



RSL NSW

Forestville sub-Branch



Australia My Country

NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

MARCH, 2024

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all! Our General Meeting on Wednesday 7th February was a busy one. We presented a 50 Year RSL NSW Branch Service Certificate to Ray Brown, as a member of Forestville RSL sub-Branch. Bob Bush had his 50 Year Service Certificate delivered to his home by our Membership Officer, Peter McAskill JP.

Our AGM is on Wednesday 6th March in the Forest Room at Forestville RSL Club at 7.30pm. The AGM agenda was posted on our sub-Branch website on 12th February. At this meeting, there are no Committee elections.

Details for our Anzac Sunday March and Service on 21st April and Anzac Day Dawn Service on Thursday 25th April are available in this newsletter.

Our 70th Anniversary is on Sunday 19th May 2024. We will celebrate this important milestone for our sub-Branch with a Platinum Jubilee Luncheon. Booking details are included in this newsletter. We hope you can attend.

Please enjoy yourselves as we move into our (hopefully) milder Sydney autumn weather. Please call us if you are in need.

Best Regards, Bob Lunnon

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CEREMONY OF HONOUR FOR DON E. KENNEDY OAM

RECIPIENT OF THE MERCHANT MARINERS OF WWII CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Friday 2nd February, 2024

United States Consulate, North Sydney

Along with Don's wife of 65 years, Wynne, and family members, attendees included RSL NSW President Mick Bainbridge, RSL NSW Board Director Paul James, and RSL NSW State Secretary Jeff O'Brien. Our sub-Branch President, Bob Lunnon and his wife Barbara, represented our sub-Branch and Northern Beaches District Council.

The United States Consul General, Christine Elder, presented Don with his Congressional Gold Medal, awarded to Merchant Mariners of WWII, part of the US Army. Don served with the Merchant Mariners ending in Shanghai.

International recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal include Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Sir Winston Churchill, Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II, Dalai Lama, Shimon Perez and Anwar Sadat.

SPECIAL NOTE: all members are cordially invited to attend the 59th Commemoration of the Merchant Navy Memorial and Official Opening of the New and Remedial Works, Rookwood General Cemetery, on Sunday 14th April 2024 at 11am.



What's On

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 6th March
7.30pm

General Meeting

Wednesday 3rd April
7.30pm



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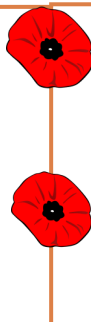
Please consider the environment. Receive your Newsletter via Email.

Membership

Membership totals: 386 (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly we have lost the following member:

SEABROOK Alan John **MERCHANT NAVY**



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 will close on 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.

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH

GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENTATION OF REMEMBRANCE DAY EDUCATION GRANT TO AMY CRAWFORD

We were delighted to present Amy Crawford with her \$2000 Remembrance Day Education Grant to assist with costs of entering University in 2024. Amy is the daughter of proud father and sub-Branch Service member, Rob Crawford, and mother Michelle, who live in Forestville.



NEW MEMBER

We were delighted to welcome Service member, **Donald Morris RAAF**, as a member of Forestville RSL sub-Branch. We look forward to seeing you at our future meetings, Don!



PRESENTATION OF 50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES TO BOB BUSH & RAY BROWN

Congratulations to Service members, Bob Bush and Ray Brown, on receiving their 50 Year Membership Certificates of the RSL NSW Branch of the League and Forestville RSL sub-Branch. Bob's certificate was presented to him at home by our Membership Officer, Peter McAskill. Well done Bob and Ray!



NORTHERN BEACHES VETERAN WELLBEING CENTRE (NBVWC), DEE WHY

Centre Coordinator Craig Horner, Claims Advisor Heather Brown and Financial Counsellor Kristy Petersen updated members on the NBVWC. These trained RSL LifeCare staff members can assist veterans with wellbeing support, claims and advocacy, financial counselling, employment assistance, homelessness and housing support etc. **NBVWC contact details are:**

Level 4, Dee Why RSL Club, 932 Pittwater Road, Dee Why. NSW 2099, Phone 02-80880388.



AUSTRALIA MY COUNTRY 2024 COMPETITION

APPEAL FOR HELP

Planning for our Australia My Country (AMC) 2024 Competition is well underway. Students of our area Primary schools have been invited to participate. It's a great topic: **Going on an "Adventure" – Australia in August 1914**, 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 AMC 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 10th May 2024.**

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH WALKING GROUP

OUR NEXT WALKING GROUP ON

WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH AT 9.45am FOR 10am

Our next Walking Group activity will be on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 9.45am for 10am from the Club entrance, followed by morning tea in the Club 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.

AS PART OF THE RSL NSW STRATEGIC PLAN 2021/2026
RSL NSW SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES FOR SUB-BRANCH MEMBERS

ANZAC SERVICES 2024

ANZAC SUNDAY MARCH AND SERVICE

Sunday 21st April, 2024

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. For catering purposes, RSVPs to our Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary would be appreciated. *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



5.25am FOR 5.35am ON THURSDAY 25th APRIL 2024
AT THE CENOTAPH
FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

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

RSL AUXILIARY

Our next General Meeting is on **Monday 4th March 2024** at the regular start time of 1pm, beginning with a light lunch.

All bookings/cancellations for our meetings are now to be made through Barbara Norton at mobile 0414 415 332, or email: barian@optusnet.com.au.

For our 4th March meeting/catering/cancellation purposes, please contact Barbara Norton no later than 5pm on Wednesday 28th February.

During February our members have been busy making a Purple Poppy Wreath for Purple Poppy Day on Saturday 24th February, a national day commemorating Animals in War. International Women's Day will be celebrated at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park on Friday 8th March from 10am to 1.30pm. Entry is free and all members are encouraged to attend.

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.

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH

AGM - 6th March 2024 - 7.30 pm
FOREST ROOM, FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

The agenda was posted on the sub-Branch website on 12th February 2024

Platinum Jubilee Luncheon

Commemorating 70 years of our Forestville RSL sub-Branch and Auxiliary for sub-Branch members and partners

Sunday 19th May 2024
Forest Room, Forestville RSL Club

Time: 11.30am for 12 noon - 3pm, lunch starts at noon. No access prior to 11.30am.

Tickets: On sale from 10.30am on Monday 11th March from the sub-Branch office on Monday & Thursday mornings only.

Please provide your mobile number when paying.

Cost: A special Platinum Jubilee price of \$25 per person by cash or eftpos (available at sub-Branch office). No refunds after Thursday 16th May.

Menu: A two course meal will be served with alternates for each course, with beer/wine/soft/package drinks.

Dress: Jacket and tie for gentlemen

Fundraising & Raffle: Great prizes to be won so bring your luck and dollars, eftpos will be available.

Club bus: Will operate from 10.30am till 4pm. Bookings to be made personally at Club Reception or by phoning 9451 1011.

Contact: Kevin Leary, Assistant Secretary email: asstsecretary@forestville.org.au; phone: 94511221.

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 3rd April

GUEST SPEAKER: DR PATRICK COLEMAN, ADVANCED CARE PLANS

Patrick will speak to us on the necessity of having an advanced care plan in place for ourselves and partners as we steadily age. A plan greatly assists our families and medical personnel in a medical event where we are unable to communicate. He has kindly provided a brief bio sketch:

"I graduated from University College Cork in 1991 and I now practice as a Nephrologist and General Physician on the Northern Beaches. My philosophy of clinical medicine is to approach every patient encounter as an opportunity to try to improve their quality of life. Outside of medicine, I endeavour to spend as much time as I possibly can participating in interesting activities with my two teenage children."



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 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

March Significant Anniversaries

March is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

2nd March 1944 – CAPT L.C. Matthews, GC at Sandakan, Borneo
31st March, 1949 – Prefix “Royal” granted to Australian Regiment

VETERANS INSTAMEET #41

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCURSION TO REFUGE BAY ON THE HAWKESBURY
SUNDAY 10th MARCH 2024, 9.30am FROM BAYVIEW

Full details are in this link, including registration which is mandatory as numbers are limited:
<http://www.mryanphotography.com/2024/01/veterans-instameet-41.html>
Further details: contact member, Mathew Bell, on mobile: 0409 241 419

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

Secretary & General Enquiries:
Vince Williams CSC
Email: secretary@forestvillersl.org.au
Phone: 9451 1221
Mobile: 0417 430 389 (leave a message)

President: Bob Lunnon
Email: president@forestvillersl.org.au
Phone: 9452 4078
Mobile: 0499 977 111

Treasurer: Ted Samojlowicz
Email: treasurer@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0417 532 936

Welfare & Funerals: Stuart Hablethwaite
Email: welfare@forestvillersl.org.au
Phone: 9451 1221
Mobile: 0402 626 485

Membership: Peter McAskill JP
Email:
membership@forestvillersl.org.au
Phone: 9451 1221
Mobile: 0409 122 025

Newsletter Editor: Bob Lunnon
newsletter@forestvillersl.org.au
Phone: 9452 4078
Mobile: 0499 977 111

Ceremonial Officer & Education
Coordinator:
John Balfour OAM JP
Phone: 9451 1221
Mobile: 0418 412 354

Joint Padres:
Rev. Dave Lanham Phone: 9975 5410
Rev. Sanghyeon (Daniel) Nam
Phone: 0425 477 003

Assistant Secretary & Functions
Coordinator: Kevin Leary
Phone: 9451 1221
Email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au

Travel Officer: Bob Connors
Phone: 9451 9494

Merchant Navy:
Chapter Co-Ordinator: Merrill Barker
Email: mnchapter@forestvillersl.org.au
Phone: 0433 934 705

RSL Auxiliary Co-Coordinator:
Barbara Norton

Phone: 0414 415 332

Email: barian@optusnet.com.au

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](https://www.instagram.com/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