



## War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL sub-Branch

Through an active membership we keep the ANZAC spirit alive and growing

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### PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

As each of you would be aware by now, the elections for the RSL NSW Board are now underway and each of you has the opportunity to have your say as to who will lead us for the next three years. I encourage you to have your say.

At the sub-Branch level our Secretary John is currently convalescing at home after a scheduled surgery and we wish him a safe and speedy recovery.

It is my current understanding that RSL LifeCare will be conducting a Remembrance Day service in the Chapel, with more details to come in the next week. While this will be an invitation only event due to limited numbers being allowed in the Chapel, the Service will be streamed live to YouTube – again, more details will follow.

I am sure everyone is pleased with the reduction of COVID cases State wide and we all look forward to further easing of restrictions. We have asked Management about conducting meetings and events in the Montgomery and associated area and we do hope to receive some definitive advice soon.

In the meantime, your Committee continues to function to provide any and all assistance you need, while keeping the sub-Branch functioning at its best level.

Bob Durbin  
President

### NOVEMBER IN HISTORY

- > 1861: Nov 7<sup>th</sup> - First Melbourne Cup Run.
- > 1947: Nov 15<sup>th</sup> - Bradman scored his 100<sup>th</sup> 100, 172 against India at the SCG.
- > 1979: Nov 27<sup>th</sup> - First day-night, one day cricket match, Australia v West Indies at SCG.
- > 1999: Nov 6<sup>th</sup> - Australia voted against becoming a Republic in a national referendum.
- > 2012: Nov 1<sup>st</sup> - Google's G-Mail became world's most popular email service.

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

### RSL NSW BOARD ELECTION

Have your say in the composition of the Board of RSL NSW over the next three years.

Only Service members are eligible to vote and will have received ballot papers in the issue of Reveille mailed to you in early October.

Pages 14 and 15 of Reveille outline why it is important to vote and how to vote – by mail or online.

The last date for a postal vote to be mailed is 10<sup>th</sup> November and votes online can be submitted up until 5pm, 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Your vote for this election is important.

Results will be announced on 27<sup>th</sup> November on the RSL website.

If you have any questions, please call the RSL NSW Election Information Line on 1800 260 668 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Kerry Morris – RSL Life Care Manager, Fundraising and Events, is coordinating with our Chaplain Bob Durbin in arranging a Remembrance Day service in the Village Chapel commencing at 10.30am.

Because of the restrictions there will be limited numbers and attendance will be by special invitation only.

Sub-Branch members not attending will be able to view the service on youtube. Just Google – youtube rsl chapel live stream.

There is an alternative to watching this service and that is to tune into ABC to view the Remembrance Day Service being held at the Australian War Memorial – Canberra.

## ORIGINS OF REMEMBRANCE DAY

Why is this day special to Australians?

At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919 two minutes' silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was working in Fleet Street. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the armistice "which stayed the worldwide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom". The two minutes silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemorations on Armistice Day.

On the second anniversary of the armistice in 1920 the commemoration was given added significance when it became a funeral, with the return of the remains of an unknown soldier from the battlefields of the Western Front. Unknown soldiers were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triumph in Paris. The entombment in London attracted over one million people within a week to pay their respects at the unknown soldier's tomb. Most other allied nations adopted the tradition of entombing unknown soldiers over the following decade.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed

*Continued in next column >>>^*

the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead.

In Australia on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993 Remembrance Day ceremonies again became the focus of national attention. The remains of an unknown Australian soldier, exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Memorial's Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial. Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11 am and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence. This ceremony, which touched a chord across the Australian nation, re-established Remembrance Day as a significant day of commemoration.

Four years later, in 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minutes silence at 11 am on 11 November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

*Source: Australian War Memorial website [awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance-day/traditions](http://awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance-day/traditions)*

### A Poem for Remembrance Day

*"The inquisitive mind of a child"*



Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?  
Selling poppies in town today.  
The poppies, child, are flowers of love  
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?  
Why not a beautiful rose?  
Because my child, men fought and died  
In the fields where the poppies grow.



But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?  
Why are the poppies so red?  
Red is the colour of blood, my child.  
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.  
Why does it have to be black?  
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.  
For the men who never came back.

But why, Mummy are you crying so?  
Your tears are giving you pain.  
My tears are my fears for you my child.  
For the world is forgetting again.



(Author Unknown)

*(<http://www.anzacday.org.au/anzacservices/poetry/inquisitive.htm>)*



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

I hope you are keeping well, keeping safe, maintaining some social contact with friends and neighbours but following the guidelines of social distancing when out and about and wearing masks on public transport and when shopping. I must say there certainly seem to be more of our age group doing the right thing than a couple of months ago. It seems this bug is here for a reasonably long stay.

Anyway – enough of the somber news. To more positive matters - the raffle we indicated would be launched sometime in October has got underway and tickets are being sold in the Gallipoli building most days between 11am and 2pm – hopefully to catch the lunchtime traffic. Things are going well. Thank you to the volunteers selling on various days and please remember to support your sub-Branch if you can before the cut-off date of 18<sup>th</sup> November, just over 2 weeks away.

Remembrance Day commemorations have been extremely difficult to organize due to the restricted numbers we can have within our function areas – the Chapel, Montgomery theatre, Dug-out, etc. I can assure you every effort is being made to hold some meaningful service that members will be able to attend. Please be patient and expect official advice from management in due course.

The welfare packages continue to arrive and we hope if you have received something that it has been well received and has been helpful and worthwhile – perhaps a thank you to Cumberland sub-Branch would be appreciated which can be onforwarded via our sub-Branch office. If you would like particularly to be included in a future delivery please do not hesitate to let the office know – just leave a message on the phone – 8978 4266.

Plans are underway to have two functions in place of our usual Christmas lunch which can't happen this year. Invitations will be issued and we will need a reply so numbers can be firmed up for catering. No reply means no attendance!! The dates we are considering are Thursdays November 26 and December 3 so be prepared when these invitations arrive. We are also in the process of trying to determine just how we can have the 19<sup>th</sup> November activity with Jason Falinski presenting VP Day Certificates and Medallions. It may be that a STOP PRESS will be needed if we can work this through in the next week or so.

I look forward to seeing you again soon when delivering this wonderful sub-Branch newsletter put together by our enthusiastic Publicity Officer – thank you Doug.  
Secretary, John S

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As at the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Total Membership = 94

All members are financial.

Life Members	2
Life Subscribers	3
Service	45
Affiliate	27
Associate	17

The following new members were welcomed and inducted at our last Committee Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup>

October: John Burton – Affiliate

Margaret Burton – Affiliate

Applications for new membership are in progress

for: Philip Calvert – Transfer

Janette Williams – Associate

Joffre McNeill – Affiliate

Nina Fergusson - Affiliate

Ross Fairhall – Associate

Bobbi Fairhall – Affiliate

Membership Officer

Jan Slater

## WWII VETERANS MEDALLIONS & CERTIFICATES



The members of our sub-Branch listed below are eligible to receive Medallions and Certificates. Local MP Jason Falinski will present these at a Ceremony to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 9.30 am – venue to be advised.

<b>ELVA MAY BATT</b>	<b>RODNEY DOUST</b>
<b>STUART JOHN DOYLE</b>	<b>LINDSAY DUFTY</b>
<b>MARGARET FERRIER</b>	<b>BEVAN JOHN KEITH HARRIS</b>
<b>ROBERT WESTON INGPEN</b>	<b>ARTHUR EDWARD JOHNSON</b>
<b>CECIL ROBERT LECKIE</b>	<b>MAXWELL FRANK MARVIN</b>
<b>JOHN LAIDLEY MORGAN</b>	<b>WALLACE BOLTON RIVERS</b>
<b>BRYCE GORDON SUTCLIFFE</b>	<b>CHARLES BENNETT TAYLOR</b>
<b>JACK VAN EMDEN</b>	<b>MAVIS WHEELER</b>
<b>NORMAN LAWRENCE ZIEGLER</b>	

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



President Bob Durbin presented Bev Ash with her Affiliate membership card and welcomed John and Margaret Burton presenting them with their new Affiliate badges and membership cards, after the October Committee Meeting.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### Six Little Stories with Lots of Meanings

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an Umbrella. That is **FAITH**.
2. When you throw babies in the air (are we allowed to do that anymore?), they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is **TRUST**.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarm to wake up. That is **HOPE**.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is **CONFIDENCE**.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is **LOVE**.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That is **ATTITUDE**.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember – good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace.

Blessings to all,  
Bob Durbin Chaplain



## WHO ON EARTH DREAMS THESE UP?

- Venison for dinner again? Oh dear!
- How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typ O.
- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognised me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive Vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Velcro - what a rip off!
- Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last.

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

The oldest Domestic cat was a male named "Grandpa" that lived to be 34 years, 2 months. The Bible is the number one shoplifted book in America.

Ten books on a shelf can be arranged in 3,628,800 different ways.

A man was arrested and charged with the robbery of vending machines. The man posted bail entirely in coins.