

# REVEILLE

RESPECTING, SUPPORTING AND REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



R S L N S W

## SHAKING THE BLACK DOG

Veteran Luke Evans  
shares his fresh start

## FUNDING THE FUTURE

Our new Investment  
and Contribution  
Model ensures a  
strong outlook  
for sub-Branches

## FRESH EYES, FULL HEARTS

Korean vets see the  
country anew: gardens,  
bridges and beauty



THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE



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# REVEILLE

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R S L N S W

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**RAY JAMES**  
PRESIDENT, RSL NSW

*“These younger members will keep the traditions of commemoration alive, and are reshaping the traditions to ensure they are relevant to veterans now and in the future.”*

**B**y chance, I picked up the June 1947 issue of *Reveille* and have since been reflecting on the sentiments of our leaders less than two years after World War II ended.

The editorial in 1947 reminded members about the disaster relief available to them, and the Federal President reported that the NSW Branch was calling for the establishment of ‘Worry Clinics’ for the treatment of war neurosis.

AJ Day, former Senior Vice President of the Victorian Branch, was concerned that the impressions made on people while commemorating ANZAC Day were not quickly eliminated.

Day would be pleased to see that 75 years later, the ANZAC spirit hasn’t wavered. Members across the state did what they could to overcome COVID-related challenges to ANZAC Day commemorations, adjusting them to ensure veterans, their families and members of the community could come together safely. Thousands of Australians stood in their driveways at 6am to ‘light up the dawn’ and commemorate.

I have heard encouraging reports of the next generation of our members leading and staging commemorations, and bringing their mates along for the first time in the hope that they too will join the League. These younger members will keep the traditions of commemoration alive, and are reshaping the traditions to ensure they are relevant to veterans now and in the future.

The 2021-2022 Federal Budget outlined the Government’s commitment to delivering a veteran support system that empowers veterans and their

families to live fulfilling lives after service by creating and implementing simpler and more effective programs, services and benefits.

RSL NSW is complementing these government efforts by opening the temporary Nowra Veterans' Wellbeing Centre and advocating for this sustainable model to be replicated in other areas with a high proportion of veterans, establishing the RSL Employment Program with RSL DefenceCare to help veterans find jobs, encouraging RSL Australia to establish a national advocacy and communication centre for the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide, and assisting in the launch of the NSW Government Veterans' Strategy. As sub-Branch members you can connect those in need to the full array of services that we collectively fund.

We are also establishing long-term relationships with the ADF to deliver sport and fundraising initiatives, and subsequently pathways to RSL NSW membership. These are all initiatives in the Strategic Plan, and so much more will be done when all sub-Branches get behind it.

I know that some members who would have read *Reveille* hot off the press in 1947 are still with us today, and are proud of the work the League continues to do. Those members can be reassured of the RSL's strong future in NSW, knowing those younger members are joining us and helping us to commemorate each ANZAC Day.




**JONATHAN BLACK**  
CEO, RSL NSW

*“We can secure the future of the RSL, but we must act now.”*

I was proud to march on ANZAC Day for the first time this year. Like many who served when I did, 1981-2005, I didn't think I was eligible because I had only been deployed on peacekeeping missions and visits to warzones, not active service.

After marching, I watched as more than 4,000 veterans and descendants marched past – the majority were over the age of 70.

When I left the Army, I, like others, didn't know what the RSL stood for or did for veterans. I thought it was a licensed club – this is still common.

My observations on ANZAC Day and what I have learnt in this role reinforce the case for change to ensure the League is relevant to the wider veteran community and that they understand its purpose. Without intervention, the RSL in NSW will no longer be a viable member-based organisation in 10-18 years and certainly will not be the custodian of commemorations.

Some initiatives of the Strategic Plan are already underway, but only as a 'wobble' because we haven't yet been able to convince all sub-Branches to pursue a common purpose. The RSL should be the primary charity to support veterans, not just because of its heritage, but because we have the ways and means to deliver support across every community in NSW. Instead, we have more than 2000 other veterans' charities out there – younger veterans do not see why they should join the RSL.

We can secure the future of the RSL, but we must act now, and sub-Branches have the lead role.

If you have not done so, read the Strategic Plan and rally support in your sub-Branch. Read the Funding the Future article on page 24 and contact me if you have any questions or to arrange a presentation.



# ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VETERAN SUICIDES

On 19 April, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced a Royal Commission into ADF member and veteran deaths by suicide, following the passing of a motion supporting its creation by both chambers of parliament in March.

Morrison’s announcement characterised the forthcoming Royal Commission as a healing platform, explaining its mandate to examine:

- systemic issues, common themes and past deaths by suicide of ADF members and veterans
- the experience of members and veterans who may continue to be at risk of suicide
- all aspects of service in the ADF
- the experience of those transitioning from active service.

“When we make decisions about deployments, I think it’s very important that we have a view to the long tail of support that will be necessary for those we ask to go and serve,” Morrison said. “Our deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq have seen a whole new generation of veterans.”



**Above:** Scott Morrison and Darren Chester speak about the Royal Commission at a press conference on 19 April 2021.

Morrison outlined the “very different set of challenges to the previous generation” that the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and the RSL are seeing – these are the differences the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021-26 seeks to respond and adapt to.

“We are pleased the Australian Government, at the highest levels, is working to address ADF member and veteran suicide,” RSL NSW President Ray James said in response to the announcement.

“Particularly, we’re heartened by the inclusion of the transition experience. With the veteran rate of death by suicide significantly higher than the general population,

**Right:** Commander, Joint Task Force 633, Rear Admiral Michael Rothwell, AM, RAN visited Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan in March 2021 to meet with deployed ADF personnel.

recognising the shortcomings of the transition process is an important inclusion.”

However, James notes that while any recommendation as a result of a Royal Commission into veteran suicide will be welcomed, veterans are still waiting for the implementation of many recommendations of the 2019 Productivity Commission Inquiry report *A Better Way to Support Veterans* – such as a lifetime mental health strategy as mentioned above.

“The implementation of these recommendations is a matter of urgency for the government. A Royal Commission will take time – it must be augmented with immediate action to support veteran wellbeing,” James says.

“Facilitating rapid and ongoing access to services and support, camaraderie, and commemoration for veterans remains the highest priority for RSL NSW, and we will continue to both deliver on these needs for our community as well as represent these needs to the government.”

## CALENDAR



### 27 JULY Korean Veterans’ Day

For completing 100 missions over North Korea with No. 77 Squadron RAAF, Sergeant Ray Seaver hands over three pounds to Sergeant Jack McCarthy.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL JK0787



### 15 AUGUST Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day

A member of the WAAF (Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force) kissing a policeman during VP Day (Victory in the Pacific) celebrations in the city of Melbourne.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL I13029

Following feedback from veterans who expressed dissatisfaction at the prospect of engaging with the Royal Commission’s consultation process via the DVA, Veterans’ Affairs Minister Darren Chester agreed that veterans could provide their input via the Attorney-General’s Department.

RSL NSW District Councils collated and provided input to

RSL NSW CEO Jon Black, which was supplied to RSL Australia to inform a national submission.

RSL NSW’s recommendations addressed the accountability and coordination of ESOs, links between employment and suicide, initiatives providing opportunities for community integration during service, and the value of mateship and support in lowering suicide risk. ■



## LAUNCH: VETERAN WELLBEING CENTRE

The May opening of the Veteran Wellbeing Centre at its temporary location provides the local veteran community with access to one-stop services and support.

“Veterans and their families will be able to access services and programs in a friendly, welcoming environment where their unique experiences are understood and supported, and their military service is respected,” RSL NSW President Ray James said. ■



Turn to page 23 to read more about the Veteran Wellbeing Centre, or scan the QR code to visit the RSL NSW website.



### 18 AUGUST Vietnam Veterans’ Day

Soldiers of the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, board armoured personnel carriers that will take them into the field for Operation Sydney II.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL FOR/66/0595/VN



### 31 AUGUST Malaya and Borneo Veterans’ Day

Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, moving from hut to hut in a village as they carry out a routine patrol along the Malaysian-Indonesian border.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL FIL/66/0241/MC

# ANSWER RIGHT ON CENSUS NIGHT

services and respond reactively to requests for help.

“The census is an amazing opportunity for us to really understand where and who our veterans are, so that we can proactively build data-driven services and support where they’re needed most, targeted to the different needs at different phases of a veteran’s life,” Young says.

“In any good population management or public health program, you have to know where the people are and what their needs are to build services around them to support them.”

The census question will ask ‘Has the person ever served in the Australian Defence Force?’, with a set of response options covering current and previous reserve and regular service. ■

*“The census is an amazing opportunity for us to really understand where and who our veterans are, so that we can proactively build data-driven services and support where they’re needed most.”*

**NICKI YOUNG, GENERAL MANAGER  
VETERAN SERVICES, RSL LIFECARE**

On census night on 10 August, Australians will be asked whether they are current or former serving Defence members.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has identified an opportunity to provide information that can be used to better target service delivery and support for veterans.

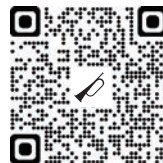
“The government thinks there are 650,000 to 700,000 veterans living in the Australian community,” says Nicki Young, General Manager Veteran Services at RSL LifeCare. “We know where our serving community of 80,000 Regular members and Reservists is. We know where the approximately 310,000 DVA clients are.”

Beyond that though, Young explains, RSL LifeCare must make assumptions to proactively target

## CASUAL VACANCY – DIRECTOR

A position to fill a casual vacancy for an elected Director on the Board of RSL NSW is available to RSL NSW service members who are not in an Office Holder position of any RSL NSW sub-Branch or District Council.

**Applications: HR@rslnsw.org.au by 9 July 2021**



Full position description and application process available at [rslnsw.org.au](http://rslnsw.org.au) or scan QR code



# We're for veterans



The Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre is now under construction, and the team is offering support to all veterans and their families from a temporary location.

RSL NSW and RSL LifeCare are working together to establish additional veteran wellbeing centres across NSW.

For more information please review the RSL NSW Strategic Plan.

Supporting veterans and their families with:

- Health
- Education and skills
- Housing
- Social support and connection
- Employment
- Income and finance
- Recognition and respect



RSL  
**LifeCare**

**Veteran Wellbeing Centre:**  
1/19 Nowra Lane, Nowra NSW 2541

**w:** [nowravwc.org.au](http://nowravwc.org.au)  
**t:** 02 4428 5777

# JACK OF ALL PARADES

Looking for someone who's done it all?  
Meet Wayne Dixon – former reservist, firey, ambo, sub-Branch President, homecare volunteer, and more. If there's a parade going, Wayne probably belongs in it – but he'd say he just likes to help people.

I was an Army Reservist for about six years, and I've moved around a lot. When I was in Coonamble, I was President of the RSL sub-Branch for three years.

Back in Coonamble, I volunteered for St John Ambulance and the Rural Fire Service. When they had the big bushfires in Victoria, I drove the fire truck from Coonamble to Victoria. We spent more than a week there putting out bushfires, and I was flown to Victoria again a few years later to do the same thing.

Fighting those fires was an experience that'll live with me forever. We were all getting ready to go down there and watching the news on TV – they said people were losing houses and their lives. When we drove down, people held up little placards saying 'thank you' and waving to us.

You see all the burnt houses, and you turn around and it's all burnt everywhere, you just see burnt areas

and places. It makes you so proud to be there though, to help each other in times of crisis like that.

## LEAVING HOME

In the '80s, I had an aunt who used to live in Wangi Wangi, and I'd come down this way then and I just loved visiting the place. So when I started to get arthritis in my spine, I decided to move there to be closer to doctors. There's an Aboriginal Medical Centre in Cardiff and I go there now.

I'm single, and I've got a little Jack Russell terrier, Bear – he's about 11 years old, and I've had him since he was a puppy. I was staying with my cousins in Morisset and looking around for a house for me and Bear. But things weren't working out and I was going to commit suicide at one point there.

At the RSL sub-Branch, I met an Affiliate member, Wendy – her father was a Vietnam vet, and she helps veterans looking for houses and jobs. Wendy got onto Mamour at RSL DefenceCare\* and told him about me, and he was a really great help to me.

## MAKING A HOME

Walking into my new place with Bear – it was freedom. It was. It's my own »

*“Walking into my  
new place with Bear  
– it was freedom.”*

WAYNE DIXON



**Left:**  
Wayne relaxes  
in the front  
garden with  
his dog, Bear.

**Opposite:**  
Wayne raises  
the flag at the  
Wangi RSL  
Club, where he  
now works.



**Left and far left:**

Wayne now works at the Wangi RSL Club where he drives the courtesy bus – in between trips is time to greet the patrons.

little granny flat, and I don't have to tread on eggshells like I would if I was at other people's places. I can do things myself – my own shopping, put up some photos for myself and make the place liveable.

I've got a little rocking chair on the verandah where I sit and rock on that. I don't drink – I haven't for so many years – but I go outside and have a smoke now and then.

When I first moved in, the neighbours welcomed me to the street and they're all good neighbours. If you're out the front there, they pull up and have a yarn, come up and have a yarn. Everything's nice and peaceful here. At night, there are no parties, you don't hear dogs bark or anything like that.

When I was ready to start looking for work, Mamour [through RSL DefenceCare's financial assistance program] helped me get a laptop I could use to look for work, and connected me with the RSL Employment Program.

Then the bus driver at the Wangi RSL Club left, and the team there thought,

“Who are we going to get as a bus driver?” So the manager rang me and asked if I would like the job. I said yes.

I'm going to do some training on the computer as well, and that'll give me another bit on my résumé. I sit with the guys at the sub-Branch, and the President there is looking for a Secretary. Soon I'll be able to help with that.

With my licence, I can help with the schoolkids from the Wangi Wangi Public School too. They've got a school carnival coming up next month and they've asked me, on my days off, if I'd like to drive them to the school carnival. I said, “Yeah, that's not a problem.”

I'm getting familiar with all the people, and they're really nice. The boss is a good manager there, and the bar staff are really nice too. I marched on ANZAC Day and people were watching from both sides of the street. I did the lowering and raising of the flag, and then they said it was my day, and I should have the day off.

They all looked after me, even all the patrons. Everything's going good. ■

## MAMOUR SECK, HOUSING PROJECT OFFICER, RSL DEFENCECARE

My work has many highlights. I work with veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless across NSW and help them get into housing.

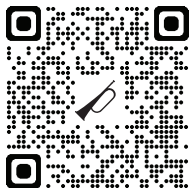
I work with veterans who literally have nothing – they're sleeping in parks or sleeping in tents – to get off the street and into a property. Then I assist in settling them into their new home.

A while back, I worked with a 74-year-old Vietnam vet. When his wife had passed away, he'd just walked out of their home and never returned. I met him 20 years later – he'd been sleeping rough that whole time. I managed to get him into housing and he settled in. That was a real highlight to see that change.

But the easiest client I've ever worked with – that's Wayne. He had the prospect of going back into the workforce and he was willing – we just needed to get him into stable housing first. So we worked through all the required paperwork, submitted the applications, and identified a property in the Newcastle area. This was done through the Rent Choice Veterans program.

Once he settled into the property – and that was very quick – Wayne said he was ready for employment. So I referred him to the RSL Employment Program, another program of RSL LifeCare Veteran Services. It was only three weeks later that Wayne started driving the courtesy bus for the Wangi RSL Club.

Working with Wayne was a pleasure – everything went swiftly with no major issues. In no time he managed to get a job, and I'll continue to work with him to make sure he can maintain that employment.



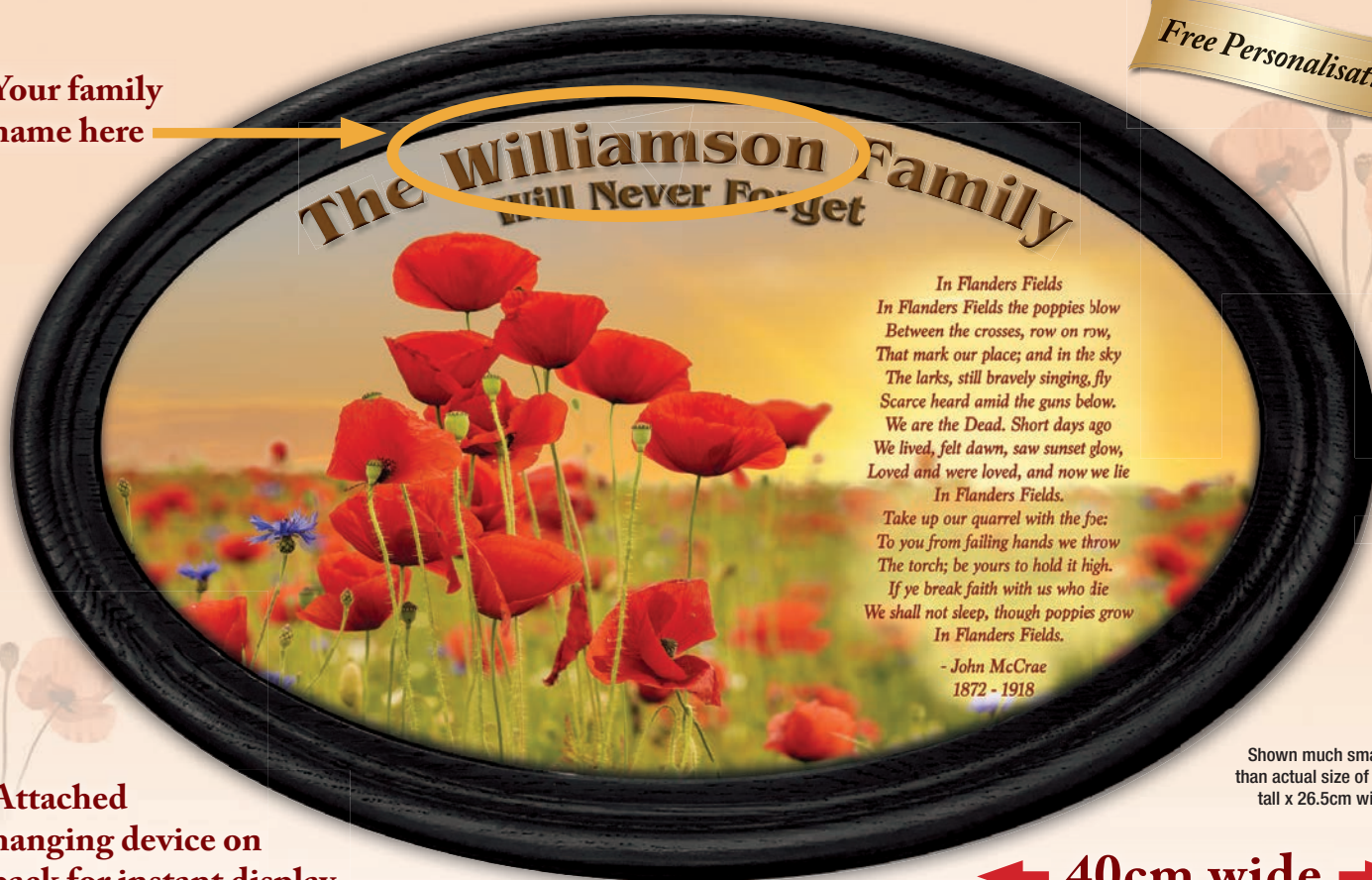
**RSL DefenceCare is a program of RSL LifeCare Veteran Services. To find out more about how RSL LifeCare can help veterans in need of employment and housing support, scan the QR code.**

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# ANZAC DAY 2021

Honouring and commemorating those who serve.

SYDNEY



**Bottom left:**  
RSL NSW President Ray James with NSW Governor Margaret Beazley AC QC at the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph.





# COOGEE

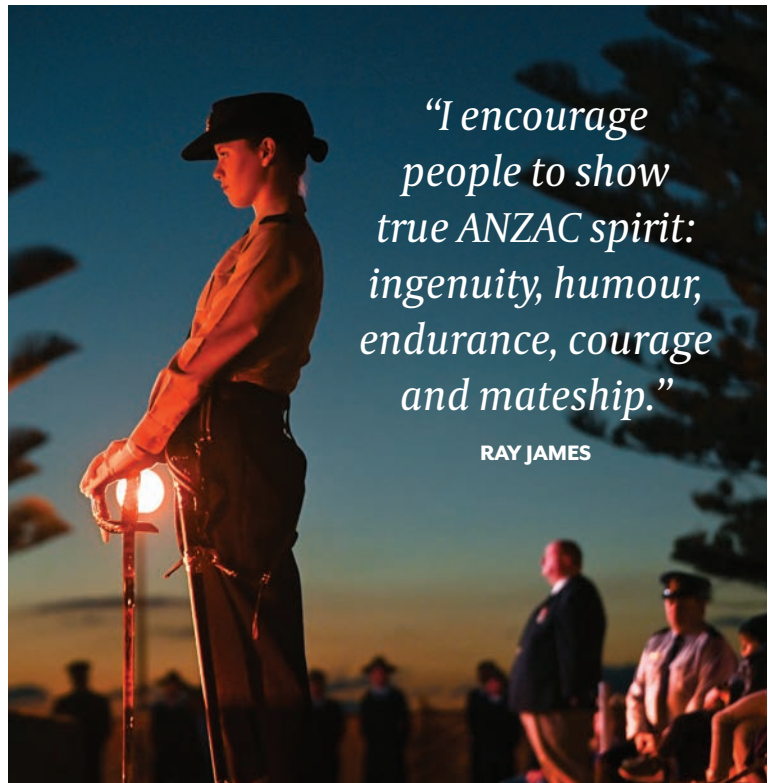


**Left top, middle, bottom:**  
Sydney CBD March participants

**Top right:**  
Coogee-Randwick-Clovelly sub-Branch members and supporters walked from the Dawn Service to the March, then on to two-up.



**Right, bottom right:**  
The Coogee Dawn Service



*“I encourage people to show true ANZAC spirit: ingenuity, humour, endurance, courage and mateship.”*

RAY JAMES

**MILLTHORPE**



**BERRIDALE**



**Clockwise from top right:**

Snowy River RSL sub-Branch marched in Berridale with support from Berridale Public School.

Davistown RSL sub-Branch held an outdoor service at the Davistown RSL Club, including laying wreaths.

The City of Lismore RSL sub-Branch was overwhelmed by support from the Lismore Community.

Lyndhurst sub-Branch held four services in surrounding villages, including at Mandurama and Millthorpe.

**DAVISTOWN**



**LISMORE**





## MANLY



## RAMSGATE



**Top:** Northern Beaches Council lit up Manly Town Hall with four ANZAC-themed designs from 22-25 April.

**Bottom:** The newly amalgamated Ramsgate Rockdale sub-Branch, along with supporters from the local community, marked ANZAC Day with a dawn service and march.



# RETRAINING THE BLACK DOG

A little help from man's best friend – and support from his wife Sam – has given veteran Luke Evans a new sense of purpose.

STORY STEVE MEACHAM AND HALLIE DONKIN





This article discusses post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), active service, transitioning out of defence and veteran suicides. If any of this raises issues for you, don't go through it alone.

**Reach out to:**  
**Open Arms 24-hour**  
**support line 1800 011 046**  
**or visit [openarms.gov.au](http://openarms.gov.au)**

**In crisis, call:**  
**Suicide Call Back**  
**Service 1300 659 467**  
**Lifeline 13 11 14**



**Left:**

Luke credits his military service with giving him the skills to build a unique and thriving business that he loves.

**Above:**

Luke, Sam and their two daughters.

After three active tours, Luke had "attended too many funerals, and seen too many wives and children distraught". After he and Sam decided to marry, he left the Navy.

**Far left:**

Even the leader of the pack can have some fun.

**L**uke Evans is top dog, undisputed leader of his pack. For evidence, just visit his 13 hectare Central Coast retreat run on military guidelines, complete with assault courses, on a really wet day.

As Luke, 38, barks his orders, his 40-strong platoon leaps into action despite the perpetual downpour. These volunteers clearly love getting down and dirty.

"In their home environment, dogs learn [that] if it's raining, they won't go outside very far," says Luke, who co-founded Doggy Daycare Farm Trips with wife Sam in 2015.

At the farm, though, they do as they're told – even if that involves mud.

"Many of the dogs that come each week are working breeds living in the city, needing the exercise our farm can give. But we have plenty of 'oodles' [poodles mixed with other breeds] and companion breeds that aren't typical farm dogs just looking forward to a day of fun away from the apartment."

In a typical week, the farm hosts up to 200 willing recruits, arriving from Monday to Friday on a specially

converted 'dog bus' from Sydney. Each pack of between 30 and 40 dogs comes on its allotted weekday, so the dogs are very familiar with their pack mates.

Surely, there are dog fights?

"We have strict rules and assessment, and zero tolerance for dogs breaking rules or dominant behaviour. Our farm is about dogs being dogs, having fun," says Luke.

"If a dog doesn't want to have fun, or seeks to assert its dominance, it fails immediately. With packs this big, the dogs need to realise that I, and my staff, run the show."

### A PROUD CAREER

Luke credits his military service (one active tour of Iraq, two of Afghanistan) with giving him the skills needed to build a unique and thriving business that he loves.

Brisbane-born Luke joined the Navy as an electronics technician in 2003, serving aboard *HMAS Parramatta* before transferring to clearance diver in Diving Team One five years later.

That meant clearing mines in shipping lanes.

"But what I enjoyed most were the covert, mission-style operations."

Offered a second promotion from Able Seaman if he stayed in Diving Team One, he volunteered instead for Tactical Assault Group – East, a special forces unit based at Holsworthy Barracks. Still part of the Navy, he was under the command of the 2nd Commando Regiment.

"We were sent in when hostage negotiations had failed, the last resort, and told that if 70% of the team came back alive, it would be a successful mission," Luke explains. "It was high risk, high tempo and high reward. I'm proud of my service career."

### LIVING WITH TRAUMA

In time, he recognised another truth: "I'd attended too many funerals, and



*"It was high risk, high tempo and high reward. I'm proud of my service career."* LUKE EVANS



**Above:**  
A pack of 30-40 dogs arrives each day on a specially converted 'dog bus'.

**Left and opposite:**  
Luke is undisputed leader of the pack.



*“I asked for counselling. My decade-long service entitled me to three sessions with a psychologist I had to find myself. That was my first introduction to the word ‘empathy’.”*

**LUKE EVANS**

seen too many wives and children distraught.”

After he and Sam decided to marry, he left the Navy in 2014. To his surprise, returning to civilian life proved to be his biggest battle.

“Clearance diving and hostage rescues weren’t desired skills in civilian life,” he says. “Mates I’d served with overseas went through similar struggles. Some took their own lives. They’d got to peak, elite, well-respected positions – and came home to find they had no qualifications or respect.”

Luke is talking frankly about his black dog days to persuade other ex-servicemen and women to seek help.

“I asked for counselling,” he recalls. “My decade-long service entitled me to three sessions with a psychologist I had to find myself. That was my first introduction to the word ‘empathy’.”

*The Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan 2020–2023* estimates that 24.9 per cent of transitioned ADF members have met or will meet the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in their lifetimes, while almost three-quarters will meet the criteria for a mental disorder prior to, during or after their military careers.

Acknowledgement of PTSD in soldiers and veterans is better now than it was when Luke asked for counselling seven years ago.

Recent changes also mean that veterans are afforded mental health support for life, regardless of whether mental ill-health is caused by service. However, as the Australian Government’s Inquiry report *A Better Way to Support Veterans* notes, it has not met an urgent need for a veteran mental health strategy with a lifetime approach.

Suicide rates among veterans are still alarmingly high.

“Post-service, the age-adjusted rate of suicide for veterans is consistently higher than that of the Australian »

population,” according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s (AIHW) *National Suicide Monitoring of Serving and Ex-Serving Australian Defence Force Personnel: 2020 Update*.

The AIHW reports that between 2001 and 2018, 465 serving and ex-serving ADF personnel died by suicide. More than half, 267, were ex-serving personnel.

According to three-year rolling aggregates, which the AIHW uses to smooth out the peaks and troughs when dealing with relatively low numbers, the number of suicides is higher in the most recent reporting period – 123 in 2016–2018 – than when Luke transitioned out of the Navy seven years ago (the three periods that take in Luke’s year of transition range between 94 and 117 suicides).

“Ex-servicemen and women tend to deal with their internal struggles internally,” Luke says. The research backs this up, with the *Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan 2020–2023* identifying cost and potential civilian career impact as possible reasons.

“I was lucky,” says Luke. “I had a very supportive partner. She gave me some skills to deal with what I was going through. Some of my mates haven’t been so fortunate.”

### A NEW HOPE

With Sam, Luke started Salty Dawg, a dog exercise business in the parks around North Sydney.

“I ran Salty Dawg like a military operation, always turning up on time, always challenging the dogs, never failing to exercise a dog if I’d promised to,” he says.

As the business grew, he quickly became frustrated with council by-laws in suburban Sydney. Sam – then pregnant with their first daughter, Elle – suggested



#### Above

#### and right:

Working with dogs helped Luke discover that emotions – which he’d seen treated in the military as a weakness or distraction – are the essence of the human experience.

#### Opposite:

Many of the dogs that visit Luke’s farm are working breeds that love a run on the farm.



*“Losing a mate here at home was far more devastating than if they’d been killed in action overseas.”* LUKE EVANS



they take a big leap, selling everything to launch the farm and Doggy Daycare Farm Trips.

Working with the dogs was helping Luke discover that emotions – which he’d seen treated in the military as a weakness or distraction – are the essence of the human experience. Luke had his second introduction to empathy, finding he could empathise much easier with dogs than he could with humans.

Today his joy is apparent in every video Sam records of Luke interacting with his four-legged clients. The

couple has also employed an ex-serving member – they hope the first of many.

Though exhausting, the journey has been life-affirming – and one Luke wants to share now he and Sam are looking forward to future challenges and chapters of their lives.

“To me, losing a mate here at home was far more devastating than if they’d been killed in action overseas,” Luke explains. “If voicing what I went through helps my fellow veterans realise there is a way out, it would be ‘mission accomplished’.” ■

## A VETERAN FOR LIFE

RSL LifeCare GM Veteran Services Nicki Young identifies common issues veterans face when leaving the armed services: loss of identity, loss of purpose, loss of routine, loss of community and connection.

“As a veteran who’s transitioned, I can align myself to those common issues – some of which I’m not sure I will ever overcome,” Young explains.

“And while we often find that people come to us in crisis, we need to help with these broader issues as well as the crisis.”

Building strategies around education, training and support that kick in before crisis, including through the Veteran Wellbeing Centre, is an important systemic solution.

“Until we take a systems approach to supporting the life cycle of a veteran, as opposed to in chunks of their life, we won’t ever solve the issue,” says Young.

“People are veterans for life, but different groups look after them at different times and they are not always aligned. The Veteran Wellbeing Centre is a really good step forward in that – it’s visible and available to serving ADF personnel.

“We want to start connecting with people before they leave service, so that they know what is available to them before they get to a point of crisis,” Young says.

“There are two pieces to this: one is having the services available; the second is building a resilient community for veterans to be part of post-service.



Find out more  
on the RSL  
NSW website.

References: Productivity Commission 2019, *A Better Way to Support Veterans: Overview and Recommendations*, Report no. 93, Canberra; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2020, *National Suicide Monitoring of Serving and Ex-serving Australian Defence Force Personnel: 2020 Update*; Department of Veterans' Affairs 2020, *Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan 2020–2023*.

# WORKING TOGETHER, DELIVERING LOCALLY

Without immediate intervention, the RSL will no longer be a viable member-based charity in NSW by 2040. Here, we look at plans to collaborate and leverage existing resources to deliver a future that will ensure everyone who has served the nation will want to belong to the RSL.

WORDS JONATHAN BLACK, CEO, RSL NSW







Review the RSL NSW  
Strategic Plan 2021-2026  
– scan the QR code  
to download now.



**A**t the beginning of last year, RSL NSW had fewer than 3,000 members under the age of 55. Fewer than 1,000 were under 39. Almost a third of our 25,000 members had already outlived the average male life expectancy. Alongside an ageing and aged membership sat a lack of clarity – of our purpose, of our strategic vision of the organisation’s future, and of our common values.

Fundraising is difficult, and the relevance of the RSL is being questioned by younger veterans who are attracted to the more than 2,000 newer organisations that are meeting their needs without asking for membership.

#### **LEADERSHIP**

There’s a clear need for one organisation to lead and coordinate support for veterans.

The scale, reach and esteemed record of the RSL in Australia provide the basis for earning our position as the leading veterans’ organisation, but we must work as one and again become the organisation veterans wish to join and be involved in.

This is why we are making strategic and structural change.

We recognise the need for strategic leadership as well as local implementation, to deliver a revitalised and contemporary organisation that veterans wish to be part of. Additionally, a strong, united RSL voice can influence government policy.

#### **FINANCE**

The League’s significant resources can sustain and increase membership of all sub-Branches – and must be used for this purpose if we’re to meet our charter across the state. The Strategic Plan recognises the importance of local and community presence, and puts the sub-Branch at the centre.

While acting locally, by collaborating state-wide and by investing and pooling resources, the RSL will have the means to effectively deliver mateship, wellbeing support, commemorations and a means to connect to a full array of »



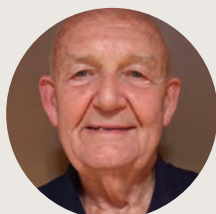
**KEN FAYLE, VICE-PRESIDENT,  
CITY OF NEWCASTLE  
RSL SUB-BRANCH**

“In 20 years, most of us won’t be in sub-Branch management positions. We have to position the RSL now so that the foundation is set.

“We have to remove egos and our personal feelings – which will mean making hard decisions.

“That includes investing in the RSL by allocating funds for immediate use, whether it be in DefenceCare, member recruitment, or communications and promotion.

“If we don’t get that right now, we’ll never get it right.”



**BOB LUNNON, PRESIDENT,  
FORESTVILLE SUB-BRANCH**

“The majority of Forrestville’s membership is 70 and older. That’s why we’ve embraced this Strategic Plan and launched Reaching Out activities with the various units in our area – we need to recruit younger members.

“The motto is ‘One RSL – working together, delivering locally’. And that’s exactly what this is all about: aligning our own actions and initiatives with the Strategic Plan.”

professional services to support veterans in need, right across the state.

### THE FUTURE

We want the RSL in NSW to be here for the next 100 years – therefore we’re working together fearlessly towards common strategic goals, while passionately acting locally.

By 2027, implementation of the Strategic Plan will have already turned the tide. Communities across NSW will know what the RSL stands for, what it does and why it is valued as the leading veterans’ organisation.

The RSL will be known for its mateship and wellbeing services, as well as connection to the full array of RSL and other

professional services. Declining and ageing membership will have been reversed.

Member numbers will be increasing 10% per year, and the participation of new veterans will have lowered the average membership age from 78 to 60.

### HOW WE’LL ACHIEVE CHANGE

The Strategic Plan promotes a ‘pooled’ approach to funds management to achieve the six goals and 56 initiatives.

The ‘pool’ concept has two distinct parts:

- The voluntary Aggregated Investment Management Service
- The ‘Contribution Pool’



## \$330 million

in liquid funds under management across RSL NSW sub-Branches.\*



## Sub-branches

are holding more than \$100 million in term deposits that could be generating higher returns.



## Multiple fees

are being paid by sub-Branches to financial advisers/brokers.\*\*



## Savings

in fees under the aggregated investment model.\*\*\*

\* Figures approximate. \*\* Based on the average fee of 1% p.a. being paid by a sample of larger sub-Branches. \*\*\* Lower fees available to ALL sub-Branches that participate in the Aggregated Investment Management Service.



Review the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021-2026 – scan the QR code to download now.



### AGGREGATED INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE

A well-credentialled investment manager, selected after rigorous market testing, will provide a complete service for sub-Branches. By investing together, sub-Branches may benefit from higher returns, lower fees and reduced burden on office-bearers, resulting in more time spent supporting veterans and their families.

Investment of sub-Branch funds is voluntary, and ownership of assets, including any returns, remains with the contributing sub-Branches.

Although there needs to be a policy on keeping investments in real terms, all income earned on investments returns to the sub-Branch.

Aggregating investments across sub-Branches state-wide will:

- Ensure investment plans are shaped to best meet required local demand over time
- Improve transparency, reporting, accountability, risk and governance
- Reduce duplication and investment management costs
- Better match risk-adjusted return profiles across asset classes to deliver the optimal mix of capital growth and distribution for each sub-Branch

### CONTRIBUTION POOL

Separate to the Aggregated Investment Management Service, sub-Branches are encouraged to fund strategic projects, activities and the RSL NSW charitable purpose by contributing to »



### ADRIAN SUTTER, TREASURER, COOGEE-RANDWICK SUB-BRANCH

“We collectively need change – and that needs money. And when all the money’s being held by sub-Branches rather than the League as a whole, nothing can get done effectively.

“If all sub-Branches contribute to funding the Strategic Plan they will get more bang for their buck and we can start to collectively deliver greater projects that contribute to the wellbeing of all veterans, not just members.”



### DEREK LESLIE, PRESIDENT, BROOKLYN SUB-BRANCH; PRESIDENT, NORTHERN METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL; CHAIR, DISTRICT PRESIDENTS’ COUNCIL

“I support the aggregated investment management and funding models as essential components of the Strategic Plan, on the understanding that the investment model must be acceptable to members.

“Members of my sub-Branch are very keen to see the Strategic Plan implemented, particularly because we need to close the gap in advocacy at the federal level. We are also keen to attract new members, and recognise that for that to happen, the funding arrangements have to be realised.”

a centrally managed fund – the ‘Contribution Pool’.

A budget oversight committee, with representatives of the contributing sub-Branches, will endorse an annual budget proposed by the RSL NSW CEO for strategic initiatives to be funded, as well as a four-year budget outlook.

Once endorsed, it will be approved by the Board and progress will be reported quarterly.

As well as funding the initiatives in the Strategic Plan, it will contribute to 20% annual growth of younger members across all sub-Branches. Other strategic initiatives funded by the contribution pool could include:

- RSL Liaison Officer at the National Centre for Veterans’ Healthcare (currently a volunteer)
- RSL NSW scholarships (creating significant state-wide interest and lifting the profile of the RSL)
- Cadre staff to support and train volunteer office holders
- Donations to RSL LifeCare programs including RSL DefenceCare
- Maintenance of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway
- Support and assistance to sub-Branches with small incomes
- Advertising and promotion including *Reveille*
- Fees for RSL National sport and recreation activities
- Grant application support for sub-Branches ■

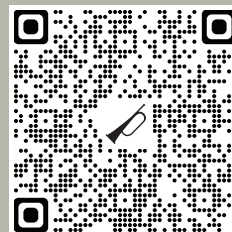
*If just the 20 largest sub-Branches in NSW invested together, we estimate the collective savings could fund 15 additional full-time, qualified pension or wellbeing advocates.*

**Be part of the strategic approach that will fortify the future of RSL NSW.**

RSL NSW is publishing and distributing detailed information about the proposed funding model to all sub-Branches by September 2021.







For more information in the meantime, please review the RSL NSW Strategic Plan – scan the QR code to download from the RSL NSW website.

To arrange a visit from RSL NSW CEO Jon Black to your sub-Branch to discuss the initiative, contact RSL NSW.  
E: [troberts@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:troberts@rslnsw.org.au)

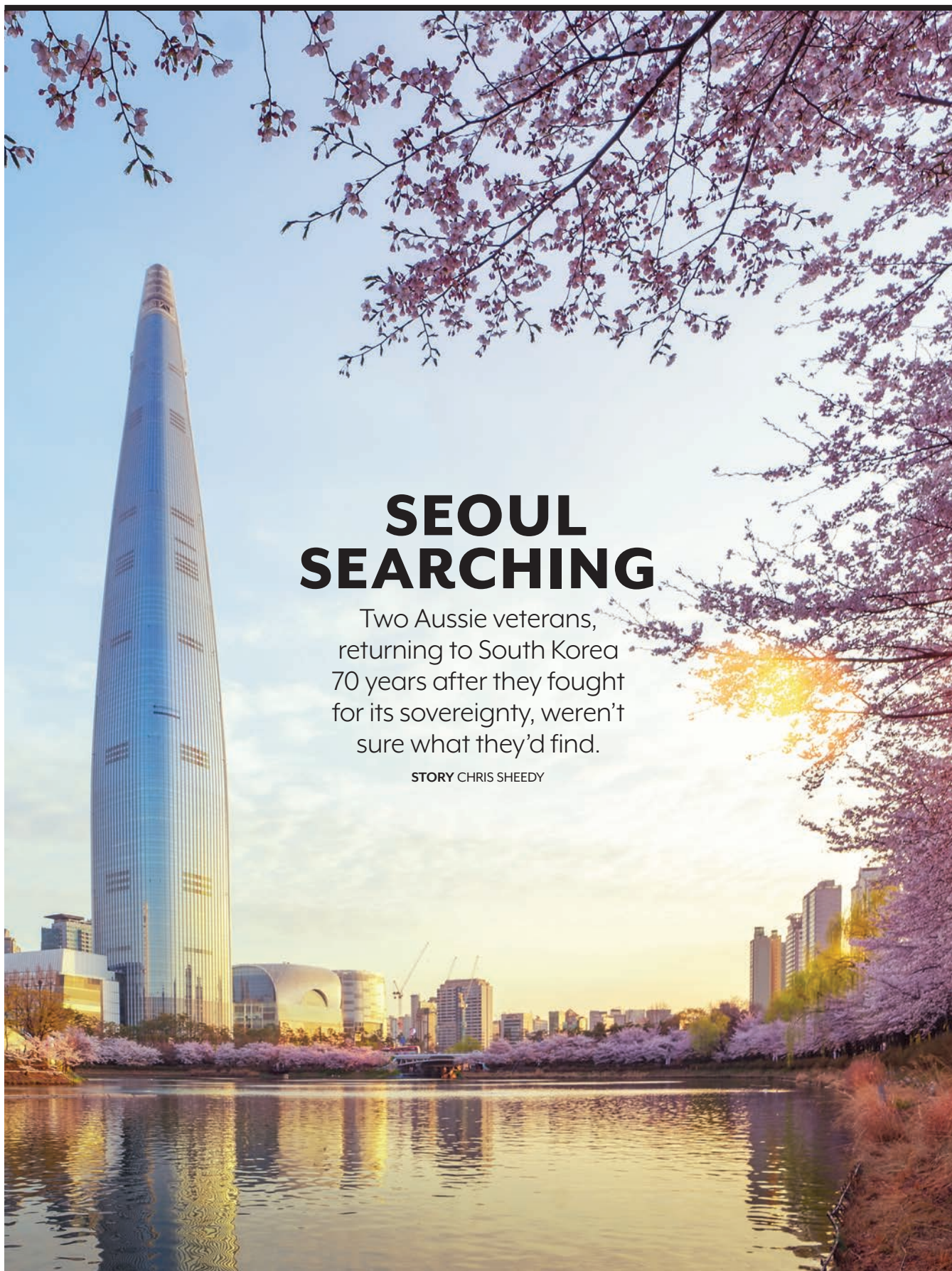




# BANG FOR OUR BUCKS: GOALS, INITIATIVES, OUTCOMES

GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3	GOAL 4	GOAL 5	GOAL 6
					
Stand for veterans and their families.	Tell our story so everyone knows what we do and why we do it.	Grow membership to support each other, have fun, and help all veterans and their families in need.	Through collaboration and support, connect veterans to services.	Implement an optimised and sustainable operating business model.	Commemorate and pay respect.
<b>Number of initiatives</b>	<b>Number of initiatives</b>	<b>Number of initiatives</b>	<b>Number of initiatives</b>	<b>Number of initiatives</b>	<b>Number of initiatives</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Key outcomes</b> RSL NSW effectively advocates for veterans.  RSL NSW facilitates training for members to seamlessly connect veterans and their families to services and products.	<b>Key outcomes</b> Everyone in the community knows what the RSL is and does for veterans.  RSL is the leading advocacy service for Australian veterans.	<b>Key outcomes</b> New members join RSL NSW to help support fellow veterans.  They enjoy camaraderie, and participate in sub-Branch events, competitions and programs.	<b>Key outcomes</b> Veterans in need rapidly access services regardless of where they are located.  RSL NSW is the leading veterans' charity in the state.  Its catalogue of services shows the benefits of collaboration.	<b>Key outcome</b> RSL NSW sub-Branches and ANZAC House work collaboratively to implement the goals of the Plan, ensuring a sustainable future for the organisation.	<b>Key outcomes</b> Sub-Branches are provided with a suite of resources to remain leaders of commemorative and educational activities.





# SEOUL SEARCHING

Two Aussie veterans,  
returning to South Korea  
70 years after they fought  
for its sovereignty, weren't  
sure what they'd find.

STORY CHRIS SHEEDY



**Opposite page:**  
Cherry blossom park in Seoul city.

**Left:**  
Seoul downtown city skyline.

**Top right:**  
American welcome with lunch.

**Right:**  
ROK officer explaining the front line.



John Bineham’s entry into the Korean War effort became a bitterly tragic one as soon as he landed in the desolate, cratered and bomb-blackened landscape. He and two of his best friends had signed up on the same day to serve. One of those friends had been transferred to Korea earlier, with a different battalion and, three days before John’s arrival, was killed in action. What should have been a joyful reunion became grief.

John had a vital job to do with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and little chance to grieve. He wouldn’t shed tears for the loss of his best mate until many years later.

One of the most powerful healing processes came 55 years later in 2008,

when John returned to a very different Korea and took a deeply personal and increasingly philosophical journey throughout the country.

That odyssey concluded by his friend’s grave, at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan (previously known as Pusan).

### A TRIP THROUGH SPACE AND TIME

The trip began, John says, in Seoul. He quickly realised that Korea had become an entirely different and more beautiful place than he remembered.

“If anybody asked me to describe Korea after the war, I’d say its colours were all blacks and browns, and dirty, muddy greens. There were no trees.

There was nothing that hadn’t been destroyed,” he says. “But when I went back, we saw beautiful mountains covered in trees, and well-tended gardens. It was stunning. It was like visiting a garden state, full of colour and greenery. It was amazing.”

Mick Kohlhoff, President Emeritus of the Korean War Veterans Association NSW and member of Forestville sub-Branch, also returned to Korea in 2004. Mick served in the British Tank Regiment from late 1952 until the end of the war. He now calls Sydney home, and agrees that the revisit experience showed him what he had fought for.

“In Seoul itself there are markets you can visit in complete safety at 3am. There are buildings and »

## AUSTRALIANS IN KOREA

Between 1950 and 1953, more than 17,000 Australians from the Army, Navy and Air Force, as well as medical personnel, served as part of the UN multinational force in Korea. 340 were killed and 1216 wounded.

### 1950

#### 25 June

After Korean People’s Army invades South Korea, UN resolution calls for end to hostilities. Australia supports resolution, offers military aid.

#### June/July

RAN ships and RAAF fighter planes are dispatched.

#### September

3rd Battalion RAR arrives in Busan.



**Left:**  
View to Busan from Songdo Cable Car station.

**Top right:**  
South Korean side of the demilitarised zone.

**Bottom right:**  
Traditional musicians performing for the group of Aussie veterans.



cars and buses and motorbikes, and entire communities that have developed out of what seemed like nothing,” Mick says.

“When we left, after the war, there were no paved roads in one particular area. But when we went back to that same area, all along the Han River and the Imjin River there were almighty blocks of units with passageways from the units, under the six-lane road, onto the banks of the rivers, which had been converted into sportsgrounds!”

**OLD FRIENDS AND NEW COMRADES**

For John and Mick, the tours were organised and funded by the South Korean government under a program

that still operates, but which has been paused because of the pandemic.

The Revisit Korea Program thanks ex-servicepeople who served during the Korean War. During the one-week tour, most costs for each veteran plus a carer or family member are covered. It’s South Korea’s way of thanking those who defended the nation’s freedom. In many cases, it also provides closure.

“In the first few days, the organisers took us up to the demilitarised zone between North Korea and South Korea. Then we began to travel south, with our final destination being Busan and its United Nations Memorial Cemetery,” John says.

“We stopped in different towns along the way, and when we arrived, there

would be meals prepared and local people performing for us, all specially organised as thanks. All we had to bring was spending money for alcohol or shopping – all meals, accommodation and flights were covered. It was extremely well organised.”

As the group travelled south and as the days in South Korea went by, John says his thoughts became increasingly reflective, even spiritual.

On the day they arrived at the cemetery, there was a service for the veterans, for those present and those fallen. Then the visitors were free to wander the cemetery.

“Everybody knew somebody who had fallen during the war,” John says. He knew exactly who he had come to visit.

<p><b>1950</b> <b>October</b> Chinese forces enter the war, allied with North Korea.</p>	<p><b>1952</b> <b>March</b> 1st Battalion RAR arrives in Korea.</p>	<p><b>1953</b> <b>March</b> 2nd Battalion RAR arrives in Korea, replacing 1st Battalion RAR.</p>	<p><b>24–26 July</b> In the strategically important Battle of the Samichon River, just before the armistice was due to be signed, 2nd Battalion RAR and 3rd Battalion RAR hold off two nights of concerted attacks by Chinese forces.</p>	<p><b>27 July</b> Hostilities end as the Korean Armistice Agreement is signed.</p>
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**Left:**  
United Nations  
Memorial  
Cemetery,  
Busan

**Bottom left:**  
Vets watching  
the parade



He spent some quiet time with his best mate, reflecting and feeling inspired.

“The cemetery is beautiful and very well cared for. It’s really quite moving to see it. Plus, an entire city has grown up around it,” he says. “This trip meant I was able to see with my own eyes what a success story South Korea had become. It was very satisfying to know we’d contributed to that.”

### RECOGNISING THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Mick says the trip to Korea as a welcome tourist, rather than a soldier, gave him a new appreciation of why he and his fellow servicepeople in the UN forces fought in such difficult and tragic circumstances.

“When we were sent there as regular soldiers during the war, we knew nothing about Korea. We didn’t even know where it was. Having lived there

during winter, sleeping in holes in the ground in the freezing cold, we never really knew the purpose of why we were there,” Mick says.

“It was difficult to believe that any Korean person survived what happened in their country. Then, when I went back, it was difficult to believe how they managed to recover so quickly. Apparently, immediately after the ceasefire was announced, the first job for everyone was to plant trees on all of the mountains and hills, because when we left it was just bare dirt and rock. Everything had been blown to bits.

“When we left after the war, there were just two Bailey bridges across the Imjin River, and when I went back with the tour, there were 26 permanent bridges, all painted different colours. It was just amazing.”

John agrees that the journey was an eye-opener, not only around the purpose of the war effort, but also about the power of the human spirit.

“The knowledge we gained from the Revisit Korea Program made me, and the other veterans, very happy,” he says.

“We’d come from all over the world to a country we knew nothing about, to fight for people we’d never met, and we were never really sure why. Finally, this journey showed us – it was for a great cause.” ■



## THE REVISIT KOREA PROGRAM

Cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, the Revisit Korea Program trips will be held five times throughout the year once the program resumes. The subsidised trips are available to people who served in the Korean War and immediate post-armistice period by sea, land or air from 25 June 1950 to 25 October 1954.

Only 650 places are available each year for any UN veteran of the Korean War, including 46 from Australia, plus a companion or carer for each.

Half of the veteran’s economy airfare is subsidised, and 30 per cent of a companion’s or carer’s. In Korea, all hotels (five-star, double occupancy) are fully subsidised, as are all guides, tours, transport, meals, helpers, museum entry fees, airport transfer fees and 24-hour nurses, for five nights and six days. Additional family members can attend at their own expense.

Participants must be in good health and capable of making the flight by air.



## POIGNANT PURPLE MONUMENT REMEMBERING BRAVE WAR ANIMALS

### NAROOMA

**Narooma RSL sub-Branch hosted its first war animal memorial service on War Animal Memorial Day, 24 February.**

Late last year, Yarrawarrah Public School Teacher Librarian Fay Prideaux reached out to the Narooma RSL sub-Branch – which has the only registered war animal memorial in NSW – offering purple poppies to adorn the memorial.

An idea grew – to have the memorial decorated with 2000 purple poppies, providing a

backdrop for a service dedicated for service animals on their gazetted memorial day.

As more than 60 people gathered at the memorial, sub-Branch President Paul Naylor spoke of Kuga, the first Australian Service Dog to be awarded the Dickin Medal – known as the VC for animals – in more than 70 years.

Kuga, in 2011, had been deployed with his handler to Afghanistan. While on a mission to locate a high-value Taliban target, the Belgian Malinois detected

**Above:** Narooma sub-Branch's war animal memorial, decorated with purple poppies, provides a backdrop for honouring service animals such as Kuga.

a threat to his unit, rushing ahead and drawing fire away.

Having been shot five times, Kuga returned to his handler – despite nine months of treatment, Kuga died the following year.

“I’m pretty proud of what Kuga did that day,” his handler ‘Sergeant J’ told ABC News in 2018. “He’s the one who chose to go forward, he’s the one who chose to take bullets for both me and my mates. Ultimately that enabled me to come home to my family.”

After remembering Kuga, Narooma RSL sub-Branch member Gilly Kearney read the poem ‘Animals of War’ by Santina Lizzio, and Professor of Veterinary Science Geraldine Hunt delivered a heartfelt address about the



Defence media

**Top left:** Australian Army special operations soldiers and military working dog 'Kuga' prepare for a Special Operations Task Group patrol in Afghanistan.



Defence media

**Left:** Cpl Donaldson VC and service dog 'Odin' prepare to accept the posthumously awarded PDSA Dickin Medal on behalf of Special Air Service Regiment military working dog 'Kuga'.



## ROCKDALE SUB-BRANCH MARKS 100 YEARS

### ROCKDALE & RAMSGATE

Rockdale RSL sub-Branch was granted its Charter on 18 January 1921, and recently recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Southern Metropolitan District President Gary Mawson presented a 100 Year Service Certificate

from RSL NSW to Rockdale sub-Branch President John Sutton.

Having reached this milestone, Rockdale sub-Branch then amalgamated with Ramsgate to become the Ramsgate-Rockdale RSL sub-Branch.

key role animals play, whether in theatres of war or not.

The Narooma Community choir added dignity and supported the event, Naylor said. "It's only fitting that as we have a memorial dedicated to our animals, we remember them on their day – 24 February. We will do this each year from now on."

Community groups – including the Narooma RSL sub-Branch, Eurobodalla WIRES, the Eurobodalla Animal Welfare League and Dog Obedience Club, Marine Rescue Narooma, Narooma QUOTA, Rotary, CWA, the Narooma Community Choir, and a strong contingent from Narooma High School and Carroll College Broulee – laid wreaths.

The Australian flag flew at half-mast on the day as a mark of respect.



## JOINING FORCES IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS

### CASINO & BONALBO

The Casino RSL sub-Branch Executive committee recently welcomed members of the Bonalbo RSL sub-Branch, which has become a Chapter attached to the Casino sub-Branch.



## MARKING 35 YEARS' SERVICE

### RAMSGATE & BRANXTON

CPO Cath Harvey presented fellow CPO Ron Palmer with a 'Thank you for your service quilt' to recognise his service of more than 30 years to the Royal Australian Navy.

Ron and Cath are serving members in the Navy, and hold committee positions at Ramsgate and Branxton

RSL sub-Branches respectively. They are both also involved in supporting many charities, including Aussie Hero Quilts (and laundry bags), which sends custom-made quilts and laundry bags to deployed members of the ADF, which is well received by members and supported by the ADF.

## OBITUARY: ATHOL PARTRIDGE

### BRANXTON

The Branxton RSL sub-Branch recently lost long-time member Mr Athol Partridge. Athol joined Branxton RSL sub-Branch on 28 February 1946 and has since made outstanding contributions to both the Branxton sub-Branch and RSL NSW. He held many positions, including five years as Vice-President and more than 20 years as President. Athol was awarded Life Membership on 13 February 1975 and the Meritorious Service Medal in November 1998 for service to the RSL.

## POET HONOURS VIETNAM VET BILL WILCOX

### OBERON

Oberon Vietnam veteran Bill Wilcox got a big surprise last month when he found out he would be featured in a book of poems.

Noel Hayes travelled to Oberon to launch his latest book *I Have A Dream*, which includes poems about some of the greatest speeches in history, and a special poem Noel wrote based on Bill's story of survival after a mine blast in Vietnam.

At the launch, Oberon sub-Branch secretary Neville Stapleton spoke of Bill's watch, which he was wearing when the mine hit and is now the centrepiece of the sub-Branch museum.

Noel explained that the process of building the museum has had an important outcome.

"Since opening the museum, it has given Bill an avenue to be able to talk about his experience in Vietnam," he said. "There are stories to be told in every nook and cranny, but none better than those told by Bill himself of his experiences in Vietnam."

Bill said those experiences in Vietnam had changed his life forever.



**Right:** Bill Wilcox (left) got a big surprise last month when he found out he would be featured in a book of poems by Noel Hayes.



SERVICING THE FUNERAL INDUSTRY FOR OVER 50 YEARS

Trevor Lee & Son is a proudly Australian owned family operated business offering a 24 hour, 7 day service in all suburbs.

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## How a bidet changed Our Lives

My husband became a paraplegic 17 years ago and it was something that changed our lives in more ways than you'd even begin to imagine.

The last thing he ever wanted was to be dependent on me instead of providing for our family. He was a great provider and the opportunity to give back to him in his time of need and adjustment was the least I could do. After three years of being his primary carer, as exhausting as it was, I was more concerned with his dignity and self-esteem. Around June 2016 I came across The Bidet Shop and decided to invest in their recommended health care bidet. The only thing that I did wrong was not looking in to it earlier.

I still have to remove my husband's clothes, but this is a small task after what we were enduring prior. We have

continued to use, trade in and upgrade our bidet with the support of The Bidet Shop.

I cannot speak highly enough about bidets; how they have assisted my husband in restoring some dignity as well as how the features have benefited our children and myself. With the warm seat in winter, the special ladies wash and enema wash all available with an easy to use remote. We all feel properly clean after our visits to the bathroom.

We highly recommend The Bidet Shop products to anyone wanting a fresh and clean experience and most definitely encourage you to install a bidet to assist with any care needs for yourself or your loved ones.

02 8039 4554

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With just the push of a button

...this Bidet will clean you with warm water and then dry you with a gentle stream of warm air. It simply replaces your existing toilet seat.



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- ✓ Warm air dryer
- ✓ Heated seat
- ✓ Ladies wash
- ✓ Soft closing lid
- ✓ Air injection

**The BIDET SHOP**

**FREE BIDET\***

\*Call now to see if you are eligible for funding.

02 8039 4554

# RSL Employment

Helping write your next chapter

The RSL Employment Program supports veterans and partners of current and former Defence members in their search for meaningful employment.

Funded by the Australian Government.



**FIND OUT MORE**  
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# YOUR AUXILIARY IN ACTION

STORY PAULINE JAMES, RSL NSW  
AUXILIARY STATE COORDINATOR

As 2021 progresses and the threat of COVID-19 eases, members of the Auxiliary have been getting back to what they do best – supporting sub-Branches to deliver services and support to veterans and their families.

Have you considered how the Auxiliary can support your sub-Branch? When I speak with members across the state, I see recurring themes. The most common is executives looking for administrative assistance and new ways to engage with the veteran community.

Auxiliary volunteers across the state assist with general sub-Branch administration as well as organising functions, arranging school visits, and providing wellbeing support to members.

Recently, ANZAC House called for volunteers to prepare tokens for the ANZAC Appeal in the Sydney CBD, and I

was humbled by the response. Over three days, 14 sub-Branch and Auxiliary members cut and packed 10,000 tokens.

This effort resulted in a saving of \$8,000, and those funds go directly to RSL DefenceCare.

As the Auxiliary is reinvigorating, new groups are forming. In Castle Hill in Sydney's north-west, an Auxiliary is now active after more than 20 years without a local presence.

The former Penshurst Auxiliary is still going strong and recently raised \$2,500 for RSL DefenceCare. This is testament to members of our communities wanting to be a part of RSL NSW.

As we emerge from a period of disruption, I encourage sub-Branches to reconnect with their Auxiliary and find new ways of collaborating to deliver on our charitable purpose – supporting veterans and their families. ■



+ Above: (L-R) Dedicated volunteers Margaret from Ingleburn Auxiliary, and Suzanne and Denise from Balmain-Rozelle Auxiliary were joined by members of the Bundeena, Canterbury-Hurlstone Park and Branxton Auxiliaries at ANZAC House.

# “LEST WE FORGET”

The Last Post remembers the service and bravery of those who have served our country.





## NAVY



**ARNOLD, L** S7279  
**CAMPBELL, N** B4240  
**CHAPMAN, B** R64820  
**DICKSON, J** R104230  
**DREYER, RF** R453351  
**EDGECOMBE, E** R44863  
**EDWARDS, A** R59564  
**ELLEY, RJ** 62188  
**FAUCHON, T** R52864  
**FOXON, L** R94204  
**HUBBARD, H** S10145  
**LISLE, A** R45606  
**MCLEOD, D** R53437  
**MEADOWS, I** R104540  
**MULLANEY, A,** R117354  
**NIVEN, A,** C/SSX860650  
**O'BRIEN, A** R58792  
**O'BRYAN, F** F37186  
**OLSSON, R** R45624  
**PACKANEN, G** R110024  
**PETERSON, L** R47241  
**PRYKE, R** 38307  
**ROBINSON, R** R50191  
**SMITH, L** R25237  
**THOMPSON, K** R28417  
**WALSH, R** S/9578  
**WELLBY, N** PA4883



## ARMY



**ALLEN, R** 2782369  
**BEGG, D** NX179831  
**BENNETTS, R** NX142191  
**BEST, E** TX15687  
**BEWLEY, A** NX165694  
**BOOTH, F** NX121633  
**BREUST, J** 2787221  
**BROOK, A** NX121133  
**BROWN, A** 3799345  
**BRUNES, K** 23632  
**BULL, R** NI57078  
**CABOT, V** NX190090  
**CARTWRIGHT, P** NX504880  
**CATTERALL, D** 6708424  
**CHANDLER, W** 3/1832  
**CHARLWOOD, B** 21758961  
**COYTE, M** 2790492  
**DEEP, M** NX207392  
**DIMECH, N** 3496/305  
**DITTON, R** 2787244  
**DONNELLY, J** A2791894  
**DRUETT, J** NF460850  
**DUNSTAN, J** 3/401166  
**EGAN, J** NX82845  
**EVERINGHAM, B** NX168934  
**FLINT, R** 17561  
**GARDNER, P** 2742572  
**GIBSON, R** 2787361  
**GLOVER, N** NX147289  
**GODLONTON, C** NX80093  
**GOLDING, P** VX56849  
**GRAHAM, D** NF450944  
**GRAHAM, N** NX4204  
**HALEY, P** NX53908  
**HANIGAN, D** 229952  
**HARTNETT, L** 216159  
**HILL, D** 2137529  
**HUNTER, G** NX204777  
**HYSLOP, L** NX192322  
**JENNINGS, C** NX175925

**JOHNSTON, D** 38286  
**KIBBY, G** NX18006  
**KIDD, G** NF446762  
**KIEM, R** NX106277  
**KIRKMAN, H** 2/2384  
**KIRKWOOD, R** N233099  
**LAURENCE, E** NX175388  
**LEE, C** 14499754  
**MARC LE MIERRE, J** 13905764  
**MARCHBANK, R** N465043  
**MURNAIN, J** 2709846  
**NEWTON, K** NX128163  
**PARLETT, J** 217364  
**PENNIE, J** NX204713  
**PICKERING, M** 2790841  
**PRICE, P** NX207820  
**READ, D** 243362  
**ROBERTSON, A** 416254  
**ROONEY, G** NX164082  
**ROSE, D** C1004  
**RYAN, J** NX113304  
**SMITH, G** 2704799  
**SPOWART, K** WX40676  
**SPROAT, J** SSX831913  
**SQUIRE, B** VF346760  
**STICKLEY, W** NX241064  
**SWEENEY, H** 24638  
**THOMPSON, P** 224981  
**TURNER, S** NX10445  
**VAN BAKEL, T** 16469  
**WALKER, G** 4721574  
**WALSH, K** NX164613  
**WANKLYN, D** I253063  
**WEBB, J** 2787205  
**WHEAR, D** 11855  
**WILLCOCKS, G** NX162459  
**WILLIAMS, W** NI69197  
**WILSON, V** NX500458



## RAAF



**BYRNE, C** 136782  
**CEENEY, R** 168005  
**CORBEN, H** 69917  
**CORNISH, W** 131646  
**CURREY, R** A22969  
**EDWARDS, B** 84085  
**FORBES, R** 161037  
**GRANT, A** A32125  
**GREEN, R** 71631  
**GULL, P** 164203  
**HAGAN, C** 72841  
**HARTMAN, R** 422178  
**HILL, E** 68655  
**JACKSON, E** 138108  
**JENSEN, P** 403592  
**JOYCE, A** 69604  
**LEWIS, J** A1362  
**MATTHEWS, A** 59998  
**MENDAY, R** 68665  
**MOORE, A** 167624  
**MORGAN, J** 445677  
**MOTT, R** 138013  
**POTTS, G** 450604  
**ROCHFORD, A** 443470  
**STEPHENS, R** R72520  
**STICKLEY, W** 443736  
**TOOHER, R** A26208  
**WEBER, P** 162538  
**WELS, N** 163569

*The information contained in the Last Post has been provided by DVA and RSL members.  
Where possible we have attempted to provide all service details. We regret any missing information.*



## **2021 INDIGENOUS VETERANS COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

**28 MAY 2021**

The service and sacrifice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans was remembered at the 2021 Indigenous Veterans Commemoration Service. The Service combined military protocol with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ceremonial practice including a smoking ceremony, and was delivered by Indigenous Elders alongside veterans and current serving ADF members. Students from 21 schools attended, with Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC Governor of New South Wales.

  
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INN



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**Easy-care, comfort fleece**

**Front pockets, knit cuffs and hem**

**Hoodie Sizes**

Medium	Large	XL	XXL	XXXL
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**Dynamic Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster images**



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