



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL sub-Branch

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

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SUB-BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2023
THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER
11.45am FOR NOON
IN THE VIVIAN BULLWINKLE LOUNGE THE
DARDANELLES
BRING YOUR SPOUSE
COST \$45PP SAME AS LAST YEAR
Register and pay – cash or card – at sub-Branch
Office BEFORE Monday 4th December 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On your behalf, VP Roy and I attended the Annual State Congress in Newcastle. As reported in the last *Dispatches*, the new Board of Directors were confirmed and assumed their roles at the rising of Congress. While every sub-Branch member had the right and opportunity to vote, it was very disappointing that only 5% of the total membership exercised that right. Our District Council has requested, through the District President's Council to have postal voting re-introduced. Hopefully this will see a better level of members' involvement.

There were 15 motions presented to the Congress via the Agenda Committee. 9 were carried; 4 were lost; and 2 were withdrawn. A full accounting of the proceedings will be in the next issue of *Reveille*.

The Village Remembrance Day Commemoration Service was well attended this year by residents from across the village. It was disappointing that our regular Master of Ceremonies, Commander Arthur Skene RAN Retd withdrew his participation this year. Arthur has advised Management that he will not be involved in any of the standard commemoration services held in our village whilst ever a "Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement of Country" is to be included. This was a matter of discussion at our November Monthly General.

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

Our sub-Branch members were very involved in the promotion and commemoration of Remembrance Day in many forms of media. Shirley McLaren, Arthur Johnson, and I were featured on the Wednesday edition of the Channel 9 news. More Shirley and Arthur than me! Five members were also featured on the RSL LifeCare Facebook page with recorded interviews being played for the week leading up to Remembrance Day and beyond. They are still available if you would like to watch them, or we can make them available for you. Max Marvin and I also featured in Pittwater News on-line – still available if you wish to read our interviews.

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Lunch, this year to be held in The Vivian Bullwinkle lounge, The Dardanelles. Don't forget to buy your tickets from whomever is in the Office!!

Lest We Forget,
Bob Durbin, President.

YOUR SUB-BRANCH OFFICE HAS MOVED

**YOU WILL NOW FIND US AT
FRONT OFFICE
LOWER GROUND FLOOR
GALLIPOLI BUILDING**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Total membership –	133
Life Member	3
Life Subscriber	5
Affiliate	65
Service	60

THE HIGHEST AWARD PRESENTATION

Our President being presented with the highest award the RSL can bestow on a member - the Meritorious Service Medal - by the Governor of New South Wales at the recent RSL NSW State Congress in Newcastle.



Our first Meeting for 2024

Thursday 8th February 2024 at 9.30am in the Lone Pine Lounge. This a General meeting with the AGM (non-election year). Morning tea follows the meeting.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

From the Oxford Dictionary – on-line

Advent – noun

the arrival of a notable person or thing. “The advent of television”

the first season of the Church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.

In the life of the Church, we see Advent as; *The first day of a new Liturgical (or Church) calendar which begins a four-week period of preparation for the nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and Homes for Christ’s birth in the world as it is today.*

While **Lent**, that period leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ at Easter, focuses on repentance and forgiveness, **Advent** is about expectation and hope. The Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties, shopping, and holiday noise to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in Christian faith. It is also a time to reflect on the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming.

As you make your Christmas preparations, listen to Neil Diamond when he sings in the first verse of his song “Leave a Little Room for God;”

*Leave a little room for God
As you're going' through the day
Leave a little room for God
You know he won't get in your way*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mZ6DRySxYw>

May the comfort and peace of God be with you all.

Blessings to all, Bob, Chaplain

War Widows' Day

“The 19th October has been gazetted in NSW as War Widows' Day and the first ever commemorative service was held this year at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney. Our very own Shirley McLaren OAM was excited to be asked to recite The Ode of Remembrance at the service. Well done, Shirley!! Shirley advises War Widows' Day is likely to be officially recognized Australia-wide next year.”

WAR VETS RSL SUB-BRANCH 2024 PROGRAM

JANUARY NO MEETING OR ACTIVITY.

FEBRUARY THURSDAY 8TH - GENERAL MEETING AGM (Non election year) – 9.30AM – LONE PINE LOUNGE + MORNING TEA.
FRIDAY 23RD – Naval History Society Cruise – “WEST OF THE HARBOUR BRIDGE”.

MARCH FRIDAY 1ST to SUNDAY 3RD – CANBERRA 2 NIGHT 3 DAY TOUR.
THURSDAY 14TH – LIMITED OFFICIAL MEETING – 9.30AM – LONE PINE LOUNGE – BREAKFAST – GUEST SPEAKER – RAMON BERKOVIC FROM TPHS - STS ENDEAVOUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT.

APRIL THURSDAY 11TH - GENERAL MEETING – 9.30AM – LONE PINE LOUNGE + MORNING TEA.
WEDNESDAY 17TH - ANZAC DAY VILLAGE SERVICE – 10.00AM – MONTGOMERY FORECOURT.
THURSDAY 25TH - ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE – 6.AM – VETERANS PARADE MEMORIAL – taxi service for veterans to join the City March.

MAY WEDNESDAY 1ST TO FRIDAY 3RD - – TWO NIGHT THREE DAY TOUR TO CANBERRA WITH 'ON COURSE – 8.30AM – From Gallipoli lower ground entrance.
THURSDAY 9TH – GENERAL MEETING – 10.30AM – LONE PINE LOUNGE – SPECIAL MORNING TEA/BRUNCH – GUEST SPEAKER MRS PAULINE JAMES OAM (Coordinator RSL NSW Auxiliaries).
FRIDAY 31ST – 10.00AM – DEFENCE OF SYDNEY MEMORIAL SERVICE, NORTH HEAD. We hope sufficient numbers will register so we can provide a bus to take us to North Head.

JUNE THURSDAY 13TH - BRIEF MEETING - NOON – “CHRISTMAS IN JUNE” IN – please do not arrive before 11.45AM.

JULY THURSDAY 11TH - GENERAL MEETING – 9.30AM - IN LONE PINE LOUNGE + MORNING TEA.
SATURDAY 27TH - 71ST COMMEMORATION OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE AT KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL, CORNER ANZAC PARADE AND MOORE PARK ROAD, MOORE PARK. 10.00AM. There will be a bus to the service – please let Secretary John know well in advance if you wish to attend.

AUGUST THURSDAY 8TH -GENERAL MEETING – 9.30AM HRS – IN LONE PINE LOUNGE + MORNING TEA
SATURDAY 18TH - VIETNAM VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL -2.00PM. This is a sub-Branch activity- please register your attendance for afternoon tea.

SEPTEMBER THURSDAY 12TH - GENERAL MEETING – 9.30AM - IN LONE PINE LOUNGE + MORNING TEA.
MONDAY 16TH – TIME TBA – THE PITTWATER HOUSE SCHOOL CADET CEREMONIAL PARADE AND PRIZE GIVING.

OCTOBER THURSDAY 10TH – GENERAL MEETING – 9.30AM – BREAKFAST GATHERING WITH GUEST SPEAKER ANNE MATHUR (VETERAN HOUSING PROGRAM MANAGER) ON 'THE HOMES FOR HEROES' PROGRAM INCLUDING THE EQUINE PROGRAM AT PICTON.

NOVEMBER SUNDAY 3RD - KOKODA DAY – COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT THE KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALKWAY 10.00AM – We hope for a bus to take members to the service.
MONDAY 11TH - REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE – 10.30AM - IN MONTGOMERY FORECOURT.
THURSDAY 14TH - GENERAL MEETING – 9.30AM - IN LONE PINE LOUNGE + MORNING TEA.

DECEMBER THURSDAY 5TH - BRIEF MEETING – NOON - THEN CHRISTMAS LUNCH IN THE Please do not arrive before 11.45AM. DRAWING THE SUB-BRANCH MAJOR ANNUAL RAFFLE.

AN AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS

Australians have a special way,
Of Spreading Christmas cheer,
Ploughing snow is a big no-no,
We have sun over here,
Christmas pud is a pav instead,
While lunch is on the beach,
Cold ham replaces turkey,
And we have three servings each,
Kangaroos help Santa out,
Cause reindeer just won't do,
For they don't know the bush so well,
Roo's just bound on through,
Forget the fur lined boots this year,
Thongs are what you need,
Rudoff will have to sit it out,
While Skippy takes the lead,
But don' worry have no fear,
Santa's used to us down here!

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Another year is almost through. Has the year been a good one for us personally and as a sub-Branch? Have we been involved with the sub-Branch and its meetings and activities? Undoubtedly our own personal aging and associated health issues are never far away from our thoughts and appointments!!

The sub-Branch has been active and the committee members are to be thanked for their interest and commitment. I enjoy the role of Secretary although it is often busy, a little time sensitive sometimes but always positive and it is important to pass on as much information that comes our way from RSL NSW to members. I would like to see more member feedback on activities, meetings, etc. and I say thank you for the Questionnaire returns a couple of months ago – the results have been tabulated, are being used to plan for our future and some of you may be contacted soon to follow up on some requests for assistance in particular areas.

The 2024 Program of monthly meetings, activities and commemoration occasions is included with this Dispatches. There are some new initiatives including a trip away. Do take the time to look at what may interest you during the year. We would like to support the commemoration services being held off site and are happy to try for a bus to take us whenever possible so the earlier you can register an interest the more chance, we have to organize this.

If there is anything that you would like to praise or criticize from this year, please pass it on. Things cannot change without your input which is important to hear and listen to. Our one area of concern for next year is our ability to have morning teas, breakfasts and lunches which are interesting, affordable, and nicely catered in a pleasant location. In particular please pass on your comments regarding the Christmas lunch – quality of food, menu generally, location, atmosphere, etc. This will determine how we approach some of our 2024 activities.

Enjoy the Christmas season and the New Year and I look forward to seeing you at activities in 2024.

John Sowden
Secretary



Thank you to Leigh Haines for the following article:

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Most of the streets in the RSL LifeCare ANZAC Village have names, commonly names of theatres of past conflicts in which Australian armed forces were involved, famous military personnel or commanders of Allied forces. The two streets in the Labuan II Precinct which run parallel to Lantana Avenue did not have names, which led to difficulties for delivery drivers and to residents' visitors.

This was raised with the Residents' Representative Committee and was put forward to the ANZAC Village management to name the streets after senior commanders of the Battle for Labuan Island.

In June 1945 the Battle of Labuan was an engagement fought between Allied and Imperial Japanese forces on the Labuan Island off Borneo. Following several weeks of air attacks and a short naval bombardment, soldiers of the 24th Brigade Australian Army's I Corps, were landed on Labuan. The Australians quickly captured the island's harbour and main airfield.

After securing the island, the Allied forces developed Labuan into a significant base and in late June 1945 the island's airfield was repaired and expanded to host Royal Australian Air Force units.

During the period of the conflict on Labuan Island, there were two Australian Army commanders of the Allied forces:

Lieutenant General **Sir Leslie James Morshead**, KCB, KBE, CMG, DSO, ED was an Australian soldier whose military career spanned both world wars. In May 1944 he was given command of I Corps, leading them through the final battles of the war in Borneo. which included the battle for Labuan Island.

Major General **Sir George Frederick Wootten**, KBE, CB, DSO & Bar, ED was a senior Australian Army officer who earned the respect of his soldiers and superiors. In 1945, he commanded the 9th Division in the Borneo campaign, including the amphibious landings at Brunei and Labuan.

RSL LifeCare ANZAC Village management were supportive of the suggestion that the two unnamed roads in the Labuan Precinct be named **Morshead** and **Wootten** after the two Australian Army commanders of the Allied forces involved in the Battle of Labuan Island.

Note from the Editor:
There will be no edition of Dispatches for January. The first edition is in February and will be issued late January.