

The Returned & Services League of Australia

Forestville sub-Branch



Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our Committee members have settled back in to more normal office operations, after our successful Anzac commemorative services in April, reported on to members in our May newsletter and at our General Meeting on 5th May.

An interesting additional observation from our Secretary, Vince Williams CSC: our sub-Branch made the right decision to manage our Anzac commemorative services on a ticketed, seated, and controlled basis. In early/mid-May, stricter COVID-19 restrictions were applied on the advice of our health authorities, resulting from outbreaks in May. These new restrictions could have happened in April at the last minute, which would have an effect on our Anzac commemorative service arrangements. Thanks to Vince for his forward planning and strategic thinking skills and abilities, back in January!

Darryl Bullock, our sub-Branch member and very professional resident photographer, took some wonderful photos at our Anzac Dawn Commemorative Service, some of which are featured in this newsletter. A larger selection of Darryl's photos, for both Anzac Sunday and Anzac Day, is available on our sub-Branch website for your perusal, under the Events/Gallery tab, take a look. Our thanks again, Darryl, as always!

A few "gremlins" found their way into our external sound system used for our commemorative services, with a few major issues experienced especially on Anzac Sunday. Our active Committee Volunteer, Tony Mooney, has been investigating options to upgrade our sound system, which is now ten years old. Our Committee will review this at our May meeting, and we will update members on this project at our General Meeting on 2nd June.

The Northern Beaches District Council meeting on Tuesday 18th May, with President Bill Hardman OAM in the chair, was attended by myself, and VP Sandy Howard as Alternate Delegate.

Australia My Country entries were collected from primary schools in the Forest area on Friday 21st May. Marking then took place on 29th May at the Forestville RSL Club, and winners will receive their prizes at our AMC Presentation Ceremony on 26th June at the Club by the Hon. Jonathan O'Dea, BA, LL.M, MBA, MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

On Friday 28th May, as President, I attended the Defence of Sydney Commemorative Service at North Head organized by the Australia Remembers Committee, representing our sub-Branch. Committee member, Vince Williams CSC, John Balfour OAM, and Peter McAskill, were also in attendance. We presented a Book Tribute, our sub-Branch book: Soldiers' Settlement, Frenchs Forest – Success or Failure? The Guest Speaker was Paul Kelly, an Australian political journalist, author and television and radio commentator.

Finally, for members who are Facebook users, you may not be aware that we have a Forestville RSL sub-Branch page, where we post interesting information on a daily basis. Do a search for our page, click on **LIKE**, then our page will show in your feed, and you will be able to access an interesting amount of additional information which we are unable to include in our monthly newsletters. We hope you **LIKE** it!

With the first month of winter officially upon us, please keep rugged up, and call us if you are in need.

Best Regards,
Bob Lunnon

What's On

General Meeting
7.30pm
Wednesday, 2nd June

General Meeting
7.30pm
Wednesday, 7th July



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: **398**

Sadly we report the passing of the following dear member:
MacBEAN, Errol Anthony ... RAF

We welcome new members:

FALCONER, Douglas ... NAVY
McGOWAN, Shannon ... NAVY
CERNAZ, Raoul ... ARMY
SIMMONS, Geoffrey ... ARMY

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



MEMORIAL PAVERS

Orders are now being taken for 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*

GUEST SPEAKER

General Meeting - June 2, 2021

As part of our Reaching Out initiative, our June General Meeting will have as our guest, CPOCD Kevin Paul. Kevin is a current serving Chief Petty Officer Clearance Diver (CD) of the Royal Australian Navy. In two years, the CD community has lost three former CDs to suicide. This lead Kevin, along with a group of current and former CDs and the Navy Clearance Diver Trust to develop the idea of establishing a facility similar to a Men's Shed. This facility would provide a place for Veterans to come together, learn new skills, build on themselves and gain a new sense of purpose.

In looking to provide a meeting place, they have a proposal which by combining with the Mosman RSL sub-Branch may enable them to obtain premises at the former Water Transport facility at Chowder Bay. Kevin will expand on this in his presentation. We are also privileged to have the Mosman SB President, CMDR Peter Watson JP RAN (Retd) joining us as well.



Congratulations

to our Committee Member and Ceremonial Officer, **John Balfour OAM**, who has now completed **50 years** as a Marshall for the RSL NSW Anzac Day March in Sydney. John is shown here in Elizabeth St with his son Steven on Anzac Day.



Our sub-Branch Secretary, **Vince Williams CSC**, gave an Anzac presentation to Terrey Hills Public School on 23rd April, as part of our **Reaching Out** activities.

RSL AUXILIARY

What a wonderful meeting we had in May with four spunky firemen, from Forestville Fire and Rescue, arriving to give a talk on Fire Safety and prevention around the home. Our ladies thought all their birthdays had come at once. It was a fun and informative afternoon and we did appreciate them giving up their time.

At the moment, you can book a **FREE** safety visit that will ensure you have a working smoke alarm. If your alarms need updating they will provide one **FREE** of charge, and provide you with a number of helpful fire safety tips. Call your local fire station to schedule a convenient time for them to visit.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 7th June** at 12.30pm, followed by lunch, so come along and join in the fun. Please let Rae know if you did not fill out a form at our May meeting and would like to come. If you have to cancel, please call 99727385 by Thursday 3rd June. Thank you for your cooperation. If anyone has a story that you would like to share, or know of anyone who would like to tell their story, we would love to hear

DATES TO REMEMBER: Monday 5th July meeting at 12.30pm followed by lunch.

For those ladies on the sick list, give me a call if you need assistance.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME: please call me on 94020882

Regards
Annie Betts
President



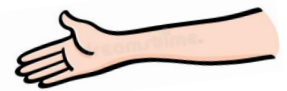
ANZAC DAWN SERVICE



2021



REACHING OUT ...



In line with the object of providing support to serving and retired ADF members who have a situation which falls outside normal ADF, DVA or other Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) , we are progressing as follows:

Unit Liaison

We have established contact with our three "local" units:

- HMAS Penguin
- 7Bty 9Regt RAA
- 2/17RNSWR

In each case we have a point of contact with HMAS Penguin having several units on the base and in the Sydney region. These need to be nurtured and to this end our 3 Wellbeing Support Officers (see below) will be the point of contact for the units.

Wellbeing Support Officers (WSO)

Three of our members have volunteered to become WSO's to fulfill the role outlined in the RSL NSW Strategic plan which we have mentioned before. However, the specific role for our particular sub-Branch is still being defined and should be sorted by next month. Of course, our Welfare Officer, **Stuart Hablethwaite**, is available as your point of contact for these issues.

Dates to Remember in 2021 (Subject to change)

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

June is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 1st June 1941 – AIF/NZ withdrawal from Crete commences
- 8th June 1941 – Allies invade Vichy Syria (7th Div)
- 21st June 1941 – Damascus captured
- 22nd June 1941 – Germans invade Russia

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 - Phone (02) 9451 1221
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Thursday: 0900 - 1200

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Widows Group
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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/my-service

Australian Death Notification Service

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