



Forestville RSL sub-Branch

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2023

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 all of our friends and associates, for a happy and healthy 2023, full of hope and new beginnings!

First up, a reminder that from 2022 onwards, membership to be a member of our sub-Branch, RSL NSW and RSL Australia is now 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, the onus is on you.

Commemoration will always be a key plank of our sub-Branch activities, including our Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Commemorative services, as well as our Commemoration Luncheon. Another key plank in our plans and activities in 2023 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, especially with organisations such as Saltwater Veterans, which is very active with sport and recreation activities for veterans on the Northern Beaches. 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, including encouraging younger veterans to become RSL Service 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, and other activities such as the Fashion Parade on 21st November. These activities raised a total of \$13,797.74 in 2022, a wonderful result. Funds raised were donated to the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund, especially to RSL LifeCare Veterans Services.

As a result of the recent Royal Commission into veterans health and wellbeing and high suicide rates, our sub-Branches on the Northern Beaches are now jointly focused on raising funds to support RSL LifeCare Veterans Services to establish a Veterans Wellbeing Centre in Dee Why RSL Club as soon as possible in 2023. This Centre will assist veterans with lifetime wellbeing support, DVA claims and advocacy, employment, homelessness, housing, financial and sport and recreation support. A primary objective is to support the under 50s cohort of veterans transitioning out of the ADF, many of whom decide to reside on the Northern Beaches to be part of the lifestyle which we all enjoy. Part of that objective is also to attract these veterans as members of the RSL, in order to reduce our overall average age of membership.

The months ahead are looking to be very busy indeed, subject to any possible restrictions, so please refer to page 4 of your newsletter for "Dates to Remember in 2023" and note your diaries accordingly, be they digital or manual. If you haven't already done so, make sure your COVID booster shots are up to date. Drink lots of water during our end-of summer period. As always, call us if in need.

Best Regards, **Bob Lunnon**

What's On

General Meeting

Wednesday 1st February
2023
7.30pm
*

Purple Poppy Day
Friday 24th February
10am
*

AGM
Wednesday 1st March 2023
7.30pm



In this issue

- Membership Update
- RSL Auxiliary
- Dates to Remember
- Significant Anniversaries
- Contact details
- Pre-paid Pavers
- SCAMWATCH
- Membership
- AGM Notice
- Committee Nominations
- Education Grants
- Merchant Navy
- Service Quilt
- Roy Taylor—100
- Club Meeting
- Purple Poppy Day

Please consider the environment. Receive your Newsletter via Email.

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

Membership

Membership totals: 416 (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly, we report the passing of the following dear members:

FORSYTH Thea Pauline	RAAF
BRAITHWAITE Ronald Stanley	ARMY
Capt. TOMLINSON John Humphrey	M NAVY/NAVY
REED , William Frederick	RAF
ANDREW , George Hampton	RAAF
MULLINS , Ernest John	RAN
HARDMAN , OAM William Herbert	ARMY
WILSON , Norman John	ARMY

We welcome new members:

FERREIRA , Maria Virginia	RSL Auxiliary
PALMER , Shirley, Emma	RSL Auxiliary
DAGG , Diana Ausilia	RSL Auxiliary
HUMPHRYIS , Benjamin Ian	ARMY

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

Our Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens

MEMORIAL PAVERS



Please note Orders are being taken for



Anzac Day 2023

Orders close Monday 13th March

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.

AGM 2023 COMMITTEE NOMINATION PROCESS

Nomination forms available December 1st 2022

Nominations close 31st January 2023

AGM: Wednesday 1st March 2023

February 2023 Newsletter: Includes list of nominations received

AGM: Wednesday 1st March 2023

AGM: Wednesday 1st March, 7.30pm – ballots as necessary

Nominations received:

President: Bob Lunnon
Vice President: Sandy Howard
Secretary: Vince Williams CSC
Treasurer: Ted Samojlowicz
Asst Secretary: Kevin Leary
Membership: Peter McAskill JP
Ceremonial: John Balfour OAM JP
Welfare: Stuart Hablethwaite
Schools Liaison: John Scifleet

The AGM Agenda will be posted on the sub-Branch website by the 14th February 2023

RSL AUXILIARY

Welcome to 2023. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for the year ahead.

Our first General Meeting is on **Monday 6th February at 11am**, followed by a light lunch. Bookings are essential – **please book by Thursday 2nd February latest.**

Our sub-Branch Committee has appointed Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, as your RSL Auxiliary contact for bookings. Please contact Kevin by email on: auxiliary@forestvillersl.org.au; or by phone on 02-9451 1221 during office hours - on Mondays 9am to 2pm, or Thursdays 9am to 12noon.

As previously advised, a Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator will be appointed by the RSL Auxiliary members at this meeting. We encourage you to consider nominating for either position by Thursday 2nd February. Forms were mailed to you in December however, should you require another, please contact Kevin Leary.

New members are invited to join the Auxiliary through our sub-Branch Membership Officer, Peter McAskill, at 9451 1221 during the office hours listed above, or by email at: membership@forestvillersl.org.au.



CONGRATULATIONS, ROY TAYLOR! 100 NOT OUT ON SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 2022

We were delighted that you could join us for our Christmas Fundraising Luncheon on Sunday 4th December 2022, so we could all help celebrate your 100th birthday with you. **Congratulations, Roy!**

MERCHANT NAVY CHAPTER

**Welcomed to our sub-Branch at General Meeting
Wednesday 7th December**

In the presence of Ray James OAM, President, RSL NSW, it was a memorable moment for our sub-Branch at our General Meeting on Wednesday 7th December. We welcomed members of the former Merchant Navy sub-Branch as the very first Chapter of our sub-Branch. In attendance were the Immediate Past President, Don Kennedy OAM, who is also Patron of our sub-Branch; and Merrill Barker, Immediate Past Secretary, who is now Merchant Navy Chapter Coordinator who also attends our sub-Branch Committee Meetings in his new role. On behalf of the Merchant Navy Chapter, Merrill presented our sub-Branch with a Red Ensign (pictured below).



FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB INC.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING AT 7pm – VIEW ROOM

Wednesday, 1st February 2023

Sub-Branch members who are also Club members will have received notice from Forestville RSL Club Inc. of a Special General Meeting to consider and vote on changes to the Club's constitution. In the existing constitution, Club members elect the President and Vice President, as well as five Board Directors.

During 2022, when the President resigned, and the Vice President subsequently resigned, unanticipated issues arose. These issues could have been mitigated if the Club's constitution was more in line with other Club constitutions in place throughout NSW.

There are many clauses in the Club's constitution to be changed to resolve this, however the reason is simple. That is, to have Club Members vote for the 7 Board Director positions, and then have the Board Directors elect from those 7 a President and a Vice President.

Only Club Life Members and sub-Branch members are entitled to vote on these recommended changes to the Club's constitution. Also, importantly, to be able to vote as a sub-Branch member, your Club membership card should show the word RSL under your name. If not, you should visit Club Reception before the meeting to have your Club membership card changed.

The Special General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 1st February 2023 in the View Room. 20 members entitled to vote are required to ensure a quorum, under the constitution. This meeting will be followed by the sub-Branch General Meeting which commences at 7.30PM in the Forest Room. Your attendance at both meetings is encouraged.

Tony Mooney, JP, President
Ian Thomson, CEO
Forestville RSL Club Inc.

Bob Lunnon
President
Forestville RSL sub-Branch

2022 REMEMBRANCE DAY EDUCATION GRANTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

At our General Meeting on Wednesday 7th December, Year 6 entrants in our Remembrance Day Education Grants (RDEG) program for 2022 made their presentations, with our RDEG Coordinator and Ceremonial Officer, John Balfour OAM, as MC. Winners received their certificate from Ray James OAM, President, RSL NSW. Each winner also received a \$2000 grant, for use in purchasing a laptop and uniform for Year 7 in 2023.

Our worthy winners, who each made excellent presentations, were : **Billy Lowe, Beacon Hill Primary; Toby Fowke, Killarney Heights Public; and Ava Simpson, Allambie Heights Public Schools.**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE QUILT PRESENTATION

Don Kennedy OAM, Patron
Forestville RSL sub-Branch

GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 7th
DECEMBER 2022

Pauline James OAM, Coordinator, RSL NSW Auxiliaries, was in attendance at our General Meeting on Wednesday 7th December. Pauline presented Don Kennedy OAM with his Thank You For Your Service Quilt. Don, our sub-Branch Patron, and a WWII veteran, was accompanied by his wife, Wynne, also a veteran. Ray James OAM, President, RSL NSW, was also in attendance to thank Don for his service to RSL NSW, and RSL Australia. Well done, Don!



PURPLE POPPY DAY 10am Thursday, 24th February 2023

PURPLE POPPY DOG PERAMBULATION



Since 2019, 24th February each year has been designated as Australia's War Animal Day, to be known as Purple Poppy Day, commemorating the deeds and sacrifices of our war animals serving alongside our troops. On this day, we are all encouraged to wear a purple poppy in remembrance of our four-legged and feathered diggers who also fought and died.

Our commemoration on Thursday 24th February, hosted by our sub-Branch, will be in the form of a gentle Purple Poppy Dog Perambulation, commencing in the Club carpark at 10am, along the Anzac Memorial Pathway and the Northern Pathway, to the Purple Poppy Dog Park adjacent to the Club, and returning to the Club around 10.45am for morning tea in the Club Bistro area. Bring your dog on a leash, cat, or favourite animal. All are welcome.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL, PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LAST DAY TO BOOK IS THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY through our Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, by email on: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au ; or by phone on 02-9451 1221 during office hours on Mondays (9am to 2pm) or Thursdays (9am to 12noon).

The naming of the Purple Poppy Dog Park was approved by Northern Beaches Council in November 2022, following a request from our sub-Branch earlier in the year, as our contribution to the commemoration of War Animal Day. The Purple Poppy Dog Park off-leash dog area is of course part of the Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields, which are so much part of our sub-Branch history since 1962.



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

Dates to Remember in 2023 (Subject to change)

Wednesday 1 st February 2023	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Friday 24 th February 2023	*	Purple Poppy Day
Wednesday 1 st March 2023	*	7.30pm - AGM
Wednesday 5 th April 2023	*	7.30 pm Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 23 rd April 2023	*	2.40pm Anzac Sunday Street March & Service
Tuesday 25 th April 2023	*	5.30am Anzac Day Dawn Service
Wednesday 3 rd May 2023	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 7 th June 2023	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 5 th July 2023	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 2 nd August 2023	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Sunday 13 th August 2023	*	11.30am for 12noon Commemoration Luncheon
Monday 4 th September 2023	*	11.30am for 12pm RSL Auxiliary 69 th Birthday Luncheon
Wednesday 6 th September 2023	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 4 th October 2023	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Wednesday 1 st November 2023	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 11 th November 2023	*	10.30am Remembrance Day Service
Sunday 3 rd December 2023	*	11.30am for 12noon Christmas Fundraising Luncheon
Wednesday 6 th December 2023	*	7.30pm Monthly General Meeting

Significant Anniversaries

February is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

1 st February, 1943	last elements of 2AIF leave the Middle East theatre
26 th February, 1943	fight for WAU ends

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

If you do not have an email address, you could have a family member or neighbour receive your newsletter by email and pass it onto you.

We appreciate your cooperation!

*“And the world is a little poorer, for a soldier died today”
...Lest We Forget...*



sub-Branch Office

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

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RSL Auxilliary
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Chapter Co-Ordinator: Merrill Barker
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Useful Links

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

Military History Society of NSW

www.militaryhistorynsw.com.au