



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

Just when we thought the rain would go away and we could start enjoying Spring, the skies opened again. This may put a damper on some things but not your sub-Branch Committee. The team has been working very hard at organising future events and activities which be reported elsewhere.

I am a little disappointed that the raffle is not progressing as well as hoped. As our major fundraising activity, we were expecting more members to participate, either by buying tickets assisting in selling them to neighbours. There is still time for this so I ask you to consider your involvement. These funds will be used to assist in funding future activities.

At the time of writing, I am preparing for the Annual State Congress which will be held in Newcastle on Monday 31st October and Tuesday 1st November. I will provide a report for the December issue of Dispatches on my return.

As previously advised, I will be on leave from 7th – 29th November inclusive and will be away for Remembrance Day. All planning is in hand and I am sure the commemoration will be as significant as always. I do hope you are able to attend.

Until my return, continue to keep well.
Lest We Forget
Bob Durbin, President.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The meeting date has been changed to **ONE WEEK EARLIER** from Thursday 10th November to **Thursday 3rd November.**

9.30am in the Lone Pine Lounge
Guest speaker: Nicki Young, Chief Business Improvement Officer - RSL LifeCare (Previously General Manager Veterans Services)

A special morning tea will follow the meeting



In the fields
Where the spirits of our soldiers lie
Beneath the mantle of a foreign sky
That we remembered to let the children know
From the depth of their sacrifice
The poppies grow

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 138

Life Members	2
Life Subscribers	3
Service	47
Affiliate	63
Associate	23

We mourn the sad loss of Gordon Marshall and Albert (Abby) Barnes. Both were Associate Members and great supporters of the sub-Branch.

Denis Du Ross was inducted at our October Meeting as an Affiliate Member whilst Lee Sarich-Service and Joan Parfitt- Affiliate are awaiting induction and all are included in the above numbers.

Also, at our October Meeting the Committee approved the application for Affiliate Membership of Diana Roper OAM which is now with RSL NSW for endorsement.

Thanks to Bev Ash for adding generously to morning tea at our last Meeting and thanks to all the well-wishers during my recent illness.

Jan Slater, Membership Officer

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Friday 11th November
Montgomery Centre
Remembrance Wall

Service starts at 10.30am
please assemble before 10.20am

Dress Code: Lounge Suit
Orders, Decorations and Medals to be worn

Members of the sub-Branch are requested to wear a poppy or poppy badge and your RSL membership badge.

For those who wish to march meet at the Peter Cosgrove forecourt at 10am

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER Inducted at the October Meeting



President Bob Durbin presents Denis Du Ross with his Affiliate Badge and Membership card.

WAR WIDOWS DAY

War widows residing in New South Wales were honoured on the 19th October with a star ceremony at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park and a reception at Parliament House to acknowledge the inaugural War Widows Day.

The following are short reports submitted by our sub-Branch War Widows who joined in the ceremony and attended the reception on the day.

“I attended the moving inaugural ceremony at The War Memorial of NSW, included a speech by Her Excellency, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW, Patron, who addressed the many War Widows and guests in attendance, also placing the first wreath during the service.”

Pamela Dodd, RSL Sub Branch Member.”

“The wattle pin was designed and presented to all widows of a veteran who attended the inaugural War Widows Day NSW service.

Wattle is a symbol of Australian resilience, strength, remembrance, and reflection.

The wattle represents the spirit of the Australian people.

It became a tradition during WW1 to press and send wattle to wounded soldiers.

Fallen soldiers were buried with these sprigs of wattle.”

Shirley McLaren OAM, Member War Vets RSL Sub-Branch.”



“Ms Queen Dunbar, a War Widow and State President of War Widows NSW, gave a wonderful speech recalling her childhood memories of her life as a service wife, becoming a war widow at 41, her devastation after her husband's passing and her life now with her children. Queen told how War Widows had given her back her zest for living and how it helps other war widows who have lost their partner as a result of war.”

Bev Kelly, RSL Sub Branch Member



Shirley casting a star

“The Star Ceremony involved the casting of a gold star in the Hall of Memory at the ANZAC Memorial Hyde Park Sydney.

We placed them in recognition of all widows and widowers to honour their contributions and sacrifices.

The stars will be collected, cremated and the ashes carried on pilgrimages to the battlefields on which Australians have fallen.”

Shirley McLaren OAM.

“When Shirley McLaren was chosen to recite the Ode of Remembrance at the ceremony, I knew she would not disappoint me.

It was necessary for her to climb some stairs to reach the microphone, so Ray James President of the RSL NSW, escorted her to the microphone, stayed with her then escorted her back to her seat. The order of service clearly showed the second verse of the Ode but Shirley recited two verses as she usually does at War Widows meetings.

After the ceremony people came to congratulate Shirley on her performance and this continued at the Parliament House Reception.”

Well done, Shirley!

Shirley Beggs, RSL Sub Branch Member



Shirley McLaren recites the Ode

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

There have been very few meetings this year when we have not welcomed a new member and October was no different – unfortunately Membership Officer Jan Slater was unwell and not able with President Bob Durbin to introduce Denis Du Ross who was welcomed with acclamation as an Affiliate Member.

Another year is quickly passing us by and it is important that we hear all your suggestions for activities that will keep us interested in 2023. Thank you for the feedback from a few members after the October meeting regarding the idea that because we have trouble filling a bus, we could have outings promoted through the Village Lifestyle and Activities Co-Ordinator Suzie Spencer which give sub-Branch members a week (or ...days) preferential window before opening bookings to the whole Village. We will keep you informed of any developments along these lines. Senior RSL LifeCare management is aware of the importance of commemoration services and other similar activities here at War Vets Village. Your sub-Branch is co-operatively working to seek grants which will assist in holding the ANZAC Day Dawn Service on Veterans Parade in 2023. It will be three years since we have held the Dawn service open to our local community.

Please make a point if you can to attend our November meeting on Thursday 3rd November – yes, a week earlier than usual – to enjoy a shorter than normal meeting plus a special morning tea and hear our guest speaker Nicky Young bring us up to date on her new role in RSL LifeCare. Nicky has been very supportive of our sub-Branch - she was previously General Manager Veteran Services. It will also be an opportunity to hear from President Bob on what happened at the annual RSL NSW State Congress and AGM which will have concluded two days before our meeting.

A diary Note – Christmas Lunch on Thursday 8th December in the Lone Pine Lounge. More details at the November meeting.

John Sowden, Secretary

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Lone Pine Lounge – Thursday 8th December
11.30am for 12noon



There will be a brief General Meeting prior to the luncheon

CHAPLAINS CORNER

I quite often hear the front doors open and then go into the Chapel to see who is there. More often than not it is someone just popping in to have a look. Unfortunately, most people stop at the entrance and fail to see the wonderful commemoration/remembrance aspects inside. There are many ships crests, Army & Air Force unit and association plaques given in remembrance of former village residents.

We have an outstanding installation of stained-glass windows depicting all services and aspects of Defence Service. That is just on the back wall and in the entrance!

As reported in the Village Voice we also have three pieces of significance relevant to our contemporary veterans.

Combined with the photos of Church services held in a variety of places by a variety of ADF Chaplains, The War Vets Chapel provides a significant sanctuary & refuge for anyone. A frequent comment made is that our Chapel is somewhere where people can be at peace. It is a place of solace for so many who visit, not just as a once off, but on a regular basis, just to sit, reflect and have a quiet time.

Need a quiet place? Why not drop in.

Grace & Peace,

Bob Durbin, Sub-Branch Chaplain

REMEMBRANCE DAY FRIDAY 11th NOVEMBER

Our RSL sub-Branch will be fundraising leading up to Remembrance Day. Honour our veterans and commemorate all those who have served with lapel pins and badges. New stock of the very popular 3D poppy pin and some new items will be sold by sub-Branch volunteers throughout ANZAC Village, from a pop-up shop in the Gallipoli Building on 5 and 6 November and at Warriewood Square, staffed by Grace Lane and Denise Kuessner on 4, 5, and 6 November. Funds raised will be used to support our veteran community.

Leigh Haines, Fundraising Coordinator.

EFTPOS AVAILABLE - NO CASH - NO PROBLEM

Remember – our EFTPOS facility is available for any payments made to our sub-Branch no matter how large or small.

Just tap your card – get a printed receipt, get it by email or have it sent to your mobile phone.

If our EFTPOS terminal is not present, simply supply us the card details including name, expiry date and CVV and we will process your payment later.

For more information ring our Treasurer, Peter Cole on 0418 169 840

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

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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



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: Extract taken from the army.gov.au website