



RSL NSW

Forestville sub-Branch



NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

APRIL 2026

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

President's Report

March is always a busy month for your Committee, with our preparations for Anzac Sunday March and Service on 19th April, and Anzac Dawn Service on Saturday 25th April. These are well under way, in conjunction with the Forestville RSL Club. Please spread the word with your families, friends and neighbours, and encourage them to attend.

Our Forestville RSL Auxiliary will be undertaking their normal fundraising activities in the Forestville RSL Club Reception area on Anzac Sunday and before and on Anzac Day, including at Bunnings Belrose on 24th April. Please ensure you support them by purchasing poppies and other merchandise they are offering. All funds raised by our Forestville RSL Auxiliary are donated by our sub-Branch to the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund supporting veteran programs throughout NSW.

Our Forestville RSL sub-Branch 72nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in the Forest Room at the Forestville RSL Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st April 2026. The AGM agenda has been posted on our sub-Branch website since early March. We trust you have visited our website, reviewed the agenda, and will be joining us for the AGM. Importantly, this is an election year, and at the AGM we will be electing a new Committee to take us forward from 2026 to 2029

Members will have the opportunity to join Acting RSL NSW President Vince Williams CSC and the ANZAC House team for an open discussion about the future direction of the League in NSW, when the 2026 Listening Tour travels around the state from March to May. The Listening Tour is a critical step in the development of the next Strategic Plan, which will ensure that RSL NSW can continue to deliver on its charitable objectives for the Defence and veteran community in NSW for generations to come. You are encouraged to register and attend a session here:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/832d29f859c3a6e4379acb3c389a7c55?r=use1>.

Please let us know at the sub-Branch Office if you are in need of welfare assistance, that's why we are here.

Best Regards,
Bob Lunnon.

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH AGM 2026

Wednesday 1st April, 2026 at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS—2026 / 2029

Committee positions and nominations:

President:	<i>Bob Lunnon</i>
Vice President:	<i>Nick de Bont</i>
Honorary Secretary:	<i>Sandy Howard</i>
Honorary Treasurer:	<i>Sandy Howard</i>
Honorary Asst. Treasurer:	
Ceremonial/AMC/RDEG Officer:	<i>John Balfour OAM JP</i>
Membership Officer:	<i>Peter McAskill JP</i>
Merchant Navy Coordinator:	<i>Merrill Barker</i>
Committee Members:	<i>Robin Tapp, Bruce O'Hagan & Frank Peterson</i>

What's On

AGM & GM
Wednesday 1st April
7.30pm

Anzac Sunday
Sunday 19th April
March 2.40pm
Service 3pm

Anzac Day Dawn Service
Saturday 25th April
5.25am for 5.35am



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305 Sqn AAFC
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March and Service
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Dawn Service
- RSL NSW
Listening Tour

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Membership: membership totals: 332 (plus 6 Honorary members)

We welcome new members:

PETERSON Christine Ann RSL Auxiliary

Resignation:

SLATTERY Milly RSL Auxiliary

Transfer Out:

WILLIAMS CSC Vincent Hardy ARMY - Transfer to Anzac House

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: all current orders will be in place by Anzac Day .

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.

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 9th April, and then on Thursday 23rd April at 2.30pm.

These classes are open to members and their families, however you **MUST register** by calling our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary at the office during office hours on 9451 1221, or email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au.

Forestville sub-Branch

WALKING GROUPS

Our next Walking Group will be on Wednesday 15th April 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 at the office in office hours on 9451 1221, or email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au.

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

RSL NSW LISTENING TOUR

MARCH - MAY 2026

INVITATION TO REGISTER TO ATTEND

Members will have the opportunity to join Acting RSL NSW President Vince Williams CSC and the ANZAC House team for an open discussion about the future direction of the League in NSW, when the 2026 Listening Tour travels around the state from March to May. RSL NSW will host a series of face-to-face forums where members will be invited to share experiences, raise local challenges, and help shape the development of the next RSL NSW Strategic Plan, which will guide the organisation beyond 2026 for at least three years. The Listening Tour is a chance to hear directly from members.

As a member-based charity, it's imperative the next Strategic Plan reflects the lived experience of how care, camaraderie and charitable support is provided for veterans and their families in cities and towns across New South Wales. All members will be directly invited to attend their local session. The Listening Tour is a critical step in the development of the next Strategic Plan, which will ensure that RSL NSW can continue to deliver on its charitable objectives for the Defence and veteran community in NSW for generations to come.

You can register to attend a session here: <https://forms.monday.com/forms/832d29f859c3a6e4379acb3c389a7c55?r=use1>.

Forestville RSL Auxiliary

MEAT RAFFLE

FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

The last Meat Raffle at Forestville RSL Club was on Friday 13th February from 5pm and was very successful with \$640 raised by our RSL Auxiliary. 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. **NOTE: the next RSL Auxiliary Meat Raffle at the Club for 2026 will be on Friday 15th May from 5.30pm. Our RSL Auxiliary members will attend our General Meeting on Wednesday 6th May for Meat Raffle ticket pre-sales. We encourage you to be generous.**

All proceeds from the Meat Raffle are donated directly by our sub-Branch to the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund, supporting veterans programs around NSW, as part of our charitable purpose.

RSL AUXILIARY

We celebrated International Women's Day at our March Meeting and were honoured by having Julia Williams talking about her time supporting her husband Vince who is now Acting President of RSL NSW, during which they represented Australia in various Defence Force tours of duty and events overseas. It was certainly an eye opener and very entertaining. Thank you Julia and Vince for sharing your wonderful adventures.



Please note, there is no April Auxiliary meeting.

Our next Auxiliary meeting is on the 4th May at 1pm with a Guest Speaker from Easy Link.

For catering purposes, it is necessary to book by Wednesday 29th April. Bookings/cancellations are to be made via Barbara Norton: mobile 0414 415 332, or email: barian@optusnet.com.au.

If you would like to be a member of our RSL Auxiliary to help with fundraising for Veterans and their Families? Ring Barbara Norton, details above.

PURPLE POPPY DAY – Tuesday 24th February, 2026

PURPLE POPPY PUPPY

PERAMBULATION

Commemorating Animals in War

“They had no choice”

We were blessed with good, humid weather on **Purple Poppy Day**, for our Purple Poppy Puppy Perambulation. We started our walk in our Cenotaph area, then to its new location at the beginning of the Anzac Memorial Pathway, in the Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields. Proceeding past Poppy Park with its children’s playground and family entertainment areas, we crossed to the Northern Memorial Pathway with plinths and plaques commemorating wars, battles and conflicts from World War 11 onwards.

Next was **Purple Poppy Dog Park**. Purple Poppy Day in 2019 was declared by our Federal Government as a national day of commemoration, commemorating Animals in War: “they had no choice”.

In 2019, with Michael Regan, an Affiliate member of our sub-Branch, and then Northern Beaches Mayor, the off-leash Dog Park was renamed with signage as **Purple Poppy Dog Park**.

This included suitable signage and a plaque explaining Purple Poppy Day, along with an example of a Canine Operational Service Medal awarded to dogs which have served our nation. Australia is the only nation to award these medals.

We sincerely thank Michael Regan MP, now State Member for Wakehurst, for joining us, and also for laying a Purple Poppy Wreath on the plaque in the **Purple Poppy Dog Park**.

Following the walk, we gathered on the balcony of Forestville RSL Club for afternoon tea. There we were delighted to be entertained by Committee Volunteer, Sue Duchesne and her husband Duncan. Sue and Duncan set up with guitar and ukele on the balcony and sang a very poignant song about the horses sacrificed in war called “As If He Knows” written by Eric Bogle. Thanks, Sue and Duncan. The Forestville RSL Auxiliary had handmade Purple Poppies for sale in the Reception area of the Club, and successfully raised \$280, for donation to the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund, to support veterans programs throughout NSW.



“As If He Knows” - Eric Bogle

*It's as if he knows
He's standing close to me
His breath warm on my sleeve
His head hung low
It's as if he knows
What the dawn will bring
The end of everything
For my old Banjo
And all along the picket lines beneath the desert sky
The light horsemen move among their mates to say one
last goodbye
And the horses stand so quietly
Row on silent row
It's as if they know
Time after time
We rode through shot and shell
We rode in and out of Hell
On their strong backs
Time after time
They brought us safely through
By their swift sure hooves
And their brave hearts
Tomorrow we will form up ranks and march down to
the quay
And sail back to our loved ones in that dear land across
the sea
While our loyal and true companions
Who asked so little and gave so much
Will lie dead in the dust
For the orders came
No horses to return
We were to abandon them
To be slaves
After all we'd shared
And all that we'd been through
A nation's gratitude
Was a dusty grave
For we can't leave them to the people here, we'd rather
see them dead
So each man will take his best mate's horse with a bullet
through the head
For the people here are like their land
Wild and cruel and hard
So Banjo, here's your reward
It's as if he knows
He's standing close to me
His breath warm upon my sleeve
His head hung low
It's as if he knows.*

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH AUXILIARY QUILT PRESENTATION TO 305 SQUADRON AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS (AAFC) Thursday 26th February, 2026

Our sub-Branch made a Thank You quilt presentation to 305 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets on their parade night at the Dee Why depot on 26th February at 6.15pm. Our sub-Branch was represented by President Bob Lunnon and Ceremonial Officer John Balfour OAM JP. Our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary was represented by Co-Coordinator Barbara Lunnon and member Diana Dagg. AAF Squadron Leader Gregg Barr-Jones had arranged for our presentation to take place as part of their parade night. We took the opportunity to thank 305 Squadron for supporting our commemorative services, and that we are looking forward to them joining us for our Anzac Sunday March and Service on Sunday 19th April 2026.



FOR YOUR 2026 DIARIES

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

Forestville RSL Auxiliary Meetings: 1pm to 3pm on Mondays 9th Feb, 2nd Mar, 4th May, 1st June, 3rd Aug, 12th Oct. Check RSL Auxiliary monthly reports for details.

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

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

APRIL SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

April is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 1st April 1921 – 1st AIF disbanded
- 4th April 1941 – First action by 2nd AIF against Africa Corps
- 5th April 1951 – 3RAR recrossed 38th Parallel, Korea
- 6th April 1941 – Germany invaded Yugoslavia and Greece
- 7th April 1916 – 2 Div. arrives at the Western Front
- 10th April 1941 – Seige of Tobruk begins
- 10th April 1951 – 77th Squadron RAAF begins training on Meteors, Iwakuni
- 11th April 1941 – Rommel launched violent attack on Tobruk
- 12th April 1941 – ANZAC Corps reformed in Greece by GEN T.A. Blamey
- 12th April 1951 – First National Service entry
- 13th April 1941 – CPL J.H. Edmondson, VC at Tobruk
- 21st April 1941 – Royal Navy shelled Benghazi
- 21st April 1941 – Greek surrender signed
- 22nd April 1941 – Evacuation of Greece began
- 22nd April 1951 – Chinese Spring offensive in Korea
- 24th April 1951 – Kapyong Australians halt Chinese advance until reinforced

*“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:
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Honorary Treasurer: Sandy Howard
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Mobile: 0411 145 077

Funerals Officer: Vacant
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Events, Schools Liaison Officer: Kevin Leary
Email: secretary@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 OAM
Phone: 0401 077 212

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](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/mysevice

Australian Death Notification Service

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

Scamwatch

www.scamwatch.gov.au

Military History Society of NSW

www.militaryhistorynsw.com.au