



RSL
NSW

Forestville sub-Branch

Australia My Country



NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

SEPTEMBER, 2024

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

Presidents Report

With the RSL NSW Veterans Support Fund (VSF) for 2025, our sub-Branch successfully nominated Australian Catholic University (ACU) for inclusion, which was approved by the RSL NSW Board, announced on 1st August 2024. ACU has campuses in Blacktown, Strathfield and North Sydney, and has a highly developed Student Veteran Support Program (SVSP) for veterans, especially those currently transitioning, to undertake tertiary education. Donations by RSL sub-Branches in NSW to this SVSP program through VSF 2025 will now see many veterans supported with their tertiary education. Our other nominated charity, Saltwater Veterans, was also approved for inclusion in VSF 2025. And the good news is that our sub-Branch Executive Committee is already working on a nomination for the VSF 2026 program, specifically with regard to therapeutic and psychotherapy aspects to support the mental health of transitioning veterans and including their families.

We are extremely proud of these achievements by our sub-Branch, and we appreciate your support as well. All sub-Branches, and RSL NSW, are now moving forward with VSF 2025 as our key focus for supporting veterans and their families, ensuring all of our collective activities are carried out in the name of RSL NSW, in order to ensure all communities in NSW are aware of these RSL NSW activities, funded by sub-Branches. This will strengthen RSL NSW branding, whereas in the past there has been little or no recognition. And, in our own sub-Branch, our Forestville RSL Auxiliary, through Club meat raffles, fashion parades, commemoration luncheon raffles and other fundraising activities, are actively working on an ongoing basis to raise funds to support veterans and their families in need, through VSF 2025.

You will all have received from RSL NSW in late June an email asking you to complete a survey, in which you were asked a series of questions. The feedback you provide will be used to ensure RSL NSW is providing the support members and our sub-Branches need to continue to grow and prosper. We trust you took the time to provide your own feedback as part of this process?

We have previously talked about Census 2021 data for our 10 sub-Branches across the Northern Beaches, comparing current membership numbers against ADF Ever-Served data from the census. This is now being used as part of a "30 by 2030" goal for our Northern Beaches sub-Branches to have 30% of ADF Ever Served veterans in their respective catchment areas as members of a sub-Branch by 2030. Fortunately for us, and across the Northern Beaches, we are already well on our way to achieving this goal, which forms part of the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021/2026.

And my personal good news is that Barbara and I are taking a holiday in the USA from 9th September to 9th October. Due to COVID, Barbara hasn't been home to visit her family for six years, and it will be my first extended holiday in that time. Our extremely hard-working Honorary Secretary, Vince Williams CSC, and his wife Jules, are also taking a well-earned break in Europe from 10th September to 24th October. In our absence, Vice President Sandy Howard, supported by our hard-working Committee members, will take responsibility for our sub-Branch operations, so please in turn give them all of your support and cooperation during September and October.

Then, Vince and Sandy as sub-Branch Delegates, and me in my role as President of our RSL NSW Northern Beaches District Council, will attend the RSL NSW State Congress in Newcastle from 27th to 29th October 2024. At Congress, we will see the handover from our current RSL NSW Chair, Sophie Ray FAICD FGIA, to the incoming RSL NSW Chair and current Board Member, Louise Sullivan FAICD FGIA FCG.

Finally, it's Legacy Week from 1st to 7th September, so please support Legacy fundraising for veterans' families.

Spring is sprung, the grass is ris, I wonder where the birdies is? Enjoy Spring, and call if you are in need.

Best Regards,
Bob Lunnon

What's On

**Bill Hardman
Presentation**

Wednesday 4th September
7.30 pm

General Meeting

Wednesday 2nd October
7.30 pm



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The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Membership

Membership totals: **378** (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly we have lost the following members:

SAINTY Geoffrey Donald ... ARMY
MALLIGAN OAM Brian Kenneth ... AFFILIATE

We welcome new members:

GRAY Duncan Willaim Tahī ... NAVY/SWV
GRAHAM Donald Gordon ... NAVY/SWV



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 Remembrance Day will close on Thursday 19th September

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 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 will be held at 2.30pm on Thursday 12th September, and then 2.30pm on Thursday 26th September.** Our instructors are from Rebound Health who already provide DVA physiology services across the Northern Beaches. While our emphasis will be on balance, there are also Heart Health program events available to members.

While this is open to members and family, you **MUST register** by calling our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary, Kevin Leary, at the office during office hours on 9451 1221), or email:

asstsecretary@forestville.org.au

Let us stay upright!



Forestville sub-Branch WALKING GROUP



Our next Walking Group activity will be on **Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 9.45am** for 10am 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.

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

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH

General Meeting – Wednesday 7th August, 2024

NEW MEMBERS

We were delighted to welcome Affiliate member, **Michelle Donnelly**, as a member of Forestville RSL sub-Branch. We thank you for all that you do for our sub-Branch, as an Affiliate member, Michelle.

We were also delighted to welcome Auxiliary member, **Marie Britton**, as a member of Forestville RSL sub-Branch. We know you will make a great contribution to our Auxiliary, Marie.



Forestville RSL Auxiliary

MEAT RAFFLE

Friday 27th September 2024

FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

Our Forestville RSL Auxiliary is conducting the Meat Raffle at the Forestville RSL Club on **Friday 27th September** from 5.30pm. We encourage you to bring friends and family to have dinner in the Club. **Meat Raffle tickets are \$5 for 50 chances, and multiples thereof.**

Our RSL Auxiliary members will be at the Bill Hardman Presentation Meeting on **Wednesday 4th September** taking pre-sales orders for tickets, EFTPOS is available.

Purchasing pre-sale Meat Raffle tickets means that you do not have to physically be present in the Club on 27th September to win. If you do win, you will be contacted on the night by our RSL Auxiliary members to arrange delivery/pick-up of your raffle prize.

Our sub-Branch members are winners - 7 in August!

RSL AUXILIARY

"A B A N D O N S H I P"

The Costa Concordia is sinking, that's what our Guest Speaker, Noel Phelan, was talking about. Noel is not only a wealth of information on our chosen subject but a wonderful storyteller. Our members were completely entertained and, at question time, the most popular question was: "*What was the Captain up to immediately before the ship hit the rock?!!!*".

Our next meeting is on **2nd September at 1.00pm**, with a light lunch. We will begin taking bookings for our Spring Fashion Parade, details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

To assist with catering, bookings/cancellations are to be made with Barbara Norton: mobile 0414 415 332, or email:

barian@optusnet.com.au. **Cut-off date is**

Wednesday, 28th August at 5.00pm.

Would you like to be a member of our RSL Auxiliary to help with fundraising for Veterans and their Families in need?

Ring Barbara Norton, contact details above.

You are invited to our

Stafford Spring Fashion Parade



Sponsored by the Forestville RSL sub-Branch
Auxiliary

22 Melwood Avenue Forestville
24th October, Thursday, 10am – 1pm
Tickets: \$20. Morning tea included
Raffle and Door Prizes

Bookings: Jackie Pretti 0409 133 334

Email: balunnon@hotmail.com

Supporting our Veterans and their families in need



COMMEMORATION FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

Sunday 18th August, 2024

We commemorated wars and campaigns in the July to September period, including Vietnam Veterans Day on 18th August, and remembered those who served, and particularly those who lost their lives in service. We especially remembered our dear departed Treasurer, Ted Samojłowicz, a Vietnam Veteran, who sadly passed away in Los Angeles on 5th July 2024.

We will remember them. Lest We Forget.



Forestville RSL sub-Branch COMMITTEE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Our sub-Branch is seeking nominations for the following two Committee positions, available immediately:

TREASURER: experience in bookkeeping and data entry in MYOB, also reporting requirements for RSL NSW and BAS, and other duties as required.

VICE-PRESIDENT: acting as Second Vice President in the absence of the President, including other tasks and duties as required.

Nomination forms are available from the sub-Branch office, on office days.

BILL HARDMAN PRESENTATION

General Meeting - Wednesday 4th September 2024

Guest Speaker: **NOEL PHELAN**
THE STORY OF MV *KRAIT*

The story of MV *KRAIT* is one of extraordinary bravery, endurance and secrecy. Operation Jaywick involved the *KRAIT* and is considered to be the most daring and successful seaborne raid in military history. This is a story of a Japanese fishing boat that transported a group of commandos from Exmouth in WA to an island 50 miles from Singapore and back. The commandos then paddled their folboats at night from island to island to attach limpet mines to Japanese ships in Singapore harbour. The paddling was done at night to avoid detection. 7 Japanese ships were sunk - 37,000 tons. The commandos were 1,000 miles and 3 weeks behind enemy lines.

This raid was kept secret for many years and had terrible consequences for innocent people. *KRAIT* has now been restored and brought back to the configuration used during the raid on Singapore.

Learn about the training required, the equipment used, the challenges they had to overcome and how they managed to get over 1,000 miles behind enemy territory and back undetected.



ORIGINALLY CALLED KOFUKU MARU WHICH MEANS HAPPINESS OR GOOD FORTUNE

AUSTRALIA MY COUNTRY (AMC) 2024 COMPETITION

Forest Area Schools - Recognition of Significant Participation

Presentations of Awards - August 2024

For the Australia My Country (AMC) 2024 competition, our Committee had decided to award the top three Forest area schools which contributed the most entries. These three schools were: Our Lady of Good Counsel, Kambora Public School and Covenant Christian School. Our AMC Coordinator, John Balfour OAM, arranged for our AMC Coordinating Team to visit these three schools to present a cheque for \$500 at their school assembly, as a contribution towards each of their school's library. Pictured at the Kambora Public School cheque presentation on 6th August are President Bob Lunnon, AMC Coordinator John Balfour OAM, Schools Liaison Officer Kevin Leary, with the Principal Lydia Janabi and AMC 2024 prize winners (absent Peter McAskill).



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 4 th September 2024	*	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation Speaker
Wednesday 2 nd October 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 6 th November 2024	*	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation Speaker
Monday 11 th November 2024	*	10.30am Remembrance Day Service
Sunday 1 st December 2024	*	11.30am for 12noon <i>Christmas Fundraising Luncheon</i>
Wednesday 4 th December 2024	*	7.30pm General Meeting
Monday 16 th December 2024	*	Office closed for Christmas Break



Merchant Navy Day Memorial Service

Date: Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Time: 11 am

Place: The Main Hall, Mosman Art Gallery, 1 Art Gallery Way, Mosman, adjacent to the War Memorial and Allan Border Oval behind the Council Chambers at Spit Junction.

RSVP Address: Merchant Navy Chapter, PO Box 6159, Narrabeena, NSW 2099 **or Email:** mnchapter@forestvillersl.org.au **Mobile:** 0433 934 705.

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.

September Significant Anniversaries

September is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 3rd September 1939 – Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand declare war on Germany
- 6th September 1914 – First battle of Marne begins
- 9th September 1914 – Naval force captures Bitapaka Wireless Station in New Britain
- 11th September 1914 – Australian Naval/Expeditionary Forces land at Rabaul, New Guinea
- 14th September 1914 – Submarine AE1 lost, New Guinea
- 15th September 1944 – Morotai landing
- 16th September 1999 – INTERFET East Timor, Operations WARDEN, SPITFIRE, STABILISE, FABER
- 19th September 1944 – LCDR L.V. Goldsworthy, GC – Mine Clearance, UK (Gazetted date)
- 21st September 1914 – German New Guinea surrendered
- 24th September 1914 – Australians occupied Madang

**“And the world is a little poorer, for a soldier died today”
...Lest We Forget...**



sub-Branch Office

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Hours:
Monday 0900 - 1200 / 1245 - 1400
Thursday: 0900 - 1200

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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