Hablethwaite
Phone: 9451 1221 Mobile: 0402 626 485

Membership:
membership@forestvillersl.org.au

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

Australia My Country:
John Scifleet
Phone: (02) 9451 1221 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

*"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 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