



RSL
NSW



Forestville sub-Branch

Australia My Country

NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

NOVEMBER, 2025

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

President's Report

On 9th October, four RSL NSW Board Directors, including President, Mick Bainbridge, resigned. The RSL NSW Board proceeded that day to call for nominations for an Elected Director casual vacancy. Under the Constitution, the successful candidate could potentially be considered for appointment by the Board as Deputy President of RSL NSW. The role is to represent RSL NSW at commemorations and events, and acting as an ambassador and spokesperson for the organization until an RSL NSW President is elected.

Our own sub-Branch Honorary Secretary, **Vince Williams CSC**, nominated for both roles. He was interviewed by a selection panel and advanced to the RSL NSW Board. It unanimously recommended Vince for endorsement by the District Presidents' Council. On 24th October it was announced that Vince had been appointed as RSL NSW Deputy President, to be called Acting President, until the next Board elections in conjunction with Congress 2026 in Tamworth.

This is an historical moment for our sub-Branch, Northern Beaches District Council (NBDC) and the League in general. It will mean changes for our sub-Branch and NBDC. Vince can no longer hold Executive roles in either. He will remain as a Committee member of our sub-Branch. On behalf all members, I extend our heartiest congratulations to Vince. We offer you, Vince, our complete sub-Branch support as you accept and execute your RSL NSW duties. Well done, Vince!

We will update you further at our General Meeting on Wednesday 5th November, after we have finalized our respective Committee roles at our Committee meeting on 30th October. Similar NBDC changes will be discussed and resolved at our next NBDC QGM at Avalon on 18th November, with details to be advised at a later date.

RSL NSW State Congress 2025 was held 24th-26th October, for the first time in Tamworth. Vince Williams CSC, our Secretary, was to be our sub-Branch Delegate. VP, Sandy Howard, our Alternate Delegate, stepped in as Delegate. I attended as NBDC President. On Friday 24th October, prior to the Congress Official Opening Ceremony, Vince Williams in his new role as RSL NSW Deputy (Acting) President, and I attended a joint DPC/RSL NSW Board Meeting. The Congress was addressed by our **RSL NSW Patron, Her Excellency the Honorable Margaret Beazley AC KC**. Further reporting on Congress/AGM outcomes will be included in our December newsletter and at our General Meeting on 5th November.

Our **Forestville RSL Auxiliary** held a very successful Fashion Parade on Wednesday 1st October as part of its fundraising purpose. \$2170 was raised from ticket sales, the raffle and sales of spring fashions. This was an outstanding result, which will be used to support veterans and their families, through the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund.

Our **Remembrance Sunday Commemorative Service** will be held on Sunday 9th November at 10.30am at the Cenotaph at Forestville RSL Club. Preparations are well under way, thanks to the diligent work by our Sub-Branch Secretary, Vince Williams CSC. We are delighted that Manly Warringah Pipe Band will again be joining us. Northern Beaches Council Mayor, Sue Heins, who is an Honorary Member of our sub-Branch, will deliver the Commemorative Address. We encourage you and your family members to attend. Please advise Kevin Leary by 3rd November if you are attending, so we can be prepared for provision of post-service hospitality.

Our **Christmas Fundraising Luncheon** is on Sunday 7th December at 11.30am for 12noon. This will again be a joint Christmas Fundraising Luncheon with our RSL Auxiliary. Further details are available in this and our December newsletters. We hope you will be able to join us for this important celebration and fundraising event. Please book in early.

We encourage you to actively support our **Forestville RSL Auxiliary** fundraising activities in the remainder of the year, in conjunction with Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day, as well as our joint Christmas Fundraising Luncheon.

Remembrance Day tokens, and hand-made poppy items, will be on sale in the Forestville RSL Club foyer on Remembrance Sunday 9th November, on the evenings of 8th and 10th November, and on Remembrance Day 11th November. You will also find our Forestville RSL Auxiliary members at Bunnings Belrose from 9am to 2pm on Friday 7th November, selling items for Remembrance Day. Please be generous in support of veterans and their families as part of our RSL NSW charitable purpose.

Most importantly, we are delighted to let all of our members know that **Saltwater Veterans Sailing Project (SVSP)** has been awarded Australian Sailing's Club of the Year 2025 (Cat B) for NSW/ACT and is now eligible for the National Award. SVSP have been going ahead in leaps and bounds since Forestville RSL sub-Branch, and NBDC sub-Branches, supported their inclusion in the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund in 2024. This support now includes financial support by many RSL sub-Branches around NSW on an ongoing annual basis, enabling SVSP to increase their veteran sailing activities across NSW.

Best Regards, **Bob Lunnon**

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

What's On

General Meeting
Wednesday 5th November
7.30pm

General Meeting
Wednesday 3rd December
7.30pm

Fundraising Christmas Luncheon
Sunday 7th December
11.30am for 12noon



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Membership

Membership totals: 340 (plus 6 Honorary members)
Sadly, we have lost the following members:

LILLYMAN, Brian Cobden	RAN
SMYTH, Peter Douglas	ARMY
MERCHANT, John Morgan	RAAF
JOHNSTON, Colin Stuart	ARMY

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 are now being taken for Anzac Day 2026.
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.

FORESTVILLE RSL AUXILIARY MEETINGS

1pm **FIRST Monday** of each month - 03 February to 03 November - except there will be no October meeting - 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.

Forestville RSL Auxiliary

MEAT RAFFLE

FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

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 attend our General Meetings for Meat Raffle ticket pre-sales. 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 for 2026 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 13th November however, please note that our class at 2.30pm on Thursday 27th November has been cancelled.**

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 19th November 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.

AS PART OF THE RSL NSW STRATEGIC PLAN 2021/2026 RSL NSW SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES FOR SUB-BRANCH MEMBERS

RSL AUXILIARY

*After a cold and wet Winter, **Spring is here!!***

*Our Spring Fashion Parade, our major fundraiser, was held on October 1st, and was an outstanding success. We thank all who participated in achieving this fantastic result, raising \$2170. **Congratulations, All!***

*November 3rd is our next meeting and again this year we will be running our "MMC" (Mini Melbourne Cup), so don't forget to bring along your racehorse and watch him/her compete, hopefully winning a motza!!! All Jockeys wear your "**Colours**"!*

*And regarding the November Meeting, please call/message Barbara Norton by 5pm on Wednesday 29th October if you are **unable** to attend.*

If you would like to become a member of our RSL Auxiliary, helping with fundraising for Veterans and their Families in need, please ring Barbara Norton, Phone: 0414 415 332 or email: barian@optusnet.com.au.



**Western Sydney International Airport
Experience Centre & Richmond/Penrith
Monday 3rd November 2025**

We will commence the day with morning tea at the Richmond War Memorial in Richmond Park, a peaceful and historic setting that provides a relaxing start to our day.

Our journey continues to Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest, a property dating back to 1901. Once the home of artists Margo and Gerald Lewers, the site was entrusted to Penrith City Council by their daughter and opened as a Regional Gallery in 1981. You will have time to explore the current exhibition and stroll through the tranquil heritage gardens that surround this cultural landmark.

We will then enjoy a two-course lunch, followed by tea and coffee at Nepean Rowers Club, where you can take in picturesque views over the river and surrounding mountains.

Our afternoon concludes at the Western Sydney International Airport Experience Centre, where you will discover the exciting developments and endless possibilities of Australia's first smart airport. Through immersive and interactive displays, gain valuable insights into the airport's design, innovation, and its transformative impact on the region. From the centre, you'll have clear views of the future airfield and can watch the airport come to life - a fascinating and inspiring finale to the day.

Arrive: 8.15am for 8.30am departure (lower carpark)

Return: Approx. 5pm

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

Dress: Smart Casual

Cancellations: Must be made at least 3 weeks prior by Monday 13th October latest

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



Christmas Luncheon

for sub-Branch members and
partners

Sunday 7th December 2025

**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 3rd November from the sub-Branch office on Monday & Thursday mornings only. Please provide your mobile number when paying.

Cost: \$50 per person by cash or EFTPOS (available at sub-Branch office). No refunds after 4th December.

Menu: A three course meal with tea & coffee will be served with alternates for each course, with table refreshments.

Dress: Christmas festive for ladies and gentlemen.



Entertainment: Ross Maio - Entertainer,
Piano Accordion - 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.



Stafford Spring Fashion Parade 2025



Sponsored by the Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary
Wednesday October 1st 2025



Dates to Remember in 2025/2026

FOR YOUR 2026 DIARIES

Wednesday 5 th November 2025	7.30pm General Meeting
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
Monday 19 th January 2026	sub-Branch office re-opens
Wednesday 4 th February 2026	7.30pm General Meeting
Tuesday 24 th February 2026	Purple Poppy Day Walking Group
Wednesday 4 th March 2026	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 1 st April 2026	7.30pm sub-Branch AGM
Sunday 19 th April 2026	2.40pm Anzac Sunday March & Service
Saturday 25 th April 2026	5.30am Anzac Day Dawn Service
Wednesday 6 th May 2026	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 3 rd June 2026	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 1 st July 2026	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 5 th August 2026	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 9 th August 2026	11.30am for 12noon Commemoration Luncheon
Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 7 th October 2026	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 4 th November 2026	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Sunday 8 th November 2026	10.30am Remembrance Sunday Service
Wednesday 2 nd December 2026	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 6 th December 2026	11.30am for 12noon Christmas Luncheon
Thursday 17 th December 2026	12.01pm sub-Branch office closed - Christmas Break Office re-opens Monday 18 th January 2027.

Forestville RSL Auxiliary Meetings: held 1pm first Monday of each month - 3rd Feb to 3rd Nov except October (Mon 13th Oct). Check RSL Auxiliary monthly reports for details.

Walking Groups : 9.45am for 10am - third Wednesday each month (22nd Jan to 19th Nov). Check monthly newsletter for details.

NOVEMBER SIGNIFICANT AUSTRALIAN ANNIVERSARIES

November is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 4th November 2000 – Operation PLUMBOB and TREK, Solomon Islands
- 5th November 1900 – New South Welshmen in operations, Bothaville
- 5th November 1950 – 3RAR in Battle of Pakchon, Korea
- 7th November 1940 – Mines off Wilsons Promontory, British freighter sunk
- 10th November 1950 – RAR patrolled Pakchon and took 25 North Koreans prisoner
- 11th November 1950 – 3RAR advanced to a position east of Pakchon taking eight prisoners
- 12th November 1950 – 1000 sorties flown from HMAS SYDNEY since September
- 13th November 1965 – WO2 K.A. Wheatley, VC at South Vietnam
- 18th November 1950 – Australians disperse North Koreans
- 19th November 1940 – No. 3 Squadron's first aerial engagement near Sofafi
- 21st November 1950 – 3RAR concentrated with 27 Commonwealth Bde for advance to Yalu River
- 24th November 1965 – 1RAR captured village of Duc Hahn, South Vietnam
- 27th November 1950 – 3RAR withdraw to Chasan, Korea under Chinese forces threat
- 28th November 1950 – Australians fall back on Sunch'on

*"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

Honorary Treasurer: Sandy Howard
Email: treasurer@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0411 145 077

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

Membership, Wellbeing Support, 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, Events, Schools Liaison
Officer: Kevin Leary
Email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0420 304 873

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

Travel Officer: Bob Connors OAM
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/mysevice

Australian Death Notification Service

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

Scamwatch

www.scamwatch.gov.au

Military History Society of NSW

www.militaryhistorynsw.com.au