



RSL NSW

Forestville sub-Branch

Australia My Country



NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

NOVEMBER, 2024

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

Presidents Report

First and foremost, as you are all aware, we have been looking for a new Treasurer, following the sad passing of Ted Samojlowicz in early July. This is a critical role in our sub-Branch. We again ask you to put your thinking caps on, talk to your fellow members, friends and neighbours, about volunteering for this role. It is a position which can be filled by an Affiliate member, or a volunteer with bookkeeping skills.

In the meantime, our Vice President, Sandy Howard, has been overseeing our Treasury area with great aplomb and application. On that note, Al Turnbull, an Affiliate member who retired to Narrabeen with his wife Denise, and who is also a Past Treasurer, has stepped in of his own accord to get our books up to date in a very efficient and professional manner. On behalf of all members, I wish to sincerely thank Al, and also Denise for releasing Al from his home duties and responsibilities. Well done, Al! We also very much appreciate your subtle and humorous utterances from the "back corner" of our sub-Branch office. Our Committee members now know and understand how much we have missed that in recent years!

But, we are still very patiently waiting for a responsible member, or person, to step up and put their name forward to be our Treasurer. It is a most rewarding role, working among a team of great and hard-working Committee members, who enjoy wonderful camaraderie, and a great sense of achievement, ensuring the welfare of veterans and their families, as part of our charitable purpose.

RSL NSW State Congress 2024 was held 27th-29th October in Newcastle. Vince Williams CSC, our Secretary, was our sub-Branch Delegate, and our VP, Sandy Howard, was our Alternate Delegate. I attended in my capacity as President, Northern Beaches District Council. On Sunday 26th October, prior to the Congress Official Opening Ceremony, I also attended a District President's Council (DPC) Meeting, followed by a joint DPC/RSL NSW Board Meeting. The Congress was addressed by our RSL NSW Patron, Her Excellency the Honorable Margaret Beazley AC KC. Due to timing differences with our newsletter distribution deadlines, further reporting on Congress and AGM outcomes will be included in our December newsletter.

Our RSL Auxiliary held a very successful Fashion Parade on Thursday 24th October as part of their fundraising purpose, which will be used to support veterans and their families in need, through the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund. Our RSL Auxiliary is also organizing a raffle for our joint Christmas Fundraising Luncheon which will be held on Sunday 1st December. Full details are available in this newsletter. We encourage all members to support these fundraising activities in support of veterans and families in need, as part of our charitable purpose. Be generous, please.

Our RSL Auxiliary will also be selling Remembrance Day poppies and tokens on 11th November, as well as in Club Reception in the evenings on the weekend prior to Remembrance Day. Again, we ask you to be generous, in support of our charitable purpose.

Please enjoy our warmer weather and call us if you need assistance.

Best Regards,
Bob Lunnon

What's On

Bill Hardman Presentation

Wednesday 6th November
7.30 pm

*

Remembrance Day Service

Monday 11th November
10.30am

*

Christmas Fundraising Luncheon

Sunday 1st December
11.30am for 12 noon

*

General Meeting

Wednesday 4th December
7.30 pm



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The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Membership

Membership totals: **373** (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly we have lost the following members:

ROBBIE	William Charles	Merchant Marine
BOTSFORD	Kathleen Daphne	WRNS
OCKERBY	Alan Phillip	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.

Please note: We are now taking orders for Anzac Day 2025
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

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.

EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY CLASSES



As part of our sub-Branch support of our members under the RSL NSW Sport & Recreation program, we have introduced exercise physiology classes for our members and families. **It is a twice-monthly class held in the Forestville RSL Club's Flight Deck Room funded by our sub-Branch, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Our next classes will be held at 2.30pm on Thursday 14th November, and then 2.30pm on Thursday 28th November.** Our instructors are from Rebound Health who already provide DVA physiology services across the Northern Beaches. While our emphasis will be on balance, there are also Heart Health program events available to members.

While this is open to members and family, you **MUST register** by calling our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, at the office during office hours on 9451 1221), or email:

asstsecretary@forestville.org.au



Forestville sub-Branch WALKING GROUP



Our next Walking Group activity will be on **Wednesday 20th November 2024 at 9.45am for 10am** from Glen Street Theatre followed by morning tea/coffee 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 sub-Branch COMMITTEE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Our sub-Branch is seeking nominations for the following two Committee positions, available immediately:

TREASURER: experience in bookkeeping and data entry in MYOB, also reporting requirements for RSL NSW and BAS, and other duties as required.

VICE-PRESIDENT: acting as Second Vice President in the absence of the President, including other tasks and duties as required.

Nomination forms are available from the sub-Branch office, on office days.



Forestville RSL Auxiliary MEAT RAFFLE

**Friday 1st November 2024
FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB**

Our Forestville RSL Auxiliary is conducting the Meat Raffle at the Forestville RSL Club on Friday 1st November from 5.30pm. **We encourage you to bring friends and family to have dinner in the Club. Meat Raffle tickets are \$5 for 50 chances, and multiples thereof.**

Our RSL Auxiliary members attend General Meetings taking pre-sales orders for tickets. EFTPOS is available. Sub-Branch members are winners. Proudly supporting veterans and their families.

All proceeds from the Meat Raffle are donated directly to the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund, supporting veterans and their families in need, through the Northern Beaches Veteran Wellbeing Centre located at Dee Why RSL Club managed by RSL Lifecare Veteran Services, our sister charity.

RSL AUXILIARY

Our October meeting was one of surprises, from singing Happy Birthday to Jenny in English, to cheering on our member who wore her beautiful Melbourne Cup finery, just about a month early!! THEN, THUNDER, LIGHTNING and RAIN, what a noise, but that didn't worry us, we just played a fun game until it was over, and everyone kept dry.

*Just a reminder, our next meeting is on **4th November, at 1pm.** To assist with catering numbers and if you were **NOT** at the October meeting, please contact Barbara Norton before the cut-off date of **30th October**, with either bookings or cancellations, Barbara's mobile number is **0414 415 332**, or email: barian@optusnet.com.au.*

*If you would like to be a member of our Forestville RSL Auxiliary to help with fundraising for Veterans and their Families in need? **Please contact Barbara Norton, details above.***



Statement from RSL NSW Chair, Louise Sullivan
16th October, 2024

Dear Honorary Secretary,

It is with deep disappointment that I address the misleading and divisive portrayal of RSL NSW in the article published today by the *Sydney Morning Herald*. This narrative not only undermines the dedication of our members and leaders but also distracts from our primary mission — to support veterans and their families.

The RSL NSW Board, including its volunteer veteran directors, is committed to serving the veteran community. We remain steadfast in ensuring that the League operates with the highest standards of governance, integrity, and transparency. It is precisely through good governance that RSL NSW can deliver real outcomes for our veterans, ensuring they receive the care, respect, and opportunities they deserve.

It is a complete failure of governance and integrity by those involved to release untested allegations as outlined in today's article into the public domain before RSL NSW's strong governance process for investigating complaints was complete. I question the motivation of those responsible when the focus of RSL NSW has been on responding to the findings of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. The reasons for doing so could be seen to undermine the opportunity for a thorough and proper investigation of those allegations and to damage the reputation of those accused, potentially driven by motives not in the best interests of RSL NSW, or the support of veterans.

Any allegation must and will be thoroughly investigated – testing these allegations' veracity is in the best interests of the parties involved and RSL NSW. I have received overwhelming support for our President and the director involved and expressions of anger from the membership at how this situation has unfolded. Public attacks, such as this, have no place in our RSL and veterans deserve better.

I accepted the Board's offer to take on the position of Chair in June this year as I believe in the vision that our President has for RSL NSW to continue to modernise and remain relevant to the veteran community. Mick's personal experience in the Australian Defence Force, and his honesty and transparency about his ongoing injuries from that service, affords him unparalleled insight into the unique challenges faced by veterans and their families, and he is fiercely passionate about advocating for his community. His leadership and dedication to his volunteer role are invaluable, and his commitment to our purpose and values has made a positive impact on the League.

No director of RSL NSW is above investigation, however, I want to make it clear that, in fairness to all parties that may be involved in any such process, I will not tolerate any person being publicly vilified on confidential matters that are untested and have not been afforded due process, operational procedure, and dignity. I urge media outlets to engage in responsible reporting that highlights the work being done to safeguard veterans' rights and services, rather than sensationalising allegations that have not been proven.

Yours faithfully,
Louise Sullivan
Chair of the Board

<https://rslnsw.org.au/news/statement-from-rsl-nsw-chair-louise-sullivan/>



Christmas Fundraising Luncheon

for sub-Branch members and partners

Sunday 1st December 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 from the sub-Branch office on Monday & Thursday mornings only. Please provide your mobile number when paying. A limited number of guest tickets are available @ \$70 per person.

Cost: \$40 per person by cash or eftpos (available at sub-Branch office). No refunds after 25th November.

Menu: A two course meal with tea & coffee will be served with alternates for each course, with table refreshments (bar additional).

Dress: Christmas festive for ladies and gentlemen.

Entertainment: Phillipe Wittwer - Entertainer, Piano Accordionist - great variety of fun music!



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

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

THE BILL HARDMAN PRESENTATIONS

WEDNESDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2024

Guest Speakers Tony Mooney & Ian Thomson

FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE & CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Tony Mooney, President, and Ian Thomson, CEO, have been invited to update our members on the proposed Forestville RSL Club redevelopment. They have also been invited to provide an update on a proposed Club constitution amendment process. Members are encouraged to attend this **Bill Hardman Presentation** to learn more about these proposed constitutional amendments. This is to ensure that members are prepared for voting on these proposed changes at a future Club Special General Meeting. Only Club Life Members & Forestville RSL sub-Branch Service members can vote on any constitutional amendments.



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 November 2024	*	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation Speaker
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 closed for Christmas Break

NOVEMBER SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

November is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

1 st November 1914	–	1 st AIF sails for Egypt
4 th November 1944	–	6 Bde landed at Jacquinot Bay (New Britain)
9 th November 1914	–	SMS EMDEN put out of action by HMAS SYDNEY, Cocos Is.
10 th November 1964	–	Selective conscription introduced
15 th November 1944	–	A.W.A.S. permitted to volunteer for New Guinea service



Support Saltwater Veterans Buy Raffle Tickets and Help Us Secure \$20K

The Saltwater Veterans Sailing Project (SVSP) has been selected as one of the recipients for the 2024-25 [ASX Refinitiv Charity Foundation](#) fundraising campaign!

The Charity Foundation will host several fundraisers to support SVSP in various ways, such as raising awareness, expanding our network, and securing crucial funding. But this isn't just a handout - ***we need to come together as a community to volunteer, participate, and most importantly, sell raffle tickets.***

This funding will be vital to the sustainability of our project and help us make future equipment purchases, ensuring we can continue offering programs for veterans and their families!

1st Prize:	MAZDA2 Automatic Hatchback – \$27,000
2nd Prize:	MacBook Air – \$1,599
3rd Prize:	Apple Watch Series 9 – \$809

Tickets are:	\$20 each 3 for \$50 7 for \$100
Draw Date:	Thursday, 27th March 2025
Ticket Sales Close:	Midnight, Friday, 21st March 2025

Click the link for more information and **share** it with your friends & colleagues!

<https://www.asxrcfau.com/console/rafflepages/12/Saltwater-Veterans-Sailing-Project>

***“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
Mobile: 0417 430 389 (leave a message)

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

Vice President: Sandy Howard
Email: support@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0411 145 077

Treasurer: *Position Available*
Email: treasurer@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: TBA

Wellbeing Support Coordinator & Funerals:
Stuart Hablethwaite
Email: welfare@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0402 626 485

Membership and Schools Liaison Officer:
Peter McAskill JP
Email:
membership@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0409 122 025

Newsletter Editor: Bob Lunnon
Email: newsletter@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0499 977 111

Ceremonial Officer & AMC Coordinator:
John Balfour OAM JP
Email: ceremonial@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0418 412 354

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

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

Travel Officer: Bob Connors
Phone: 9451 9494

Merchant Navy Chapter:
Coordinator: Merrill Barker
Email: mnchapter@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0433 934 705

RSL Auxiliary Coordinator:
Barbara Norton
Email: barian@optusnet.com.au
Mobile: 0414 415 332

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