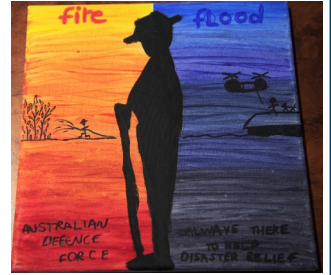




RSL NSW

Forestville sub-Branch



Australia My Country

NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

APRIL, 2024

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 21st April, and Anzac Dawn Service on Thursday 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 continue 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 97 years of age, attends nearly every funeral. If he is not able to attend for any reason, he sends an apology. Thanks, Don!

At our AGM on 6th March, we thanked each of our Committee members and, on behalf of all of our members, we recognised their ongoing Committee service and commitment to our sub-Branch and our members.

Also, at our AGM, we endorsed myself and Vince Williams CSC as our Northern Beaches District Council (NBDC) Delegates, and Sandy Howard and Ted Samojlowicz as Alternate Delegates. Well done, well served, Gentlemen! We attended AGMs of our sister sub-Branches on the Northern Beaches, a necessary part of our NBDC duties.

Our RSL Auxiliary will be undertaking their normal fundraising activities before and on Anzac Sunday and on 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.

We are continuing our monthly sub-Branch walking groups on the third Wednesday of each month, with the next walking group to take place on Wednesday 17th April commencing from the entrance of Glen Street Theatre, followed by morning coffee hosted by the sub-Branch. You are encouraged to participate in these activities which are part of the RSL NSW Sport and Recreation program, which in turn is a part of the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021/2026, recognising how these activities assist in improving the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families. Further details are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have planned a Rookwood Cemetery and Kokoda Memorial day trip for Tuesday 18th June. Tickets which are \$50 per person for sub-Branch members and partners are heavily subsidised by the sub-Branch and will be on sale from 9.30am on Monday 8th April. We encourage you to book early, as this day trip will be very popular. Full details are available 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.

What's On

General Meeting

*
Wednesday 3rd April
7.30pm

Anzac Sunday March & Service

*
2.40pm 21st April

Anzac Dawn Service

*
5.30am 25th April



In this issue

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Please consider the environment. Receive your Newsletter via Email.

Membership

Membership totals: **387** (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly we have lost the following members:

BUSH	Robert Harrison	RAAF
SHERIDAN	John Snr	ROYAL NAVY

We welcome new member:

HAYES	Brian Maurice	AFFILIATE
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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 have closed. 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.

RSL AUXILIARY

Our next General Meeting is on Monday 8th April 2024 at the regular start time of 1pm, beginning with a light lunch. At this meeting we have engaged Hastings Pawsey as Guest Speaker to talk on Our Local Area History.

All bookings/cancellations for our meetings are to be made through Barbara Norton at mobile 0414 415 332, or email:

barian@optusnet.com.au. Cut off for our 8th April meeting is Wednesday 27th March by 5.00pm latest.

Lots of fun and laughter was had at our March General Meeting with members participating in small groups in a "Getting to Know You" exercise. This promoted lots of talk and as previously mentioned LAUGHTER, our members were disappointed when time was up, and are now looking forward to participation in similar future exercises.

On 24th February, a cold and misty morning, our members braved the weather to sell handmade Purple Poppies as part of Purple Poppy Day commemorating Animals in War. A Purple Poppy wreath made by our members was placed on the plaque in the Poppy Dog Park adjoining the Forestville RSL Club. Photos are elsewhere in this newsletter.

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.

Barbara Norton, Co-Coordinator

ACCESSING THE NEW MEMBER PORTAL ON THE RSL NSW WEBSITE



Important information, support and resources can now be accessed by RSL NSW members in the new Member Portal on the RSL NSW website, which was communicated to all members in an email from RSL NSW on 15th February 2024. You have access to services, support, awards and recognition, our Sport and Recreation program, member Merchandise Store, commemoration and events, and important communications from RSL NSW.

TO ACCESS THE MEMBER PORTAL GO TO:

rslnsw.org.au/member-portal, or click on the "**Member Login**" dropdown on the RSL NSW homepage and select "**Member Portal**".

Then login using your full name and seven-digit membership number, exactly as they appear on your RSL NSW membership card. Should you require assistance, please contact the Member Support Team by email at: support@rslnsw.org.au, or telephone 1300 679 775.

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 17th April at 9.45am FOR 10am

Our next Walking Group activity will be on Wednesday 17th April 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.

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

ROOKWOOD CEMETERY TOUR & KOKODA MEMORIAL WALKWAY

Tuesday 18th June 2024

INCLUSIONS:

- 2.5 hour guided tour of Rookwood Cemetery, the oldest and most multicultural working cemetery in Australia, established in 1867, with a total area of 290 hectares.
- Morning tea on arrival at Rookwood Cemetery.
- Two course lunch with tea or barista coffee at Massey Park Golf Club.
- Afternoon visit to Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, an 800m rainforest.

COST: \$50.00 per person, including morning tea, two course lunch with tea or barista coffee and luxury coach transport, which is heavily subsidised by the sub-Branch.

TICKETS: on sale from the sub-Branch office at 10.30am on Monday 8th April and after, or contact our Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, on 9451 1221, or by email at: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au, during office hours on Monday (0900-1400) and Thursdays (0900-1200).

PAYMENT: by cash or EFTPOS.

CANCELLATIONS: no refunds after Wednesday 12th June.

DEPARTURE: from the Lower Carpark at 8.30am sharp, returning around 4.30pm

PURPLE POPPY DAY WALKING GROUP

Saturday 24th February 2024

Our sub-Branch members commemorated Service Animals in War with a Purple Poppy Day Walking Group activity, with dogs on a leash. We laid a Purple Poppy Wreath, made by the members of our Forestville RSL Auxiliary, on the Purple Poppy Dog Park plaque, adjoining the Forestville RSL Club. This was followed by a walk around the Anzac Memorial Pathway, as part of the Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields, also adjoining the Club.

Morning coffee was then enjoyed by all participants in the Club, hosted by our sub-Branch, where our Forestville RSL Auxiliary members had laid out purple table-cloths and purple napkins. Thanks to all who joined us, to commemorate animals who served, lost their lives, as well as those animals serving today. This activity was part of the RSL NSW Sport and Recreation program, in support of the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021/2026.



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

Raffle & Silent Auction: 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: 9451 1221.



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 3 rd April 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 21 st April 2024	*	2.40pm Anzac Sunday March & Service
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 Luncheon
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 Fundraising Luncheon
Wednesday 4 th December 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Monday 16 th December 2024	*	Office Close for Christmas Break



General Meeting - Wednesday 6th March, 2024

NEW MEMBER

We were delighted to welcome Affiliate member, **Rev. Brian Hayes**, as a member of Forestville RSL sub-Branch. We look forward to seeing you at our future meetings, Brian!

April Significant Anniversaries

April is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

26th April 1944—Alexishafen occupied by Australian troops

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

Assistant Secretary & Functions
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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>

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