



RSL NSW

ANZAC DAY 2023



Forestville RSL sub-Branch

NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

APRIL, 2023

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March is always a busy month for your Committee with preparations for our Anzac Sunday March and Service on 23rd April, and Anzac Dawn Service on Tuesday 25th April. These are well under way, in conjunction with the Forestville RSL Club. Further details are available in this newsletter. Members are encouraged to spread the word about our two commemoration services with your families, friends, and neighbours. We are keen to increase attendance to pre-COVID levels as quickly as possible.

We are pleased to see more families requesting an RSL Tribute at the funeral of their loved one, as part of our welfare services to members. We continue to receive very positive feedback from families on how memorable and meaningful an RSL Tribute is, to have their service recognised in this way. It is also good to see more of our members attending these funerals as a mark of respect to our mates who have passed on. Our Patron, Don Kennedy OAM, at 96 years of age, attends nearly every funeral. Thanks, Don!

At our AGM on 1st March, our 2020/2023 Committee members were all re-elected unopposed for 2023/2026. Our Committee is cohesive, collegiate, and cooperative. Congratulations to each of our Committee members and, on behalf of all of our members, many thanks for your ongoing Committee service and your commitment to our sub-Branch and our members.

Our sub-Branch hosted the AGM of the Northern Beaches District Council (NBDC) on Tuesday 21st March at Forestville RSL Club. This is an increasingly important part of our overall sub-Branch operations across the Forest area and the Northern Beaches. At this meeting, I was re-elected unopposed as NBDC President and Vince Williams CSC, also our sub-Branch Secretary, was re-elected unopposed as NBDC Secretary. At our sub-Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 1st March, we also endorsed myself and Vince Williams CSC as our NBDC Delegates, and Sandy Howard and Ted Samojlowicz as Alternate Delegates. Well done, well served, Gentlemen! Between Vince Williams CSC, Sandy Howard and me, we also attended the AGMs of all of our sister sub-Branches on the Northern Beaches, a necessary part of our NBDC duties.

At our AGM on Wednesday 1st March, our members endorsed our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, as our RSL Auxiliary Coordinator until such times when a Coordinator comes forward from among our RSL Auxiliary members. Our RSL Auxiliary will be undertaking their normal fundraising activities before and on Anzac Sunday and Anzac Day. Please ensure you support them by purchasing the merchandise they are offering. All funds raised by our RSL Auxiliary will be donated by our sub-Branch to the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund, supporting veterans programs throughout NSW.

On Thursday 16th March, I also attended the District Presidents Council (DPC) meeting at Anzac House, representing NBDC, with other District Council Presidents attending either in person or online through Teams, a five hour marathon meeting. This DPC meeting was followed by a three hour joint DPC and RSL NSW Board meeting. Both were very productive meetings, very much focusing on the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021/2026, including all of the elements included in the plan.

We have introduced a monthly sub-Branch walking group on the third Wednesday of each month, with the next walk group to take place on Wednesday 19th April commencing from the entrance of the Forestville RSL Club at 9.45am, followed by morning tea/coffee in the Club. Further details are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please let us know at the sub-Branch Office if you are need of welfare assistance, that's why we are here. Best wishes to all.

Best Regards,

What's On

General Meeting
Wednesday 5th April 2023
7.30pm

**Anzac Sunday March
& Service**
Sunday 23rd April 2023

Anzac Dawn Service
Tuesday 25th April 2023



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Please consider the environment. Receive your Newsletter via Email.

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

Membership

Membership totals: 408 (plus 6 Honorary members)
Sadly, we report the passing of the following dear member:
RELPH, Richard Edward RAAF
We welcome new members:
LITTLE CSM Jason NAVY/SWV
BELL Mathew Ryan ARMY/SWV
CAMPBELL John Robert NAVY
RENNIE Marc Francis NAVY/SWV
Resigned:
FLINT, Caryl RSL Auxiliary
SMITH, Margaret RSL Auxiliary
MILLYNN, Ann RSL Auxiliary



Our Cenotaph and Memorial

Gardens

MEMORIAL PAVERS

New pavers have been ordered and will be laid prior to Anzac Day. Orders can now be placed for laying prior to

Remembrance Day

Prepaid Pavers:

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



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

Forestville RSL sub-Branch COMMITTEE ELECTION 2023/2026

Congratulations to our new Committee for 2023/2026, all re-elected on 1st March, 2023 unopposed:

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 Sciffleet
Merchant Navy Chapter: Merrill Barker

AUSTRALIA MY COUNTRY (AMC)

* APPEAL FOR HELP *

The 2023 **AMC** is well underway and the students of our area Primary schools have been invited to participate. It's a great topic "**Australian Defence Force involvement in Disaster Relief Operations**", so there is plenty of scope for imaginative entries.

While the schools are coordinating their students' participation, we would very much appreciate it if you could let your friends, children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, who go to primary school in the Forest area, know about the competition and encourage their participation. More information is available on our website at www.forestvillersl.org.au/Schools/AMC but please note that **entries close on Friday 12th May 2023.**

WALKING GROUPS

***** NEXT WALKING GROUP ON 19th APRIL AT 0945 *****

Sport & Recreation Activities for sub-Branch Members

As Part of RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021/2026: Our first sub-Branch walking group activity took place on Wednesday 15th March, from the Forestville RSL Club at 0930 for around 40/45 minutes, covering around 3.5kms. It was a gentle walk to Killarney Heights Oval and back, followed by morning coffee/tea in the Club's Bistro/Pickets area (depending on the weather). This group was led by our sub-Branch Secretary, Vince Williams CSC, an erstwhile walker and dog walker, with Rajah in tow. Our next walking group activity will be on Wednesday 19th April at 0945 from the Club entrance. All sub-Branch and Auxiliary members and partners, and dogs on a leash, are welcome to join us for another gentle walk, followed by coffee/tea in the Club, hosted by the sub-Branch. We hope you can join us in support of our collective and individual wellbeing, health and camaraderie.

RSL AUXILIARY

Our next General Meeting is on Monday 3rd April, commencing at 1pm with a light lunch, followed by our meeting at 1.30pm. Bookings are essential – please book by Thursday 30th March latest. Members who confirmed at the March luncheon have had your names entered for April, so please ensure you let us know if you will now not be attending.

Our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary, and our RSL Auxiliary Coordinator, Kevin Leary, is 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. At the sub-Branch AGM on Wednesday 1st March, members endorsed Kevin Leary as RSL Auxiliary Coordinator, until such times as an RSL Auxiliary member is willing to assume this role. On 8th March, on International Women's Day, three of our members attended the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park to commemorate Australian Women's Wartime Service. A short film depicted nurses from 1915, concluding with a live performance of "*Devoted Service*". A special Star Ceremony at 11am with names of women, followed in the Hall of Memory. An original handmade RSL "Women's Auxiliary" banner was recently found by a demolition worker in Balmain and it was officially presented to the Anzac Memorial for exhibition in the Museum.

Pictured with the banner are our members Shirley Kellock, Jackie Pretti and Barbara Lunnon, with RSL NSW President, Ray James OAM, and Pauline James OAM, State Coordinator of RSL NSW Auxiliaries.

If you can assist with prizes for our Easter raffle, please get in touch with Jackie Pretti or Barbara Lunnon; or leave them with Kevin Leary in the sub-Branch office on Mondays 9am to 2pm, or Thursdays 9am to 12noon. New members are always welcome to join our RSL 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.



ANZAC SERVICES 2023



ANZAC SUNDAY MARCH AND SERVICE

23rd APRIL 2023

2.15pm FOR 2.40pm ANZAC SUNDAY MARCH
FORESTVILLE MEMORIAL HALL, STARKEY STREET
2.45pm FOR 3pm ANZAC SUNDAY SERVICE
AT THE CENOTAPH — FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB
ANZAC SUNDAY SERVICE COMMENCES AT 3pm

At the conclusion of the Service, the sub-Branch will be providing post-Service hospitality in the Club for attendees.

The Club Bus will operate from 1.30pm to 2.15pm, and from 4pm to 5pm. Bookings are to be made personally at Club Reception or by phoning Club Reception on 9451 1011.

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2023

5.25am FOR 5.35am
ON TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2023
AT THE CENOTAPH — FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

Breakfast will be provided for all attendees after the service concludes at 6.15am until 7.30am

Purple Poppy Day

Thursday 24th February 2023

PURPLE POPPY DAY 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, was 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 Pickets. Nearly half of the walkers were our RSL Auxiliary members!

We were delighted that our Northern Beaches Council Mayor, and local Councillor, Michael Regan, was able to join us, to unveil the one of the three new signs Council has erected at the Purple Poppy Dog Park, commemorating Animals in War with a description of the Canine Operational Service Medal and including an image of the medal. Thanks, Mayor Regan.

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



Forestville RSL sub-Branch

RATHMINES RAAF CATALINA BASE & LAKE MACQUARIE TOUR

Tuesday 23rd May, 2023

*For sub-Branch members and partners and RSL
Auxiliary members*

Full day includes:

- *Morning tea on the base*
- *Two course lunch at Rathmines Bowling Club, with welcome drink*
- *Guided tour of the 50 hectare base by bus, and some walking*
- *Sightseeing around the western side of Lake Macquarie*
- *Luxury coach transport*
- *Departing at 8am sharp from the lower car park, please be there by 7.45am latest*
- *Returning around 5pm*

Numbers limited to maximum 50

COST: \$50 per person (heavily subsidised by the sub-Branch)

TICKETS: on sale from the sub-Branch office at 9.30am on Monday 3rd April and after, or contact our Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, on 9451 1221, or by email asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au, during office hours on Mondays (0900/1400) and Thursdays (0900/1200)

CANCELLATIONS: no refunds after Wednesday 17th May

PAYMENT: by cash, or EFTPOS



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 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	*	5.25am 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

April Significant Anniversaries

- 12th Apr 1918 – Battle of Hazebrouck (12-15)
- 14th Apr 1943 – Milne Bay 77th, 75th Sqns. RAAF and a US Sqn shoot down 21 Japanese for loss of two
- 23rd Apr 1918 – Eleven volunteers from HMAS Australia in raid on Ostend & Zeebrugge
- 23rd Apr 43 – HQ 3 Div established at Bulolo
- 24th Apr 1918 – Second battle of Villers-Bretonneux (24-25)
- 26th Apr 53 – Cease fire talks resumed in Panmunjon

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

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Monday 0900 - 1200 / 1245 - 1400

Thursday: 0900 - 1200

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