



RSL NSW



Australia My Country

Forestville sub-Branch

NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

FEBRUARY, 2024

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 2024, full of hope and new beginnings!

First up, a reminder that membership is fee-free, to be a member of our sub-Branch, 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. 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, please.

Commemoration will always be a key plank of our sub-Branch activities, including our Purple Poppy Day commemorating Animals in War, Anzac Sunday, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Commemorative services, as well as our Commemoration Luncheon. Another key plank in our plans and activities in 2024 continues to be 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. This includes organisations such as the Northern Beaches Veterans Wellbeing Centre (NBVWC) in Dee Why managed by RSL LifeCare Veterans Services; and 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 RSL NSW, 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 NSW members.

The NBVWC located in Dee Why RSL Club assists veterans on the Northern Beaches 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 our RSL sub-Branches on the Northern Beaches, in order to reduce our overall average age of membership.

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 27th September 2023. Funds raised were donated to the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund, especially to support the NBVWC in Dee Why.

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 2024" 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 7th February
2024
7.30pm

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 6th March
2024
7.30pm



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Please consider the environment. Receive your Newsletter via Email.

Membership

Membership totals: **390** (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly we have lost the following member:

PERRY Harry Ernest ... RAAF

We welcome new Member:

MORRIS Donald Victor ... RAAF



Our Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens

MEMORIAL PAVERS

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

Please note: Orders for pavers for Anzac Day are now being taken and will close Monday 13th March 2024. The pavers will be in place before Anzac Day.

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:

It is your responsibility to ensure your NOK contact details are correct and up to date. We therefore ask that you constantly ensure our Membership Officer is always aware of both your primary NOK contact details (eg your partner), as well as your secondary NOK contact details (eg a family member such as a son or daughter), are always correct.

All changes should be advised to our Membership Officer via phone **9451 1221** or email : membership@forestvillersl.org.au including if you wish to rescind your membership for any reason.

GUEST SPEAKERS PROGRAM FOR 2024

MEMBER FEEDBACK REQUESTED

At our first General Meeting for 2024 on Wednesday 7th February we will be asking members for your suggestions on the types of guest speakers you would like to hear from during the year. Please give this your consideration and come prepared to share your thoughts, including the names and contact details of specific speakers, where appropriate. We look forward to hearing all of your suggestions

SALTWATER VETERANS SAILING PROJECT



www.saltwaterveterans.org/sailing-project

To acknowledge the incredible support Saltwater Veterans has received from fellow Forestville RSL sub-Branch members, Saltwater Veterans extends to you complimentary membership of our Salty sailing community. Please use this link, join the crew, and enter Discount Code: FORESTVILLE (must be in capitals): <https://www.saltwaterveterans.org/sailing-project>.

Happy sailing everyone!

RSL AUXILIARY

Our next General Meeting is on **Monday 5th February 2024** at the regular start time of 1pm, beginning with a light lunch. As advised in the Forestville RSL sub-Branch President's email on 4th December 2023, Barbara Norton and Barbara Lunnon will be your Co-Coordinator from February 2024. Kevin Leary will now give his full attention to his increasing responsibilities in the sub-Branch. Kevin Leary will no longer be taking bookings/cancellations.

All bookings/cancellations for our meetings are now to be made through Barbara Norton at mobile 0414 415 432, or email: barian@optusnet.com.au.

For our 5th February meeting/catering purposes, all bookings and cancellations must be made no later than 12noon on Thursday 1st February.

New members are always welcome to join our RSL Auxiliary and are asked to complete a membership application form which can be obtained from Barbara Norton, as above, or at our next meeting. We look forward to seeing you all then.

PURPLE POPPY DAY

Commemorating Animals in War

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH

Purple Poppy Day Dog Walking Group

Saturday 24th February, 9.45am for 10am
from the Club, followed by morning tea in the Club

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH WALKING GROUP WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY AT 9.45am FOR 10am

Our next Walking Group activity will be on Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 9.45am for 10am from Glen Street Theatre, followed by morning tea hosted by the sub-Branch. All sub-Branch members and partners, and dogs on a leash, are encouraged to join us for a gentle walk, as part of RSL NSW Sport and Recreation activities. We look forward to seeing you, in support of our individual wellbeing, health and camaraderie.

**RSL NSW SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES
FOR SUB-BRANCH MEMBERS**

**FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH
REMEMBRANCE DAY EDUCATION GRANTS
AWARDS PRESENTATION 2023**

**General Meeting
Wednesday 6th December 2023**

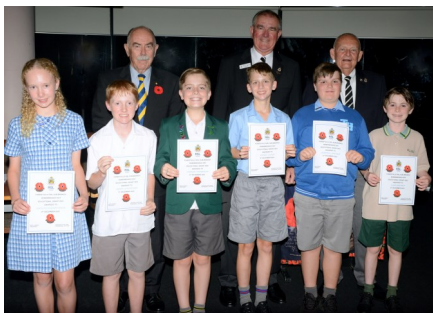
At our General Meeting on Wednesday 6th December, we presented six local Year 6 students with their Remembrance Day Education Grant certificates and a \$2000 contribution towards the costs of entering High School in 2024.

They were (from left to right):

Caitlin Downey-Price – Wakehurst Public School
Henry Johnstone – Mimosa Public School
Jordan Thompson - Mimosa Public School
Daniel Clegg – Belrose Public School
Campbell Walker – Terrey Hills Public School
Luke Hinchey – OLGC, Forestville

Each made a three minute presentation, including their recollections of a close veteran family member.

We are truly blessed to have these students rising through our local public schools system and wish them well with their High School studies.



FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH

AGM - 6th March 2024 - 7.30 pm

FOREST ROOM, FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

The agenda will be posted on the sub-Branch website by 13th February 2024

**FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH - CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
General Meeting, Wednesday 6th December 2023**

Awarded to Vincent Hardy Williams, CSC



Citation and details of Service rendered are: for six years of dedicated service **Vincent Hardy Williams, CSC** is a deserved recipient of an RSL NSW Certificate of Appreciation, as follows:

- joined on 16th April 2007 as a Service member, elected to the Committee on 6th September 2017
- initiated the Remembrance Day Education Grants program
- organised the revamping of the sub-Branch library
- focused our Australia My Country competition for primary schools on Australia's military history
- initiated the acquisition and dedication of two WW1 commemorative benches marking the centenary of the Battle of Hamel on 4th July 2018
- elected on 4th March 2020 as Honorary Secretary - including the smooth running of all commemorative events
- wrote briefs recommending a review of the RSL badge
- initiated modifications to the RSL Funeral Tribute
- introduced a sub-Branch Code of Conduct and disciplinary process
- initiated the introduction of honorary membership of the sub-Branch to local dignitaries
- initiated and managed the Purple Poppy Dog Park project that commemorates the role of animals in war

On 16th May 2022 he was elected as Secretary of the Northern Beaches District Council of RSL sub-Branches (NBDC). He has been responsible for revamping the business processes of the NBDC to align them with the processes of RSL NSW and to coordinate the activities of the NBDC sub-Branches more closely. He has also been responsible for the planning and delivery of two significant commemorative activities, the 80th anniversary of the sinking of HMT *Centaur*, and the 50th anniversary activities linked with the end of the Vietnam War, specifically the 3rd August 2023 Vietnam Veterans Vigil. Finally, the Board of RSL NSW appointed him to the RSL NSW Tribunal in April 2023.

We thank Vince for his extraordinary contribution and congratulate him on the awarding of this Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his service to RSL NSW, our sub-Branch and the Northern Beaches District Council of RSL NSW.

201 ARMY CADET UNIT (ACU)

Northern Beaches (Dee Why)

DINING IN NIGHT

Saturday 9th December 2023

Forestville RSL sub-Branch was represented by (L to R) Ceremonial Officer John Balfour OAM, President Bob Lunnon, and Secretary Vince Williams CSC, pictured here with LT (AAC) Susan McGregor, Officer Commanding, 201 ACU, Dee Why.



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 2024
(Subject to change)

Wednesday 7 th February 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Saturday 24 th February 2024	*	9.45am for 10am Purple
Wednesday 6 th March 2024	*	7.30pm Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 3 rd April 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 21 st April 2024	*	2.40pm Anzac Sunday March &
Thursday 25 th April 2024	*	5.30am Anzac Day Dawn Service
Wednesday 1 st May 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 19 th May 2024	*	11.30am for 12noon 70 th Anniversary Luncheon
Wednesday 5 th June 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 3 rd July 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 7 th August 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 11 th August 2024	*	11.30am for 12noon Commemoration
Wednesday 4 th September 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 2 nd October 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 6 th November 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Monday 11 th November 2024	*	10.30am Remembrance Day Service
Sunday 1 st December 2024	*	11.30am for 12noon Christmas
Wednesday 4 th December 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Monday 16 th December 2024	*	Office Close for Christmas Break

February Significant Anniversaries

February is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

10th February 1944 – Huon Peninsula in New Guinea captured
10th February 1964 – Sinking of HMAS VOYAGER
17th February 1944 – Air and Naval attack on main Japanese Naval Base at Truk

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.

*“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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Email: mnchapter@forestvillersl.org.au
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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