

# The Returned & Services League of Australia

## Forestville sub-Branch



Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

### NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been another busy month for our sub-Branch. I thank our energetic and extremely hard-working Committee members and Committee volunteers. We have a caring, well-oiled progressive and industrious Committee, always with your interests at the forefront.

Our first General Meeting since the AGM in March was held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August, with 29 members in attendance, all appropriately distanced. Two new Affiliate members were inducted, Philip Richardson and Warren Meppem, and two transfer-in members were introduced, Nick de Bont and Michael Hambrook. Our caterers also responded well with appropriate food, now we can't offer shared food, only boxed sandwiches, and finger food individually served by a gloved staff member.

Our VP Day Commemoration Service at the Cenotaph on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August was well attended, although restricted by numbers due to COVID-19. Dignitaries in attendance included Zali Steggall OAM MP, Federal Member for Warringah, along with her Chief of Staff, Bronwen Regan; as well as Northern Beaches Council Mayor, Michael Regan, who is also an Affiliate member of our sub-Branch. Manly Warringah Pipe Band again did us proud with their support, including a march around the car park, at the conclusion of the Service. We also thank our Marshals, who assisted as part of our COVID-19 Safety Plan for the event.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VP Day and the end of WW11. DVA has produced a Commemorative Medallion and Certificate of Commemoration that are available to every living veteran of WW11. Further details on how to apply are included in this newsletter.

Our VP Day Luncheon on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August at the Club was very successful, with 69 in attendance, a reduction on previous years, resulting from the effects of COVID-19. Our thanks to Secretary Vince Williams, along with support from Committee members, for his expert arrangements of this special event in our annual calendar. Our live entertainment, by Committee volunteer Sue Duchesne, husband Duncan, and twin sons Angus and Nicholas, was an outstanding success. Thanks, Sue!

At both the VP Day Commemoration Service and VP Day Luncheon, the only living WW11 veteran with us each day was sub-Branch member Don Kennedy OAM, Life Member, and also President, Merchant Navy sub-Branch. It was a distinct pleasure for us to have you with us on these two very important occasions, Don!

**For General Meetings, at sub-Branch cost, we have been arranging for a bus to be available in the Forest area to pick up sub-Branch members to bring them to the Club, and return them home after each meeting. Bookings are essential, to be made through Club Reception each month (PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO LONGER A PHONE NUMBER AVAILABLE FOR DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE BUS). We will continue to review this service and cost on a month by month basis, so your cooperation is appreciated, if you wish to avail yourself of this service provided by the sub-Branch.**

We are finding it increasingly difficult to organize day trips, as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. Until these rules are relaxed, we have decided not to organize day trips until further notice, whenever that may be in the future.

Spring is sprung, the grass is ris, I wonder where the birdies is? Enjoy Spring, and call if you are in need.

Best Regards,  
**Bob Lunnon**

#### What's On

##### *General Meeting*

7.30pm

Wednesday 2nd September

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##### *General Meeting*

7.30pm

Wednesday 7th October



#### In this issue:

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- sub-Branch Shirts/ Jackets

#### COVID-19 SAFETY PLANS

**A plan will be in place for each event. Maintain 1.5m distancing. Remain seated at all times. Club Marshal in place. Please follow all directions provided. Thank you for your co-operation.**

## Membership

Membership totals: **405**

We will welcome a new Affiliate Member, **Ian THOMSON** at the September General Meeting.

***The new "perpetual" membership cards have finally arrived and are being posted along with this Newsletter.***

***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](mailto:membership@forestvillersl.org.au)

## Our Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens



We greatly appreciate the work done by Bob & Di Connors and Norm Reynolds to make sure the area was in perfect condition for the VP Day Commemoration Service on the 15th August.

### MEMORIAL PAVERS

Orders are now being taken for new pavers which will be laid prior to Remembrance Day. **Orders close on Tuesday 6th October.**

### Prepaid Pavers:

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

***For all Membership enquiries: Please get in touch with our Membership Officer***

***Email: [membership@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:membership@forestvillersl.org.au)***

## **FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH**

### ***UNIFORM SHIRTS AND JACKETS***

Part of our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan for our sub-Branch included the introduction of uniform polo shirts and jackets for purchase by members. We are delighted to let you know that we have now sourced a local supplier, who provides stylish and high quality products, which meet our criteria. Polo shirts and jackets are now available for purchase, as follows:

**POLO SHIRTS:** navy/white, 80% polyester/20% cotton, shoulder and back contrast panels, XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 5XL. Subsidised cost per shirt is \$35.

**SOFT SHELL JACKETS:** navy, water resistant and windproof, 2 way zip front, 2 zippered front pockets, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 5XL. Subsidised cost per jacket is \$85.

Sample shirts and jackets are available in the office for your viewing and sizing. Please place your orders through Stu Hablethwaite, our Welfare Officer, on 94511221, or by email at:

[welfare@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:welfare@forestvillersl.org.au). Bulk orders will be arranged, so you will be advised when your order is ready for collection, cash on delivery, please.

## **RSL AUXILIARY**

Ladies, welcome to our September newsletter. On a sad note we say farewell to one of our long-standing members, Adele Donnelly, who passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Adele was always the life of the party. Her pineapple dish was a big favourite with the ladies on our BBQ days. Adele's bubbly personality to brighten up our meetings will be sadly missed. Adele and her husband Noel did a lot to make Forestville the Club that it is today, and we keep Michelle and her family in our prayers.

We have also had to cancel our September Birthday Lunch due to COVID-19 restrictions within the Club. We do not know at this stage when we will be resuming our meetings. So, please keep phoning each other, it is always a nice surprise to know someone is thinking of you. We have some of our ladies in hospital and, although we cannot visit, we are thinking of them and wish them a speedy recovery.

Our September birthdays are Janice Wren 4<sup>th</sup>, Deidre Sorbara 4<sup>th</sup>, Sheila Flaherty 29<sup>th</sup> and Jill Scifleet 30<sup>th</sup>. We hope you have a wonderful day, best wishes from all of us.

As always, thank you to Bob Lunnon and the sub-Branch Committee for continuing their great work, in these uncertain times.

Keep safe and if you need any assistance please call me on 94020882.

Regards  
**President Annie**





Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs

## COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION & CERTIFICATE OF COMMEMORATION

### Living Veterans of WW11

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Day, or VP Day as it now known, when WW11 ended. We remember the tremendous sacrifices made, to support the veterans that returned and to acknowledge that this period of our history was a formative time for our nation.

To commemorate this significant anniversary, DVA has produced a Commemorative Medallion and Certificate of Commemoration, which are available to every living veteran of WW11. Applications can be made through the DVA website at [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au) or by phoning the Department on 02-61918217. Alternatively, direct contact can be made with the DVA's Commemorations Officer on 1800-555254.

## GEORGES RIVER, BOTANY BAY CRUISE SOUTHERN BEACHES TOUR

THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 (**CANCELLED**)

**For the attention of ticket holders on this cruise,  
cancelled due to COVID-19.**

We have been trying to organize a new day trip for later this year. However, again due to COVID-19, the only option is to have 50 passengers on a single coach, and the same 50 passengers on the cruise, which is the only way for the operators to cover costs. We have decided that these are not viable options for our sub-Branch members, also because more than 50 members held tickets on the cancelled cruise. Until these rules are relaxed, our decision is to therefore not proceed with this or any day trip until further notice, whenever that may be in the future.

We can arrange refunds for all ticket holders, either by you visiting our Treasurer in the office by appointment (so that cash is available) during office hours.

Alternatively, you can phone or email our Secretary, on 02-94511221 or email: [secretary@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:secretary@forestvillersl.org.au), to arrange a bank transfer. For this, please provide the names of ticket holders, as well as relevant bank account details, including BSB and account number. For this second option, please allow time for the refund action to be taken by our Treasurer during office hours. Reminder: we are all



## 75th Commemoration of VP DAY

### Service

Saturday 15th August 2020 at the Club  
Cenotaph



## 75th Commemoration of VP DAY

### Luncheon

Sunday 16th August 2020

*A wonderful 3 Course luncheon served by our  
Club caterers - thanks Edi and Staff*



## Dates to Remember in 2020

Wednesday 02 September	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 07 October	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Monday 19 October (to be confirmed)	*	12noon RSL sub-Branch Widows Luncheon
Wednesday 04 November	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Monday 11 November	*	10.30am Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday 18 November (to be confirmed)	*	12noon Narrabeen War Veterans Lunch
Sunday 29 November (note date change)	*	6pm sub-Branch Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 02 December	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting

## Significant Anniversaries

### Significant Anniversaries

September is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

13 September 1940: Italian Army invades Egypt

22/23 September 1940: Japanese occupy Indochina bases

27 September 1940: Tripartite pact signed between Germany, Italy and Japan

15 September 1950: Inchon Landing

28 September 1950: 3RAR deploys to South Korea

### FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH REMEMBRANCE DAY EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR 2021

This grant was first introduced in 2019 for 2020. The 2020 program is open to eligible applicants who will be entering Year 7 in 2021, to assist with the costs associated with transition to high school. The value of each grant is \$2000. Letters have been sent to primary schools in our area, with details for their newsletters.

We would appreciate your support with spreading information on this program to your family and friends with eligible applicants in Year 6 this year. Further details on our Education Grants Program (EGP) for 2021 are available on our sub-Branch website.

## 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](mailto:membership@forestvillersl.org.au)

## sub-Branch Office

Office: [secretary@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:secretary@forestvillersl.org.au)  
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RSL Auxilliary:  
President: Annie Betts  
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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 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](http://www.dva.gov.au/myservice)