



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

Welcome to the New Year! Already Secretary John has a full program of events for us to participate in. There are additions to our commemorative program as well as some new and exciting day trips on offer. I do encourage you to consider attending.

Our AGM will be upon us very soon. This year we will be privileged to have our State President, Ray James OAM, in attendance and acting as our Returning Officer. Ray will also address us on the year ahead from State Branch's perspective. A great opportunity to hear from the top. Please consider who you would like to hold positions for the ensuing three years. Contact John if you would like to know more about any position, all of which will be declared vacant at the AGM.

It was with great sadness that we were advised of the Passing of Bill Hardman OAM. Bill had been unwell for quite some time and it was a relief and release for the family when he died. A private family cremation was held on Thursday 19th January at The Northern Suburbs Crematorium with a memorial service being held at the Forestville RSL Club on Wednesday 25th January. It was my privilege to conduct both services. Doug will have more information on Bill's life but suffice to say, that for our sub-Branch, Bill was a great supporter and nothing was ever too much for him. Our condolences were extended to Bill's wife Judith and their family.

Lest We Forget.
Bob Durbin – President

CHAPLAINS CORNER

In the secular world we have **had** Christmas, we have **had** New Years - and now we have **had** Australia Day! We saw all the decorations and advertising for each event. Prior to each event there were the perpetual questions of 'What will you be doing for...?'

Were you asked what New Year's resolutions you will make and what ones will you try to keep? I, think that in our human, secular world this is what we expect.

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Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

First Meeting for 2023

The first General Meeting is to be held on
Thursday 9th 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

NOTICE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with the RSL NSW Standard Operating Procedures notice of this meeting is to be given one month prior.

Our meeting is to be held on **Thursday the 9th March 2023** in the Lone Pine Lounge commencing after the General Meeting at 9.30am.

At this AGM an Election is required to appoint an Executive Committee: President, Vice President (up to two), Secretary, Treasurer and of your committee (up to four).

A nomination form is included in this issue of "Dispatches."

For some, Christmas and New Year are just a hectic two months of the year that they could well do without and they are glad when it is all over. The issue of Australia Day is another matter altogether.

But as Christians, I would like to think that our view of Christmas and New Year is something completely different. Yes, just like the secular world we live in, we celebrate the holidays but the reason we have a festive season is not to party and have a break from work - *Jesus is the reason for the season.* This, for me is what our holidays – our holy days – are about.

Just as the secular world makes New Year's resolutions, we can do the same in our Christian world.

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS
Inducted at the December Meeting



President Bob Durbin welcomes new Affiliate Member Caroline Newman OAM (above) and James Percy (below)



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 140

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Life Members | 2 |
| Life Subscribers | 3 |
| Service | 46 |
| Affiliate | 66 |
| Associate | 23 |

We mourn the passing of our dear Service Member Elva Batt on Christmas Day aged 102 years. Elva lived in the Village for many years and of late at Terry Hills Nursing Home.

Affiliate Members Coralie Newman OAM and James Percy were welcomed and inducted at our December Meeting. They are included in the numbers above.

New Service Members Anders Sorensen, Lynette Warren and Donald Peyte are awaiting endorsement by Head Office. They are not included in the above numbers.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and good health.

Jan Slater
Membership Officer

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Feedback from some members who attended our sub-Branch Christmas Lunch indicated the activity was a great social occasion to end the year. It is a good opportunity to have guests join members in sharing some quality time together. The drawing of the "Sands of Gallipoli" raffle threw up some unexpected winners.

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Plans are already in-hand to have another "giant" raffle drawn at the end of year lunch and your committee has listened to comments that the prize(s) need to be significant and something that appeals to ALL members.

Sub-Branch efforts to organize some outings have not been successful. Hence the need to work with the Village Activities Officer and your committee is hoping that this new approach will be successful. The intention is for members to have a priority booking period before that activity is opened to the wider village population.

You should have received your program of meeting and commemoration dates for this year and noted in your diary those that you can be involved in. Please support them where you can. As the saying goes "use it or lose it" could apply to future opportunities being slow to be offered. If you have NOT received this program, please let me know because it means your address has been left off the list we are using for deliveries of correspondence from the sub-Branch.

A couple of requests have been made several times during the last few months with little feedback or offers of help— the need for assistance with the welfare and visitation role and we are also looking for someone to take on the Membership Officer role as Jan Slater will not be seeking re-election at our AGM in March. There is no requirement that a service member fill these roles so there is a great opportunity and a responsibility for our many affiliate members to be involved. It is also an objective in 2023 to have the office open each weekday morning. If you can spare 3 hours (9 till Noon) on Monday, Tuesday or Friday please speak with either President Bob or myself.

A happy New Year to all members as we look forward to another interesting and rewarding year ahead.

Secretary – JohnS

Continuation of CHAPLAINS CORNER

Resolutions such as;

- I will start and finish my day with God.
- I will love my family as He loves me.
- I will love one another just as He loves me.
- I will lead a Christ centred life, not a self-centred one.

Friends, let us rejoice and celebrate the New Year, a time to be thankful for all we have and a time to look forward with joy in our hearts.

Grace & Peace
Bob Durbin
Sub-Branch Chaplain

The following was kindly passed to the Editor by Bob Lunnon.

BILL HARDMAN OAM – MEMORIAL SERVICE
WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY, 2023
RSL TRIBUTE – BOB LUNNON

BILL JOINED THE RSL IN 1978, HAVING RECEIVED A DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTING FROM PERTH TECHNICAL COLLEGE WHICH HE ATTENDED FROM 1971 TO 1974; AND A DIPLOMA IN LAW FROM THE LEGAL PROFESSION ADMISSION BOARD WHICH HE ATTENDED FROM 2010 TO 2016.

- BILL JOINED THE COMMITTEE OF FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH IN 2002, WAS SECRETARY FROM 2003 TO 2004, PRESIDENT FROM 2004 TO 2017, AND BECAME A LIFE MEMBER OF RSL AUSTRALIA IN 2012
- HE WAS TREASURER OF THE VETERANS CENTRE SYDNEY NORTHERN BEACHES IN DEE WHY FROM 2013
- A BOARD MEMBER OF RSL LIFECARE FROM 2008 TO 2011
- AN RSL NSW STATE COUNCILLOR FROM 2008 TO 2011
- RSL NSW STATE TREASURER FROM 2014 TO 2016, AND AGAIN FROM 2016 TO 2017
- BILL WAS PRESIDENT OF NORTHERN BEACHES RSL DISTRICT COUNCIL FROM 2008 TO 2011, AND AGAIN FROM 2014 TO 2022; AND VICE PRESIDENT FROM 2007 TO 2008, AND AGAIN FROM 2011 TO 2014. HE ROTATED BOTH OF THESE EXECUTIVE POSITIONS WITH HIS GOOD FRIEND, GRAHAM SLOPER, ALWAYS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RSL NSW CONSTITUTION
- FOLLOWING THE BERGIN INQUIRY INTO RSL NSW IN 2018, BILL BECAME A MEMBER OF THE RSL NSW DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL IN 2019 AND WAS THE INAUGURAL SECRETARY, THEN STOOD DOWN IN 2022. DURING THIS TIME, BILL WAS INTEGRAL IN ASSISTING WITH THE NEW RSL NSW CONSTITUTION, AND THE FORMATION OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR RSL NSW SUB-BRANCHES
- BILL WAS CHAIR OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE WARRINGAH AND MACKELLAR CENTENARY OF ANZAC COMMEMORATION FROM 2012 TO 2015
- HE WAS THE HONORARY AUDITOR OF THE AIR DISPATCH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA FROM 1998 TO 2016
- BILL WAS AWARDED A COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD IN THE NSW GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS FOR 2014
- AND WAS A RECIPIENT OF THE IAN STEWART COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF BELROSE IN 2014
- AND BECAME A LIFE MEMBER OF THE MANLY WARRINGAH DISTRICT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION IN 1995
- HE WAS AN ELECTED COUNCILLOR AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER FOR THE HCF HEALTH FUND FROM 2011 TO 2022
- IN 2016, BILL WAS AWARDED THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL IN THE GENERAL DIVISION, IN THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY 2016 HONOURS LIST, FOR HIS SERVICE TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- IN AUGUST 2020 BILL WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB, UNTIL HE STOOD DOWN IN LATE 2022
- HE WAS THE HONORARY AUDITOR OF MANY RSL SUB-BRANCHES, PROBUS CLUBS, AND MANY OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

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- HE ASSISTED THE TERREY HILLS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WITH THEIR COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES ON ANZAC DAY AND REMEMBRANCE DAY EACH YEAR; AND WAS PATRON OF THE TERREY HILLS LIBRARY

BILL ALSO ARRANGED REGISTRATION WITH THE NSW STATE LIBRARY OF THE FORESTVILLE WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS AS A WAR MEMORIAL, WHICH ADJOIN THE FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB; ALSO, THE REGISTRATION OF THE CENOTAPH AND MEMORIAL GARDENS HERE AT THE FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB AS A WAR MEMORIAL; AND REGISTRATION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL AT FRENCHS FOREST BUSHLAND CEMETERY WHERE BILL'S ASHES WILL BE INTERRED IN THE COLUMBARIUM, AND WHERE THERE IS A PLAQUE COMMEMORATING BILL'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS WAR MEMORIAL. IF YOU HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THIS WAR MEMORIAL, A VISIT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, IT IS LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE CHAPEL AND MAIN OFFICE

AS I MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, BILL JOINED THE LEAGUE IN 1978, WHICH MEANT HE WAS FIVE YEARS SHORT OF BEING AWARDED A MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL, THE HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL RSL AUSTRALIA AWARD. SO, IN FEBRUARY 2022, BILL RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION, WHICH WAS INCLUDED IN THE RSL NSW WEBSITE WHERE IT WAS STATED:

ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE KNOWS THAT SUB-BRANCHES ARE ITS HEART, AND MEMBERS ARE ITS LIFEBLOOD. BUILDING ON THE COMMON BOND OF DEFENCE FORCE SERVICE, IT'S AT THIS LEVEL THAT VETERANS BAND TOGETHER TO SERVE THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST AMONG THE VETERAN COMMUNITY. THIS AWARD RECENTLY GIVEN AT THE FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH ON SYDNEY'S NORTHERN BEACHES PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO THE CALIBRE OF LEADERSHIP AND DEMONSTRATION OF EXCELLENCE THAT'S REPLICATED AMONG THE RSL NSW MEMBERSHIP. BILL HARDMAN OAM WAS PRESENTED WITH A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION WITH THE CITATION: "FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP TO RSL NSW," BY FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH PATRON, AND WWII VETERAN DON KENNEDY OAM, WHO IS WITH US TODAY. THE CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION IS HERE ON THE MEMORABILIA TABLE.

BILL WAS ALSO HONOURED LAST YEAR WITH A THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE QUILT, WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO JUDY AND KARL BY PAULINE JAMES OAM, STATE COORDINATOR, RSL NSW AUXILIARIES. THESE QUILTS ARE MADE BY RSL NSW AUXILIARY MEMBERS, AND BILL'S QUILT IS ALSO HERE ON THE MEMORABILIA TABLE.

IF I WAS ASKED TO PREPARE A DEDICATION TO BILL, IT WOULD BE SOMETHING LIKE THIS: BILL WAS A QUIET ACHIEVER WITH A SELFLESS AND UNWAVERING FOCUS AND DETERMINATION, WHO SPENT HIS LIFE SUPPORTING THE WELFARE OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN NEED, IN TERMS OF ADVOCACY, PENSIONS, HOUSING AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT, WELFARE ISSUES, COMMEMORATION, AND OTHER PRACTICAL HELP WHEREVER POSSIBLE. YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COUNTRY, THE RSL, AND THE COMMUNITY, WELL OVER YOUR LIFETIME. MAY YOU NOW REST IN PEACE, BILL. LEST WE FORGET.

Served in the Australian Army as a Lieutenant.
Bill's awards include the following.
Order of Australia Medal, Australian Active Service Medal
1945-75 with Clasp Malaysia,
General Service Medal 1962 with Clasp Borneo
Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp SE Asia,
Australian Defence Medal,
Anniversary of National Service 1951-72 Medal, Pingat Jasa
Malaysia,
Infantry Combat Badge, Returned from Active Service Badge

Vale Elva May Batt (nee Baikie)



Elva May Baikie was born in Marrickville on 14 September 1920.

She was nine when the Great Depression began. Her family were fortunate as her father had a permanent job in the Public Service although his wages were cut by one third.

The family moved to Bronte and Elva attended Waverley Primary and Sydney Girls High.

After completing the Intermediate Certificate, she won a scholarship to study shorthand, typing and bookkeeping at Stotts Business College and went to work at the Public Trust Office.

In 1939, at the start of WW2, she joined the Waverley Detachment of Voluntary Aids, her mother joined the Red Cross and her father was an Air Raid Warden.

When she turned 21 Elva enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) and was posted to Concord Hospital.

She was given the rank of Sergeant and in 1943 was sent to Officers' Training School. She was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and was posted to Perth, Adelaide River then Darwin. She was the amenities officer for women in the N.T. and across to Mt Isa.

In 1945 at the end of the war, Elva was promoted to Captain and transferred to Melbourne to arrange for the disposal of equipment in every state.

In 1946 Elva married Barry Batt who had served in New Guinea in the 2/4th Armoured Division. They subsequently set up home in Greenacre and had two children. Elva worked as a conveyancing clerk for a Bankstown firm of solicitors. In 2003 she and Barry moved to the War Vets Village in Narrabeen.

Elva held several roles in the Ex- AAAMWS Association including secretary and president and led the group's Anzac Day march in the city on several occasions.

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She and Barry were active members of the Village War Museum.

Barry died in 2007 and Elva stayed on in the Village until 2018 when she moved to Terrey Hills Nursing Home at the age of 98.

She died on Christmas Day 2022 surrounded by her family aged 102.

Throughout her life Elva maintained a strong social conscience and devoted much of her time to various charities. Her family and all who knew her will miss her.

Rest in Peace "Ellie-May" - a life well lived.

This 'Vale' was given to the Editor by Elva's son Colin and daughter Janice.

INVITATION

You are cordially invited to
The Dedication of the Simpson of Gallipoli
Memorial and the raising of the flag of the
Republic of Turkiye
at 2PM on Friday 24th February 2023
at the Simpson of Gallipoli Memorial,
Endeavour Drive, Narrabeen.

The Consul General of the Republic of Turkiye
in Sydney, Mr Ali Sevim and the President of
RSL NSW Mr Ray James OAM, will be in
attendance

Afternoon Tea will follow in the Afghanistan
Room in the Gallipoli Building.

DRESS: Lounge Suit with medals and awards.

RSVP for Catering Purposes: 8978 4266 or war-veterans-villageSB@rslnsw.org.au by noon
Monday the 20th February.

STOP PRESS

Thursday March 30 - "Navy in Sydney - East Harbour Cruise"

Join a three-hour cruise with the Naval Historical Society of Australia. 10AM - 1PM including morning tea. The sites you will learn about and see include - Dawe's Point, Garden Island, HMAS Rushcutter, Clarke Island, Rose Bay, Watson's Bay, Georges Head, Chowder Bay, Bradley's Head, Neutral Bay - Sub Base Platypus.

Cost of the cruise is \$70 plus \$10 charged to your account for the bus transport both ways from the Village to King Street Wharf.

This activity will NOT be advertised to the whole Village until March 1. If you would like to join this cruise, please get your name to the sub-Branch office as soon as possible.

John Sowden -- Secretary