



RSL
NSW

Forestville sub-Branch

Australia My Country



NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

MAY, 2025

Contact editor via email: 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, Balgowlah RSL sub-Branch Anzac Sunday March and Service, and Collaroy RSL sub-Branch Sunset Service.

Our own Anzac services on Anzac Sunday 13th April and Dawn Service on 25th 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 NBDC AGM, hosted by our sub-Branch, will be held at Forestville RSL Club on Tuesday 20th May at 6.30pm for 7pm. I will also attend the RSL NSW District President's Council (DPC) meeting on Thursday 1st May at Anzac House, to review the operations of the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund; and to be updated on progress with the review of the RSL NSW Operating Model which forms part of the Strategic Plan 2021/2026.

Many of our sub-Branch members attended the funeral of Richard Lindsay Gordon at St. David's in Forestville at 10am on Wednesday 9th April. Richard's family members spoke fondly of Richard, recalling their life memories. Our sub-Branch members also remember Richard, and Val, for their tireless work on the Anzac Memorial Pathway and the Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields, the Cenotaph at Forestville Shops, and Richard's service to our sub-Branch and Club. RIP, Richard.

As part of the planned redevelopment project, the Forestville RSL Club will be running an Introduction to Retirement Living Communities Information Session for anyone interested in learning how retirement communities work and finding out more about how they are different to strata developments and other options available. This will be held at the Club on 14th May at 11am. If you would like to attend, please [click here](#) to register your attendance.

This year, the Harbour Sunset Tribute was a special commemoration featuring more than 100 of Australia's best military, veteran and civilian artists – all coming together to honour the fallen. The commemoration was held on ANZAC Eve, Thursday 24 April, 4:30 – 6:00pm at the Sydney Opera House Forecourt. Marking the 'going down of the sun', the commemoration included Veterans Tributes for some of Australia's oldest returned servicemen and women, inspiring stories of younger veterans and special tributes for veterans' families. It also included the National Anthems, Acknowledgement of Country, a Procession of Drums and Torch of Remembrance as well as The Ode, Last Post, a Minutes Silence and Reveille. The event promoted and drove donations to the RSL's ANZAC Appeal. Those at the event or watching the broadcast by Channel 7 could donate via the [ANZAC Appeal website](#) and funds raised in NSW will be returned to RSL NSW. It's not too late to make a donation using the link, to support veterans and their families.

Get ready to rug up a little more as we get to the end of Autumn later this month.

Regards

Bob Lunnon

What's On

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Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 7th May
7.30pm

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General Meeting
Wednesday 4th June
7.30pm



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The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Membership

Membership totals: 347 (plus 7 Honorary members)

Sadly we have lost the following members:

MILLER Roger Charles ... RAF ROACH John Francis ARMY

MOSS Keith ARMY GORDON Richard Lindsay RAAF

HOURIHAN Henry Kevin .. RAAF

New Member:

FELLOWS Claire LCDR ... NAVY

Our Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens

MEMORIAL PAVERS

Prepaid Pavers:

Members are reminded that you can order your own paver at any time if you wish.

Please note: we are now taking orders for Remembrance Day 2025

There is now no cost for pavers for sub-Branch service members

*** IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ***

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, Peter McAskill via phone 0409 122 025 or 9451 1221 or email : membership@forestvillersl.org.au including if you wish to rescind your membership for any reason.

FREE HEARING CHECKS FOR VETERANS

RSL NSW has partnered with Hearing Australia to raise awareness about free hearing checks available for veterans. Early detection and intervention are key to preventing hearing loss and getting a hearing check can ensure veterans receive the care they deserve. Hearing Australia has been caring for veterans since 1947 and is the country's largest provider of government-funded hearing services.

Screening: A hearing check helps identify people that may have hearing loss.

Cost: Adults can get a free 15-minute hearing check* and eligible pensioners pay \$0 for fully-subsidised hearing aids* under the Australian Government Hearing Services Program.

Location: Hearing Australia has more than 180 permanent locations and hundreds of mobile sites across Australia.

Book: Call 134 432 or visit hearing.com.au to book a free appointment with Hearing Australia, or to find a hearing check event in your local community.

* Only 15-minute hearing checks are free. Other services may attract charges/fees or may be subsidised for those eligible under the Australian Government Hearing Services Program, to which conditions apply.

If you have any questions, please contact Hearing Australia directly via www.hearing.com.au or 134 432.

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 8th May, and then at 2.30pm on Thursday 22nd May.**

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. This is open to members and family, however 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 GROUPS

Our next Walking Group activity will be at 9.45am for 10am on Wednesday 21st May 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.

Please note that you **MUST register** by calling our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, at the office in office hours on 9451 1221, or email: asstsecretary@forestville.org.au.

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 FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

Our Forestville RSL Auxiliary is conducting the Meat Raffle at the Forestville RSL Club on Friday 23rd May 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 will attend our General Meeting on Wednesday 7th May for Meat Raffle ticket pre-sales.

EFTPOS is available. Lots of sub-Branch members have been winners.

All proceeds from the Meat Raffle are donated directly by our sub-Branch to the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund, supporting veterans and their families in need, as part of our charitable purpose. NOTE: for your diaries, the next Meat Raffle at the Club will be on Friday 27th June from 5.30pm.

RSL AUXILIARY

Tip Toe, Tip Toe, that was the Easter Bunny delivering tiny buckets filled with Chocolate Easter Eggs for our members at our April meeting. Our members joined in the fun wearing their beautifully decorated hats, lots of easter eggs, bunny ears and flowers. We then participated in another fun Easter related quiz, the highest scorers winning a big white Easter Bunny each. Our next meeting is on Monday 5th May at 1pm. The cut-off date is Wednesday 30th April at 4pm, to assist with catering. It is really important that bookings or cancellations are made with Barbara Norton: mobile 0414 415 332, or email: barian@optusnet.com.au. If you would like to be a member of our RSL Auxiliary to help with fundraising for Veterans and their Families in need? Ring Barbara Norton, details above.



FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH
RSL NSW CIRCULAR 9/25 DATED 13 FEBRUARY 2025
FUNERAL AND WAKE BENEFITS

RSL NSW Circular 9/25 states "In accordance with [RSL NSW] SOP 1 and [RSL NSW] POL 01, a sub-Branch **cannot** pay out benefits to a veteran or family member based on their service as a member (for example a mortality fund). Financial assistance must **only** be paid when it is **deemed necessitous**".

The Circular goes on to state that to "... do otherwise may risk the Charitable Status of the sub-Branch and **is** a breach of the RSL NSW Constitution for which disciplinary action may result."

"Necessitous circumstances are those in which a veteran or family member **does not have the financial means to cover immediate expenses.**" These are taken to include funeral costs and those associated with the celebration of the life of the service member (Wake).

As a result of Circular 9/25 the Forestville sub-Branch committee have agreed that the **automatic payment of a contribution to funeral costs, based on the presentation of a paid invoice, will cease with effect from 13 February 2025.** This particularly applies to the three-month window previously applied to the submission of a refund based on the submission of an invoice. This impacts on Resolutions 37/23 and 38/23.

The Committee accepts that the cost of a funeral does present the family of a service member with a challenge to pay for such an event.

However, the onus is now on the family of the service member to advise the sub-Branch prior to a funeral, of the necessitous circumstances which exist.

The amount of support that can be provided remains unchanged from those contained in Resolutions 37/23 and 38/23: that is, up to \$1000 for the spouse of a service member; up to \$2000 for a service member with between three and 10 years sub-Branch service membership; and up to \$4000 for a service member with more than 10 years sub-Branch membership.

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH AUXILIARY
CHRISTMAS 2024 CARE PACKAGES
HMAS BRISBANE & HMAS HOBART



Our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary members prepared and despatched 40 care packages, originally intended for crew members of HMAS Brisbane at Christmas in San Diego, but were delivered to crew members of HMAS Hobart as well.

This came about in October last year at the request of the RSL NSW Auxiliaries Coordinator, just prior to RSL NSW State Congress. 40 care packages of Australian confectionery were prepared to weigh no more than 1kg each, in Post Office boxes, involving extensive research and careful shopping for the items, individually packing the boxes, labelling them for customs purposes, including a Thank You for your Service note from our sub-Branch and Auxiliary in each box, and delivering them to the Post Office in Frenchs Forest for shipping to a specified RAN delivery point.

This involved around 100 hours of work, and around \$1000 for the confectionery purchases at sub-Branch cost, as part of our welfare charitable purpose. It is a similar exercise which RSL Australia and Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) undertake for ADF members deployed overseas at Christmas, in our case personalised to the ADF members from our sub-Branch and Auxiliary as detailed. This is all wonderful recognition of the work our RSL Auxiliary members undertake with veterans, in this case veterans serving overseas. The following email was received from a recipient in March this year:

Members of the Forestville RSL sub-Branch,

Today I received a care pack from your membership and it was very much welcomed. While it was intended for someone else on another ship at Christmas, it was diverted to us and I was extremely moved by your generosity and care. I've shared the contents with several members of the crew and so your gift has brought a great deal of joy.

Thank you, CHAPS.

Jeff Newton, Buddhist Chaplain, RAN, HMAS Hobart, DDG 39

"Grow with strength"

AUSTRALIA MY COUNTRY (AMC)

*** APPEAL FOR HELP ***

The 2025 AMC competition is well underway and the students of our area Primary Schools have been invited to participate. This year there are two topics:

"Commemorating 110 years of Anzac - an Enduring Legend" or **"August 1945 - Victory in the Pacific and Returning Home from War"**, so there is plenty of scope for imaginative entries.

While the schools are coordinating student participation, we would very much appreciate it if you could let your friends, children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, who go to a Primary School in the Forest area, know about the competition and encourage their participation. Please note that **entries close on Friday 9th May 2025.**

Judging will take place on Saturday 24th May with presentation of awards by State Member for Davidson, Matt Cross MP, on Saturday 14th June, at Forestville RSL Club.

More information is available on our website at:

www.forestvillersl.org.au/Education/AMC

Japanese Midget Submarine
Attack on Sydney Harbour CRUISE
Saturday 12th April 2025



*** 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.



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 2025
(Subject to change)

FOR YOUR 2025 DIARIES

Wednesday 7 th May	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 4 th June	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 2 nd July	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 6 th August	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 10 th August	11.30am for 12noon Commemoration Luncheon
Friday 15 th August 2025	80 th Anniversary of VP Day
Wednesday 3 rd September 2025	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 1 st October 2025	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 5 th November 2025	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Sunday 9 th November 2025	10.30am Remembrance Sunday Service
Wednesday 3 rd December 2025	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 7 th December 2025	11.30am for 12noon Christmas Luncheon
Monday 15 th December 2025	2pm sub-Branch office closed - Christmas Break

FORESTVILLE RSL AUXILIARY MEETINGS

1pm **FIRST Monday** of each month - 03 February to 03 November - except October will be Monday 13 October - check RSL Auxiliary monthly newsletter reports.

WALKING GROUPS

9.45am for 10am - third Wednesday of each month—check monthly newsletters.

EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY CLASSES

2.30pm on the second and fourth Thursday of each month—check monthly newsletters.

MAY SIGNIFICANT AUSTRALIAN ANNIVERSARIES

May is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 1st May 1945 – 26th Brigade lands at Tarakan
- 2nd May 1945 – Russians take Berlin
- 3rd May 1945 – Rangoon taken by 26 Indian Div.
- 4th May 1915 – Australian attack on Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli
- 5th May 1915 – Cape Helles Landing, Gallipoli
- 6th May 1945 – Tarakan taken and airstrip captured
- 7th May 1945 – Germany surrendered
- 8th May 1915 – Battle of Krithia on Cape Helles
- 8th May 1945 – LEUT G. Gosse, GC RANVR, at Undersee Hafen
- 8th May 1945 – Victory in Europe (VE) Day
- 10th May 1900 – NSW Mounted Rifles at Zand River, South Africa
- 10th May 1940 – Germany invaded Holland and Belgium
- 11th May 1945 – 6th Division captures Wewak
- 12th May 1945 – CPL J.B. Mackey, VC at Tarakan (posthumous)
- 15th May 1935 – CAPT P.G. Taylor, GC (Aust-NZ Airmail Flight)
- 15th May 1945 – PTE E. Kenna, VC at Wewak, New Guinea
- 18th May 1885 – NSW troops depart Suakin, Sudan for Sydney
- 19th May 1915 – Defence of ANZAC (19-21), Gallipoli
- 20th May 1915 – LCPL A. Jacka, VC at Gallipoli
- 20th May 2005 – East Timor, Operation CHIRON
- 22nd May 1945 – Barin Road, Solomons, cleared
- 24th May 1915 – Formal truce on Gallipoli to bury Turkish dead
- 26th May 1940 – Evacuation of Dunkirk
- 26th May 1950 – Withdrawal of British Commonwealth Occupation Forces
- 27th May 1965 – HMAS SYDNEY departed on first Vietnam voyage – 1RAR
- 28th May 1970 – US Meritorious Unit Commendation – AATTV
- 29th May 1915 – Attack on Quinns Post, Gallipoli

*“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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Vice President, Acting Treasurer:
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Mobile: TBA

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Joint Padres:
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Rev. Sanghyeon (Daniel) Nam
Phone: 0425 477 003

Travel Officer: Bob Connors
Phone: 9451 9494

Merchant Navy Chapter Coordinator:
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Mobile: 0433 934 705

RSL Auxiliary Coordinator:
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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/mysevice

Australian Death Notification Service

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

Scamwatch

www.scamwatch.gov.au

Military History Society of NSW

www.militaryhistorynsw.com.au