



RSL NSW



Forestville sub-Branch

Australia My Country

NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

JUNE, 2024

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 in to more normal office operations, after our very successful ANZAC Commemorative Services in April.

On ANZAC Sunday there were around 150 in marching groups, and around 750 attended the Service. The March route was lined with residents and well-wishers. At the Dawn Service, there were around 1000 in attendance, with a majority of families including young children. Following the Service, breakfast was served for 500 attendees in 35 minutes from 6.15am. Our RSL 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. Thanks also to our MC for our ANZAC Sunday Service, and ANZAC Dawn Service, sub-Branch member Lieutenant Colonel Rob Crawford (Retd).

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 all of the 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 also welcomed back Maddie Shearer, our bugler for the ANZAC Dawn Service. Darryl Bullock, our sub-Branch member and very professional resident photographer, took photos at both ANZAC Sunday and at the Dawn Service, a selection of which is included in this newsletter. A larger selection of Darryl's photos for both services are available on our sub-Branch website for your perusal, under the Events/Gallery tab. Our thanks again, Darryl, as always! Great job!

Australia My Country judging took place on 25th May at the Forestville RSL Club. Winners will be awarded at our AMC Presentation Ceremony on 15th June at the Club. Rory Amon MP, State Member for Pittwater, will present the awards commencing at 10am.

On Friday 7th June, Committee and sub-Branch members will attend the Defence of Sydney Commemoration Service at North Head organized by the Australia Remembers - Northern Beaches and North Shore - Committee. This Service commemorates the 82nd anniversary of the night the "war came to Sydney" with the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour on the night of 31st May 1942. Our sub-Branch will lay a wreath. The Guest Speaker will be General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (MIL) CVO MC (Retd). We congratulate our RSL Auxiliary members who participated in fundraising activities on ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Day. Over four days, selling ANZAC tokens and handmade poppies, along with generous donations from the general public in attendance, Auxiliary members raised \$3508.95. This is an outstanding achievement. Funds raised will be used to support the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund, to assist veterans and their families, especially those in need.

Our sub-Branch 70th Anniversary Platinum Jubilee Luncheon was held on Sunday 19th May at the Club. Attendees received a copy of our 70th Anniversary Book which records the history of our sub-Branch from 1954 to 2024. Our sincere thanks to the team which researched and produced this book: Alastair Turnbull, Peter McAskill, Vince Williams CSC and Robin Tapp. With the first month of winter officially upon us, please keep rugged up and call us if you are in need. **Be vigilant, with influenza, bronchitis, pneumonia and COVID around us!**

Bob Lunnon
President

What's On

General Meeting
Wednesday 5th June
7.30pm

General Meeting
Wednesday 3rd July
7.30pm



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Please consider the environment. Receive your Newsletter via Email.

Membership

Membership totals: **381** (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly we have lost the following members:

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|----------------------------------|------|
| MINCHAM Maxwell Albert | RAAF |
| JONES Edward George Darcy | ARMY |
| KIDD Raymond Bruce | ARMY |
| IRELAND William John | ARMY |

Our Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens

MEMORIAL PAVERS

Prepaid Pavers:

Members are reminded that you can order and prepay your own paver at any time if you wish.

Please note: Orders for pavers are now being taken for Remembrance Day

Cost for pavers for sub-Branch members is \$35

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For all Membership enquiries please get in touch with our Membership Officer: membership@forestvillersl.org.au

For any **Changes to Membership** details please see following:

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 via phone **9451 1221** or email : membership@forestvillersl.org.au including if you wish to rescind your membership for any reason.

EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY CLASSES



As part for our sub-Branch support of our members under the RSL NSW Sport & Recreation program, we are planning to introduce exercise physiology classes for our members and families. It will be a monthly class held in the Forestville RSL Club's Flight Deck Room at no cost to participants.

Our first class will be held at 1400hrs on Thursday 13th June. Our instructor is from Rebound Health who already provide DVA physiology service across the Northern Beaches. While our emphasis will be on balance, there are Heart Health program events available to members. Future classes will be on the second Thursday each month. While this is open to members and family, you **MUST register** by calling Sandy Howard at the office (02 9451 1221) or email support@forestvillersl.org.au .

Let us stay upright!

RSL AUXILIARY

At our General Meeting on Monday 6th May, we celebrated Mothers' Day with stories of our Mothers, White Chrysanthemums as gifts, and visiting cemeteries to place them on Granny's grave. Our beautiful Gina sang Happy Birthday in Portuguese, her native tongue, to Judy Hardman.

Our next meeting is on 3rd June at 1pm, making felt poppies for Remembrance Day. If you prefer, please bring your own knitting, crocheting and scissors. Any questions, phone Barbara Lunn on: 0411-351654.

For catering, bookings/cancellations must be made with Barbara Norton: mobile 0414 415 332, email: barian@optusnet.com.au. Cut-off date for our 3rd June meeting is Wednesday 29th May at 5pm.

Would you like to be a member of our RSL Auxiliary to help with fundraising for Veterans and their Families in need? Don't be shy... just ring Barbara Norton above, who will arrange your own personal "buddy" to contact you and show you the ropes, it's very rewarding and lots of fun.

Thanks to our 18 RSL Auxiliary members who attended the Platinum Jubilee 70th Anniversary Luncheon on Sunday 19th May at the Club, organized by our Forestville RSL sub-Branch, celebrating our 70th Anniversary as well. We raised \$1031 in the raffle and silent auction, to support veterans and families in need.

Forestville RSL Auxiliary MEAT RAFFLE

Friday 14th June, 2024
FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

Our Forestville RSL Auxiliary will be conducting the Meat Raffle at the Forestville RSL Club on Friday 14th June from 5.30pm. We encourage you to bring friends and family along to have dinner in the Club. Meat Raffle tickets are **\$5 for 50 chances**, and multiples thereof.

Our RSL Auxiliary members will be at our General Meeting on Wednesday 5th June taking pre-sales orders for tickets in the Meat Raffle on 14th June, and EFTPOS will be available.

Purchasing pre-sale Meat Raffle tickets means that you do not have to physically be present in the Club on 14th June to win. If you do win, you will be contacted on the night by our RSL Auxiliary members to arrange delivery of your meat raffle prize.



Forestville RSL sub-Branch WALKING GROUP

Our next Walking Group activity will be on Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 9.45am for 10am from the 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.

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

Australia My Country 2024

Judging took place on Saturday 25th May. Winners will be awarded at our AMC Presentation Ceremony on 15th June at the Club. Rory Amon MP, State Member for Pittwater, will present the awards commencing at 10am. More information is available on our website at www.forestvillersl.org.au/Schools/AMC.

ANZAC SUNDAY 2024 March & Service



ANZAC 2024 Dawn Service



ROOKWOOD CEMETERY TOUR & KOKODA MEMORIAL WALKWAY

Tuesday 18th June 2024

INCLUSIONS:

- 2.5 hour guided tour of Rookwood Cemetery, the oldest and most multicultural working cemetery in Australia, established in 1867, with a total area of 290 hectares.
- Morning tea on arrival at Rookwood Cemetery.
- Two course lunch with tea or barista coffee at Massey Park Golf Club.
- Afternoon visit to Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, an 800m rainforest

COST: \$50.00 per person, including morning tea, two course lunch with tea or barista coffee and luxury coach transport, which is heavily subsidised by the sub-Branch.

TICKETS: on sale from the sub-Branch office at 10.30am on Monday 8th April and after, or contact our Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, on 9451 1221, or by email at: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au, during office hours on Monday (0900-1400) and Thursdays (0900-1200).

PAYMENT: by cash or EFTPOS.

CANCELLATIONS: no refunds after Wednesday 12th June.

DEPARTURE: from the Lower Carpark at 8.30am sharp, returning around 4.30pm



Computer scams are on the rise!

Beware of scammers and scams that can trick you into making costly mistakes.
Keep up to date by visiting:

www.scamwatch.gov.au

Dates to Remember in 2024 (Subject to change)

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Wednesday 5 th June 2024 | * | 7.30pm General Meeting |
| Thursday 13 th June 2024 | * | 2pm Exercise Physiology Class @ the Club |
| Wednesday 3 rd July 2024 | * | 7.30pm General Meeting |
| Wednesday 7 th August 2024 | * | 7.30pm General Meeting |
| Sunday 18 th August 2024 | * | 11.30am for 12noon Commemoration Luncheon |
| Wednesday 4 th September 2024 | * | 7.30pm General Meeting |
| Wednesday 2 nd October 2024 | * | 7.30pm General Meeting |
| Wednesday 6 th November 2024 | * | 7.30pm General Meeting |
| Monday 11 th November 2024 | * | 10.30am Remembrance Day Service |
| Sunday 1 st December 2024 | * | 11.30am for 12noon Christmas Fundraising Luncheon |
| Wednesday 4 th December 2024 | * | 7.30pm General Meeting |
| Monday 16 th December 2024 | * | Office Close for Christmas Break |



THE 2024 LEST WE FORGET ANZAC DAY TRIBUTE

Sydney's Town Hall - Thursday, 25th April 2024

Our sub-Branch Patron, WWII veteran and Life Member, **Don Kennedy OAM**, was invited as a guest to participate in this 2024 Anzac Day Tribute, broadcast nationally by 7 News on Anzac Day. Don, at 97 years of age, was accompanied by his wife, Wynne. It is highly recommended viewing for an hour, using this link, especially in the last three minutes, so please watch right to the end:

<https://www.facebook.com/7NEWSsydney/videos/the-2023-lest-we-forget-anzac-day-tribute-concert-at-sydneys-town-hall/615554380620428/>.

Special Request to Members

Sending monthly newsletters to you electronically by email will help us to be more sustainable, save time and reduce our mailing costs.

Please advise your email address details to us at:

membership@forestvillersl.org.au

If you do not have an email address, you could have a family member or neighbour receive your newsletter by email and pass it onto you.

June Significant Anniversaries

June is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 6th June 1944 – D Day
- 6th June 1969 – Battle of Binh Ba, South Vietnam
- 9th June 1999 – UNAMET, East Timor
- 20th June 1864 – Australians in action at Te Ranga New Zealand
- 28th June 1919 – Treaty of Versailles signed

**“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

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RSL Auxiliary Co-Coordinator:
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Email: barian@optusnet.com.au

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