



**RSL**  
**NSW**

## Forestville sub-Branch

Australia My Country



## NEWSLETTER

*Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area*

**JULY 2025**

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

We're half-way through a very busy 2025 for our Committee members, and our Committee volunteer Sue Duchesne.

A large contingent of our sub-Branch Committee members attended the Australia Remembers – Northern Beaches & North Shore Committee 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Defence of Sydney Commemoration Service at North Head on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025. We have included a selection of photos in this newsletter, taken by our sub-Branch Official Photographer, Darryl Bullock. Thanks, Darryl!

The RSL NSW State Congress 2025 will be held in Tamworth 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October. Our sub-Branch Delegates will be Vince Williams CSC, and VP Sandy Howard. As President of RSL NSW Northern Beaches District Council (NBDC), I will attend as the NBDC Delegate.

We were pleased to see 245 (185 in 2024) entries from 14 area schools for the Australia My Country (AMC) competition, all up significantly on last year. The number of area schools which participated this year is up 2 from 12 in 2024, largely as a result of more contact by our Schools Liaison Officers with area schools, which we can now work on for AMC 2026. Prize winners were awarded at the AMC Presentation Ceremony on 14<sup>th</sup> June at the Club by Matt Cross MP, State Member for Davidson. We thank our Committee Members who co-ordinated the AMC program in 2025 for our sub-Branch: AMC Coordinator John Balfour OAM, Peter McAskill, and Kevin Leary, supported by our Committee members. Well done, all! We also thank our Active Committee Volunteer, Darryl Bullock, our resident official photographer, for always being available to pictorially record these sub-Branch events and activities. Details are available elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our next event will be the Commemoration Luncheon on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August for sub-Branch members and partners only, commemorating all wars, campaigns, and battles in the July to September period. Included will be 10<sup>th</sup> August which was our sub-Branch and NBDC recommendation which was accepted by the District Presidents Council. It is the date our Prime Minister and Cabinet committed our ADF to the Middle East in 1990 as part of Operation Damask and the First Gulf War and the conflicts are still ongoing. Full details for our Commemoration Luncheon are included in this newsletter. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

At our General Meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, members unanimously endorsed a Committee recommendation of the appointment of Colonel Nick de Bont as our Second Vice President, with immediate effect. We are delighted to have Nick as a member of our Executive Committee. Nick is still in full-time employment as Chief Security Officer Australia and New Zealand for Thales, overseeing national security for over 100 complex and classified projects spanning Aerospace, Defence, Digital Identity, Communications and Cyber Security. He also serves in the Australian Army Reserve as a Colonel, and has served in deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor, contributing significantly in specialist intelligence roles. Welcome, Nick!

We were all delighted to see in the King's Birthday 2025 Honours List that long-standing Forestville RSL sub-Branch member, Robert (Bob) George Connors OAM, was included in the Medal of the Order of Australia awards. This award is in recognition of Bob's service to lawn bowls, including RSL NSW Zone 4 Bowls. Congratulations, Bob!

Members who are Facebook users are encouraged to access our sub-Branch and our RSL Auxiliary Facebook pages directly through Facebook, or also through our sub-Branch website if you click on the Facebook icon available in various areas of our website. Give it a try, this will give you access to daily posts on our sub-Branch Facebook page, including RSL Australia, RSL NSW, RSL LifeCare, DVA, Anzac Memorial and many other updates.

Members are cordially invited to attend the Northern Memorial Pathway Dedication at 3pm to 3.30pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July in the Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields. Parking is available in the lower car park. Manly Warringah Pipe Band will be playing. Hospitality will be provided in the Forest Room at Forestville RSL Club until 5pm. Please register your attendance with our Assistant Secretary for catering purposes. Take care with the cold weather and call us if in need. **Be vigilant, with influenza, bronchitis, COVID and pneumonia around us!**

Regards, **Bob Lunnon**

### What's On

*Bill Hardman Presentation  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
7.30pm*

*Northern Memorial Pathway  
Dedication, Playing Fields  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July  
3pm to 5pm*

*Commemoration Luncheon  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August  
11.30am for 12noon*



### In this issue

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- VP Day Commemoration
- Northern Memorial Pathway Dedication
- Day Trip - September
- Bob Connors OAM

***The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance***

## Membership

Membership totals: 348 (plus 6 Honorary members)  
Sadly we have lost the following members:

..... BRAGGE AM Raymond George RAN

## New Members:

..... REYNOLDS Zeke Ernest Affiliate

LAMBERT Betty RSL Auxiliary

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

## AUSTRALIA MY COUNTRY 2025

To view more photos of AMC participants and entries go to <http://www.forestvillersl.org.au/photos>



## Forestville RSL Auxiliary

### MEAT RAFFLE

#### FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

Our Forestville RSL Auxiliary will conduct the Meat Raffle at the Forestville RSL Club on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June from 5.30pm, hopefully with great success from your support. We encourage you to bring friends and family to have dinner in the Club when each of our Meat Raffles is conducted. Meat Raffle tickets are \$5 for 50 chances, and multiples thereof. EFTPOS is available. Lots of sub-Branch members have been winners recently.

Our RSL Auxiliary members will attend our General Meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for Meat Raffle ticket pre-sales for the next Meat Raffle on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 5.30pm. EFTPOS is available.

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: the next Meat Raffle at the Club after 12<sup>th</sup> September will be advised when details are received from Forestville RSL Club.

### \*\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\*\*

**sub-Branch Day Tour - 24th September 2025**  
**Western Sydney International Airport and Camden**  
**Morning Tea + 2 Course Lunch**  
**Details in the August Newsletter**

## 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 class is at 2.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July, followed by Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm.** 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

## Forestville sub-Branch WALKING GROUPS

Our next Walking Group activity will be at 9.45am for 10am on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July from Forestville RSL Club 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](mailto:asstsecretary@forestville.org.au).

AS PART OF THE RSL NSW STRATEGIC PLAN 2021/2026

RSL NSW SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES FOR SUB-BRANCH MEMBERS

## RSL AUXILIARY

At our June meeting our members were hearing people say:

**"I beg your pardon?". "What did you say?". "You keep mumbling".**

Dr Signe Steers, from The Audiology Place, Forestville, kindly talked to our members regarding loss of hearing as we age. Thank you, Signe, for a truly informative talk, now our members have a better understanding of the loneliness loss of hearing can bring.

**Our next meeting is at 1pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July with our theme "Christmas in July". Let's Christmas-up the tables, and ourselves for a fun afternoon. The cutoff date for catering numbers is 4pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Bookings or cancellations are to be made via Barbara Norton on mobile: 0414 415 332, or email: [barian@optusnet.com.au](mailto:barian@optusnet.com.au).**

## COMMEMORATION LUNCHEON



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025**  
**Forest Room, Forestville RSL Club**  
*for sub-Branch members and partners only*

COMMEMORATING WARS, CAMPAIGNS, AND BATTLES  
IN THE JULY TO SEPTEMBER PERIOD INCLUDING THE  
MIDDLE EAST AREA OF OPERATIONS (MEAO)  
COMMEMORATION HELD ANNUALLY  
**AND THE 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WW11**

- Time:** The Luncheon will commence at 12 noon, the doors will open at 11:30am, with no access prior to 11.30am.
- Tickets:** On sale from 10.30am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June from the sub-Branch office on Mondays and Thursdays only. Please provide mobile phone number when paying.
- Cost:** \$40.00 per person for members and partners which is heavily subsidized by the sub-Branch, by cash, and EFTPOS is also available (Tap & Go).
- Menu:** A 2 course meal will be served with alternates on each course, with refreshments.
- Dress:** Smart casual.
- Entertainment:** Steve Passfield (vocal, instrumentalist)
- Raffle:** RSL Auxiliary fundraising raffle, please be prepared with cash, and EFTPOS is also available.
- Club Bus:** The Club bus will not be available.
- Cancellations:** Please note that there will be no refunds on cancellations received on or after Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August.
- More Details:** Will be provided in our August newsletter.
- Contact:** **Kevin Leary, Assistant Secretary, at email:** [asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au) or phone: 94511221

### DEFENCE OF SYDNEY

83rd Anniversary Commemorative Service  
Friday 6th June 2025

North Fort Viewing Platform, North Head  
**THE NIGHT THE WAR CAME TO SYDNEY**

This annual Commemorative Service, conducted by the Australia Remembers - Northern Beaches & North Shore Committee, of which our sub-Branch is a Committee member, is an appropriate commemoration of the City of Sydney's place in the conflict of WWII: The Night the War Came to Sydney on 31st May/1st June 1942. Many of our members attended, enjoying the Commemorative Address by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beasley AC KC, Governor of NSW. Photos are by our sub-Branch Volunteer Official Photographer, Darryl Bullock.



## AUSTRALIA MY COUNTRY 2025



To view more photos of AMC participants and entries go to <http://www.forestvillersl.org.au/photos>

### Art, Poetry & Written Composition Prizewinners 2025

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Presented by  
**Matt Cross MP, Member for Davidson**

Congratulations to this year's winners:

#### Written Composition (Years 3-4)

- 1st Place - Madeleine Cooper, OLG
- 2nd Place - Isabelle Evans, NBCS
- 3rd Place - Denver Green, NBCS

#### Written Composition (Years 5-6)

- 1st Place - Scarlett Doyle, Wakehurst
- 2nd Place - Eddie Baddock, Mimosa
- 3rd Place - Edward Dowbiggin, Forestville

#### Poetry (Years 3-4)

- 1st Place - Matthew Sonemann, Mimosa
- 2nd Place - Elodie Sales, Killarney Heights
- 3rd Place - Joel Rouvray, Mimosa

#### Poetry (Years 5-6)

- 1st Place - Lachlan Eckford, Beacon Hill
- 2nd Place - Kate Sandler, Castle Cove
- 3rd Place - Paavni Rawal, John Colet

#### ART (Years 3-4)

- 1st Place - Alessandro Ianni, St Martins
- 2nd Place - Georgia Smith, OLG
- 3rd Place - Lucy Foster, Beacon Hill

#### ART (Years 5-6)

- 1st Place - Lydia Xu, John Colet
- 2nd Place - Sarang Nam, Forestville
- 3rd Place - Lachlan Chatman, Kambora

#### ART Special Commendation (Years 3-4)

- Billie Christopher, Killarney Heights
- Emmeline Critchley, Forestville

#### ART Special Commendation (Years 5-6)

- Sienna Boal, St Martins
- Jasmine Harkness, OLG
- Charlotte Seeto, OLG
- Mitchell Hall, Mimosa

### \*\*\* COMMITTEE POSITION AVAILABLE \*\*\*

Our sub-Branch is seeking a nomination for the following Committee position, available immediately:

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

*Nomination forms are available from the sub-Branch office.*

**Dates to Remember in 2025**  
(Subject to change)

**FOR YOUR 2025 DIARIES**

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	3pm - 5pm Northern Memorial Pathway Dedication
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	11.30am for 12noon Commemoration Luncheon
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VP Day
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	10.30am Remembrance Sunday Service
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2025	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	11.30am for 12noon Christmas Luncheon
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> 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.

**JULY SIGNIFICANT AUSTRALIAN ANNIVERSARIES**

July is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 1<sup>st</sup> July 1945 – 7<sup>th</sup> Division landed at Balikpapan
- 10<sup>th</sup> July 1940 – Battle of Britain began
- 11<sup>th</sup> July 1940 – RAN first casualties in HMAS VAMPIRE
- 15<sup>th</sup> July 1940 – No. 3 Squadron embarked aboard the ORONTES
- 16<sup>th</sup> July 1940 – HMAS STUART and WATERHEN on screen at bombardment of Bardia
- 18<sup>th</sup> July 1945 – Ilipen Wewako cleared
- 19<sup>th</sup> July 1940 – HMAS SYDNEY sank BATOLEMEO COLLEONI off Crete
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1945 – PTE A.S.Gurney, VC at Tel el Elas
- 24<sup>th</sup> July 1900 – CAPT N.R.Howse wins the first Australian VC in South Africa
- 24<sup>th</sup> July 1945 – PTE P.J.Partridge, VC at Bougainville
- 25<sup>th</sup> July 1970 – RAN 817 Helicopter Squadron – US Navy Meritorious Unit Citation
- 26<sup>th</sup> July 1945 – Ultimatum issued to Japan
- 26<sup>th</sup> July 1950 – Australian troops committed to Korea
- 31<sup>st</sup> July 1960 – Malayan Emergency ends after 12 years 45 days

**NORTHERN BEACHES DISTRICT COUNCIL (NBDC)**

**80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VP DAY FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025**  
11.30am to 12noon Avalon Beach RSL Club

This NBDC service will take place at the Cenotaph at Avalon Beach RSL Club, followed by lunch in the Club. Should you wish to attend, please contact Kevin Leary, Assistant Secretary, by 4<sup>th</sup> August latest for catering purposes, in the office during office hours on Monday or Thursday on 9451 1221, or by email at:

[asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au).

*“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](mailto:secretary@forestvillersl.org.au)  
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President: Bob Lunnon  
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Treasurer: *Position Available*  
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Funerals Officer: Stuart Hablethwaite  
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Merchant Navy Chapter Coordinator:  
Merrill Barker  
Email: [mnchapter@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:mnchapter@forestvillersl.org.au)  
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RSL Auxiliary Coordinator:  
Barbara Norton  
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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](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)