



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 Mobile: 0429 988 880.
sub-Branch - email: War-Veterans-VillageSB@rslnsw.org.au Phone: 8978 4266.
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am – 12pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First of all, a big thank you to all who attended and contributed to our Annual General Meeting. It was very pleasing to see so many in attendance. Your incoming Committee has met and I am pleased to advise that both VP's have accepted significant responsibilities on your behalf. Both will be attending the District Council as Alternate Delegates as well as each being involved in either the RSL Annual State Congress or Scholarship coordination.

We look forward to their valuable input.

ANZAC Day is fast approaching and we are hoping for an increased attendance at both services. As in the past, members of the ADF will be involved in assisting our Residential Care Home residents attend the Wednesday service. Unfortunately, not many are able to attend the Dawn Service, which this year will be back at Entrance B.

A reminder that if you want to attend the Sydney ANZAC Day March by taxi, you will need to contact the RLO Desk prior to 6th April, unless you contact ANZAC House directly. If you chose option 2, then this needs to be done by 1st April.

A couple of years ago we resolved to become incorporated but, as with many other sub-Branches, we had to wait for State Branch to make a decision. The new Constitution makes it very clear that this is now an option. We hope to have some information about the pros and cons of this which the Committee will discuss, and if thought appropriate, present at a meeting so that we can make an informed decision.

I look forward to seeing at our next meeting.

Lest We Forget
Bob Durbin
President

April General Meeting

This Meeting is to be held on Thursday 13th
April 2023

9.30am in the Lone Pine Lounge

A morning tea will follow the meeting

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

YOUR NEW OFFICE BEARERS

Bob Durbin elected unopposed as President

Peter Cole elected unopposed as Treasurer

John Sowden elected unopposed as
Secretary

Steven Good elected as a Vice President

Roy Parkinson elected as a Vice President

Leigh Haines elected to the Committee – his
role is Fundraising Officer

President and Secretary were elected as
Delegates to the NBDC

President Bob Durbin was elected as the
Delegate to the RSL NSW Annual State
Congress (ASC) and AGM

Mr. T Samojslowicz was appointed the sub-
Branch Auditor

Doug Smyth was elected to the position of
"Dispatches Editor"

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 143

Life Members 2

Life Subscribers 3

Service 49

Affiliate 66

Associate 23

New Service Members Anders Sorensen and Donald Peyte were welcomed and inducted at our February Meeting. Lynette Warren will receive her badge at the April General Meeting. They are all included in the above numbers.

Applications are in progress for new Service Members Rodney Bates and Keith Boog. They are not included in the above numbers.

Jan Slater

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The AGM went smoothly in front of almost 60 attendees and was a great success. Our guests, RSL NSW President Ray James OAM and Mrs Pauline James OAM enjoyed the occasion, together with visitor Bob Lunnon who is President of the Northern Beaches District Council of RSL sub-Branched. Following the business of the AGM, Ray spoke generously of the current situation with RSL NSW and many matters it is dealing with that concern all members.

Our latest service member, Rod Bates, was inducted and presented his membership card by Ray. Certificates of Thanks were presented by Ray and President Bob to members who have served the sub-Branch over the past 3-year term and are not continuing – Bev Ash, Jan Slater, Peter Yardley, and Doug Smyth. Norm Ziegler will be presented his certificate at his Kokoda address as soon as possible.

Pauline James OAM then made two most unexpected presentations, for years of service to RSL NSW, of a quilt made by the members of RSL NSW Auxiliaries of which Pauline is the Co-Ordinator – to President Bob Durbin (the quilt has a naval theme) and to Shirley McLaren OAM (the quilt has an air force theme).

Members should note additions to the program outlined earlier in the year and a copy of which was delivered to each member's letterbox.

*Our April meeting will include a presentation on the sub-Branch website – introduced by both the Treasurer and the President. This meeting will be in the Lone Pine Lounge on Thursday 13 April at 9.30am followed by morning tea.

*The May meeting, on the 11th May, will include breakfast with a guest speaker – our very own President Bob Durbin who will speak on the history of our Village. Because this is a topic of interest to more in the Village than just members, you are invited to bring your wife/partner. The subsidized cost will be \$10 per head and you will need to register your attendance at the office in the Gallipoli Building by 1pm Monday 8th May.

In next month's report there will be a summary of the cruise that proved so popular with members. It is hoped to organize another in the second half of this year.

Secretary, John Sowden

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, sub-Branch Office, Fridays 9.30am – 12.00pm Phone 8978 4266

ANZAC Day Fundraising Campaign

The sub-Branch is organizing a fundraising campaign leading up to ANZAC day in 2023. There will only be one campaign during which the sub-Branch will offer pens, lapel pins and badges this year with no campaign for Remembrance Day.

Members, residents, relatives, and friends are strongly encouraged to support this annual initiative in raising much needed funds for our veteran community.

A number of new items will be offered, including a soft-grip pen with LED light at \$5.00 and a new range of pins and badges from \$5.00. There will also be some old favourites including the very popular three-dimensional poppy lapel pin at \$10.00.

There will be a pop-up table in the Gallipoli Building from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Friday 14th April until Monday 24th April. There will also be pop-up tables at Warriewood Square and Augusta Shops.

Leigh Haines, Fundraising Coordinator.

VILLAGE ANZAC DAY SERVICE

Wednesday 19th April

Montgomery Centre
Remembrance Wall

Service starts at 10.30am
please assemble before 10.20am

Guest Speaker: General Sir Peter Gosgrove

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

Some AGM Photos



Official Guests – Left to right – Bob Lunn, RSL Northern Beaches District President and Forestville sub-Branch President: Mrs Pauline James OAM, Coordinator RSL NSW Auxiliaries: Ray James OAM, RSL NSW President, and Bob Durbin. President of the War Veterans Village sub-Branch,



Allan Burrows is presented with his 50years of service certificate by RSL NSW President – Ray James



Certificates of Appreciation are presented to Jan Slater, Peter Yardley, and Doug Smyth by RSL NSW State President – Ray James.



A surprise special presentation was made by Mrs Pauline James, Coordinator of RSL NSW Auxiliaries to Bob Durbin and Shirley McLaren for their dedicated service to the RSL. Each quilt depicted the service each had served in. Bob – Navy and Shirley – Airforce.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

Inducted at the March AGM



RSL State President Ray James presented Service Member Rod Bates with his Membership card.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

April is always an interesting month in that it contains two very significant events in the nation's calendar. First is Easter. While many focus upon Easter "Resurrection" Sunday, we need to understand how we get to this point. We could not do this if God did not show the ultimate expression of love when he sacrificed himself on the cross for all humanity. While, with the benefit of hindsight, we call this "Good Friday," I would think it was anything but *good* for those who were there when this happened.

So many can quote John 3:16, some even use it as slogan. However, if we look deeper into the words we see an even greater sacrifice, that of a father of his son.

John 3:16 NIV

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Which brings us forward to ANZAC Day. This same statement can be used by our nation. Australia has, and continues, to give of its sons and daughters so that the rest of the nation, and in many cases other nations, can live the way of life we enjoy today.

Just as Christians give thanks for the sacrifice made on the Cross of Calvary for the benefit of humankind, so too do we as a nation give thanks for all those who have given of themselves in so many ways for the benefit of humankind.

Neither set of sacrifices should be taken for granted, undervalued, or undermined. The social, moral, ethical and Christian values on which our country was founded are just as relevant today as they were at the beginning of last century. The erosion of these values will see the decline of the Australia we call home. It is because of these very values that so many want to come here so they can also call Australia home.

All these values, and the benefits they have brought, came at a price.

Lest we Forget/Grace & Peace

Bob Durbin

Sub-Branch Chaplain