



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

(I am proceeding on leave and writing this in advance of some activities)

What a busy couple of months we have had. The Committee has been working hard to organise the many activities on our schedule, ranging from commemorations to fund raising.

I attended the Annual Battle of Fromelles Service at the ANZAC Memorial Hyde Park South on 19th July. This year included the lighting of the Legacy Torch from the Memorial's Eternal Flame. The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023 is a six-month campaign to pay homage to and acknowledge veterans' families, saluting their sacrifice. The torch will travel over 50,000 kilometres through 100 locations, carried by approximately 1,500 Torch Bearers.

The relay began on Anzac Day, 25 April 2023, in Pozieres, France, travelled to London, and then to Australia. It will visit each Legacy Club before ending the relay at The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

Sub-Branch members have attended the 70th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice which was held at the Korean War Memorial on ANZAC Parade. A commemoration of the armistice is held each year, and while this is the first time, we as a sub-Branch have attended, the invitation is for us to return. There are some photographs on our web site.

Another significant commemoration service this year is the 50th Anniversary for the cessation of the Vietnam War. Thursday 3rd August was the National Vietnam Veterans Vigil. This event was to recognise those Vietnam Veterans who were repatriated and buried in Australian cemeteries. The Northern Beaches District Council of RSL sub-Branched organised a vigil at the Forestville Bushland Cemetery for three Vietnam Veterans, George Alfred Constable, Arthur James Robertson, and Noel Ervin Shipp. A very moving service with family members in attendance.

Our annual commemoration service will be held on Friday 18th August. We are privileged to have two Vietnam Veterans providing two different perspectives of the war.

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READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

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Thanks to Secretary John for organizing this and to sub-Branch member Arthur Skene for acting as our MC.

Last month we advised you of the successful applicant of our *STS Young Endeavour* Scholarship. VP Roy is pleased to advise that all actions have been completed for our scholar to proceed. This is an exciting time for him, the school and us as the sponsors. We look forward to hosting an event to hear of his exploits!

The sub-Branch has received an invitation to attend the Annual Cadet Parade for Pittwater House School.

Finally, it was a pleasure to have our local State Member, Rory Amon, and James Griffin, Member for Manly, address us at our breakfast in August. We express our thanks to them for providing us with good local information and in responding to the questions asked. The Committee would be pleased to hear your feedback on this. It might be that we make the attendance of either the State or Federal Member an annual event.

As noted above, I will be on holidays from 20th August to 10th September inclusive. During this time Vice President Roy will be Acting President.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Lest We Forget

Bob Durbin, President

September General Meeting

This General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 14th September 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.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The August general meeting was most interesting with both James Griffin (MP for Manly) and Rory Amon (MP for Pittwater) as our guest speakers. An enjoyable breakfast was provided prior to the meeting getting underway. The meeting order of business was shortened except to approve a new membership application to be forwarded to RSL NSW. This allowed the speakers more time to provide us with much interesting information on local affairs and accept questions from inquisitive members who addressed some matters of interest to us all.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to enable the sub-Branch to now OPEN EACH WEEKDAY from 9.30am till Noon – sorry no weekends!

This month I will retire into the background and transfer my attention to us all as members. It is difficult to be all things to all members all the time. However, as a responsible sub-Branch we should, as individual members, contribute to ideas on how best to include everyone in decision making where possible and take on suggestions for all of us to discuss which helps us to make those difficult decisions.

Your committee is in the process of putting together a program for 2024. Your comments and ideas on what is currently under consideration would be very welcome. A 2 night-3-day trip to Canberra is being put together for early March. A tour (with the Naval Historical Society - NHS) of the secure area of Garden Island for members and their friends could be held on a meeting Thursday during the year – this tour is not suitable for those with walking frames or wheelchairs – and would be doubly enjoyable if we could get there by ferry. A Christmas in June lunch is possible as well as the December Christmas Lunch. There is the option of another harbour cruise – west of the harbour bridge – organised through the NHS. Then there are the usual meeting days when it would be good to have a guest speaker and/or have 2 or 3 of our members talk briefly on their life including how/why they joined our sub-Branch (we always enjoy hearing someone else's story). Perhaps you would like a special/different morning tea to follow a meeting which is a terrific time to just socialise and get to know other members – this is where we need your comments as to whether we stick to packaged biscuits with tea/coffee or try a sausage sandwich or BBQ or something warmer in winter or Are there other options?

Are you able to help deliver food to the table for those who have difficulty getting around? There is a separate survey included with this September Dispatches. Can I encourage you to PLEASE provide some feedback by dropping your sheet with comments back to the sub-Branch office. This will help us all feel involved and enjoy the 2024 program when finalised.

Secretary, John Sowden

GUEST SPEAKERS AT OUR BREAKFAST MEETING



Rory Amon (MP Pittwater) - left
James Griffin (MP for Manly) - right

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total Membership = 147

Life Members	2
Life Subscribers	3
Service	60
Affiliate	58
Associate	24

We mourn the loss of our dear Affiliate member Dee Friend and Service member Roger Smith.

Applications for two new members Ellen Kassel (Affiliate) and Ian Wells (Associate) have been approved and are included in the above numbers.

Along with prospective Affiliate members Barbara Moore and Lee Evans who will be inducted at the General Meeting on the 14th September.

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

YOUNG ENDEAVOUR SCHOLARSHIP

Those that attended the July 2023 General Meeting will recall that one of the items under discussion was the problem that the committee was encountering at that time in its efforts to provide a sailing scholarship to a student of Pittwater House School under the auspices of the Young Endeavour Programme.

It is a relief to be able to report that this situation has been resolved and the finalisation of the introduction of the candidate is now well under way.

By way of further explanation, the committee had recommended to the sub-Branch members that the sub-Branch provide a scholarship aiming to allow a student of the school to undertake a voyage on board the Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour in the year 2023 (the cost of which was included in the year 2023 budget) and also for years 2024 and 2025 (yet to be budgeted).

This recommendation was approved by the sub-Branch members at a General Meeting.

This was intended to be a mark of appreciation in respect of the relationship that exists between the school and its Cadet Corps and this sub-Branch as it deals with the support provided by the school to the sub-Branch and the Village in general on occasions that require flag parties and like military and general assistance. The School Cadet Corps never fails in respect of the standard of drill and other military accomplishments during these efforts, as well as in more general assistance.

As it transpires, the suggested candidate for this year's voyage is a Sergeant in the Cadets (albeit Cadet Corps membership was not made a condition of participation). The selected voyage for 2023 is a Sydney-to-Sydney round trip journey starting on 5th December 2023 and finishing on 15th December 2023.

24 young people aged between 16 and 23 become the youth crew for the voyage under the direction and supervision of the 9 person RAN professional staff crew.

The actual vessel is rigged as a brigantine and is a modern construction sailing ship, designed for sail training and equipped with contemporary navigation, communication, and safety equipment.

She was gifted to the people of Australia by the United Kingdom in 1988 and since then has delivered more than 600 development voyages.

The training experienced by the participants varies in difficulty and level of responsibility on a day-to-day

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basis as the participants learn how to crew this vessel by day or night and in all weathers. They learn how to navigate, keep watch, cook in the galley, set, and furl sails, climb the mast, and take the helm whilst all the time living between decks in a close community.

During the voyage they progressively take on increased responsibility for sailing the ship, culminating in "Command Day" when they elect their own leadership team and complete a series of challenges while working together to sail the vessel to their final destination.

The list of significant organisations that have participated in the scholarship scheme offered by STS Endeavour and strongly recommend its results is very impressive.

This article is from Roy Parkinson (VP) who is the sub-Branch Coordinator of the Young Endeavour Scholarship.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Six-year-old Ned's mother was looking through an old family Bible when an oak leaf fell out. Ned said, "I guess that must be Adam's shorts."

The last time we changed from daylight saving time, a preacher friend posted, "For those who habitually show up 15 minutes late to church, allow me to remind you that tonight is the night you set your clock back 45 minutes."

I work out religiously—Christmas and Easter.

A priest and a pastor are standing by the side of a road holding up a sign that reads "The end is near! Turn around now before it is too late!" A passing driver yells, "You guys are nuts!" and speeds past them. From around the curve, they hear screeching tires—then a big splash. The priest turns to the pastor and says, "Do you think we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"

A burglar breaks into a house. He starts shining his light around looking for valuables. Some nice things catch his eye, and as he reaches for them, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." Startled, the burglar looks for the speaker. Seeing no one, he keeps putting things in his bag, again, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." This time, he sees a parrot. "Who are you?" the burglar asks. "Moses," the bird replied. "Who the heck would name a bird Moses?" the man laughed. "I dunno," Moses answered, "I guess the same kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."

Lest we Forget/Grace & Peace.

Bob Durbin, sub-Branch Chaplain.

KOREAN WAR



70TH COMMEMORATION OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE

Founding Guardians

Mr Harry Spicer OAM Mr Nak Yoon Paik OAM

AT THE

Korean War Memorial
Moore Park, corner Anzac Parade and Moore Park Road
THURSDAY 27 JULY 2023 11.00 AM



Our contingent that went to the Commemoration Service

The Australian connection to the Battle of Isandlwana.

On 22 January 1879 the first major encounter in the Anglo-Zulu War between the British Empire and the Zulu Kingdom occurred.

Eleven days after the British invaded Zululand in Southern Africa, a Zulu force of some 20,000 warriors attacked a portion of the British main column consisting of about 1,800 British, colonial, and native troops with approximately 350 civilians.

The Zulus were equipped mainly with the traditional assegai iron spears and cow-hide shields, but also had a number of muskets and antiquated rifles.

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The British and colonial troops were armed with the modern Martini-Henry 11.6mm calibre breechloading rifles and two 7- pounder mountain guns deployed as field guns, as well as a Hale rocket battery.

The Zulus had a vast disadvantage in weapons technology, but they greatly outnumbered the British and ultimately overwhelmed them, killing over 1,300 troops, including all those out on the forward firing line.

The Zulu army suffered anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 killed.

The battle was a decisive victory for the Zulus and caused the defeat of the first British invasion of Zululand. The British Army had suffered its worst defeat against an indigenous foe equipped with vastly inferior military technology. Isandlwana resulted in the British taking a much more aggressive approach in the Anglo-Zulu War, leading to a heavily reinforced second invasion, and the destruction of King Cetshwayo's hopes of a negotiated peace.

It is believed that one of the last British officers killed was Lieutenant Anstey, who was born in South Australia and served in the 1st Battalion, 24th Regiment.

When the British returned to bury the dead, the bodies were interred in group graves in the shadow of Isandlwana Rock, covered by a stone column or rock cairn.

This article was submitted by Leigh Haines who on one of his visits to his son in South Africa spent a 2-day tour of the Anglo-Zulu Batlefields.

WELFARE AND VISITATION

This a very important area of the sub-Branch responsibilities. Two members volunteered earlier this year to make phone calls to members who had not attended meetings just to see how they were and if there were any issues where the sub-Branch might be able to assist. Ross Fairhall and Val Deyes spoke about their role in making contact with members at the July general meeting. Unfortunately, the volunteer to do actual visits has been unable to continue this role.

We all need some social interaction and no one likes to be isolated. Would you please consider taking on a role in this area – you do not have to be a service member. The results after having a conversation with another member can be very satisfying and you can come away with a sense of achievement. See President Bob or speak with Secretary John if you would like to be involved in this really important role.