



RSL
NSW

Forestville sub-Branch



NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

MAY 2026

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

President's Report

As usual April has been a very busy month for your Committee members including attendance at Anzac services at many schools in our area, and Belrose Country Club. Sub-Branch representatives also attended RSL commemorative services and laid wreaths at: RSL Anzac Village March and Service in Narrabeen, Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, Terrey Hills Community Service, Collaroy RSL sub-Branch Sunset Service and the Battle of the Beaches Anzac Day Rugby game at Manly Oval.

Our own Anzac services on Anzac Sunday 19th April and Dawn Service on Saturday 25th April were very successful and well attended. Our thanks to those hardy volunteers for their help in placing chairs for seating, distributing rosemary, plus many other duties. Special mention of the diligent and hard work behind the scenes goes to Bruce O'Hagan our Assistant Secretary, supported by Committee members and volunteers. Thanks also to our RSL Auxiliary members for their assistance, including fund-raising for the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund over the Anzac period, and serving tea/coffee to all attendees as part of our Anzac Day Breakfast after the Dawn Service on Anzac Day.

The Australia Remembers – Northern Beaches and North Shore Committee is organizing a Defence of Sydney 84th Commemorative Service at 10am on Friday 5th June at North Head, open to members and the public. This service commemorates the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour on the night of 31st May 1942. Your sub-Branch representatives on this organizing committee are Sandy Howard, Secretary/Treasurer, and me in my role as President of RSL NSW Northern Beaches District Council (NBDC).

The NBDC AGM, hosted by our sub-Branch, will be held at Forestville RSL Club on Tuesday 19th May at 6.30pm for 7pm, where elections will be held for 2026/2029. I attended the RSL NSW District President's Council (DPC) meeting on Thursday 26th March at Anzac House and was elected Deputy Chair of the DPC for 2026/2029. I will also attend the next DPC meeting at Anzac House on 21st May to be updated on progress with the RSL NSW Listening Tour which is informing the formulation of the RSL NSW Strategic Plan from 2026 onwards which will be released at the RSL NSW State Congress in October in Tamworth.

Entries in the Australia My Country competition close on 8th May. They will be collected from schools from 13th-15th May. Marking takes place on 23rd May. Winners will be announced at our AMC Presentation Ceremony on Saturday 13th June at the Forestville RSL Club with awards to be presented by Matt Cross, MP, State Member for Davidson.

This year, the Lest We Forget Sunset Tribute was for the second year a special commemoration featuring more than 100 of Australia's best military, veteran and civilian artists – all coming together to honour the fallen. The commemoration was held on Anzac Eve, Friday 24th April, 4:30 – 6:00pm at the Sydney Opera House Forecourt, and televised live on 7TWO from 5pm to 6pm, prior to the evening news. Marking the 'going down of the sun' on the eve of Anzac Day, the commemoration included Veterans Tributes for some of Australia's oldest returned servicemen and women, inspiring stories of younger veterans and special tributes for veterans' families. It also included the National Anthems, Acknowledgement of Country, a Procession of Drums and Torch of Remembrance as well as The Ode, Last Post, a Minutes Silence and Rouse. The event promoted and drove donations to the RSL's ANZAC Appeal. Those at the event or watching the broadcast on 7TWO could donate to the RSL Anzac Appeal through this link <https://www.anzacappeal.com.au/> and funds raised in NSW will be returned to RSL NSW. **It's not too late for you to make a donation through the above link, to support veterans and their families everywhere.**

Please check your "Dates to Remember" in this newsletter and get ready to rug up a little more as we get to the end of Autumn later this month.

Best Regards,

Bob Lunnon.

What's On

*
Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 6th May
7.30pm

*
General Meeting
Wednesday 3rd June
7.30pm



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The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Membership: membership totals: (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly, we report the passing of the following dear members:

MELVILLE, Ronald William ... ARMY
HOBSON, Stuart Fenton ... ARMY
WALLER, Kenneth (Ken) William ... ARMY
DUCHESNE, Timothy Richard (Tim) .. RN/RAN

We welcome new member:

CATT, David Andrew ... RAN

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.

Orders are now being taken for Remembrance Day -11 Nov 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.

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 May, and then on Thursday 28th May 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 20th May from the 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 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 is 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



It was a wonderful Anzac period as we fundraised during the period from Anzac Sunday on 19th April, right through to the end of Anzac Day.

Our RSL Auxiliary volunteers during this period, worked tirelessly, and with great enthusiasm towards a very successful outcome.

Our next meeting is on Monday **4th May from 1pm**, starting with lunch in the Flight Deck Room. Guest speaker for 4th May is from **EASY LINK** who provide advice and information for using their bus transport services.

The deadline for booking, in order for us to secure accurate catering numbers, is Thursday 30th April, very latest please. Please book in with Barbara Norton: 0414 415 332.

If you would like to join our RSL Auxiliary please contact Barbara Norton at the above number.

**TONY MOONEY JP – RSL AUSTRALIA LIFE MEMBERSHIP
PRESENTATION
GENERAL MEETING – 1st APRIL 2026**

We presented Tony Mooney JP with his Life Membership of the RSL at our General Meeting on Wednesday 1st April 2026, in recognition of his minimum 15 years of membership and 10 years of outstanding RSL service. Tony joined the RSL in 2008 and was elected a member of our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Committee on 1st October 2014. Tony has served as Treasurer, Secretary, IT Administrator and Cyber Security Officer, and Patron since 2024. We congratulate you, Tony, and thank you for your service to our sub-Branch and the veteran community.

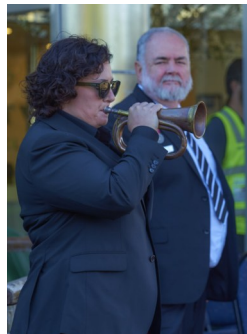


**WE WELCOME A NEW MEMBER CHRISTINE PETERSON – FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH AUXILIARY
GENERAL MEETING – 1st APRIL 2026**



We welcomed Christine Peterson as a new member of our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary at our General Meeting on Wednesday 1st April 2026. Christine's husband, Frank, earlier at our AGM, was elected to our sub-Branch Committee for 2026/2029. Christine and Peter have recently joined us from the Entrance and Long Jetty RSL sub-Branch. They have quickly immersed themselves in the service of our sub-Branch and the veteran community. Welcome, Christine, and Frank, we are delighted to have you with us!

**ANZAC SUNDAY MARCH & SERVICE
Sunday 19th April, 2026**



FOR YOUR 2026 DIARIES

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.

AUSTRALIA MY COUNTRY (AMC)

*** APPEAL FOR HELP ***

The 2026 AMC competition is well underway and the students of our area Primary Schools have been invited to participate. This year the topic is: "Animals in War", so there is plenty of scope for imaginative entries. While the schools are coordinating student participation, we would very much appreciate it if you could let your friends, children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, who go to a Primary School in the Forest area, know about the competition and encourage their participation. Please note that entries close on Friday 8th May 2025.

Judging will take place on Saturday 23rd May with presentation of awards by State Member for Davidson, Matt Cross MP, on Saturday 13th June, at Forestville RSL Club. More information is available on our website at:

www.forestvillersl.org.au/Education/AMC.

MAY SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

May is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 9th May 1921 - End of military occupation of German New Guinea
- 14th May 1956 - Attack by Australians near Sungei, Siput, Malaya
- 16th May 1901 - LT F.W. Bell, VC at Transvaal
- 20th May 1941 - German paratroopers invade Crete
- 21st May 1951 - Chinese offensive in Korea collapsed
- 22nd May 1941 - Royal Naval Squadron sailed to engage BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN
- 25th May 2006 - East Timor, Operation ASTUTE
- 26th May 1996 - Operation HABITAT, Iraq
- 30th May 1941 - HMAS PERTH damaged during evacuation from Crete

*"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: Sandy Howard
Email: secretary@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: : 0411 145 077

Assistant Secretary & General Enquiries:
Bruce O'Hagan
Email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0425 365 910

President: Bob Lunnon
Email: president@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0499 977 111

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

Funeral Support Officer: Robin Tapp
Email: office@forestvillersl.org.au
Office: 0425 318 531

Membership, Wellbeing Support Coordinator,
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, Australia My Country
and Education Grants Coordinator:
John Balfour OAM JP
Email: ceremonial@forestvillersl.org.au
Mobile: 0418 412 354

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

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

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

Australian Death Notification Service

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

Scamwatch

www.scamwatch.gov.au

Military History Society of NSW

www.militaryhistorynsw.com.au