

# The Returned & Services League of Australia

## Forestville



## sub-Branch

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

**NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2021**

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

On behalf of our Committee members and lady volunteers, best wishes to all of our sub-Branch members, our RSL Auxiliary and Widows groups, and all of our friends and associates, for a happy and healthy 2021, full of hope and new beginnings.

With RSL NSW affairs and activities, our sub-Branch Secretary received an email on 17 December 2020 from RSL NSW reminding us of our obligations as a charity under ACNC and NSW Fundraising Acts requirements. This includes the decision to cease the practice of sub-Branches subsidising members' annual fees. However, an interim policy for 2021 has been approved by RSL NSW for sub-Branches, as registered charities, to meet our obligations if we need to support members in genuine need of financial assistance. This can occur when members are not in a financial position to pay their annual membership fees, for example, low fixed income pensioners or retirees, or those relying on Centrelink income support. We would need to record the subsidy as a charitable donation to a member in need to meet our compliance obligations.

Also, on 17 December 2021, the RSL NSW President wrote to sub-Branch Secretaries, asking us to inform all sub-Branch members about the above. We were then asked to inform our Northern Beaches District Council President by 15 March that this has been done. Our District Council President is then required to assure the RSL NSW Board by 31 March that all sub-Branches in our District have informed all members, and acted, accordingly.

Your Committee has considered all of this at our January meeting, taking into account the fact that RSL NSW is proposing in the Strategic Plan for 2021/2026 that there will be NO membership fees payable from calendar year 2022, in recognition that RSL members are volunteers who are providing support to fellow veterans, not just to members of the RSL in accordance with our charitable purpose. We will provide members with an update on 2021 membership fees at our General Meeting, for ratification by our members, in order for us to then inform the District Council President by 15 March as detailed above.

Our AGM is coming up on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7.30PM. We have been letting you all know at many General Meetings during 2020 that there have been several Committee vacancies. We are delighted that in December Peter McAskill came forward to join our Committee as Membership Officer. Thanks a million. Peter! We are still however looking to fill the position of Treasurer, a role which is not as onerous now that have engaged the services of a bookkeeper for a few hours each week. We encourage you to give serious consideration to nominating your services as Treasurer for 2021-2023.

At our General Meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February we will have a Guest Speaker, Lt Col Nick de Bont, CO of Sydney University Regiment. He will be speaking about our Reaching Out initiative, which is one of the key strategies for our sub-Branch.

The months ahead are looking to be very busy indeed, so please refer to page 4 of your newsletter for "Dates to Remember in 2021" and note your diaries accordingly, be they digital or manual.

Drink lots of water during these hotter and drier periods we have been experiencing. As always, call us if in need.

Best Regards,  
**Bob Lunnon**

### What's On

**General Meeting**  
7.30pm  
Wednesday, 3rd February

\*

**AGM**  
7.30pm  
Wednesday 3rd March

### In this issue:

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### 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: **401**

Sadly we report the passing of the following dear members:

**KENNY** Colin ... RAAF  
**WEBB** Donald ... RAF

**Transfer - IN**

**NICHOLAS BARRY** ... RAN

*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



### MEMORIAL PAVERS

Orders are now be taken for ANZAC Day, closing on Monday 15 March 2021.

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

## **GUEST SPEAKER – GENERAL MEETING, 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

**LTCOL Nick de Bont** has kindly consented to be the guest speaker at our general meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

Following his graduation in law (with Honours), Nick has had an extensive career in the security side of banking and business. His present posting is CO of the Sydney University Regiment. After a conversation with members following his transfer of membership to our sub Branch in 2020, he shared with us some important views to be incorporated in our "Reaching Out" initiative.

Nick will be expanding on these views with us at our meeting.

## **RSL AUXILIARY**

Welcome back for 2021. We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wishing everyone a better year ahead.

The Committee and I are looking forward to working with Bob and the sub-Branch Committee again this year.

Our first meeting this year is on Monday 1st February at 12.30 pm, followed by lunch. We have a surprise Guest Speaker to start off the year, so come along and join in the fun. New members are always welcome. The Committee and I are looking forward to seeing you all and catching up on your news.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Monday 4th March at 12.30pm is our AGM, followed by our General Meeting and lunch. Anyone wishing to join the Committee, forms will be available at our February meeting.

Any ladies on the sick list, if you need any assistance please call me on 94020882.

Regards  
**Annie Betts**  
President

## **FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7.30PM WEDNESDAY - 3RD MARCH, 2021**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 commencing at 7.30pm in the Forest Room of Forestville RSL Club.

*Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting*

## What Happens To Your Widow(er) When You Die?

### *Arrangements made now may save your partner grief and effort later*

Experience has shown that the same problems seem to surface repeatedly and that some forward planning would relieve the burden and distress to your partner when death occurs.

Ideally every adult over the age of eighteen should have a current Will and a Power of Attorney. This should be kept in a secure place, a place known to your Partner and one Executor. The Will should be updated on a regular basis. Here are some other tips that may be helpful:

**Personal Bank Account**- Some banks freeze or regulate joint accounts on the death of the signatory. Your spouse will need an account in their own name before they can receive pension benefits. It would therefore be prudent for both you and your partner now to each have at least one account in your own names

**The House** - After a required period of time (usually 28 days) a house in joint names may be transferred to the surviving joint owner upon application to the relevant Titles Office. Documentation required may include copies of the Marriage Certificate, Death Certificate and the Will and Title documents. The house and contents insurance notices will need to be transferred to a single name.

**Bank accounts, Club and Association Memberships** - Make an up-to-date list of your organisations, along with membership numbers and a list of regular accounts (eg Rates, home and content and vehicle and health insurance etc.) how and when they are paid and the approximate dollar amounts. This will save your partner from distress if they are not in the habit of handling accounts.

**Veterans' Affairs entitlements** - If death was caused by a Service related injury (or if they were already receiving a DVA pension) the widow/er may be entitled to a DVA pension. Be aware of the possible entitlements prior to needing them. Contact the DVA, DFVA, or other agencies for further information.

### **FREE VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR ANY MENTAL CONDITION**

**This is available for life and doesn't need to be linked to Military Service**

Through **OPEN ARMS** all current and former ADF personnel and their families experiencing any mental challenge, have access to free and confidential assistance.

**Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling 1800 011 046 or DVA on 1800 838 372**

*Taken from : 2 Natter Newsletter November 2020*

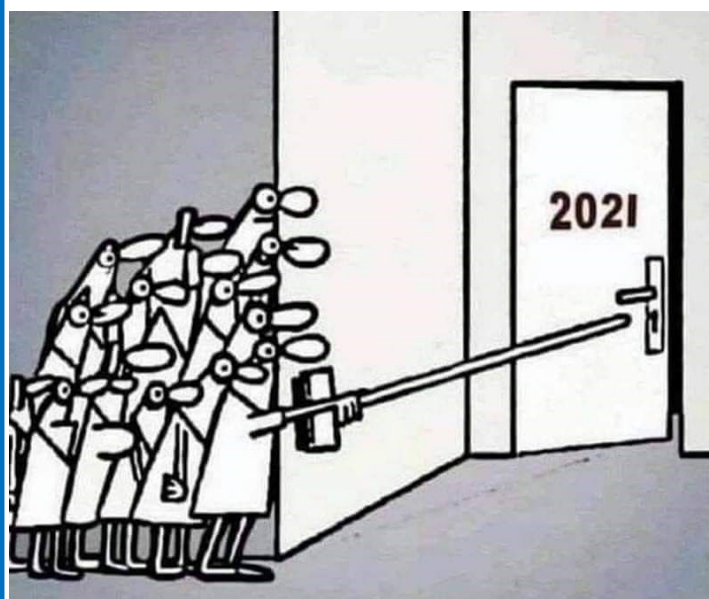
## DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES (DSH) INSURANCE

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, DSH Insurance has expanded eligibility requirements to now include all current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) with at least one day of full time service. This means more than 600,000 additional ADF personnel and veterans (including reservists and peacekeepers, as well as widows and widowers of those ADF members) can now access home building insurance regardless of their type or length of service. DSH Insurance is administered by DVA.

Key benefits include the absence of an excess, the premiums can be paid monthly which equal the annual total, and more. Click on this link to access the latest DSH Newsletter for full details:

[https://www.dsh.gov.au/sites/default/files/insurance\\_docs/DSHI-newsletter-2020october.pdf](https://www.dsh.gov.au/sites/default/files/insurance_docs/DSHI-newsletter-2020october.pdf)

Alternatively, you can also search for additional information on the DSH website: [www.dsh.gov.au](http://www.dsh.gov.au)



## Dates to Remember in 2021 (Subject to change)

Wednesday 03 February 2021	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 03 March 2021	*	7.30pm AGM
Wednesday 07 April 2021	*	7.30 pm Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 18 April 2021	*	3.00pm Anzac Service
Sunday 25 April 2021	*	5.30am Anzac Day Dawn Service
Wednesday 05 May 2021	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 02 June 2021	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 07 July 2021	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 04 August 2021	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 15 August 2021	*	11.30am for 12noon VP Day Luncheon
Wednesday 01 September 2021	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 06 October 2021	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Monday 18 October 2021	*	12noon RSL sub-Branch Widows Luncheon
Wednesday 03 November 2021	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Thursday 11 November 2021	*	10.30am Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday 17 November 2021	*	11.30am for 12noon RSL Anzac Village War Veterans Luncheon
Wednesday 01 December 2021	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 05 December 2021	*	11.30am for 12noon Christmas Luncheon

### Significant Anniversaries

January/February is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> January 1941 – Battle of Bardia. 6<sup>th</sup> Div 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF

17<sup>th</sup> January 1991 – Operation Desert Storm commences

21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> January 1941 – Battle of Tobruk

30<sup>th</sup> January 1941 – 6<sup>th</sup> Div enter Derna

### 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

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Thursday: 0900 to 1200

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Phone: 9451 1221 Mobile: 0417 430 389

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Phone: (02) 9451 1221

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Rev. Gavin Parsons Phone: 8012 2020

Travel Officer:

Bob Connors

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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/my-service](http://www.dva.gov.au/my-service)

**Australian Death Notification Service**

<https://deathnotification.gov.au/>