



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 REPORT

First, I would like to thank Vice President Doug for taking over while I was on leave. It is comforting to know that we go away knowing that the sub-Branch is always in good hands.

Our condolences have been expressed to the families of Julian VansLambrouck, Eric Walkley and Mavis Wheeler, members who have passed since our last report.

Secretary John and I attended the meeting of the Northern Beaches District Council on Tuesday 19th July. We were advised that the NBDC submission regarding the "Charitable Purpose" Discussion Paper has been accepted at the DPC (District Presidents' Council). This is a positive step forward in identifying what a 'charitable purpose' is regarding the use of welfare funds. The 'Draft SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) – Incorporation of RSL sub-Branches' is to be discussed at a DPC workshop in August which is another positive step forward for us. It is disappointing that the push is still to have all sub-Branches incorporated as 'Companies Limited by Guarantee'.

The current office term concludes next year and we will be required to conduct elections to fill all positions. I encourage you to consider who you think would be able to fulfill these responsibilities. More will be advised by Secretary John in the months ahead.

Continue to keep well.
Lest we Forget.
Bob Durbin, President

MEETING

Our next Meeting is on Thursday 11th August and will be held in the Lone Pine Lounge.

This is a breakfast meeting scheduled at 8.30am for 9.00am start and will include our normal General Meeting.

Guest speakers, are from our own sub-Branch.

Cost of the breakfast is subsidised by the sub-Branch and is at a cost of \$5 per person.

Register and pay at the office by noon on Monday the 8th August – money in an envelope under the Office door please.

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 130

Life Members	3
Life Subscribers	3
Service	47
Affiliate	54
Associate	23

We mourn the sad loss of our long serving Members: Julian VansLambrouck (Associate), Eric Walkley (Service) and Mavis Wheeler (Service).

The following new Members were inducted at our July meeting and are included in the above numbers: Colin Mackenzie – Service
Sandra Louwrens – Affiliate
Ian Wilson – Affiliate

Also included in the above numbers are another 13 new Members who were unable to attend Meetings for induction and accordingly will receive their Cards & Badges by mail.

Membership Applications from the following were approved at the last Committee Meeting and have been forwarded to RSL NSW:

Lee Sarich – Service
Roger Smith – Associate
Eric Brown – Affiliate
Adrienne Brown – Affiliate
Lynda Harris – Affiliate
Steven Good – Associate
Susan Good – Affiliate
Christopher Bowles – Affiliate

Jan Slater – Membership Officer

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse with both front legs in the air, the person died in battle; if the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



Sandra Louwrens



Ian Wilson



Colin McKenzie

CHAPLAINS CORNER

A couple of weeks ago our Chapel Bible reading came from the Gospel of Luke 10:25 – 37. It is titled “*The Good Samaritan*” and it tells the story of a man who was beaten, robbed and left to die at the side of the road. Two upstanding men within the Jewish community saw the man, but deliberately avoided him by walking on the other side of the road.

Then along comes the Samaritan man. The issue here is that the Samaritans and Jews were both culturally and, in some ways, religiously opposites. However, he is the one who stops to render help and ongoing support to the wounded man. Anyone hearing this story at the time would have thought it would have been the other way around.

Christ says that we are to: “*Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*” (John 13:34 NIV). The simple lesson here is that it doesn’t matter from where we come, what our own personal circumstances are, or even what our belief system is, we are called to help each other. There are so many who are in need of some type and level of help. This could be as simple as having someone to listen, someone to share some time.

I encourage you to notice those in need and do what you can to help them, even if that is just to point them in the right direction.

It may be that you may need some help, in which case don’t be afraid to ask – you might be very surprised by the positive responses you receive. Let us not miss the opportunity to love and be loved, as Christ loves us.

Grace & Peace, Bob Durbin, Sub-Branch Chaplain

Vietnam Veteran’s Day Wednesday 18th August

A commemoration service is to be held in The Village Chapel at 2pm.



All told, some 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1973. 521 died and over 3,000 were wounded.

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

This month will be remembered with some sadness as we have lost three service members – Julian VansLambrouck on 1st July, Eric Walkley on 4th July and Mavis Wheeler in her 102nd year on 16th July. Julian and Mavis have had their funeral service in our Chapel. Eric died without family and a very close family friend of many years organized what was a dignified memorial service in the Chapel for him. Thank you to those sub-Branch members who attended these services. The RSL Tribute was presented by our President Bob Durbin for Eric and Mavis. The sub-Branch is hoping to provide a Vale article in Dispatches on a member who has passed away and we commence with Julian and Eric in this edition with Mavis in the next issue.

The sub-Branch is continuing the now three-month tradition of highlighting a military activity or event in our monthly space in the Village Voice complementing an adjoining article from the War Museum on the same topic. This month is about the Vietnam War and in September we will highlight the amazing story surrounding HMAS AE1 and HMAS AE2.

Vietnam Veteran's Day will be commemorated with a service in the Chapel at 2pm on Thursday 18th August 2022. Please refer to a publicity item elsewhere in Dispatches.

The 50th Anniversary of the Pittwater House Cadet Unit is to be celebrated on Monday 29th August - this is an important event in our calendar as this unit has been very supportive for many years of our Commemoration services on ANZAC and Remembrance Days by having their cadets provide the catafalque party and performing various other duties. We will receive an invitation to this event and attendance is open to any member. If you would like to attend, please let Secretary John (0427 259419) know asap as it may be possible to have a bus to transport us there and back.

We have had some positive feedback as a result of the flyer delivered to all independent living residents in the last month with several enquiries about membership and membership officer Jan Slater will follow these up in the coming months. If you receive an enquiry from a friend or neighbour, please let Jan know who will follow up all enquiries.

We encourage all members to wear a mask as it is now strongly recommended by public health officials. Please keep safe, well and warm and we look forward to seeing you at our breakfast meeting at 9AM on Thursday 11th August in the Lone Pine Lounge when we will have a different hot menu – but still subsidized so you only pay \$5.00. Booking with payment is required by Monday 8th August for catering purposes.

John Sowden, Secretary

A VALE TO PAST MEMBERS

JULIAN VANSLAMBROUCK-
27 July 1926 – 3 July 2022

Julian was born near Passchendaele, Belgium and was 14 when war broke out. At 15 he went to Mechanical Engineering School and graduated in 1944. However, when Germany occupied Belgium he was summoned by the Gestapo and told he would be sent to Germany to work as a labourer in an aircraft factory.

His father felt the invasion of Europe was coming so he told Julian not to show up for the Gestapo deportation. For their safety he did not tell any of his family, but decided to hide in a friend's farm until they were liberated by Canadian troops at the end of 1944. If he had been found all involved would have been shot.

Adventure then took him via the Italian ship "Cyrenia" to Australia where he worked, learned the language, married and had a successful corporate life before retiring to our Village.

He is survived by his son and daughter and grandchildren.

ERIC WALKLEY- 20 April 1940 – 4 July 2022

Eric was born in the Sutherland shire. His mother suffered very poor health and when his parents separated, he was sent to board and grew up, at Boystown in Engadine. Needless to say, he became very independent.

He joined #13 National Service Training Battalion on 12 August 1958 and transferred to the regular Army on 28 October 1958 joining the School of Artillery at North Head the following week. He was discharged on 28 October 1964 holding the rank of Bombardier. He was awarded the Australian Defence Medal and the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal.

After his Army service Eric joined Australia Post, worked interstate before moving to the northern beaches (still working with Australia Post). He became a defacto member of a local family with whom he became a very respected and loved "uncle" to their sons and daughters. After retiring from full time employment, he took on various volunteer roles including the Australian Historical Railways Association for which he was awarded Life Membership.

Eric joined the RSL in 1988 and transferred his membership from Balgowlah/Seaforth/Clontarf to our War Vets sub-Branch in 2018, when he came to live in Beersheba.

POLO SHIRTS

Official sub-Branch Polo Shirts are now available for purchase. The price is \$40 each after a subsidy of \$15 by the sub-Branch. Size range S M L XL 2XL 3XL. Samples are available for measuring.

We have to place a minimum of 10 shirts per each order. Wearing of these attractive and distinctive shirts at all of our functions is a significant contribution to promoting the aims of the sub-Branch. To place an order please contact Jan Slater, Membership Officer
sub-Branch Office, Fridays 9.30am – 12.00pm
Phone 8978 4266

THE STORY OF THE FAMOUS SPITFIRE

Spitfire, also called Supermarine Spitfire, the most widely produced and strategically important British single-seat fighter of World War II. The Spitfire, renowned for winning victory laurels in the Battle of Britain (1940–41) along with the Hawker Hurricane, served in every theatre of the war and was produced in more variants than any other British aircraft.

The Spitfire was designed by Reginald Mitchell of Supermarine Ltd., in response to a 1934 Air Ministry specification calling for a high-performance fighter with an armament of eight wing-mounted 0.303-inch (7.7-mm) machine guns. The airplane was a direct descendant of a series of floatplanes designed by Mitchell to compete for the coveted Schneider Trophy in the 1920s. One of these racers, the S.6, set a world speed record of 357 miles (574 km) per hour in 1929. Designed around a 1,000-horsepower, 12-cylinder, liquid-cooled Rolls-Royce PV-12 engine (later dubbed the Merlin), the Spitfire first flew in March 1935. It had superb performance and flight characteristics, and deliveries to operational Royal Air Force (RAF) squadrons commenced in the summer of 1938.

A more radical design than the Hurricane, the Spitfire had a stressed-skin aluminium structure and a graceful elliptical wing with a thin air foil that, in combination with the Merlin's efficient two-stage supercharger, gave it exceptional performance at high altitudes.

The version of the Spitfire that fought in the Battle of Britain was powered by a Merlin engine of 1,030 horsepower. The plane had a wingspan of 36 feet 10 inches (11.2 metres), was 29 feet 11 inches (9.1 metres) long, and reached a maximum speed of 360 miles (580 km) per hour and a ceiling of 34,000 feet (10,400 metres). Faster than its formidable German opponent the Bf 109 at altitudes above 15,000 feet (4,600 metres) and just as manoeuvrable, Spitfires were sent by preference to engage German fighters while the slower Hurricanes went for the bombers.

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More Hurricanes than Spitfires served in the Battle of Britain, and they were credited with more “kills,” but it can be argued that the Spitfire's superior high-altitude performance provided the margin of victory.

Meanwhile, Supermarine was developing more-capable versions of the Spitfire driven by progressively more-powerful Merlins. The eight 0.303-inch machine guns gave way to four 0.8-inch (20-mm) automatic cannons, and by war's end the Spitfire had been produced in more than 20 fighter versions alone, powered by Merlins of up to 1,760 horsepower. Though outperformed by the German Fw 190 upon that aircraft's introduction in 1941, the Spitfire restored parity the following year and eventually regained the advantage. It remained a first-line air-to-air fighter throughout the war. Spitfires were used in the defence of Malta, in North Africa and Italy, and, fitted with tail hooks and strengthened tail sections, as Seafires from Royal Navy aircraft carriers from June 1942. Spitfires helped to provide air superiority over the Sicily, Italy, and Normandy beachheads and served in the Far East from the spring of 1943. Fighter-bomber versions could carry a 250- or 500-pound (115- or 230-kg) bomb beneath the fuselage and a 250-pound bomb under each wing.

One of the Spitfire's most important contributions to Allied victory was as a photo-reconnaissance aircraft from early 1941. Superior high-altitude performance rendered it all but immune from interception, and the fuel tanks that replaced wing-mounted machine guns and ammunition bays gave it sufficient range to probe western Germany from British bases.

In late 1943 Spitfires powered by Rolls-Royce Griffon engines developing as much as 2,050 horsepower began entering service. Capable of top speeds of 440 miles (710 km) per hour and ceilings of 40,000 feet (12,200 metres), these were used to shoot down V-1 “buzz bombs.” During World War II, Spitfires were exported in small numbers to Portugal, Turkey, and the Soviet Union, and they were flown by the U.S. Army Air Forces in Europe. When production ceased in 1947, 20,334 Spitfires of all versions had been produced, 2,053 of them Griffon-powered versions.

Fighter versions of the Spitfire were dropped from RAF service during the early 1950s, while photo-reconnaissance Spitfires continued in service until 1954.

During his time at the sub-Branch the late Neil Stronach gave several Airforce articles to the Editor and this is one of those articles.