

The Returned & Services League of Australia

Forestville sub-Branch



Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of our Committee members and lady volunteer, 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 2022, full of hope and a new normal, whatever that may be!

First up, a reminder that from 2022 onwards, membership of our sub-Branch, RSL NSW and RSL Australia is fee free. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure your personal details, full contact details, and all Next of Kin details, are up to date at all times. The onus is on each member to ensure that all changes are advised to our Membership Officer by phone on 02-9451 1221, or by email at: membership@forestvillersl.org.au, including if you wish to rescind your membership for any reason. This is also because RSL NSW continues to pay an annual capitation fee to RSL Australia on behalf of all Active members. Your assistance with this is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to **Mervyn Whiting**, who was awarded an **OAM** on Australia Day. Well deserved, Mervyn!

Commemoration will always be a key plank of our sub-Branch activities, including our Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Commemorative services, as well as Commemoration Luncheons, our first this year on Sunday 20th February (see separate notice in this newsletter). Another key plank in our plans and activities in 2021, continuing through 2022 and onwards, is a Committee focus on our Reaching Out Initiative with the younger serving and ex-service community, especially those under 50. We will continue to align our sub-Branch Strategic Plan with the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021-2026 in these activities. We must continue this focus in order for the RSL, and our sub-Branch, to thrive and prosper, with a younger and more active cohort in our membership. Your support of these activities and initiatives is always appreciated.

The virtual RSL NSW 2021 State Congress and AGM on 6th and 7th December was attended by your President as voting delegate, and Vice President, Sandy Howard, as Alternate Delegate. Our own sub-Branch motion for a review by RSL Australia of the RSL Badge was lost with 62 for, and 117 against. This was an attempt to better position the RSL Badge, logo, and brand with our contemporary service and ex-service men and women as potential members of the RSL, now and into the future. This was also a part of our Reaching Out Initiative with the under 50s cohort, as mentioned above. Further details on Congress and AGM outcomes are available on the RSL NSW website, and have been included in Board communications directly with you as members.

We thank our RSL Auxiliary for their annual fundraising efforts in conjunction with the Anzac Appeal on Anzac Day and the Poppy Appeal on Remembrance Day in 2021, raising a total of \$4659.50. Funds raised will be donated to RSL DefenceCare, which is now part of RSL LifeCare operations, focused on lifetime wellbeing and welfare support of veterans and their families, DVA claims and appeals support, and employment/housing/financial assistance.

Our RSL Auxiliary and Widows groups are keen to become more active in 2022 now we are all in a better position to plan events and activities, subject to restrictions. Our Committee members also thank RSL Auxiliary President, Annie Betts, for very kindly preparing and delivering a delicious Morning Tea of home-made cookies and brownies to our sub-Branch Office on Thursday 9th December. We appreciate it very much, Annie!

It was with great sadness that we reported the passing on 5th January of our oldest member, Sidney John Hollings ARMY (UK). Sid was 102, and we had celebrated his 100th birthday at our Christmas Luncheon in December 2019, along with his family members. Sid's funeral was at Macquarie Park on Thursday 13th January, where he was accorded an RSL Tribute. RIP, Sid.

The months ahead are looking to be very busy indeed, subject to restrictions, so please refer to page 4 of your newsletter for "Dates to Remember in 2022" and note your diaries accordingly, be they digital or manual. If you haven't already done so, get your COVID booster shot. Drink lots of water during our end-of summer period. As always, call us if in need.

Regards
Bob Lunnnon

What's On

General Meeting
7.30pm - Wednesday
2nd February, 2022

Commemoration Luncheon
11.30am for 12 noon
Sunday, 20th February
2022

AGM
7.30pm Wednesday
2nd March, 2022



In this issue

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**CLUB COVID-19 SAFETY
PLANS IN PLACE....!**

Membership

Membership totals: **380**

Sadly we report the passing of the following dear members:

RODIE Keith ... Associate
KOL Adrian John ... Dutch Army
HOLLINGS Sidney John ... Army (UK)

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

Our Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens

MEMORIAL PAVERS

Orders are now being taken for Anzac Day & will close on the
17th March 2022

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.



IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For all Membership enquiries please get in touch with our **Membership Officer:** membership@forestvillersl.org.au

For any **Changes to Membership** details please see following:

From 2022, there are no membership fees payable to be a member of RSL NSW and RSL Australia. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure your personal details, full contact details, and all Next of Kin details, are up to date at all times. All changes should be advised to our Membership Officer via phone **02-9451 1221** or email : membership@forestvillersl.org.au including if you wish to rescind your membership for any reason.

“EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PREVENTING SUICIDE”

OPEN ARMS – VETERANS AND FAMILIES COUNSELLING OPERATION LIFE: SUICIDE ALERTNESS FOR EVERYONE (safeTALK)

Most people with thoughts of suicide signal their distress and invite help. If these opportunities are missed, dismissed or avoided they can leave people more alone and at greater risk. In safeTALK you will learn how to become more alert to suicide prevention opportunities and how to offer help.

WHEN: 03 March 2022 FROM 1300-1700
WHERE: Forestville RSL Club
REGISTER: Please call 1 800 011 046 and specify the 03
March Forestville safeTALK event.

WELFARE SERVICES

The sub-Branch can help by providing visits and support and assisting in the reaching out to relevant services & associations eg if a member is suffering post-surgery depression our Welfare Officer can visit and where possible put the member in touch with former unit associations for further contact. The sub-Branch will seek to be supportive and compassionate with situations not covered through DVA. Members and their partners are encouraged to contact our Welfare Officer to discuss medical or personal issues so we can provide assistance or direction.

For assistance during office hours (Monday and Thursday)
contact our Welfare and Funeral Officer, Stu Hablethwaite,
9451 1221 or by email: welfare@forestvillersl.org.au

For urgent after hours contact call mobile: 0402 626 485
Your confidentiality is assured.



Computer scams are on the rise!

Beware of scammers and scams that can trick you into making costly mistakes.

Keep up to date by visiting:

www.scamwatch.gov.au

RSL AUXILIARY

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.

The Committee and I have decided to cancel our February meeting, to give everyone more time to have their booster shot. We are hoping everything will be settling down by March.
New members are always welcome, please give me a call on 99020882.

Subject to restrictions, our next meeting will be on Monday 7th March at 1.00pm, which is our AGM followed by our General Meeting and afternoon Tea. We would like you to call Rae on 99727385 to advise if you are able to attend, by Thursday 3rd March.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.

Anyone wishing to join the Committee, nomination forms will be available at our meeting.
The Committee and I are looking forward to seeing you all and catching up on your news.

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

Regards
President Annie

WIDOWS GROUP

Christmas and New Year are over, I hope each of you had a great time with your family and friends, and Santa was good to you!

A New Year, and new activities, our first meeting should be Monday 21st February but, at the present time, the COVID situation is causing a lot of concern everywhere. I feel we should wait and see how the next couple of weeks go. I will let everyone know towards the end of January. Everyone's health is very important, and please don't forget to get your booster shot in readiness.

We look forward to continuing support from the sub-Branch and Club, we appreciated their assistance during 2021. Thank you!

On a sad note, our member Jill Tooth passed away over Christmas. Jill had been a member for 15 years, and enjoyed coming to our meetings. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family members. RIP, Jill.

We have a few ladies not so well, we wish you all a safe and speedy recovery.

Regards,
Margaret Campbell, President

EDUCATION GRANTS AWARDS NIGHT



Congratulations to Oliver Miller, Luci Gibbs, Lexi Slatter, Max Johnstone and Indigo Steggles and thanks to our *Education Grants sub-Committee* of John Scifleet and Kevin Leary, led by John Balfour OAM.



DOG DAY OUT !

Join us to honour
PURPLE POPPY DAY

For: members and friends of Forestville RSL sub-Branch and their dogs (on leads).

When: 10.00am - 24th February 2022

Come along with your dog and enjoy a group walk followed by Morning Tea in the dog park, which is located behind the Club!



New member, **Scott Reynolds**, with his Assistance Dog "Reggie" receiving his Australian Sports Medal.

Scott was inducted into the Forestville RSL sub-Branch at our General Meeting on 1st December 2021.

Everyman's



**Serving the
Australian Defence
Force since 1940**

Everymans publish a monthly newsletter 'On Patrol'.
A hard copy is available in the sub-Branch for anyone to read.

To arrange a subscription or view online via:

www.everymans.org.au

Forestville RSL sub-Branch

COMMEMORATION LUNCHEON

Sunday 20 February 2022

11.30am for 12.00 at the Forestville RSL Club

TICKET ONLY EVENT – LIMITED NUMBERS APPLY
COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN IN PLACE



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

TICKETS:

on sale from the sub-Branch desk in the Club Foyer at 9.15am on Thursday 27th January, then afterwards from the sub-Branch office. **You will be asked to provide full name(s), your Club membership number/s, & mobile contact number/s when you pay (to comply with COVID-19 requirements); as well as proof of full vaccination by Digital Certificate, or a letter from your medical professional.** You can select your Table when you book.

NOTE:

Please contact our Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, for further details and pre-bookings at: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au; or by phone during office hours (Mon & Thu) on: 02-94511221.

NUMBERS:

ticket numbers will depend upon COVID-19 rules in place at the time.

COST:

\$40 per person cash, or by direct debit through online banking by Thursday 10th February latest to Forestville RSL sub-Branch BSB: 062 170, account number: 0080 0042, with a reference stating CL and your surname, for example: "CL Lunnon"; and EFTPOS is also now available.

MENU:

a three course meal will be served (with alternates on each course) with refreshments and lucky door prizes.

BUS:

a bus will operate from 10.30am until 4pm. Bookings are to be made personally at Club Reception or by phoning 9451 1011.

DRESS:

Jacket and Tie for Gentlemen; Semi-Formal for Ladies.

PLEASE NOTE: there will be NO ENTRY to the Dining Room prior to 11.30am.

Dates to Remember in 2022

Wednesday 2nd February 2022	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 20th February 2022	*	11.30am for 12 noon Commemoration Luncheon
Wednesday 2nd March 2022	*	7.30pm - AGM
Wednesday 06 April 2022	*	7.30 pm Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 24 April 2022	*	2.40pm Anzac Service & Street March
Monday 25 April 2022	*	5.30am Anzac Day Dawn Service
Wednesday 04 May 2022	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 01 June 2022	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 06 July 2022	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 03 August 2022	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 14 August 2022	*	11.30am for 12noon Commemoration Luncheon
Wednesday 07 September 2022	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 05 October 2022	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Monday 17 October 2022	*	12noon RSL sub-Branch Widows Luncheon
Wednesday 02 November 2022	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Friday 11 November 2022	*	10.30am Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday 16 November 2022	*	11.30am for 12noon RSL Anzac Village - War Veterans Luncheon
Sunday 04 December 2022	*	11.30am for 12noon Christmas Luncheon
Wednesday 07 December 2022	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting

Significant Anniversaries

February is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

15th February 1942 – Fall of Singapore
19th February 1942 – First Japanese air raid of Darwin
20th February 1942 – Japanese land on Timor

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:

sub-Branch Office

Office - Phone (02) 9451 1221
Hours:
Monday 0900 - 1200 / 1245 - 1400
Thursday: 0900 - 1200

Secretary & General Enquiries:
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RSL Auxilliary
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Phone: 9402 0882
Mobile: 0478 044 566

Widows Group
President: Margaret Campbell
Phone: 9452 5561

*"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 Australia:

<http://www.veteranscentre.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/>

Scamwatch

www.scamwatch.gov.au