



# RSL NSW

## Forestville sub-Branch



Australia My Country

## NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

MAY, 2024

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

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As usual April has been a very busy month for your Committee members including attendance at Anzac services at Forestville Public School, John Colet School in Belrose, and Belrose Country Club. Sub-Branch representatives also attended RSL commemorative services and laid wreaths at: RSL Anzac Village March and Service in Narrabeen, Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, Merchant Navy Memorial and Columbarium at Rookwood, Terrey Hills Community Service, Palm Beach RSL sub-Branch March and Service, Manly Oval Anzac Day Rugby, and Collaroy RSL sub-Branch Sunset Service.

Our own Anzac services on Anzac Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April and Dawn Service on 25<sup>th</sup> April were very successful and well attended. Our thanks to those hardy volunteers for their help in placing chairs for seating, plus other duties. Special mention of the diligent and hard work behind the scenes goes to Vince Williams CSC, our Secretary, and Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, supported by Committee members and volunteers.

Thanks also to our RSL Auxiliary members for their assistance, including fund-raising for the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund over the Anzac period, and serving tea/coffee to all attendees after our Anzac Dawn Service.

The Australia Remembers – Northern Beaches and North Shore Committee is organizing a Defence of Sydney 82<sup>nd</sup> Commemorative Service at 10am on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June at North Head, open to members and the public. This service commemorates the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour on the night of 31<sup>st</sup> May 1942. Your sub-Branch representatives on this organizing committee are Sandy Howard, Vice President, and me as President of RSL NSW Northern Beaches District Council (NBDC).

The AGM of our NBDC, hosted by our sub-Branch, will be held at Forestville RSL Club on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 6.30pm for 7pm. I will also attend the next meeting of the RSL NSW District President's Council (DPC) on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Anzac House when we will consider and approve 2025 nominations of charities for inclusion in the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund.

Entries in the Australia My Country competition close on 10<sup>th</sup> May. They will be collected from schools from 17<sup>th</sup> May. Marking then takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> May and winners will be announced at our AMC Presentation Ceremony on 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Forestville RSL Club with awards to be presented by the Matt Cross, MP, State Member for Davidson.

If you have not already done so, we take this opportunity to remind you to make a donation to the Anzac Appeal 2024, if you are able to do so, at: [www.anzacappeal.com.au](http://www.anzacappeal.com.au).

We are continuing our monthly walking groups as part of the RSL NSW Sport and Recreation program, with the next group walk on 15<sup>th</sup> May enjoying a 45 minute perambulation from the Club, followed by morning tea/coffee in the Club hosted by our sub-Branch. These walking groups are held on the third Wednesday of each month, so please put them in your diary to attend and join us for some exercise and camaraderie. All are welcome, male and female, as well as animals on a leash.

Please check your "Dates to Remember" in this newsletter and get ready to rug up a little more as we get to the end of Autumn later this month. PLEASE NOTE: we have changed the date for our Commemoration Luncheon from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August at 11.30am for 12noon, so please change your diaries accordingly.

**Bob Lunnon**  
President

### What's On

**General Meeting**  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May  
7.30pm

**Platinum Jubilee Luncheon**  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
11.30 for 12 noon

**General Meeting**  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June  
7.30 pm



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Please consider the environment. Receive your Newsletter via Email.

## Membership

Membership totals: **383** (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly we have lost the following member:  
**KITE Michael Richard ... BRITISH ARMY**

We welcome new member:  
**ROBINSON Terry ... ARMY**



## 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.

**Pavers ordered for Anzac Day are now in place.**  
**Please note: Orders for pavers are now being taken for Remembrance Day**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:membership@forestvillersl.org.au) including if you wish to rescind your membership for any reason.

## **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](http://www.forestvillersl.org.au/Schools/AMC)

but please note that **entries close on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:support@rslnsw.org.au), or telephone 1300 679 775.

## **RSL AUXILIARY**

Our next General Meeting is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the regular start time of 1pm, beginning with a light lunch. At this meeting we will be celebrating Mothers' Day.

All bookings/cancellations for meetings are to be made through Barbara Norton, mobile 0414 415 332, or email: [barian@optusnet.com.au](mailto:barian@optusnet.com.au). Cut off for catering purposes for the May meeting is Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May at 5.00pm. Those who attended the April meeting need only call **if you can't come.**

Our Guest Speaker at our April meeting was Hastings Pawsey, who is passionate about the history of the Frenchs Forest and surrounding area. He took us back to the 1800's showing the land parcels and what industry the land was used for, the roads which were built and the bullock trains taking timber down to Bantry Bay for shipment to various ports. In latter years in particular, Hastings told us about "The Blinking Light", its history and the problems faced trying to have it officially named. Our members had fond memories of this light, except maybe one or two who moved into the area after it was removed, now when someone says to them, "I'll meet you near the Blinking Light", they know where to go! Thank you Hastings for the interesting and memory filled talk.

If you would like to join the Auxiliary and help in our fun-filled and very rewarding fundraising efforts supporting our Veterans and their families in need, please call Barbara Norton (details above), Barbara will organise for your personal "Buddy" to accompany you to comfortably join in.



### **Forestville RSL sub-Branch WALKING GROUP**

OUR NEXT WALKING GROUP **WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY** 9.45am for 10am

Our next Walking Group activity will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 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



Forestville RSL Auxiliary  
**MEAT RAFFLE**  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May  
Forestville RSL CLUB

Our Forestville RSL Auxiliary will be conducting the Meat Raffle at the Forestville RSL Club on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May from 5.30pm. We encourage you to bring friends and family along to have dinner in the Club. Meat Raffle tickets are \$5 for 50 chances, and multiples thereof.

Our RSL Auxiliary members will be at our General Meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May taking pre-sales orders for tickets in the Meat Raffle on 10<sup>th</sup> May, and EFTPOS will be available. Purchasing pre-sale Meat Raffle tickets means that you do not have to physically be present in the Club on 10<sup>th</sup> May to win. If you do win, you will be contacted on the night by our RSL Auxiliary members to arrange delivery of your meat raffle prize. The good news: there were three Meat Raffle winners on 5<sup>th</sup> April who purchased pre-sale tickets at our General Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. ***It's that simple, we can't make it any easier for you!***

*All proceeds will assist our RSL Auxiliary to achieve its charitable purpose, to support veterans and their families, especially those in need, through the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund. We thank you in advance for your support of our RSL Auxiliary fundraising activities.*

MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY OF NSW

**EXCURSION TO LANCER BARRACKS & MUSEUM, PARRAMATTA**



Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Robert Muscat, President of the Military History Society of NSW, has advised us that the Society is organising a group visit to Lancer Barracks & Museum in Parramatta for **10:00AM on Sunday, 26 May 2024**.

The cost is \$15 per person. The Lancer Barracks is one of Australia's best military history museums with a range of exhibits relating to the long history and heritage of The Royal NSW Lancers.

On the last Sunday of each month (including 26<sup>th</sup> May) there is a special display of their fleet of tanks. If you are interested in joining this group on 26<sup>th</sup> May please RSVP by 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to Robert on this email address:

[president@militaryhistorynsw.com.au](mailto:president@militaryhistorynsw.com.au).

More information about the venue is also available here:

[https://www.lancers.org.au/site/Lancer\\_Barracks.php](https://www.lancers.org.au/site/Lancer_Barracks.php).



**Platinum Jubilee Luncheon**

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

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> May.

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

**Dress:** Jacket and tie for gentlemen

**Fundraising:** Silent Auction & 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](mailto:asstsecretary@forestville.org.au); phone: 9451 1221.

**ROOKWOOD CEMETERY TOUR & KOKODA MEMORIAL WALKWAY**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> April and after, or contact our Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, on 9451 1221, or by email at: [asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> June.

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



**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](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)

## Dates to Remember in 2024 (Subject to change)

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	*	11.30am for 12noon 70 <sup>th</sup> <b>Anniversary Luncheon</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	*	2pm Exercise Physiology Class @ the Club
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	*	11.30am for 12noon <b>Commemoration Luncheon</b>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	*	10.30am <b>Remembrance Day Service</b>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2024	*	11.30am for 12noon <b>Christmas Fundraising Luncheon</b>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	*	Office Close for Christmas Break

### EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY CLASSES



As part for our sub-Branch support of our members under the RSL NSW Sport & Recreation program, we have introduced an exercise physiology class for our members and families.

It will be a monthly class held in the Forestville RSL Club's Flight Deck Room at no cost to participants.

*We have a contract with a provider and our first Exercise Physiology Class is at 2pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024. An update will be provided at our 1<sup>st</sup> May General Meeting with dates for further classes.*

### May Significant Anniversaries

May is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- \* 6<sup>th</sup> May 1969 – WO2 R.S. Simpson, VC at South Vietnam
- \* 21<sup>st</sup> May 1944 – Monte Cassino finally captured
- \* 24<sup>th</sup> May 1969 – WO2 K. Payne, VC Kontum Province, South Vietnam

### 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](mailto: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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RSL Auxiliary Co-Coordinator:  
Barbara Norton  
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Email: [barian@optusnet.com.au](mailto: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:

<forestvillersubbranch>

## 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](http://www.dva.gov.au/my-service)

## Australian Death Notification Service

<https://deathnotification.gov.au/>

## Scamwatch

[www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)

## Military History Society of NSW

[www.militaryhistorynsw.com.au](http://www.militaryhistorynsw.com.au)