



## 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

We are so much closer to our next gathering with a breakfast to be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately, our previously advised guest speaker, NSW Veterans Affairs Minister James Griffin, is unable to attend. On the plus side, Secretary John has been able to arrange for our State President, Ray James, to attend. We do hope you will be able to come and hear what has been happening at the State level.

In my dual role as President and Chaplain I have had the honour to attend and present the RSL Tribute at the funeral services of Alf Murray and Frank Saunderson. While numbers were limited at both services, there were ex members of the Defence Family present to pay their respects. Both services are still on the RSL Chapel YouTube channel if you wish to view them. Our thanks to Glenn Armstrong for providing the two Scottish flags for Alf's service.

I also had the privilege of conducting the service for an Affiliate member, Jack Gilbertson.

As we move forward, I am pleased to advise that Peter Cole, currently a member of Dee Why RSL sub-Branch, has agreed to transfer his membership in order to accept the position of Honorary Treasurer. This will be ratified at our next full meeting. The position of Website Coordinator remains to be filled. The person does not need to be a current member of the League.

Hopefully you will all have received an invitation to attend the Village Remembrance Day service. Full details are not known at this time, but we hope to have some information within the next week.

With the increasing Covid 19 vaccination rates we are looking forward to further easing of Health Orders which mean we are a lot closer to being able to have activities, both within the Village and around the city. John will advise you as soon as we are able to make firm plans.

On your behalf, I would like to thank Irene for providing some very nice meals and cakes; Bobbie & Ross, and Jan for distributing them; and Bev for keeping in touch with members. All-important activities which enable us to remain connected.

Keep well

Lest We Forget

Bob Durbin, President

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY



November 4<sup>th</sup> – 9am - Lone Pine Lounge.

We are so looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this Breakfast Meeting (more breakfast than a meeting!!) Our speaker is our very own President of RSL NSW, Mr Ray James OAM. The sub-Branch will heavily subsidise this breakfast to ensure as many as possible can attend - your cost just \$5.

### Positions Vacant

Our sub-Branch runs, supported by committed Committee members and Volunteers.

Currently we have two positions that we wish to fill urgently and we would ask that you consider any one of these opportunities.

**Website Coordinator:** Duties involve keeping the website up dated with relevant information under each of the main headings (i.e., News, Contacts). Good computer skills are necessary and support in initial training can be given.

**Fund Raising Co-ordinator:** Duties include preparing a roster of volunteers for the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day appeals, ordering badge supplies, the preparation of trays for volunteers, collecting and reconciling the sales made, passing the funds received to the Treasurer for banking.

Our past co-ordinators, Horst and Denise Kuessner are able to train a new Co-ordinator.

Please give your serious consideration to the positions outlined above and if you wish to indicate your interest then contact our President or Secretary.

### Mounting of Medals

The company referred to in the August Dispatches – 'Australia in Focus' only does wall mountings. It has been difficult to find someone who repairs medals and can do the mounting of medals to wear. Our secretary now has the name of someone so please contact John at the office if you want such a service.

## SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

We must not get too excited yet about the COVID health restrictions being eased!! But we certainly are planning some activities that we hope will cheer you up just a little and anticipate we will be able to meet each other over a nice breakfast soon. Very little information of interest has come from our recent committee meeting – we are still pursuing the matter of incorporation but we have found a Treasurer – Hoorah!!

Several items of interest have been delivered to your email and/or your letter boxes recently. If you haven't given us your email address, please pass it on as this gets information to you so much quicker than through internal post.

Firstly, we do hope you will make the effort to come to our special breakfast (also incorporating a short meeting) on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November in the Lone Pine Lounge for a 9AM start. Our planned speaker Mr. James Griffin, Member for Manly and NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans is unable to attend this time due to a COVID delayed scholarship training course now clashing on the same day. We will reprogram James for another date in 2022. HOWEVER, how is this for suitable alternative speaker?? – Mr Ray James, our very own RSL NSW President, has accepted our invitation at short notice and will bring us all up to date on what's been happening within RSL NSW. This is indeed a great opportunity to hear the latest and probably ask questions if you feel inclined.

Secondly, we are seeking expressions of interest – no obligation – just an indication of any interest in an overnight trip to Bathurst to visit, among many other interesting options in that city, the "Bathurst Remembers World War 2 Exhibition" to be held from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Fliers with all the information will be available at the breakfast for those NOT on email.

Thirdly, we will be selling Remembrance Day poppies (red and purple) and badges (cost \$2 - \$10) during the week prior to 11<sup>th</sup> November and are looking for volunteers to do this within a village, within the larger Narrabeen complex. Let me know if you can assist in this area.

Fourthly, you will note from the *November Village Voice* that we are looking for a Fundraiser to look after the ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day badge selling and the chocolate sales. Training is available from those doing this at present but their term will end on December 1, 2021.

*Continued in next column >>^*

*Continued from previous column.*

Fifthly, the annual sub-Branch Christmas Luncheon in the Lone Pine Lounge from NOON on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Please mark this date in your diary - bring your spouse also. Cost will be advised in December Dispatches but anticipate about \$35 per head. This is an important end of year function where we can reflect on what this most unusual year has been like for our sub-Branch members. You may register with the office for this function at any time and make up a table if you would like.

Please look at the draft program set out in last month's Dispatches for 2022. Give us your ideas for some outings. We certainly look like being far more active next year so get ready for an interesting and much more social new year.

John Sowden,  
Secretary

## WELFARE REPORT

Hey, isn't it wonderful to be out, about and fancy free! Finally, we can start to get back to 'normal' life and enjoy each other's company once again. We will be starting our small group coffee mornings again this month so be prepared when I call YOU!

Just to finish off here are 5 puzzles to wake up your brain after our prolonged lockdown:



Number 1



Number 2



Number 3



Number 4



Number 5

Looking forward to catching up,  
Bev Ash  
Visitation Officer

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

All members are currently financial.

Current total Membership = 113

Life Members	3
Life Subscribers	4
Service	47
Affiliate	40
Associate	19

Sadly, we have to report the passing of two of our esteemed Service Members:

Frank Saunderson on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> and Jack Gilbertson on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. They will be sorely missed.

The following new members will be welcomed at our Breakfast Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November:

Judy Boon – Affiliate  
Hugh Proctor – Service  
Ken Clements – Service  
Gavin Wilcox – Service  
Joyce Kempster – Affiliate  
Helen Clark – Affiliate  
Dee Friend – Affiliate  
Barbara Parkinson – Affiliate  
Albert Bullivant – Associate  
(Collaroy sub-Branch)

Applications for new membership are in progress for 5 prospective members.

It is rewarding that we continue to have interest in Membership notwithstanding Covid.

Thanks are extended to Jill Chetwynd for recommending some new prospective members.

Best Wishes

Jan Slater, Membership Officer

## HONOUR ROLL

We have lost 9 members this year:

**Shirley Grinyer** - from Connie Fall –  
B 24 June 1923 - D 14 January 2021  
**John Morgan** - from Lantana Lodge –  
B 16 June 1926 - D 8 March 2021  
**John Nihill** - from The Dardanelles –  
B 29 March 1940 – D 12 March 2021  
**Cynthia Turner** - from Kokoda –  
B 14 March 1923 – D 3 June 2021  
**Bryce Sutcliffe** - from Beersheba –  
B 10 August 1927 - D 8 June 2021  
**Tom Brightman** - from Wirraway –  
B 13 November 1926 – D 21 June 2021  
**Alf Murray** - from Phyllis Stewart House –  
B 15 August 1936 – D 21 September 2021  
**Frank Saunderson** - from Villers Bretonneux  
– B 11 November 1932 – D 13 October 2021  
**Jack Gilbertson** - had moved out of the  
village – B 25 August 1926 - D 19 October  
2021

We will remember them – Lest we Forget

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile.*

**Billy Sunday**

*A real Christian is a person who can give his pet parrot to the town gossip.*

**Billy Graham**

*Most people would like to be delivered from temptation but would like it to keep in touch.*

**Robert Orben**

*The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but the fly comes close.*

**Mark Twain**

*I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older; then it dawned on me... they're cramming for their final exam.*

**George Carlin**

*Maybe this world is another planet's hell.*

**Aldous Huxley**

*I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress.*

**Ronald Reagan**

*The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting, it has been found difficult and left untried.*

**G. K. Chesterton**

*Most of us spend the first six days of the week sowing wild oats, then we go to church on Sunday and pray for a crop failure.*

**Fred Allen**

*If you use the church's Wi-Fi, are you receiving God's signal?*

**Anonymous**

*Young man, the secret of my success is that at an early age I discovered I was not God.*

Grace and Peace

Bob Durbin

Chaplain.

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Sub-Branch Christmas Luncheon 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Noon in Lone Pine Lounge



Anticipated Cost to be around \$35 per head.

Bring your spouse.

Register at the sub-Branch Office.



## Origin of Remembrance Day

11 November is universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the First World War. This conflict had mobilised over 70 million people and left between nine and 13 million dead and as many as one third of these with no grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

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 the allied terms of unconditional surrender.

On the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, a minutes' silence is observed and dedicated to those soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation.

In Australia and other allied countries, including New Zealand, Canada and the United States, 11 November became known as Armistice Day – a day to remember those who died in World War One. The day continues to be commemorated in allied countries.

After World War Two, the Australian Government agreed to the United Kingdom's proposal that Armistice Day be renamed Remembrance Day to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars. Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day.

## The Red Poppy

Canadian Colonel John McCrae first described the Red Poppy, the Flanders' poppy, as the flower of remembrance.

Whilst serving in the First World War, one death in particular affected the then Major McCrae. A young friend and former student, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer of Ottawa, was killed on 2 May. He was buried in the cemetery outside McCrae's dressing station, and McCrae had performed the funeral ceremony in the absence of the chaplain.

McCrae vented his anguish by composing a poem. At the second battle of Ypres in 1915, when in charge of a small first-aid post, he wrote in pencil on a page from his despatch book, a poem that has come to be known as 'Flanders' Field' which described the poppies that marked the graves of soldiers killed fighting for their country.



## In Flanders Fields

BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

\* \* \* \* \*



The Red Poppy has special significance for Australians.

Worn on Remembrance Day (11 November) each year, the red poppies were among the first to flower in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium in the First World War. In soldiers' folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground.

Australians wear a Red Poppy on Remembrance Day for three reasons. Firstly, in memory of the sacred dead who rest in Flanders' Fields. Secondly, to keep alive the memories of the sacred cause for which they laid down their lives; and thirdly, as a bond of esteem and affection between the soldiers of all Allied nations and in respect for France, our common battleground.

*Editor: Extracts taken from the [army.gov.au](http://www.army.gov.au) website.*