



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

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

Editor: Doug Smyth – email: [dougsmyth44@gmail.com](mailto:dougsmyth44@gmail.com) or deliver mail to RLO Reception, Gallipoli.  
Doug's Mob: 0429 988 880. Office sub-Branch Hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am – 12pm Phone: 8978 4266

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For the first time since 2014 I was privileged to attend the RSL NSW Annual State Congress and AGM. Held in Newcastle it was the first major face to face meeting in a long time. There were many in attendance, both in person and on-line.

While the formal Minutes are not yet available, below is a synopsis of proceedings.

In his opening remarks, Ray James OAM, State President focused on the purpose of the RSL being more for the Defence family. He stated there is more than enough money held by sub-Branchedes to fund all necessary and needed projects. While many sub-Branchedes make significant contributions there are still some who fail to work outside of their own membership. Ray also stated that we need to work more with the Defence industry. In closing he thanked RSL LifeCare Veterans Services for their outstanding work.

Following a tribute to Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, the National President spoke highlighting the issues we are all facing with DVA. He said we are the victims of our own success in that serving members have been encouraged to make claims while they are serving rather than wait until they complete their enlistments. This has caused a 50% increase in DVA claims and hence the great backlog. He also stated more professionals were needed in country areas. Having said this, he went on to advise that the UK only instituted their DVA equivalent in 2019 while NZ does not have a DVA equivalent. Finally, Mr Mellick said that the issue of the 'Australian Wars' – indigenous war – was not an issue for the Australian War Memorial but for the National Museum. The role of the RSL has not changed in that we are called to be the conscience of the nation.

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, as RSL NSW Patron, recognised the outstanding work of the RSL during the pandemic.

Other presentations were given and I am sure these will be highlighted in other publications.

*Continued in next column>>*

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

It was very pleasing to see Mrs Mary Cooper, State Branch Membership Office for the past 25 years being recognised with the award of The RSL of Australia NSW Branch Certificate of Appreciation.

At the AGM there were 40 motions on the agenda.  
Procedural Motions – 5 – all carried  
Ordinary Motions – 9 – all carried  
Constitutional Amendments – 26 – 9 carried – 16 lost – 1 withdrawn.

It was interesting to use the electronic method of voting which gave an accurate percentage of votes for and against at the conclusion of each vote. The results will be published soon.

I believe this was a very informative Congress with great opportunity for Q & A's of a variety of panels.

Next year's ASC & AGM will be held in Newcastle at the end of October 2023.

Until my return, continue to keep well.

Lest We Forget  
Bob Durbin, President.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 139

Life Members 2, Life Subscribers 3  
Service 47, Affiliate 64, Associate 23

At our November Meeting Diana Roper OAM and Joan Parfitt were inducted as Affiliate Members and are included in the numbers above.

Also, at our November Meeting the Committee approved the applications for Affiliate Membership of James Percy and Coralie Newman OAM which are now with RSL NSW for endorsement.

We wish you a Merry Xmas and thank you for your continued support throughout the year. It is encouraging that we are still receiving interest in new Memberships.

Jan Slater, Membership Officer

## Report on Remembrance Day Fundraising 2022

As we were less affected by COVID this year, we were afforded the opportunity to branch out to include a pop-up table at Warriewood Square. The sales from Warriewood and the pop-up table at the Gallipoli Building greatly enhanced the result.

I want to thank everyone involved in this fundraising campaign, and in particular the two volunteers who staffed the pop-up facility at Warriewood and the four volunteers who staffed the pop-up table in the Gallipoli Building.

As there was some stock left over from ANZAC Day, purchase of additional stock was minimised. Popular items like the poppy pen, the 3D poppy badge, a new magnetic poppy badge and the Army, Navy and Air Force badges were purchased from the Military Shop to enhance our offering.

I am pleased to be able to report a strong result:

### Income

Cash sales	\$2,990.00
Square terminal sales	\$259.00
Total sales	\$3,249.00

**Donations** \$251.50

**Total income** \$3,500.50

**Cost of sales** \$1,637.15

**Gross Profit** \$1,863.35

**Value of stock carried forward** \$517.83

At a feedback meeting held on Tuesday 15 November, sellers talked about their experience during the campaign and suggested several constructive ideas for future fundraising efforts.

Leigh Haines  
Fundraising Coordinator  
16 November 2022

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS Inducted at the November Meeting



President Bob Durbin presents Diana Roper OAM and Joan Parfitt with their Affiliate Badge and Membership card.

## SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

What a great meeting was had by those who attended and heard Nicki Young speak. There has been much positive feedback from many and we have been fortunate that following our enquiry, Nicki has allowed us to print an article covering much of what she said. We are so pleased that all members can share in the information. Of course, all enjoyed morning tea after the meeting with a couple of senior ex-Navy men still catching up with each other well after The Lounge had cleared and the staff had left.

Coming up in December is our usual meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> which will be very short to allow time to enjoy a Christmas Lunch. This will be in The Lone Pine Lounge. PLEASE do not arrive before 11.30AM but you need to be seated by midday. The meal will be served at 12.30PM. All are welcome with wives/spouses and the cost is \$45 per person. This can be paid in cash or by card (in the office) and bookings and payment need to be made by midday on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December so we can advise catering of numbers. Please be aware that costs have gone up and RSL LifeCare are catering for just the lunch and the sub-Branch is contributing to make it a Christmas-feel atmosphere.

Next year's program of meeting dates is as usual with our general meetings on the second Thursday of each month. PLEASE NOTE – there is NO meeting in January, we will have a Christmas in June lunch on the meeting day, the AGM with elections for a 3-year term at the March meeting, and we are waiting to see what outings will be available for members. Any visits outside the Village will be on a Wednesday.

Fundraising Co-Ordinator Leigh Haines did a marvellous job in handling the logistics of organizing Remembrance Day fundraising which went well. Leigh will present a report at the December meeting. Thanks go to the volunteers who sold badges and pins within the Village. On behalf of all members, special thanks go to Grace Lane and Denise Kuessner who enjoyed 3 days at Warriewood Square promoting our RSL sub-Branch, selling badges, pins and "Sands of Gallipoli" raffle tickets and meeting lots of different shoppers. Would you all like to consider helping next ANZAC Day to ensure all precincts within our Village are "covered."

Best wishes to all members, keep in touch with each other, stay safe and enjoy the festive season.

Secretary – John S

## **GUEST SPEAKER – NIKI YOUNG** **A brief of her Presentation**

At the last sub-Branch general meeting we were fortunate to have the RSL LifeCare (RSLLC) Chief Business Improvement Officer, Nicki Young, as our Guest Speaker. Those who were not in attendance missed a most enlightening and confidence building address. Nicki has kindly allowed the Editor to include some of what she spoke about for all to read.

Nicki, the day before the meeting, had been officially appointed to act in the capacity of General Manager Retirement Living following Robin Grady's resignation. Nicki explained several changes in the organisation and these are some of the matters she addressed:

- \* Her career has encompassed the RAN, Nursing, Medibank, IHMS and establishing a charity for Veterans, etc.
- \* The RSLLC organisation is focused on changing its culture and the "revolving door" concept of management will not continue. There is a new CEO, a new Chairman of the Board with 3 new members also recently appointed to the Board. (Both the CEO and Chairman attended the RSL NSW State Congress and AGM in Newcastle in late October and attended and took part in our Remembrance Day Service.)
- \* RSLLC is a multi-faceted business with 4 distinct entities – Retirement Aged Care (RAC), Independent Retirement Living (IRL), Veteran Services and Home Care. People can move through all four areas.
- \* Until January this year RSLLC's RAC stayed COVID-Free. This was very different to many businesses in that industry and because we had done so well, we received the poorest government support.
- \* Some RSLLC facilities have been badly affected by floods – Lismore, Richmond.
- \* Staff shortages are common to many industries and RAC is no exception and higher levels of skill and wage increases will go a long way towards correcting this problem.
- \* The business focus is on customers, people, quality, and business viability.
- \* The next 6 months or so should see the development of a new culture and service.
- \* RSLLC has 30 RAC facilities with 2200 bed licenses, 27 villages with 2400 independent living units, 20 Home Care facilities, Veteran Services are in Wagga Wagga, Nowra, Ballina and Newcastle. RSLLC employs approximately 3,700 – it is a large organisation.

*Continued in next column >>>>*

*Continued from previous column*

- \* Nicki emphasised the need to maintain the history of veterans as a theme running through our village at Narrabeen.
- \* The Equine Centre at Picton offers courses for veterans and others – 14 horses, it is booked well ahead, runs 3 courses and is well worth a visit.
- \* The Veteran employment program is going well, and is looking to work with RSL Queensland in training veterans in Aged Care – this has been very successful.
- \* Raising funds from sub-Branches and other organisations is important for the long-term sustainability of these veteran programs.
- \* RSLLC is working closely with RAC and IRL to better support and connect with veterans.
- \* In RAC recent accreditation assessments, 3 facilities met every criteria indicating best practice and quality care efforts are paying off. There is increased attention to food and lifestyle (activity) as these two areas have been the most criticised in the past.
- \* Home Care is growing and there is a need to expand in this area with demand expected to increase over the next few years. Staff need to be highly skilled and we have recently introduced a "Cleaner to Carer" pathway that has been very popular.
- \* Nicki took questions from the floor and covered topics like - the RSL emblem removal and the Narrabeen site, the importance of the Narrabeen commemoration services including ANZAC Dawn Service, Wirraway and Tobruk not being fit for purpose, social progress for veterans, an obligation to provide some low-income accommodation, and other topics.

Nicki was thanked for taking time to speak with us and this was endorsed with enthusiastic applause.

### **A VISIT TO OUR MOST SENIOR MEMBER**



Bev Ash, Elva Batt and Pattie Page

It was a pleasure to spend some time with our most senior member, Elva Batt, having celebrated her 101st birthday this year.

She does her Physio regularly and enjoys the social life at Terrey Hills.

Wonderful to see her looking and sounding so well.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME

Lone Pine Lounge  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
11.30am to be seated by 12noon  
Wives/ Spouses and Partner's welcome  
Cost \$45 per person



Come and enjoy a scrumptious Christmas dinner with all the trimmings followed by a hot traditional pudding and custard. Red and white wine as well as soft drink all on the table waiting for you, along with some festive sweets and a few surprises. Raffle tickets for sale on the day.

RSVP by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December  
Book and pay by cash or credit card at the sub-Branch Office.

There will be a brief General Meeting prior to the luncheon

## Sands of Gallipoli Medallion Raffle

Thank you to all the volunteers who sold raffle tickets for this sub-Branch fundraising campaign. If you have not done so already, please return the ticket stubs and money to the sub-Branch office so that they will be in the draw on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Leigh Haines, Fundraising Coordinator.



1<sup>st</sup> Prize



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

## Our First Meeting for 2023

Note there is no meeting in January

The first General Meeting is to be held on  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

9.30am in the Montgomery Centre

This is an opportunity to catch up with members and hear from your committee of plans for 2023

A morning tea will follow the meeting

## CHAPLAINS CORNER



Jesus  
IS THE  
REASON  
FOR THE  
Season

Grace & Peace,

Bob Durbin, Sub-Branch Chaplain

## THE CHRISTMAS STAR

By Poet Julie Herbert, 2012

Christmas is a magical time,  
For young and also old.

The season brings so much to see,  
And so many stories are told.

The biggest story of the holiday,  
Is of the Christmas star.

Sitting out on Christmas Eve,  
We are reminded who we are.

Christmas is about one thing.  
Not presents or of toys.

Christmas is of joy and peace,  
And happy family noise.

Christmas is the spirit of happiness,  
And of being with those you love,  
It is a time to give thanks and show your love,  
And in times of need, look up above.

Christmas became because of one,  
And we have him to thank.  
Next time you see that star shine bright,  
Say a prayer for Jesus' sake.

The Christmas star is a presence,  
One in which is a thrill.  
Although it seems impossible now,  
He stands among us still.

