



RSL NSW

Forestville sub-Branch



NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

JUNE 2026

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

President's Report

Our Committee members have settled back into more normal office operations, after our very successful ANZAC Commemorative Services in April.

On ANZAC Sunday, 19th April, there were around 150 in marching groups, and around 750 attended the Service itself. The March route was lined with residents and well-wishers, waving flags. At the Dawn Service with favourable weather, there were around 750 in attendance, with younger families including young children. Following the Service, breakfast was served for 500 attendees in 30 minutes from 6.15am. Our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary members served 500+ teas/coffees in an hour. Thanks again to our sub-Branch Ceremonial Officer and Parade Commander, John Balfour OAM, for another outstanding job with our ANZAC Sunday March.

On behalf of our Committee and all members, I thank Forestville RSL Club CEO, Ian Thomson, his management team and all Club staff, as well as Adison "Edi" Wang and his kitchen brigade, for their wonderful support, cooperation and assistance, over what was a very busy period, especially on ANZAC Day! We especially thank the Club for allowing us to use the Club sound system, which our sub-Branch had restored, and which proved very successful for both services. We again used our new Forestville RSL sub-Branch lectern with RSL NSW branding and our motto: The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance.

Darryl Bullock, our sub-Branch member and very professional volunteer Official Photographer, took photos at both ANZAC Sunday and the Dawn services. A larger selection of Darryl's photos for both services is available on our sub-Branch website using this link:

<https://www.forestvillersl.org.au/photos/> Thanks again, Darryl, as always! Great job!

On 19th May, at Forestville RSL Club, our sub-Branch hosted the AGM and Quarterly General Meeting of our RSL NSW Northern Beaches District Council (NBDC), attended by Delegates from our 10 RSL sub-Branches on the Northern Beaches. With this being an election year, I was re-elected as President of NBDC, and Troy Baird (President of Dee Why RSL sub-Branch) was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer of NBDC, until the AGM in 2029. Our sub-Branch NBDC Delegates are Sandy Howard and me, with Robin Tapp as Alternate Delegate.

Australia My Country judging took place on 23rd May at the Forestville RSL Club. Winners will be awarded at our AMC Presentation Ceremony on 13th June at the Club. Matt Cross MP, State Member for Davidson, has accepted our invitation to present the awards commencing at 10.30am. On Friday 5th June, Committee and sub-Branch members will attend the 84th Defence of Sydney Commemorative Service at North Head organized by the Australia Remembers - Northern Beaches and North Shore - Committee. This Service commemorates the 84th Anniversary of "The Night the War came to Sydney" on 31st May 1942, with the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour. Our sub-Branch will lay a wreath. The Guest Speaker will be Rear Admiral Chris Smith, AM, CSM, RAN, Commander Australian Fleet (COMAUSFLT).

We congratulate our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary members who participated in fundraising activities in the Club on ANZAC Sunday and in the lead up to and on ANZAC Day, including at Bunnings Belrose on 24th April. Over four days, selling ANZAC tokens and handmade poppies, along with generous donations from the general public in attendance, particularly at our Anzac Dawn Service, our RSL Auxiliary members raised over \$6500, compared with \$3745 in the same period in 2025. This is an outstanding achievement. We offer our congratulations to our RSL Auxiliary members involved. Funds raised will be used to support the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund, to assist veterans and their families everywhere, especially those in need.

With the first month of winter officially upon us, please keep rugged up, and call us if you are in need. We encourage you to be vigilant, with influenza, bronchitis and pneumonia around, by ensuring your vaccinations are always up to date.

Best Regards,
Bob Lunnon.

What's On

*
General Meeting
Wednesday 3rd June
7.30pm

*
Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 1st July
7.30pm



In this issue

- Membership Update
- RSL Auxiliary
- Dates to Remember
- Significant Dates
- Contact Details
- Memorial Pavers
- Walking Groups
- Exercise Physiology
- RSL Auxiliary Club Meat Raffle
- Australia My Country Schools Competition
- RSL Auxiliary Anzac Day Fundraising
- Day Trip Victoria Barracks
- New Service Member
- Commemoration Luncheon
- Defence of Sydney Service
- Australia My Country Competition

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Membership: membership totals: 330 (plus 6 Honorary members)

We are pleased to report that no members have passed this month.

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 classes are at 2.30pm on Thursday 11th June, and then on Thursday 25th June, 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 17th June 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*

WE WELCOME A NEW SERVICE MEMBER

DAVID CATT

Forestville RSL sub-Branch
GENERAL MEETING 6th MAY 2026

We welcomed David Catt as a new Service member of our Forestville RSL sub-Branch at our General Meeting on 6th May, 2026.



Forestville RSL Auxiliary

MEAT RAFFLE

FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

The last Meat Raffle at Forestville RSL Club was on Friday 15th May from 5pm and was very successful with over \$600 raised by our RSL Auxiliary, and many members were winners. 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 in each Meat Raffle. **NOTE: the next RSL Auxiliary Meat Raffle at the Club is on Friday 19th June from 5.30pm. Our RSL Auxiliary members will attend our General Meeting on Wednesday 3rd June for Meat Raffle ticket pre-sales.**

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

A representative from "Easy Link" Community Transport was Guest Speaker at our 4th May General Meeting. He explained the various services Easy Link provide at affordable prices, all services include pick up and drop off from home. Some of the services are trips to our local hospitals, shopping centres, day trips, or personalized trips on request.

At our 1st June General Meeting we are holding a Poppy Workshop from 11:30am to 2:30pm where we will make Poppies to sell at our Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day commemorations in November. Our small Poppies are made from felt, and others are knitted or crocheted by our talented members. A complimentary lunch will be served.

If you would like to join our Poppy Workshop and/or become a member of our RSL Auxiliary to help with fundraising for Veterans and their Families, please ring Barbara Norton: 0414 415 332.

**FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH AUXILIARY
ANZAC SUNDAY AND ANZAC DAY FUNDRAISING
RSL NSW VETERAN SUPPORT FUND**

Our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary undertook fundraising activities at our Anzac Sunday Service on 19th April, in Club Reception on 21st, 22nd and 23rd April, at Bunnings Belrose on 24th April, and at our Anzac Day Dawn Service on 25th April. Their untiring efforts over this period resulted in over \$6500 being raised to support the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund. Congratulations to our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary members for the time and effort they have put in to achieve this outstanding result.

As part of this, on Anzac Day, a local mother of a 5 year old daughter came into Club Reception to drop off \$45 as a donation. With the assistance of the daughter and three of her friends they had made FREE Anzac Biscuits for a decorated stall in their street. Many community members generously donated a total of \$45 to support their efforts. On behalf of all members, we have thanked the mother and the four children for their care, efforts and support, as part of our Anzac Day fundraising efforts to support the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund.

Forestville RSL sub-Branch

**DAY TOUR – VICTORIA BARRACKS AND SOUTH
EASTERN BEACHES
Thursday, 16th July 2026**

Assemble at 8.15am in the lower car park at Forestville RSL Club for an 8.30am departure. We will proceed to Victoria Barracks where we will be met by a Museum guide who will provide security passes. After visiting the Museum, we will proceed to the Barracks where guides will assist us with a walking tour of the area until around midday. After returning to our coach, we will proceed to Paddington RSL Club for our two-course lunch with a glass of house wine/beer/soft drink. Following lunch, we will visit the south-eastern beaches with afternoon tea/coffee in the La Perouse area, after which we will head back to Forestville, arriving around 4pm.

Arrive: Arrive at the lower car park by 8.15am for an 8.30am departure
Return: Around 4pm
Cost: Members and partners \$50 per person, which is heavily discounted by our sub-Branch
Tickets: On sale from 10.30am on Tuesday 9th June until Monday 6th July from the sub-Branch office (Mondays and Thursdays only), cash and EFTPOS accepted.

NOTE: *When booking, please provide full names and mobile numbers*

Dress: Smart casual, with comfortable walking shoes
Cancellations: Please note there will be no refunds on cancellations received on or after Monday 6th July (mandatory Victoria Barracks requirement)
More details: Will be provided in our July newsletter
Contact: Bruce O'Hagan, Assistant Secretary
asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au; or phone: 94511221

COMMEMORATION LUNCHEON

Sunday 9th August 2026
Forest Room, Forestville RSL Club

for sub-Branch members and partners only

**COMMEMORATING WARS, CAMPAIGNS, AND BATTLES
IN THE JULY TO SEPTEMBER PERIOD**

NOW INCLUDING THE MIDDLE EAST AREA OF
OPERATIONS (MEAO) COMMEMORATION HELD ANNUALLY

AND THE 110th ANNIVERSARY – RSL IN AUSTRALIA

Time: The Luncheon will commence at 12 noon, the doors will open at 11:30am, with no access prior to 11.30am.

Tickets: On sale from 10.30am on Monday 22nd June from the sub- Branch office on Mondays and Thursdays only. Please provide mobile phone number when paying.

Cost: \$45.00 per person for members and partners which is heavily subsidized by the sub-Branch, by cash, and EFTPOS is also available (Tap & Go).

Menu: A 2 course meal will be served with alternates on each course, with refreshments.

Dress: Smart casual.

Entertainment: Steve Passfield (vocal, instrumentalist)

Raffle: RSL Auxiliary fundraising raffle, please be prepared with cash, and EFTPOS is also available.

Club Bus: The Club bus will not be available.

Cancellations: Please note that there will be no refunds on cancellations received on or after Thursday 6th August.

More Details: Will be provided in our July/August newsletters.

Contact: Bruce O'Hagan, Assistant Secretary, at email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au, phone: 94511011.

**Defence of Sydney – 84th Anniversary Commemorative Service—10am Friday 5th June 2026 - North Fort Viewing Platform, North Head
THE NIGHT THE WAR CAME TO SYDNEY**

This significant annual Commemorative Service, conducted by the Australia Remembers – Northern Beaches and North Shore – Committee, is an appropriate way to commemorate the City of Sydney's place in the conflict of WWII: The Night the War Came to Sydney, on 31st May 1942. President Bob Lunnon and Secretary/Treasurer Sandy Howard represent our sub-Branch on this organizing committee. Seating is provided and morning tea will be served afterwards. Should you wish to join us, please advise our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary, Bruce O'Hagan, at the office on Mondays 0900/1400 and Thursdays 0900/1200, on 02-9451 1221, or email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au.

FOR YOUR 2026 DIARIES

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 2026 COMPETITION

Our Australia My Country (AMC) 2026 Competition is now coming to a conclusion. Students from our area Primary Schools were invited to participate. It's a great topic: "Animals in War", so there was plenty of scope for imaginative entries. Judging took place on Saturday 23rd May. Winners will be awarded at our AMC Presentation Ceremony on 13th June at the Club. Matt Cross MP, State Member for Davidson, has accepted our invitation to present the awards commencing at 10am. More information is available on our website at: <https://www.forestvillersl.org.au/australia-my-country/>.

JUNE SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

June is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 5th June 1966 – HQ 1 ATF established in South Vietnam
- 6th June 1916 – The Returned and Services League of Australia (National) formed
- 8th June 1941 – 7th Div and No. 3 Sqn RAAF attack Vichy French forces in Syria
- 12th June 1996 – Blackhawk disaster in Townsville (worst military disaster in peace time)
- 14th June 1966 – 6RAR arrives in South Vietnam
- 15th June 1901 – SGT J. Rogers, VC at Orange Free State
- 15th June 1951 – HMAS BATAAN bombards Chongjin, Korea
- 17th June 1966 – MV JEPARIT departs Sydney on first voyage to Vietnam
- 26th June 1916 – PTE W.C. Jackson, VC at Armentieres
- 26th June 1956 – 3RAR attack Sungei Siput, Malaya
- 30th June 1941 – HMAS WATERHEN sunk on Tobruk run

*"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>

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