



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

By the time you receive this the Annual State Congress and AGM will have concluded. Your delegates hope to be able to present a report in the next issue of Dispatches. The election of Directors for the next three years has been declared by the Returning Officer. It appears to be a good mix of previous (experienced in how we got to be where we are) and new directors. The mix is also good in experience and backgrounds which I believe will provide a good balance for moving forward.

PRESIDENT – Mick BAINBRIDGE, DIRECTORS – Paul JAMES, Charles NEW, Sarah WATSON, David MCCANN, Louise SULLIVAN, Philip CHIN, and Jason HAZELL.

I am sure we will watch with great anticipation as to how this new board will continue the momentum of rebuilding the League. Membership is growing and services being provided are also on the increase. I believe this is due to more funds being available but also a willingness of people to ask for help.

Regrettably our application for funds to purchase a golf buggy to transport members to and from activities was unsuccessful. We will need to look at a new strategy to source this important asset. Please let us know if you have any thoughts regarding this.

Secretary John highlights the outcomes of the recent members survey and we are pleased with your willingness to assist. While our progress in logistical support has been slow it has been positive. Thank you to all who have put their hands up!

Remembrance Day will soon be upon us. This is one of our most important commemoration events and I encourage you to not only support it yourself, but to invite other residents to come along.

Lest We Forget,
Bob Durbin, President.

November General Meeting

This General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 9th November 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.

Address Label

READ YOUR EDITION AND ENJOY

War Vets Village RSL sub-Branch Christmas Raffle 2023

First Prize valued at \$500.00

Second Prize Valued at \$250.00

Tickets just \$5.00 each and only 500 tickets to be sold.

Tickets available from sub-Branch members, at the sub-Branch office and at the pop-up table adjacent to the large print library in the Gallipoli Building from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Sunday 5th November and Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th and Friday 10th November.

To be drawn on 7th December 2023 at the Lone Pine Lounge.

Winners notified in person or by phone.

Funds raised will be used to support the activities of the RSL sub-Branch.

Remembrance Day Fundraising Appeal

There will be a pop-up table selling a respectful range of poppies, badges and lapel pins adjacent to the large print library in the Gallipoli Building from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Sunday 5th November and Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th and Friday 10th November.

Several new lapel pins including a Poppy & Gold Wattle Limited Edition Pin and some favourites like the three-dimensional Poppy pin will be on offer.

Funds raised will support the activities of the War Vets RSL sub-Branch.

Cash or cards accepted.



Poppy & Gold Wattle lapel pin



CHAPLAINS CORNER

Why do countries go to war? When we look at the great loss and devastation one wonders. Regardless of anyone's faith, I think as people we need to pray for the situation in the Middle East. We should pray for;

A swift, just end to this war. That peace would be restored to the Holy Land of Israel, and the Middle East. That God's purposes alone would prevail, and that the strategies of terror and evil would be foiled.

Courage and strength for the soldiers of our allies, the IDF – and wisdom for military leaders and government.

The protection and security of Israel, and comfort for all innocent civilians caught up in the crossfire.

The Palestinians. There are many Palestinians who are simply trying to live their lives in peace, who want no part of the Hamas regime.

Christian intercessors to rise up with supernatural discernment and sharp insight into this crisis.

Wisdom for world governments, including in Australia, as they respond to the rapidly changing events - and boldness to stand up against acts of terror.

Strength for pastors and Christian leaders in Israel and around the world – that they would have wisdom and courage to lead their people with fearless faith.

Disturbing antisemitic displays and demonstrations in Australia and around the world to cease.

All people facing despair in this conflict to find hope, refuge, peace and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Our hearts break for the atrocities and suffering we have witnessed this week. War is highly divisive, and as Christians we must make every effort to be guided by God's Spirit, so that we can discern the times, and respond correctly.

In the Bible Jesus warned us that nation would rise against nation, that there would be outbreaks of war, hatred, chaos, and division and we see that now before our very eyes.

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Now is a time for us to look up, draw closer to God and pray with deep conviction with our hope firmly in Jesus and the Gospel.

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

Blessings to all

Bob

Chaplain

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 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
Phone 9981 2918 (Home) 0458 132 003 (Mobile)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Total membership -	137
Life Member	2
Life Subscriber	3
Affiliate	63
Service	50
Associate	19

R E M E M B R A N C E D A Y



LEST
WE
FORGET



**NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED AT OUR
SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING, SPOKE AT
OUR OCTOBER MEETING**



Barbara Moore, Ellen Kassel, and Lee Evans

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year is quickly coming to a close – how the time seems to pass so much faster the older we become. Your committee is now in the process of putting some activities, outings, and special commemoration services together that will hopefully attract your attendance next year. The 2024 program is in the final stages of being put together and we are looking forward to including a copy with your December Dispatches. Please take some time to look at the detail and register with Secretary John for the extra-curricular matters that interest you. It is hoped that there are sufficient numbers looking to attend the Commemoration services away from the Village so that we can request a bus to take the group to various services.

The questionnaire replies strongly indicated that we should retain at least one Breakfast meeting each year. We are hoping to have the RSL Auxiliaries Coordinator Pauline James OAM attend as our guest speaker one month. The STS Endeavour scholarship holder from The Pittwater House School will also attend one month to reflect on his experience spending a week sailing on the “Endeavour.” The months for these are yet to be finalized but both will be well worth your attendance – in fact there is a possibility the “Endeavour” talk may be opened up to a Village audience. We would also like to have someone come and explain the Homes for Heroes program in detail and this could lead to us organizing a visit to the Equine Centre at Picton.

If you notice new residents near you in the Village, please let them know that we have a sub-Branch here within the Village and let me know so this can be followed up. Our previous Membership Officer, Jan Slater, has done a fine job in inviting some residents to join our sub-Branch, and although we have lost some of our more senior service members and some

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affiliates who have left the Village, our total number (137) still reflects a strong sub-Branch.

Your diligent efforts to sell tickets for our Giant Raffle (to be drawn at our Christmas Lunch in December) is very much appreciated. We are hoping to subsidise activities and catering in 2024 and the extent this is possible will depend on all our efforts to sell every one of the 500 tickets printed.

As many of you know from seeing Doug Smyth, our Dispatches Editor-in-Chief, at recent meetings, he is having some health issues which interfere with his time and ability to put Dispatches together each month. Some assistance would go a long way to ensuring each issue is produced and distributed on time. I am sure Doug would be happy to assist in passing on his knowledge and program in putting it all together – please come and talk with me if you can assist in any small way.

The Christmas lunch is our next social activity – see notice below. If there is a need to have some meeting formalities they will be kept to a minimum. It should be the usual enjoyable social occasion when we hope many of you who do not normally attend our meetings each month can come and enjoy the fellowship with fellow members.

The Committee looks forward to a busy and exciting 2024 program and seeing you at many of the activities, commemoration services and meetings that are planned.

John Sowden, Secretary.



**SUB-BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2023
THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER
11.30am FOR NOON
IN THE MONTY
BRING YOUR SPOUSE
COST \$45PP SAME AS LAST YEAR**

Red and white wine, orange juice and water on tables

Register and pay – cash or card – at sub-Branch office BEFORE Monday 4th December 2023

ORIGINS OF REMEMBRANCE DAY

Why is this day special to Australians?

At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919 two minutes' silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was working in Fleet Street. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the armistice "which stayed the worldwide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom". The two minutes silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemorations on Armistice Day.

On the second anniversary of the armistice in 1920 the commemoration was given added significance when it became a funeral, with the return of the remains of an unknown soldier from the battlefields of the Western Front. Unknown soldiers were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triumph in Paris. The entombment in London attracted over one million people within a week to pay their respects at the unknown soldier's tomb. Most other allied nations adopted the tradition of entombing unknown soldiers over the following decade.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed

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the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead.

In Australia on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993 Remembrance Day ceremonies again became the focus of national attention. The remains of an unknown Australian soldier, exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Memorial's Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial. Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11 am and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence. This ceremony, which touched a chord across the Australian nation, re-established Remembrance Day as a significant day of commemoration.

Four years later, in 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minutes silence at 11 am on 11 November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

Source: Australian War Memorial website awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance-day/traditions

A Poem for Remembrance Day

"The inquisitive mind of a child"



Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
Selling poppies in town today.
The poppies, child, are flowers of love.
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?

Why not a beautiful rose?
Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppies grow.

But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?



Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child.
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.

Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.

But why, Mummy are you crying so?

Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child.
For the world is forgetting again.



(Author Unknown)

(<http://www.anzacday.org.au/anacservices/poetry/inquisitive.htm>)

