



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL sub-Branch

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

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Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am – 12pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a pleasure it was to have so many attend our last breakfast meeting. A pleasure also to welcome new members into the sub-Branch. Congratulations to Jan for her tireless efforts in recruiting.

I am pleased that the computer and TV talked to each other so that we could see the photo presentation of our ANZAC Services. Our thanks go to Glen Nicholls for taking and providing these to us. Glen has been recording our significant services for over thirty years and we are privileged to have his services.

Following on from the overview presentation of the history of RLS LifeCare, Margaret Galea has placed two new ANFs on the Blackhawk Memorial. As advised at our meeting, resident David Coupland is in the process of identifying and cataloguing all memorials in the village. This is a task which is way overdue and our thanks to David for taking it on. There are some Beersheba units which have plaques on them recognising the support of sub-Branches and others in providing furnishings etc. in the early years, and it would be good if these can be identified to David. Please let us know if you know of any other memorials/plaques which may be 'off the beaten track.'

Sunday 14th May saw four members attend the 80th Anniversary of the sinking of the Australian Hospital Ship Centaur. This service was organised by the Northern Beaches District Council (NBDC) with logistical support from both the Pittwater RSL Club and sub-Branch. A very significant and moving service.

VP Roy and I attended the District Council (DC) meeting at Dee Why RSL Club on Tuesday 16th May. Most matters discussed have already been dealt with at our previous sub-Branch meeting. Significant matters relating to our sub-Branch are the training courses required for executive members and this will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

We also congratulated Deb Carter-Hendy, President of Pittwater RSL sub-Branch as a VP of the DC. DC meetings are held bi-monthly and are open to all financial members of our District. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Lest We Forget, Bob Durbin, President.

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

June Meeting

This is a General Meeting to be held on Thursday 8th June 2023 at 9.30am in the Lone Pine Lounge. Morning tea follows the meeting. So that the meeting can commence sharp at 9.30am would members please be sure they arrive before this time, sign in, collect their name badge, and raffle tickets and are seated ready for the meeting to start.

ANZAC Day Fundraising 2023

Without the wonderful effort by a small group of sub-Branch members and five non-member volunteer helpers, this successful fundraising campaign would not have been possible.

We did several things differently in 2023. There was a pop-up table in the Gallipoli Building for nine days, at Warriewood Square for four days and at Augusta shops for two days. All of these venues proved valuable in contributing to the result.

About 32% of transactions were made through the two Square EFTPOS terminals.

Display of the new sub-Branch pull-up banner at Warriewood Square assisted in identifying the fundraising entity as the War Vets and promoted RSL NSW branding.

Two additional suppliers were used this year. Samford RSL sub-Branch in Queensland introduced a new range of pins and badges and Pens.com supplied the novel lantern pens.

Unsold stock from Remembrance Day 2022 amounted to \$513.03 and a further \$2,102.50 of new items and proven sellers was purchased. Some of the stock carried over from 2022 was reduced in price and all the items were sold during this campaign.

Total sales and donations	\$5,475.35
Gross profit	\$2,860.18
Stock carried forward	\$350.68

Leigh Haines
Fundraising Coordinator.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This report relies on many of your comments as I have been visiting family during early May and I missed what was to be a most interesting talk by our President on the history of our Village.

I understand the talk was well received; President Bob felt he may have talked too long but with questions this just illustrated people's interest in the topic. Thank you, Bob, for taking the time to prepare such a topic which would probably interest many residents at ANZAC Village Narrabeen.

It is great to see residents applying for membership and our numbers are certainly heading in the right direction. This is keeping Jan Slater, Membership Registrar, busy and involved. Also, we should thank Jan for her constant interest in ensuring the meeting morning teas are as good as we can make them.

APOLOGIES – the planned Christmas in June was to be deferred to July and that is now off the program due to the Village wide “Residents Christmas in July lunch” to be held on Friday July 14. At this stage your committee is considering other alternative activities for the rest of the year.

Your committee is preparing a Commemoration service for Vietnam Veterans Day on 18th August 2023. As this is the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War it is especially worth commemorating. We hope many residents who are not necessarily members of our sub-Branch will support this event. The sub-Branch treats this special day with a great deal of importance in the calendar of commemorative services during the year. The service will be followed by afternoon tea in the Lone Pine Lounge.

For those who enjoyed the cruise on Sydney Harbour conducted by the Naval Historical Society, another reminder to keep your eye out for the next one which will be “East of the Harbour Bridge” and be advertised in an upcoming Village Voice. It is likely to be in high demand!!

Congratulations Lindsay Dufty on turning 100 years old in early May. This is a remarkable achievement and it was such a fitting tribute that Lindsay was asked by the Guest of Honour that day to take the salute from the Village ANZAC March. Lindsay is among a group of our members – World War 2 veterans - who we treasure dearly and look forward to seeing them at our next meeting.

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 must place a minimum of 10 shirts per each order. Wearing of these attractive and distinctive shirts at all 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

A related story from Shirley Beggs



The Hospital Ship Centaur

My late father-in-law, Jack Rawson Beggs, was an ambulance driver with the 2/12 Field Ambulance. He was on leave waiting to board a hospital ship to New Guinea when a telegram arrived advising him of the earlier departure time of 12th May 1943, or alternatively a train trip to Queensland to board the ship there. He chose the second option and was not on board when the *Centaur* was torpedoed on the 14th May. His best friend George survived the sinking and his watch is in the War Museum at Canberra.

My husband was discharged from the RAAF in 1975 and we settled in Blacktown. (His father had died in 1972). He was contacted by the *Centaur* Society and invited to their annual commemoration service at Concord Hospital but was never able to attend because of work commitments.

There was no *Centaur* memorial plaque at the War Museum at Canberra, the federal Government would not provide it. Donations were called for and eventually we were invited to the unveiling ceremony - by this time we were retirees and were able to attend. There was much disappointment when the plaque was laid into a footpath and not on a wall.

At the following reception we met some of the survivors, including George, as well as some of his old Army mates.

We have also been to a *Centaur* memorial service at Tweed heads, where children from the local school attended. This is an annual event which I hope will continue to be held for many years to come.

Lest We Forget
Shirley Beggs

CHAPLAINS CORNER



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WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?



Lest we Forget/Grace & Peace.

Bob Durbin, sub-Branch Chaplin.

YOUNG ENDEAVOUR YOUTH SCHEME



The sub-Branch committee has been working with Pittwater House with a view of providing a community scholarship for one of their students to the youth scheme. An amount of \$4,000 has been set aside from the sub-Branch funds for the scholarship.

The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme provides young Australians with a unique, challenging, and inspirational experience at sea aboard the national Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour*.

As a member of the 24 strong youth crew, each participant will be challenged to sail a square-rigged tall ship during an eleven-day adventure at sea, usually departing from ports on the eastern or southern coasts of Australia.

In learning how to sail the ship they are learning how to work together as a team, and to recognise and appreciate the strengths of a diverse group of individuals. They are supported by our specially trained Royal Australian Navy staff crew and encouraged to step out of their comfort zones, becoming more self-aware and building the confidence to actively contribute and to take leadership roles amongst their peers.

Each day on board is different, depending on where the ship is sailing and the prevailing conditions. Youth crew spend several days and nights at sea learning the skill to sail a square-rigged ship, as well as participating in games and team building activities on deck.

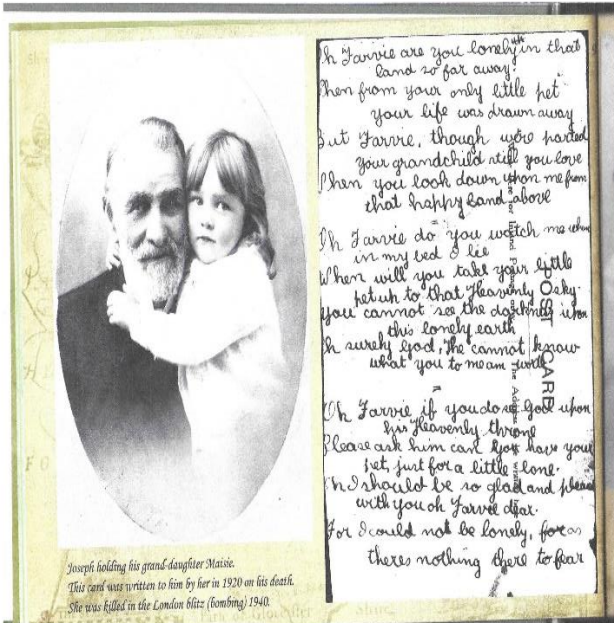
Participants live 'between decks' in a close community. With no Wi-Fi or mobile phones, they have the opportunity to be present, focus on the program, build their interpersonal skills and challenge themselves. They learn how to navigate, keep watch, cook in the galley, set and furl sails, climb the mast, and take the helm. There are also opportunities to swim, play sports, visit islands, spot whales and dolphins, and get to know some amazing people.

The Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour* was gifted to the people of Australia by the United Kingdom in 1988. Since then, it has successfully delivered more than 600 development voyages and embarked more than 14,000 youth for a structured adventure at sea.

FARVIE

A snap shot back in history – by Jan Slater

“Farvie” is my Great-grandfather Joseph Blackmore.
“Maisie” is my cousin first removed. She went to London
and was killed in the Blitz 1940 whilst working as an
Army Nurse in a Hospital.



On the left of the image is Joseph holding his grand-daughter Maisie. The post card on the right was written to him by her in 1920 on his death. She was killed in the London blitz (bombing) 1940.

The wording on the post card follows:

Oh, Farvie are you lonely in that
land so far away.
When from your only little pet
your life was drawn away.
But Farvie, though we're parted
your grandchild still you love.
When you look down upon me from
that happy land above.
Oh, Farvie do you watch me when
in my bed I lie.
When will you take your little
pet up to that Heavenly sky.
You cannot see the darkness upon
this lonely earth.
Oh, surely God, thee cannot know
what you to me am worth.
Oh, Farvie if you do see God upon
his Heavenly throne
Please ask him can you have your
pet, just for a little loan.
Oh, I should be so glad and pleased
with you oh Farvie dear.
For I could not be lonely as
there's nothing there to fear.

Name Badges

It is always nice to put a name to a face so please wear your name badge.

When you leave the meeting, please put your name badge into the collection tray provided, so it will be ready for your collection at the next meeting.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS Inducted at the May Breakfast Meeting



President Bob Durbin welcomes Associate members
Keith Boog (above) and John Fayle (below)



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership =	146
Life Members	2
Life Subscribers	3
Service	52
Affiliate	66
Associate	23

Transfer Members John Fayle and Keith Boog were inducted at the Breakfast Meeting on the 11th of May. They are both included in the above numbers.

Applications for nine new Members have been submitted for approval at RSL Head Office and are not included in the above numbers.

Membership Registrar
Jan Slater