



# RSL NSW

## Forestville sub-Branch



### NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

FEBRUARY 2026

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

On behalf of our Committee members, best wishes to all of our sub-Branch members, and all of our friends and associates, for a happy and healthy 2026, full of hope and new beginnings!

**VALE JOHN SCIFLEET:** We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 of our dear friend, immediate Past President and Committee member, John Scifleet. John joined our sub-Branch Committee in March 2011 and served in the following roles: Committee member, Assistant Treasurer, Australia My Country (AMC) team member, Welfare & Pensions Officer, Vice President, AMC Coordinator, Trustee, Treasurer, Schools Liaison Officer, President, and Merchant Navy RSL sub-Branch to Chapter Implementation Officer. John was awarded Life Membership of the League in December 2024 in recognition of his service over 15 years of membership and ten years of outstanding service. He was immensely proud of this recognition, including wearing his Life Member tie and badge. He remained a Trustee and Committee member until his passing, exhibiting his desire to serve our sub-Branch to the end. John's wife Jill has been a member of, and a hard-working contributor to, our Forestville RSL Auxiliary over this time, and she continues to be supported by our RSL Auxiliary members. *Lest We Forget.*



Our AGM 2026 will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Forest Room. This is an election year, we implore all members to seriously consider nominating to serve on our Committee for the next three years to 2029. Full details are included in this newsletter. Nomination forms are available from the sub-Branch office from 2<sup>nd</sup> February, and nominations close on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**We offer our heartiest congratulations to our Ceremonial Officer, John Balfour OAM who, in the Northern Beaches Council 2026 Australia Day Awards, has received the award of Senior Citizen of the Year for 2026, for his extensive and outstanding service to the RSL, our sub-Branch, Forest area schools and the Northern Beaches community over many, many decades. Well done, JB!**

Commemoration will always be a key plank of our sub-Branch activities, including our Purple Poppy Day commemorating Animals in War, Anzac Sunday, Anzac Day and Remembrance Sunday Commemorative services, as well as our annual Commemoration Luncheon. Another key focus in 2026 continues to be on our Reaching Out Initiative with the younger serving and contemporary ex-service community, especially those under 50. We will continue to align our sub-Branch Strategic Plan with the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021-2026 in these activities, including the RSL NSW Sport & Recreation Program. This includes donations through the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund to organisations such as the Northern Beaches Veterans Wellbeing Centre in Dee Why managed by RSL LifeCare Veterans Services; Saltwater Veterans which is very active with sport and recreation activities for veterans on the Northern Beaches; and Australian Catholic University which offers a Student Veteran Support Program. We must continue this focus in order for RSL NSW, and our sub-Branch, to thrive and prosper, with a younger and more active cohort in our membership. Your support of these activities and initiatives is always appreciated, including all of you taking responsibility to encourage younger veterans to become RSL NSW members.

RSL NSW conducted a Wellbeing Support Officer (WSO) training session for our Northern Beaches sub-Branches on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Pittwater RSL Club, and our Padre, Rev. Sanghyeon (Daniel) Nam registered to attend. We are delighted that Daniel is now our sixth accredited WSO, with Peter McAskill JP as our sub-Branch WSO Coordinator.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Committee member and Acting President RSL NSW, Vince Williams, CSC and I attended the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Anzac Withdrawal from Gallipoli Commemorative Service at the Anzac Memorial. The service was also attended by the Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC; and Rear Admiral Christopher Smith AM CSM RAN, Commander of the Australian Fleet. Vince Williams delivered The Ode to conclude this moving service.

If you are still in need of an NSW 2026 diary, we have a supply in the sub-Branch office.

Drink lots of water during our end-of summer period. As always, call us if in need.

Best Regards,  
Bob Lunnon.

#### What's On

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

**Purple Poppy Puppy Perambulation**  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
1.45pm for 2pm

**Bill Hardman Presentation**  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March  
7.30pm



#### In this issue

- Membership Update
- RSL Auxiliary
- Dates to Remember
- Significant Dates
- Contact details
- Memorial Pavers
- Walking Groups
- Purple Poppy Day Puppy Perambulation
- Bill Hardman Presentation
- Exercise Physiology
- AGM 2026
- Meat Raffle
- Education Grants
- Gallipoli Withdrawal 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Vale John Scifleet
- Saltwater Veterans
- Para Nordic Team
- John Balfour OAM

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

**Membership: membership totals: 336** (plus 6 Honorary members)  
Sadly, we have lost the following members:

CRITTLE, Charles Henry	ARMY	SCIFLEET, John James	RAAF
KORNHONEN, Pentti	RAN	BRENNAN, James (Jim)	UK Army

We welcome new members:

PENROSE, Mardy	Auxiliary	JANES, Isaac Aidan	RAN
PETERSEN, Francis	ARMY (transfer in from The Entrance/Long Jetty)		

## 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 Anzac Day pavers close on Friday 13th March.**

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 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 first Walking Group activity was at 9.45am for 10am on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January from the Club, and our next Walking Group will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 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 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**

### **FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB**

#### **REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Thank you to all of our members who attended the Forestville RSL Club Special General Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December to pass special resolutions in order for the Club redevelopment to proceed. The Club CEO sent a Thank You note on 12<sup>th</sup> December to our sub-Branch, as follows:

**Good morning, Bob and Sandy,**

**Our sincere thanks to you both for the support you delivered last night at our Special General Meeting. It was very much appreciated and, I'm sure, had a significant impact on the final vote. Thanks too for motivating your sub-Branch members to vote. It was gratifying to see so many of them in attendance and voting in support of the redevelopment. This is yet another clear demonstration of the bonds that exist between the Club and sub-Branch.**

**Best regards,**

**Ian Thomson**

**CEO, Forestville RSL Club**

### **Forestville RSL Auxiliary**

## **MEAT RAFFLE**

### **FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB**

The next Meat Raffle at Forestville RSL Club is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February from 5pm. 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 4<sup>th</sup> February 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 on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May from 5.30pm.

### **RSL AUXILIARY**

Our last General Meeting was way back on **3<sup>rd</sup> November**. Here we are now well into 2026. February may be short, but it is busy one.

Our first General Meeting will be on **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1-3pm** including a light lunch. This is a week later than our usual first Monday meeting. It is important that you RSVP to Barbara Norton - 0414 415 332 - no later than **5pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**.

We are looking forward to the induction of two new Auxiliary members at the sub-Branch General Meeting on **Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 7:30-8:30pm**. Please come along to support them.

Our first fundraising for 2026 is on **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> February** when we conduct the **Club Meat Raffle from 5pm to 7pm**. We encourage members to book a table with family and/or friends for dinner at the Club to add your support to our fundraising endeavours.

**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February**, is Purple Poppy Day. After a short Purple Poppy Puppy Perambulation to Purple Poppy Dog Park at 2pm, afternoon tea follows in the Club. You are welcome with or without a dog (on a leash). It's a lovely way to meet socially over a cuppa. Auxiliary purple poppies will be available for sale in Club Reception from 11am.

New members are always welcome to join our Auxiliary to help with fundraising for Veterans and their families in need. Please contact: Barbara Norton - 0414 415 332.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY EDUCATION GRANTS 2025



**Holly Dale**  
Mimosa Public School



**Ilaria Muratori**  
St Martin's Davidson



**Arabella Morse**  
Covenant Christian School



**William Janes**  
Mimosa Public School



**Amelie Peake**  
Forestville Public School

## Australian Para Nordic Team (Para Biathlon & Para Cross-Country Skiing)



Dear President and Members of Forestville RSL sub-Branch,  
On behalf of the Australian Para Nordic Team, I would like to sincerely thank Forestville RSL sub-Branch for your generous support in funding Australian team uniforms for Matt Brumby, Taryn Dickens and myself.

As current and former serving Defence members, representing Australia on the international stage carries deep personal significance for each of us. Your support ensured we were able to compete at the Para Biathlon World Cup proudly wearing Australian colours, fully equipped and unified as a team. That sense of belonging and representation matters enormously, particularly in a sport where financial pressures and limited funding pathways remain a constant challenge.

The 2025–26 World Cup season marks a critical phase in qualification for the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games. Every element of preparation — from travel and equipment through to uniforms — plays a role in allowing athletes to focus fully on performance. Your assistance directly reduced that burden and enabled us to direct our energy where it belongs: racing, learning and progressing toward Paralympic qualification.

Forestville RSL sub-Branch's support is especially meaningful given your longstanding commitment to veterans and serving members, as part of your charitable purpose. Knowing that the RSL NSW community stands behind us as we compete internationally reinforces the connection between service, sport, recreation and representation, and it does not go unnoticed by our athletes or wider support networks.

Thank you again for your belief in what we are building and for backing Australian Defence members as we pursue excellence in Paralympic sport. We are proud to represent Australia — and grateful to have Forestville RSL sub-Branch standing with us on that journey.

Yours sincerely,  
Dave Miln



## Your Support Made 2025 a Year to Remember

Dear Forestville RSL sub-Branch Executive Committee and Members,

As we reach the end of the year, we're taking a moment to reflect on the impact we've made in 2025 and to acknowledge those who helped make it possible. Thank you for your generous support and for choosing to donate through the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund. We know there are many great charities to support, and we feel truly honoured that you chose us.

We're celebrating a huge year in 2025. Over the past twelve months, we've hosted more than 200 events and welcomed 1,365 participant registrations across our programs.

We were also honoured to receive both the National and State Australian Sailing Award for Club of the Year (Category B) - a meaningful recognition of our contribution to both the sailing and veteran community.

All of this has been made possible through the generosity of your sub-Branch and the Veterans Support Fund.

Thank you for helping us create safe, meaningful, and community-building opportunities for veterans and their families.

We're looking forward to creating another impactful year together in 2026.

Stay salty,

Jen & Scott Reynolds, Co-founders  
Saltwater Veterans Sailing Project

11 December 2025

## FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH AGM 2026 Wednesday 1st April, 2026 at 7.30pm

- 2nd February 2026: Nomination forms avail from Office
- 23rd February 2026: Nominations Close
- March 2026 Newsletter: to include list of nominations received
- April 2026 Newsletter: to include list of nominations received
- AGM 2026: Wednesday 1st April, 2026 - Ballots as necessary
- AGM 2026 Agenda will be posted on the sub-Branch website by 12th March 2026

## COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS—2026 / 2029 Committee positions available:

- President: .....
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: .....
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: .....
- Honorary Secretary: .....
- Honorary Treasurer: .....
- Honorary Assistant Treasurer: .....
- Ceremonial Officer: .....
- Membership Officer: .....
- Committee Member: .....

## FOR YOUR 2026 DIARIES

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
Thursday 17th December 2026	12.01pm sub-Branch office closed - Christmas Break Office re-opens Monday 18th January 2027.

## PURPLE POPPY DAY 2026

Commemorating Animals in War  
Purple Poppy Puppy Perambulation (walk)

Tuesday 24th February 2026, 1.45pm for 2pm from Forestville RSL Club, including the Purple Poppy Dog Park in the Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields, followed by afternoon tea provided by the sub-Branch. *Please join us!*

**Forestville RSL Auxiliary Meetings:** 1pm to 3pm on Mondays 9<sup>th</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 second and fourth Thursday of each month from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> December. Check monthly newsletter for details.

## FEBRUARY SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

February is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 13<sup>th</sup> February 1946 – Australian Component of BCOF, Japan
- 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – National Servicemen's Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> February 1951 – Fight for Hill 327 opens in Korea
- 18<sup>th</sup> February 1941 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Bde 8<sup>th</sup> Div. disembarks at Singapore
- 21<sup>st</sup> February 1956 – 1 Sqn. RAAF aircraft bomb Kluang, Malaya
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1956 – 1 Sqn. RAAF strikes C.T. hideouts six miles from Kuala Lumpur
- 25<sup>th</sup> February 1951 – Australians capture Hill 614, Korea
- 28<sup>th</sup> February 1991 – Liberation of Kuwait

*"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  
Email: [president@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:president@forestvillersl.org.au)  
Mobile: 0499 977 111

Vice President: Sandy Howard  
Email: [support@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:support@forestvillersl.org.au)  
Mobile: 0411 145 077

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  
Liaison Officer: Peter McAskill JP  
Email:  
[membership@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:membership@forestvillersl.org.au)  
Mobile: 0409 122 025

Newsletter Editor: Bob Lunnon  
Email: [newsletter@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:newsletter@forestvillersl.org.au)  
Mobile: 0499 977 111

Ceremonial Officer & AMC Coordinator:  
John Balfour OAM JP  
Email: [ceremonial@forestvillersl.org.au](mailto:ceremonial@forestvillersl.org.au)  
Mobile: 0418 412 354

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: 0401 077 212

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>

**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](http://www.dva.gov.au/mysevice)

**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)