



**RSL**  
**NSW**



## Forestville sub-Branch

**NEWSLETTER**

*Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area*

**DECEMBER, 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

Those of you who have registered for email updates from RSL NSW will have received an email on 30th October with details of RSL NSW State Congress 2025 outcomes, including whether motions were approved or not. Our sub-Branch motion, to include two poems as part of an RSL Funeral Tribute for use by bereaved families where their loved one had indeed grown old and age had wearied them, was lost. We are now looking at other options for the inclusion of these two poems. We are pleased that a motion to include a Code of Conduct, applicable at all levels of our organization, will now be included in Appendix B of the RSL NSW Constitution.

Our Remembrance Sunday Commemorative Service on 9<sup>th</sup> November was attended by over 100 members and friends, along with Manly Warringah Pipe Band who joined us afterwards to play in the Forest Room, where we provided hospitality for all attendees after the service. I also attended the State Remembrance Day Commemorative Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November with Vince Williams, CSC, in his new capacity as Acting President of RSL NSW, Vince laid the RSL NSW wreath. We had earlier attended the Commemorative Service at the War Graves Cemetery at Rookwood on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, where we laid wreaths. Vince and I also attended the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway Commemorative Service on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, and laid wreaths. On Remembrance Day 11<sup>th</sup> November, VP/Treasurer Sandy Howard attended the Northern Beaches Council Commemorative Service at the Manly Corso Cenotaph and laid a wreath; our Committee members held a small Commemorative Service at our Cenotaph at Forestville and laid a wreath; and Active Committee Volunteer Norm Reynolds represented us at the Terrey Hills Commemorative Service and delivered the Prologue and Acknowledgement of the Fallen.

On your behalf, at the end of another successful year, we thank our Committee members; Committee volunteers; Active Committee Volunteers; Cenotaph maintenance volunteers Norm Reynolds and Jimmy Murphy; official photographer Darryl Bullock; Travel Officer Bob Connors; and our Club caterers; for all of their support throughout the year. Thanks also to our sub-Branch Patron and IT Support, Tony Mooney, President of Forestville RSL Club.

Our gratitude to Ian Thomson, Forestville RSL Club CEO, his Management Team and all Club staff for another wonderful and memorable year, and for including our RSL Auxiliary participation in Meat Raffles throughout the year to raise funds for the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund.

Our heartfelt thanks to the Forestville RSL Auxiliary members who participated in Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day fundraising, and throughout the year. Special mention is also made of our RSL Auxiliary members and friends of our sub-Branch who produced handmade and crocheted poppies for selling at Club Reception, Bunnings and throughout the community. Our RSL Auxiliary raised \$3220 over the Remembrance Day period, a commendable effort. 100% of these funds support veterans and their families, especially those in need, as part of our charitable purpose, through the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund.

At our General Meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we will make presentations of our 2025 Remembrance Day Education Grants to five recipients. It will be a full evening. We do hope you will be able to join us for our final meeting for 2025.

There is a list on page 4 of this newsletter with all the Dates to Remember for your 2026 diaries, including RSL Auxiliary meeting dates, Walking Groups and Exercise Physiology classes as part of the RSL NSW Sport and Recreation Program. Our sub-Branch Office will be closed from COB on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and will re-open on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Contact details during this time are listed on page 4. Best wishes to each of you and your families for a Joyous and Peace-Filled Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please call us if you are in need.

Best Regards, **Bob Lunnon**

### What's On

*General Meeting*  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
7.30pm

*Fundraising Christmas Luncheon*  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
11.30am for 12noon

*General Meeting*  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February  
7.30pm



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

## Membership

**Membership totals: 338** (plus 6 Honorary members)  
Sadly, we have lost the following member:

**HAYES** Frank John ..... ARMY  
**CRITTLE** Charles Henry...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](mailto: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 class is at 2.30pm on Thursday 11th December, then Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February. NOTE: our Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February class will commence at 3.30pm on a one-off basis.** These classes are open to members and their families, however you **MUST register** by calling our sub-Branch Secretary, Kevin Leary, at the office during office hours on 9451 1221, or email: [secretary@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:secretary@forestvillersl.org.au)

## **Forestville sub-Branch**

### **WALKING GROUPS**

Our next Walking Group activity will be at 9.45am for 10am on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December from Glen Street Theatre, and on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 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 Secretary, Kevin Leary, at the office in office hours on 9451 1221, or email: [secretary@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:secretary@forestvillersl.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 3<sup>rd</sup> November General Meeting we were honoured to be addressed by Vince Willams, CSC, Acting President, RSL NSW. Vince congratulated us on our fundraising efforts and support of veterans and families with visits. Then, our "MMC" (Mini pre-Melbourne Cup) took place where everyone brought their toy horses decorated in colourful outfits matching with their owners. The room was a mass of colour with our members looking resplendent in their special "race gear". Not all can be winners but not a worry, everyone had lots of fun.

With Christmas coming up there will be no Auxiliary meeting in December. But we do have the sub-Branch Christmas Fundraising Luncheon to look forward to on Sunday 7th December. Please see details in this newsletter for bookings.

Now is a good time to mark your diaries for our first meeting in 2026 – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 1pm. Please book in by 5pm Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January by contacting Barb Norton.

We send you our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and especially safe Christmas. See you in 2026!!

If you would like to become a member of our RSL Auxiliary, helping with fundraising for Veterans and their Families in need, please contact: **Barbara Norton, mobile: 0414 415 332**

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND REMEMBRANCE DAY FUNDRAISING**

7th-11th NOVEMBER 2025

Congratulations to the members of our Forestville RSL Auxiliary who conducted fundraising activities at Bunnings Belrose on 7th November, and in the Reception area of Forestville RSL Club on 8th-11th November. A total of \$3220 was raised, which will be donated to various charities through the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund to support veterans and their families.

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2025**





**BRIGADIER VINCE WILLIAMS, CSC (Ret'd)**

**ACTING PRESIDENT, RSL NSW**

We are delighted that our Immediate Past Secretary, Vince Williams, CSC, has been elected to fill a casual vacancy as a Director on the RSL NSW Board, and appointed as Acting President of RSL NSW until the next Board elections in conjunction with RSL NSW State Congress 2026 in October next year.

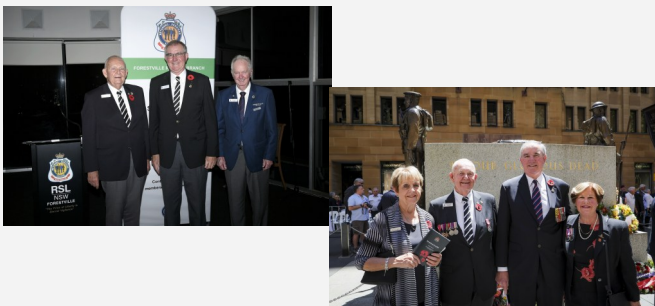
Following a rigorous process involving an EOI resulting in 23 nominations, Vince was interviewed by a panel of key Board members and the Chair of the District Presidents Council, where he was recommended to the full Board for approval, which resulted in him being appointed Acting President of RSL NSW during the RSL NSW State Congress.

Consequently, Vince submitted his resignation as our sub-Branch Secretary, Northern Beaches District Council (NBDC) Secretary and NBDC Delegate, all effective from the 24<sup>th</sup> October.

At our Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October, it was unanimously resolved that our current Assistant Secretary Kevin Leary be appointed as Secretary, and Vice President/Treasurer Sandy Howard be appointed as NBDC Delegate. Both appointments were endorsed unanimously by members at our General Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Vince will continue as a Committee member with our sub-Branch with responsibility for research and will also be welcome to attend NBDC meetings as an Observer when available.

Our General Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November saw Vince welcomed and congratulated by President Bob Lunnon, and Forestville RSL Club President Tony Mooney JP, an historical moment for our Forestville community. Vince addressed the meeting and updated us in his new capacity. We wish you well, Vince, and assure you of the support of our sub-Branch as you undertake your responsibilities around the RSL NSW network.

On Remembrance Day, Vince was at the Opera House at dawn to deliver The Ode, and then laid an RSL NSW wreath at the State Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, accompanied by President Bob Lunnon.



**NOTICE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH  
AGM NOTICE – 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2026 – 7.30PM  
FOREST ROOM, FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB**

The Agenda will be posted on our website by Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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**FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB LTD  
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING—11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025—6.30PM**

Please refer to the Club's email to eligible Club members dated 18<sup>th</sup> November and attend this SGM to vote on the proposed reclassification of Club land for the duration of the re-development project



**Christmas Luncheon**

for sub-Branch members and partners

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> November until 4<sup>th</sup> December 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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, Secretary email: [secretary@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:secretary@forestvillersl.org.au), or phone: 94511221.



**NSW VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2025  
NOT-FOR-PROFIT VOLUNTARY GOVERNANCE NOMINEE  
PETER F. McASKILL JP**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Peter McAskill JP was invited by Member for Wakehurst, Michael Regan MP, to NSW Parliament House for the presentation of NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards 2025. Peter was presented with a certificate as a Not-for-Profit Voluntary Governance Nominee, in recognition of his work with veterans and their families as our Membership Officer, Schools Liaison Officer and Wellbeing Support Coordinator. After the presentations, Michael Regan took Peter and his wife Estelle on a personal tour of Parliament House, including an opportunity to sit in the Speakers Chair.



## Dates to Remember in 2025/2026

### FOR YOUR 2026 DIARIES

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

**Forestville RSL Auxiliary Meetings:** 1pm to 3pm on Mondays 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. Check RSL Auxiliary monthly reports for details.

**Walking Groups :** 9.45am for 10am - third Wednesday each month from 21<sup>st</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> December. Check monthly newsletter for details.

**Exercise Physiology Classes:** 2.30pm on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> December. Check monthly newsletter for details.

### DECEMBER/JANUARY SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

December/January are noteworthy for the following significant dates:

7 <sup>th</sup> December 1915	– Evacuation of Anzac and Suva forces began
20 <sup>th</sup> December 1915	– Evacuation of Anzac and Suva completed
25 <sup>th</sup> December 1940	– ME Naval Force includes 3 Australian cruisers 4 destroyers, 2 sloops
28 <sup>th</sup> December 1940	– 6 <sup>th</sup> Div. in first action before Bardia
2 <sup>nd</sup> January 1951	– British Commonwealth Brigade re-assemble at Seoul, Australians man perimeter
3 <sup>rd</sup> January 1941	– 6 <sup>th</sup> Div. Battle of Bardia
5 <sup>th</sup> January 1941	– Bardia fell to 6 <sup>th</sup> Div. AIF
9 <sup>th</sup> January 1916	– Evacuation of Cape Helles, Gallipoli
9 <sup>th</sup> January 1966	– 1RAR in Operation CRIMP, Vietnam
16 <sup>th</sup> January 1991	– Multinational Forces MNF (I-K), Persian Gulf
17 <sup>th</sup> January 1991	– First day of Gulf War
19 <sup>th</sup> January 1951	– No 77 Squadron raids Pyongyang, Korea
21 <sup>st</sup> January 1941	– 6 <sup>th</sup> Div. began attack on Tobruk
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 1941	– Tobruk surrendered to British /Australian forces
24 <sup>th</sup> January 1967	– 1 ATF – First contact at Bien Hoa, South Vietnam

*“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:  
Kevin Leary  
Email: [secretary@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:secretary@forestvillersl.org.au)  
Mobile: : 0420 304 873

President: Bob Lunnon  
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Vice President: Sandy Howard  
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Honorary Treasurer: Sandy Howard  
Email: [treasurer@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:treasurer@forestvillersl.org.au)  
Mobile: 0411 145 077

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

Membership, Wellbeing Support, Schools  
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Newsletter Editor: Bob Lunnon  
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Ceremonial Officer & AMC Coordinator:  
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Events, Schools Liaison Officer: Kevin Leary  
Email: [secretary@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:secretary@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](mailto:mnchapter@forestvillersl.org.au)  
Mobile: 0433 934 705

RSL Auxiliary Coordinator:  
Barbara Norton  
Email: [barian@optusnet.com.au](mailto: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](https://www.instagram.com/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)