



RSL NSW



Forestville sub-Branch

Australia My Country

NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

AUGUST 2025

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

President's Report

In my role as President of Northern Beaches District Council of RSL NSW sub-Branches, I attend quarterly meetings of the District President's Council (DPC) at ANZAC House in Pitt Street, Sydney. At the DPC meeting on 7th August, we will review and approve nominations for inclusion in the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund for 2026, named VSF 2026, subject to approval by the RSL NSW Board, to be announced on 27th October 2025 by RSL NSW Circular. We are proud that our sub-Branch had previously nominated the Saltwater Veterans Sailing Project (SWVP) for inclusion in VSF 2024 and VSF 2025, which resulted in significant donations from RSL sub-Branches in NSW, including donations by our own sub-Branch. As part of the RSL NSW Sport and Recreation program, Saltwater Veterans is now providing sailing activities for veterans in Newcastle, Gosford and on Sydney Harbour from Manly. Members of our sub-Branch are regularly participating in these sailing activities.

For VSF 2025, our sub-Branch successfully nominated Australian Catholic University (ACU) for inclusion. ACU has campuses in Blacktown, Strathfield and North Sydney, and has a highly developed Student Veteran Support Program (SVSP) for veterans, especially those currently transitioning, to undertake tertiary education. Donations by RSL sub-Branches in NSW to this ACU program through VSF 2025 will see many veterans supported with their tertiary education, and onwards.

Both SWVP and ACU will be automatically included in VSF 2026. We are extremely proud of these achievements by our sub-Branch, and we appreciate your support as well. All sub-Branches, and RSL NSW, are now moving forward with the VSF as our key focus for supporting veterans and their families, ensuring all of our collective activities are carried out in the name of RSL NSW, in order to ensure all communities in NSW are aware of these RSL NSW activities, funded by sub-Branches. This will strengthen our RSL NSW brand, whereas in the past there has been little or no recognition.

You will have received from our sub-Branch in July an email with a link to an RSL LifeCare Veteran Services survey asking you to provide your input into the renewal project at RSL Anzac Village in Narrabeen, a ten year project commencing in late 2025. The feedback you provide in this survey will be used to shape the village for the future for veterans and seniors. We trust you will take the time to provide your own feedback as part of this process, and you have until the end of August to do so.

Ticket sales for our Commemoration Luncheon on Sunday 10th August have been bubbling along, we thank you for your support. At this luncheon, we will commemorate wars, conflicts and battles which occurred over the period of July, August, September, including a Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) commemoration which our sub-Branch and District have nominated to occur annually on 10th August. Booking, payment (EFTPOS is available) and cancellation details are included in this newsletter. Please book soon if you have not already done so, the cut-off is Thursday 7th August. Cancellations are non-refundable after Thursday 7th August.

As part of our sub-Branch participation in the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021/2026, and specifically the Sport & Recreation program, we regularly publish details in each newsletter of our monthly Walking Groups on the third Wednesday, and our Exercise Physiology classes on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Your participation is encouraged, all costs are covered by our sub-Branch, with the health and wellbeing of all of our members in mind. We look forward to seeing you and your family members soon!

As always, your welfare and well being are our main concern, so please call if you need assistance. And stay rugged up during the winter months still upon us.

Best Regards,
Bob Lunnon

What's On

*General Meeting
Wednesday 6th August
7.30pm*

*Commemoration Luncheon
Sunday 10th August
11.30am for 12noon*

*VP Day 80th Anniversary
Commemoration
Avalon Beach RSL Club
11.30am to 12noon*



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The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Membership

Membership totals: 345 (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly we have lost the following members:

FIELDS Cecil Henry (Stan) RN **DAVIS** Allan Winter Army
BIRRELL Jennifer RSL Auxiliary **JENKINS** Len Army

RSL Badge found: NA 05523. Handed in at Forestville RSL Club. If you are, or know, the owner/descendants, please contact our Membership Officer (details below).

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: orders for Remembrance Day 2025 close on Thursday 18th September

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

*** 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.

NEW MEMBERS

CLAIRE FELLOWS AND ZEKE REYNOLDS GENERAL MEETING – 2nd JULY 2025

At our General Meeting on 2nd July 2025, we were delighted to welcome our newest Service member, LCDR Claire Fellows, NAVY; and our newest Affiliate member Zeke Reynolds, grandson of Norm Reynolds. We look forward to seeing you at our future General Meetings and commemorative services, Claire, and Zeke, when available.



Forestville RSL Auxiliary

MEAT RAFFLE

FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

Our Forestville RSL Auxiliary conducted the Meat Raffle at the Forestville RSL Club on Friday 27th June from 5.30pm, with great success from your support, raising \$536.

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 3rd September for Meat Raffle ticket pre-sales for the next Meat Raffle on Friday 12th 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 12th September will be advised when details are received from Forestville RSL Club.

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 14th August, followed by Thursday 28th August 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 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

Let us stay upright!

Forestville sub-Branch WALKING GROUPS

Our next Walking Group activity will be at 9.45am for 10am on Wednesday 20th August 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

RSL AUXILIARY

Everyone looked colourful in their red and green outfits at our July meeting as we celebrated "Christmas in July". We enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon playing a game exchanging/swapping/stealing gifts!!! We also welcomed our special guest, Ken Edwards OAM, retired Captain of the tall-ship "James Craig".

A workshop making Poppies either knitted, crocheted or felt will be part of our next General Meeting on Monday 4th August. Don't forget to bring sharp scissors, small ones similar to nail scissors, knitting needles, crochet hooks etc. Everyone is welcome from 12noon. Cutoff date for catering purposes is **4pm on Wednesday 30th July**. Bookings and cancellations are to be made via Barbara Norton: mobile 0414 415 332, or email: barian@optusnet.com.au.

Would you like to become a member of our RSL Auxiliary, helping with fundraising for Veterans and their Families in need? Ring Barbara Norton, details above.

COMMEMORATION LUNCHEON



Sunday 10th 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 80th 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 23rd 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 7th August.
- More Details:** Will be provided in our August newsletter.
- Contact:** **Kevin Leary, Assistant Secretary, at email:** asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au or phone: 94511221

WAR VETERANS (NARRABEEN) RSL SUB-BRANCH VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE 2PM MONDAY 18 AUGUST 2025 – RSL ANZAC VILLAGE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Members are cordially invited to attend this annual commemoration service, especially Vietnam Veterans and families. The Guest Speaker will be David Wilkins OAM, a graduate from Duntroon in 1963, who joined the Infantry Corps, served in Vietnam, was involved in training National Servicemen at Kapooka, transferred to the Legal Corps, and retired from the ADF to become a barrister.

Afternoon tea in the Lone Pine Room will follow the service. Should you and your family members wish to attend, for catering purposes, please let Kevin Leary, our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary know on 02-9451 1221 or email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au.

***** COMMITTEE POSITION AVAILABLE *****

Our sub-Branch is seeking a nomination for the following 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.

FUNERALS OFFICER: assisting families with funerals & RSL Tributes, training is available.

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

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH

Day Tour



**Western Sydney International Airport
Experience Centre & Camden**

Wednesday 24th September 2025

We will commence the day with morning tea at Narraginy Reserve before embarking on a journey of discovery at the Western Sydney International Airport Experience Centre, showcasing the exciting developments and endless possibilities. We will have a clear view of the future airfield and be able to watch the airport come to life.

Gain valuable insights into Australia's first smart airport & its impacts on the region, where immersive & interactive displays take visitors on a journey to learn about the Airport. Our two-course lunch is at **Barenz** in Camden, a stylish & modern, yet cosy establishment. Lunch includes a choice of main meal, a delicious cake platter and tea or coffee. After lunch we will be joined by our Historical Guide and keen member of the Camden Historical Society who will showcase many of the heritage buildings around both Camden & Cobbitty.

Depart: 8.15am for 8.30am (lower carpark)

Return: Approx. 5.30pm

Cost: Members & Partners \$50
Non-members \$90

Tickets: On sale from 1030 on Monday 11th August until Thursday 18th September from the sub-Branch office (Mondays & Thursdays only), cash & EFTPOS accepted

Dress: Smart Casual

Cancellations: Must be made at least 3 weeks prior by Wednesday 3rd September latest

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

FORESTVILLE RSL AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCHEON MONDAY 7th JULY 2025

On Monday 7th July, in the Flight Deck Room at Forestville RSL Club, Forestville RSL Auxiliary members of our Forestville RSL sub-Branch celebrated Christmas in July and the 96th Birthday of our Special Guest, **Ken Edwards OAM**. With members of the sub-Branch committee, Auxiliary members sang Happy Birthday to Ken, retired Captain of the tall-ship, "James Craig", and assisted him in cutting and sharing his birthday cake.



Dates to Remember in 2025
(Subject to change)

FOR YOUR 2025 DIARIES

Wednesday 6 th August 2025	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 10 th August 2025	11.30am for 12noon Commemoration Luncheon
Friday 15 th August 2025	80 th Anniversary of VP Day, Avalon
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.

AUGUST SIGNIFICANT AUSTRALIAN ANNIVERSARIES

August is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 2nd August 1950 – 77 Sqn. RAAF 800+ sorties to date
- 2nd August 1990 – First Maritime Interception Force (MIR 1), Persian Gulf
- 3rd August 1880 – Second Maori War began
- 4th August 1900 – Battle of Elands River, South Africa
- 6th August 1915 – Battle for Lone Pine and Sari Bair began
- 6th August 1945 – First atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima
- 6th August 1950 – HMAS WARRAMUNGA left for Korea
- 7th August 1915 – Australians charge at The Nek, Gallipoli
- 8th August 1915 – LCPL I. Keysor, VC at Gallipoli
- 9th August 1915 – 6 VCs at Gallipoli – CAPT A.J. Shout; LT's W.J. Symons, F.H. Tubb; CPL's A.S. Burton, W. Dunstan, and PTE J. Hamilton
- 9th August 1945 – Atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki
- 10th August 1990 – Operation DAMASK, Persian Gulf
- 11th August 1900 – HMAS Protector leaves Sydney for China
- 14th August 1945 – Japanese surrender
- 23rd August 1940 – HMAS SYDNEY, WATERHEN and STUART bombard Gulf of Bomba
- 24th August 2010 – CPL D. Keighran, VC at Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan
- 24th August 2010 – The Battle of Derapet, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan
- 28th August 1945 – Australian destroyers entered Tokyo Bay
- 28th August 1970 – HMAS Perth awarded US Navy Meritorious Unit Citation
- 30th August 1915 – 2LT H.V.H. Throssell, VC at Gallipoli

RSL NSW NORTHERN BEACHES DISTRICT COUNCIL
80th ANNIVERSARY OF VP DAY –

FRIDAY 15th AUGUST 2025 - 11.30am to 12noon
AVALON BEACH RSL SUB-BRANCH

This Commemorative 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 4th 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.

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, Acting Treasurer:
Sandy Howard
Email: support@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0411 145 077

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

Funerals Officer: Vacant
Email: funerals@forestvillersl.org.au
Office: (02) 9451 1221

Membership, Wellbeing Support, Schools
Liaison Officer: Peter McAskill JP
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Newsletter Editor: Bob Lunnon
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Ceremonial Officer & AMC Coordinator:
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Assistant Secretary, Events, Schools Liaison
Officer: Kevin Leary
Email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au
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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: mchapter@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0433 934 705

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

*“And the world is a little poorer, for a soldier died today”
...Lest We Forget...*



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