

May, 2020



AUXILIARY NEWS

Welcome to our first Newsletter in a very long time. Obviously a lot has changed since our last one.

As you already know Pauline James has been appointed as State Co-Ordinator for RSL NSW and I have been appointed Deputy Co-Ordinator, so we will always be available to help in any way possible.

We have a new email address: auxiliaries@rslnsw.org.au.

Phone numbers remain the same

Pauline: 0411 877 396

Sue: 0409 608 901

From 1st December, 2019 Central Council has been disbanded and on your behalf I would like to thank June Campbell, Pat Mortlock, Mavis Goodlad and Margaret Jarosz for their contribution over many years as Councillors and to all former Councillors and Executives.

By now you will have your Co-ordinators and Deputy Co-ordinators in place, if you haven't already done so could you please email their names and contact details to auxiliaries@rslnsw.org.au. It is important that we have this information.

Many of the Auxiliaries I have spoken to recently are delighted that they no longer have the problem paperwork, which is now being dealt with by your sub Branch. However there is one form you will need and that's the New Membership Form. This is available on your new web page (I will talk about the page later)

The form has had a makeover, basically all we need now is the person's name, contact details, date of birth and signature. No nominees/references etc.

There is a provision for your sub Branch to accept or reject the application.

All fees, annual and joining are now set by your sub Branch and monies are retained by them. Cost of Membership badges remain at \$6. Unfortunately however, due to current circumstances we are not in a position to process requests at this time, we will let you know once the office is back fully operational and you can request any of the badges.

We are absolutely delighted to advise that three new Auxiliaries have been set up, so welcome to Aberdeen, Cumberland and Wauhope, we are so pleased to have you as part of the Auxiliary family and we look forward to many more opening,

Over the last several years it is wonderful how we have all been able to come together no matter where in the state we are , what you have all achieved has been phenomenal and we want this to continue. Though we haven't been able to be active for awhile, firstly with the suspension and now with the coronavirus, it hasn't stopped Pauline having ideas for future projects, so communication is very important and once the restrictions are lifted regular Newsletters and emails will recommence.

With future Newsletters we really want your involvement, letting each other know how things are going with your Auxiliary and what you are all up to.

I apologise to everyone where we couldn't include items from last year, I had to cull the original draft of this Newsletter, if I hadn't it would have exceeded 100 pages.

All of our members are special and though it is impossible to contact each and every one we would like to know if there is any issues, someone has a special Birthday, or are not well and most importantly we will be keeping the Garden of Remembrance going. We want to recognise these remarkable people and the contribution they made.

Over the past few months we have been dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. We have seen our daily lives impacted with people losing their lives and others becoming seriously ill. Our lives have turned upside down very quickly, I find it amazing how people have accepted and adopted to the new way of life, though the isolation has been very hard and my heart goes out to everyone who has not been able to spend time with their family and friends.

So how have you been spending your time? personally I've been making cards which is a love of mine. I've actually done some cooking which is a great shock to most people, especially my husband who does most of the cooking here. We'd love to hear from you, maybe you could share your favourite recipe, and any craft items you have done.

I know a number of our members have been making face masks, Christine Frame, Deputy Coordinator of Ingleburn RSL Auxiliary has made Poppy inspired face masks. Chris along with Mrs June Young OAM, Coordinator of Fairfield RSL Auxiliary, have made head bands for staff at Liverpool Hospital.



If anyone would like to know how to make these masks, here is the Youtube link <https://sarahmaker.com/how-to-sew-a-surgical-face-mask-for-hospitals-free-pattern/>

For any of you who are on Facebook and like crafty things , Heicke Keefe has set up RSL Auxiliaries Craft Group, we'd love you to join and participate, it should be great fun.

Not only will this showcase everyone's talents, Heicke has already posted a video showing how she made the item, a great way to learn from each other and keep in touch.

Back to our web page, <https://www.rslnsw.org.au/get-involved/rsl-auxiliaries/> the basic ² information is there, together with a list of our current Auxiliaries, we would however like to

Some more information up onto it. This is an amazing organisation, which has done some amazing work over many, many years and this work should be recorded for historical purposes. So please have a look through your records, let us acknowledge the people who have gone before us and also the history that we are going to make in the future.

If you have any photographs new and old, any information and we will add this to what we already have which sadly is not much.

Recently, we have been contacted by a couple of people who are doing their Family Trees and are looking for information on the work their family member has done for Auxiliaries.

Earlier I mentioned the Membership Badge for new members, we are not going to be changing badge for anyone who was a member prior to May, 2018, we are aware of how members feel about the badge they received when they joined and we respect that. Anyone wanting a new badge, the cost is \$6 and your sub Branch can request one from RSL NSW.

Under new procedure, we will no longer have the Bars and Star, however we do have some in the office and if anyone who was eligible would like one, then again the cost is \$6, however only while stocks last.

REMINDER ; Unfortunately however, due to current circumstances we are not in a position to process requests at this time, we will let you know once the office is back fully operational and you can request any of the badges.



Life Memberships remain, An Auxiliary life member form (which can be obtained from the sub-Branch) will need to be completed and signed by the RSL Auxiliary Coordinator, detailing where the Auxiliary Member has met the eligibility criteria before the application progresses to the sub-Branch.

Life Membership is the highest honour which can be bestowed on an Ordinary Member of an Auxiliary and therefore and submissions should not be taken lightly.

All applications for Auxiliary Member honours and awards must be endorsed and submitted through the sub Branch or the RSL Auxiliary Coordinator to RSL NSW for approval.

The nominee must have had at least fifteen (15) years of continuous service as a member of an Auxiliary, ten (10) years of which are considered to be outstanding , honorary service work to be considered has to be associated with RSL work and Charities only. In country areas, some recognised charities [not RSL exclusively] may be considered. Service rendered as Patron or paid Auditor is not considered as qualifying service for the award nor are services rendered to a Registered Club or to local Schools, Churches, Surf Clubs, Scouts etc. are considered.

No member can nominate themselves

We are only able to award a certain amount of Life Memberships in any one year. The number available calculated on a ratio of the number of members to the number of Auxiliaries, sadly as Auxiliaries close, the number of Life Membership also decrease, currently we are only able to award 9 in any one year, therefore it is imperative that the Nomination Form is completed correctly and fully, so that an appropriate decision can be made.

Life Memberships applications will be considered by the Board, three times a year.

29th January,

31st May,

31st August

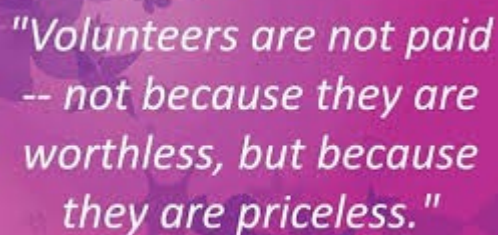
The Lady Woodward Cup competition will continue to be held annually as a fundraising competition between RSL Auxiliaries. Entry forms and criteria will be circulated to RSL Auxiliaries each year with the winning Auxiliary being presented with the Cup at Annual Congress.

Please contribute to the Newsletters, we won't be posting them out in the future, they will be sent via email, we are also sending them to sub Branches so that Auxiliaries who don't have computer access won't miss out. If any of your members would like a copy emailed directly to them please let me have their details.

I may be very slow but I only found out last week that Bunning don't only do Sausage Sizzles for fundraising, they also have Cake Stalls, something that was stopped in my old area many years ago, so once the restrictions are lifted, this is something we could look at for future fundraising, who doesn't love an Auxiliary Cake Stall.

Sadly due to Covid19, this years Invictus Games had to be postponed, many of our members have sent poppies they have made, to go to the games. Thank you so much, you are all amazing, we will hold on to the poppies and they will certainly be going with the team to the games when they are rescheduled.

One final things, 18th May –24th May, 2020 was National Volunteer Week and we would like to thank and congratulate all of you, your work is invaluable.



*"Volunteers are not paid
-- not because they are
worthless, but because
they are priceless."*

No one knows how long these restrictions will be in place, but stay safe, keep in touch with each other and we'll get through this together.

Sue

OUR NEW PATRON

As you are aware, in December, 2018 it was announced that the NSW Governor David Hurley, AC, DSC, FTSE was named as the next Governor General of Australia and was sworn in 1st July 2019.

For five years we were privileged to have Governor Hurley's wife Linda as our Patron, a role that she gave herself wholeheartedly, we owe her a great deal of thanks for her work and support, and wish them both every good wish in this next stage of their lives. Australia is a very lucky country have the Hurley's as our first family.

On 2nd May, 2019 Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC was sworn in as the 39th Governor of New South Wales, we are delighted to welcome her husband Dennis Wilson who has agreed to be our new Patron.

Mr Wilson is a barrister, mediator, and accredited international arbitrator, whose work generally includes difficult cases in both fact and law, dealing in matters of high value or involving significant principle.

He is a long-standing member of the legal profession in Australia and has advised on legislative review and policy development and implementation in environmental law and in the mining and resources sectors. Mr Wilson has a particular interest in the World Trade Organisation, the Energy Charter Treaty, Mining and Oil and Gas law and dispute resolution.

Mr Wilson, is an Adjunct Professor of Law, at Notre Dame University, Sydney

RSL NSW Sub Branch Auxiliaries was the first patronage Mr Wilson accepted and he very happy working with us and helping in our work.



We were delighted in September, 2019 when Mr Wilson and his wife Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales hosted an Afternoon Tea at Government House to honour our Auxiliaries.

Three new members took the Pledge and received their badges at the function.





In 2015, Auxiliary member, Mrs June Young OAM and her husband Mr Ken Young OAM took the "Gallipoli Quilt" with them on a cruise from Albany WA to Gallipoli, this cruise re-enacted the journey of our first ANZACS to play a significant and moving role on Anzac Day where it was spread across the graves of Australian soldiers at Lone Pine.

In 2016 thanks to Gary Lucas and his wife, the "Going Down of the Sun Quilt" went with them on a tour of the Western Front Battlefields and it was displayed at the Menin Gate, Tyne Cot, Villers-Bretonneaux and Fromelles Memorials

To mark the centenary of the signing of the Armistice and in honour of all who fought and served in the First World War, the Parliament of New South Wales held an exhibition late 2018-early 2019 The Anzac Legacy in NSW: Then and Now. These two quilts were hung in the exhibition the "Gallipoli Quilt" and the "Going Down of the Sun Quilt" both of these quilts were presented to The ANZAC Memorial 27th September, 2019.



ANZAC DAY 2020

We all know how important Anzac Day is and when we were told that we couldn't have Anzac Day this year, who could imagine how things would turn out, I have to say I found it so emotional, to say the Aussie spirit kicked in an understatement. What an amazing day it turned out to be. We made the news around the world. All being well we will be able to have a normal Anzac day next year but I hope that people will keep some of these new traditions going.



BETTY LOU WILLIS OAM

Sadly, on the 6th of March 2020 Mrs Betty-Lou Reading Willis OAM passed away at the age of 101 years at the War Veterans Home Narrabeen. Betty-Lou had been the President of the Central Council of Women's Auxiliaries for over 22 years and retired from that role in 2006. Betty-Lou served our Auxiliaries with pride and dignity. On behalf of NSW RSL Auxiliaries, we extended our deepest sympathy to her family.



Pauline & Ray visited Betty Lou last year.

Betty Lou's funeral was held at the War Vets Chapel at RSL Life Care, 4 Colooli Rd, Narrabeen on Wednesday 11th March, 2020 at 10am

Betty's family allowed us to have a photo of her casket, I have never seen one like it, it's amazing.

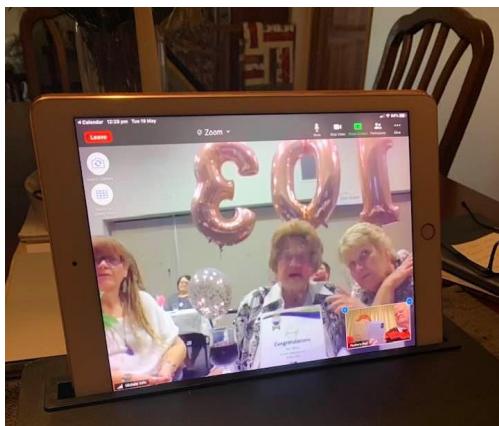


IRIS TERRY

You may remember in a previous Newsletter we did a story on Iris Terry, Iris, we think is our oldest Auxiliary member. On the 19th May, 2020 Iris celebrated her 103rd Birthday.



Our current lockdown didn't stop Iris celebrating , thanks to technology Fairfield Council arranged a Zoom Party. If you are on Facebook you can see the video of the party, use this link <https://www.facebook.com/FC.FrankCarbone/videos/267409467715483/UzpfSTIxOTczMzU5NDc5MzgxOToyNTEzNzcwMTQ1MzkwMTQx/>



Iris is a member of Fairfield RSL Auxiliary

In November last year, Iris took to the stage at Fairfield RSL sub-Branch's fundraising rock and roll lunch to dance to 'Shake, Rattle and Roll', popularised by Bill Haley & His Comets in 1955, when Iris was 38.

From all of us HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOVELY LADY

Quilts presented to Governor General of Australia

Prior to his retirement as Governor-General in 2019, Pauline handed over two Quilts General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC and his wife Lady Cosgrove at Yarralumla. These quilts were made by hard working volunteers and were each placed into a handmade laundry bag. The quilts were warmly received by Sir Peter, who spoke about the Invictus Games and thanked Pauline for organising the project to make quilts, laundry bags and yellow poppies for the teams, athletes and families.

One quilt will remain at Government House in the guest room for visiting VIPs. The other quilt and laundry bags went to the Cosgrove family home upon his retirement.



His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

RSL Invictus Quilts

The Sydney Invictus Games were an enormous success. They showcased the very best of the human spirit and the determination to overcome adversity and compete to the highest standard possible. For all involved, the Games, the competition and camaraderie will be long remembered.

There was of course another aspect to the Games, and that was the overwhelming generosity of the many people who opened their hearts and made the teams and competitors feel so welcome and so at ease.

The laundry bags and quilts, so lovingly and meticulously crafted by the ladies of the RSL Auxiliaries, personified that spirit. I am sure they have become treasured gifts for all who participated.

Thank you, Pauline, and to everyone involved for bringing such a special idea to life and extending the hand of friendship to our Invictus visitors. Our quilt will always remind us of the Games and your enthusiasm to contribute in such a wonderful way.

We have since received this letter form the former Governor General, General Sir Peter John Cosgrove, AK, MC, we have been told that this was the last official correspondence signed by him before he retired and also, in his term he had never actually mentioned anyone personally, so everyone involved in the Invictus Games Project should be very proud.

AROUND THE AUXILIARIES

TORONTO AUXILIARY

awarded 50 year badges



Congratulations, Shirly Klepzig,
Claire Gardiner & Daphne Thomas

MAROUBRA AUXILIARY celebrating 90 wonderful years



LEETON

Leeton RSL sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary member, Heather Whittaker, was recently the recipient of Life Membership to the RSL Australia Women's Auxiliaries. This unassuming, very community minded WWII veteran, now in her 92nd year, has diligently served the needs not only of the Women's Auxiliary for over 40 years but

also of the RSL sub-Branch where she received Life Membership in the past. Her service to the community also encompasses devotion to Murrumbidgee CWA, Legacy, War Widows, St Peter's Anglican Church and the community. Heather was also awarded Leeton Shire Lifelong Citizen at recent Australia Day celebrations.

Karleen Reilly

MUDGEE

On 16 December, Elsie Atkins, treasurer of the Mudgee RSL Women's Auxiliary, was presented with her Life Membership certificate and badge by Mudgee sub-Branch President Geoff Robinson. Elsie is a highly valued and respected member of the Auxiliary and has worked tirelessly since joining in 1996. She has been treasurer almost since the beginning and also acted as secretary for a while.

Jackie Perring





Mrs Betty Peters receiving her Life Membership of the RSL Auxiliary surrounded by fellow Dubbo RSL Auxiliary members



Mrs Lena Whitney receiving her Life Membership of the RSL Auxiliary from Pauline and Mr Greg Salmon MM, outgoing President of Western District Council of sub-Branches.

Mrs Beverley Black of Seven Hills – Toongabbie – Wentworthville RSL Auxiliary recently received a Life Membership for her long and dedicated hard work to her Auxiliary and the sub-Branch.



GLADESVILLE President Enid Haslop with Ida Clarke (taken 4th March, 2019)

Ida is a former member of Gladesville Auxiliary which she joined in June, 1991, just a few years after moving to Australia from New Zealand.

Ida is still much loved by all who know her. At the age of 94, she moved back to New Zealand to live with her daughter Judy, where she is a happy and healthy 96 years old. Well all miss her. Enid Haslop President Gladesville Auxiliary.

From Janet Dawson President -SAWTELL

Mrs Elgwen Herdegen Sawtell, NSW 2452

Gwen, as she is usually known by, was born in Armidale on the 19th June, 1920.

Whilst visiting her husband, Cecil, in Concord Hospital where he was being treated for injuries sustained during WW2.

She met a critically injured Digger (he had lost both arms and legs) and she was so impressed by his cheerfulness and lack of self pity that she decided to devote her life to the care of others, especially our ex servicemen and women.

She has served as a member since 1951 and over the years has assisted in raising a considerable amount of funds for this Welfare and Benevolent Institution.

She is currently serving as an elected Vice President of the Women's Auxiliary at the Sawtell Sub Branch of the Returned Service League of Australia and has been since 2002. She has held a number of executive positions over the past 68 years. This is a wonderful example of commitment to the aims and practices of the Women's Auxiliary movement.

Her achievements, service dedication and contributions have been recognized with many awards.

Her awards are as listed below:

- Woman's Auxiliary Life Membership Feb, 1976
- Special Award from the NSW Sub-Branch Merit Badge for 50 years Service as well as a certificate from the Sawtell RSL Sub-Branch in 2001
- Sawtellian of the Year Award 2011
- Awarded Central Council of Women's Auxiliary Appreciation of 50 years Service Certificate 2017
- Order of Australia Medal 2018
- Gwen still regularly attends and contributes her knowledge to the monthly Women's Auxiliary meetings.

Gwen is truly an outstanding member to the Women's Auxiliary and Community. A remarkable lady whom is still going strong, and her belief is "**Bring on my 100th year she says!**"



We love hearing from you and we have a great letter from Heather Connell from Bellingham. I hope you don't mind that I have scanned this Helen, but your writing is better than my typing.

Dear Sue, Honorary Secretary,

Mrs James told me to write about my trip in May to be put in the Newsletter

I had a wonderful week from 23rd May to 30th. Travelled on the daylight train from Mungah to Sydney first time on a train for nearly 20 years. The staff at Central Station were very helpful to me to catch the train to Leumeah where my school friend in years 1942 to 1947 picked me up. We went to Primary School in Campbelltown. She lives in Campbelltown, wasn't very well so after breakfast went back to bed, I went for a walk, I went down the street near the Public School, decided to walk in to check how it was now. Staff noticed me, said "What are you doing in here" I said I went to school here 1942 to 1947, they said "Come in you are just the person we need". The librarian took me in and brought out photos of classes to see if I could identify some, just talking about the years I told her we used to run when a certain bell rang and hide in the underground shelter in case of bombing, she said "You are the only person who has mentioned that" ~~Where~~ where it was is now cemented over. After we talked for a while she photocopied several classes for me to take home to my friends to put names to faces. We had a great time for about 4 hours talking about the things each of us had done how our teachers taught us differently, like when we learnt geography in songs and we can still remember them.

On Sunday 25th May I took the train to
Central again the Station staff were great as I
was going to the St Andrews Cathedral Service
to celebrate Bush Church Aid 100th Anniversary -
a really great service and being able to catch
up with people that my husband and I had met
on tours throughout Australia. Back on the train
to Campbelltown with all the Units everywhere
now. Another wonderful happen^{ing} was meeting
with a young man who was 2 yrs old in 1953
when I worked for his parents for 3 mths.

Next Day I caught the train to Central to go
to a friends at Basingbakh again the Staff helped
me to catch the right train.

This friend took me for many drives around
these suburbs where I had never been before.
also she took me on a ferry trip from Cronulla
to Bundeena and back, a very interesting trip
as she told me where different places had been
along the coastlines in the Bay.

We had met on a trip to New Zealand in 1983
Her daughters took us out to a restaurant over
the Bay from Kingford Smith Airport where I
could see the planes coming in and going out
with all their lights flashing.

Then home again on the train marvellous being
able to see the differences as we travel.

A real memorial trip of a lifetime.

Yours sincerely
Heather Bonnell

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE QUILT

Five more beautiful quilts have been presented, the first one to Chief Petty Officer Cath Harvey, who is an amazing lady, I asked her to give me some information about herself and I am not going to edit what I received.

"I joined the Navy on 14 February 1994, as a Writer (now Maritime Logistics – Personnel), so my core roles are secretariat, human resource management and in the past pay and accounts.

I have served on ships HMAS *Darwin* (twice), *Manoora*, *Ballarat*, *Stuart* and *Canberra* (LHD). Land establishments – HMAS *Cerberus*, *Penguin*, *Harman*, *Kuttabul* including roles at Russell Offices (Canberra) and Fleet Headquarters in Sydney.

I have done 2 tours of Afghanistan in 2015 and 2017 and hope to go back in 2020. I have deployed on Ships to New Zealand, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sth Korea, Japan, India, Tonga, Spain, Italy, England, Canada, USA (Baltimore, New York, Norfolk, San Diego, Hawaii) and Trinidad and Tobago.

I joined Branxton RSL in 2007 and took up my first role on the Executive in 2009 as Honorary Treasurer – since that time I have been Treasurer, President, Trustee, Delegate for HVDC, Delegate for State Congress – I am currently Treasurer, Trustee Branxton RSL Sub Branch and Delegate for HVDC.

I am actually a quilter and got into quilting because I quilt for Aussie Hero Quilts. When I heard that the Woman's Auxiliary (at the time) were making Quilts for the Invictus Countries, I was home on leave from Afghanistan for 2 weeks and I ask Pauline (the first time I had met her) if I could make the quilt for the Afghan Team. As many of your ladies (and maybe gents) may know I did make the quilt for the Afghan team, what you may not know is the Afghan Flag that I incorporated into the quilt I had had embroidered for Aussie Hero Quilts in Afghanistan in 2015 where I had 60 done and they were more than happy to give me one for the project.

Since that time I have spent some time with the ladies taking to them about care packages which I believe has been a great success and I have to say I talk to Pauline all the time both from and RSL prospective as well as a Serving prospective – she kinda gets me being a navy wife! LOL!!

I can not tell you Sue what an honour it was or how humbling - not only receiving that beautiful quilt but also being the first serving female to receive a 'Thank you for your Service' quilt – as you will well know I volunteered for my Service and I get paid well to do what I do, I love it and I have always felt honoured to serve my Queen and Country, for me that is enough – getting recognition from the public is as I said really humbling.

I am also going to email you a photo with the quilt on my bed and what is really exciting is that I have going for a ride in a red vintage Triumph Herald Convertible on Sunday for a vintage car rally and I will be taking it to keep warm so I will send a photo of that as well!!





Our second quilt was presented to Greg Salmon MM



Gregory Donald SALMON. Enlisted on 7th February 1967 and discharged on the 22nd February 1969. During his military service he was posted to the RA Inf. He toured South Vietnam with 9 RAR. Whilst in South Vietnam he was awarded the "Military Medal"

Greg is the first Vietnam Veteran to receive a quilt.

Greg joined the RSL NSW through the North Sydney Sub Branch on the 8th February 1970.

On the 20th May 1986 he was awarded life membership.

In January 1990 he transferred as an associate member to Dubbo Sub Branch

1994 he became a committee member at Dubbo a position he holds to this date.

1997 he was elected to the position of Vice President a position he held until he was elected to President in 2002

2002 until 2009 he remained President until he stood down to take on the position of Western District Councillor.

Mr Brian Boughton CSC, OAM, District Council President for the Hunter Valley, the Vice President of East Maitland RSL sub-Branch and the Chief Marshall of the ANZAC Day March Sydney, receiving a Thank For Your Service Quilt.

Mr Boughton was born and raised in Telarah and joined the regular army on the April 16, 1968 at the age of 17. He subsequently served in Vietnam from 1969-70 with 5/7 RAR.

In 1991 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division of the Australian Honours list for service as RSM 5/7 RAR. He was appointed RSM Army in 2001 and was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) in January 2004 for Service in the role of RSM Army.



The President of Cumberland RSL sub-Branch, Mr Greg Read SC, who has been a great supporter of the RSL Auxiliaries was given a *Thank you for your Service* quilt. Greg was the first Navy Vietnam Veteran to be given one of these quilts.

Doug Read is the first Army Vietnam veteran to be awarded a Thank You For Your Service Quilt, due to the current situation, we were unable to get a quilt to him, however his brother Greg who was the first Navy Vietnam Veteran to receive a quilt asked Pauline if he could give his to his brother Doug, who sadly is very ill at this time. A wonderful example of brotherly love. We were able to get Doug's certificate out .



A huge thank you to Kaye brown and The Camden Country Quilters who have partnered ²⁰ with RSL NSW Auxiliaries to produce these quilts for those who have returned from active service. If you think someone in your sub-Branch should be given one then please contact

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE



ESLIE MAUDE HALE - BONALBO

We are saddened by the passing of our much loved Life Member Mrs Elsie Maude Hale on 29 November 2019 aged 103 years.

Elsie Maud Hale was born on the 9th November 1915, one of three daughters of Tom & Maud McCooey. Elsie was reared at Ramornie station near Copmanhurst; (Note: Ramornie Station, one of the most famous properties on the Clarence River, Grafton was home to the first thoroughbreds imported to the region for racing and breeding in the mid 1800s) lived at Baryugil during her first marriage from which she had 3 girls.

Elsie married the love of her life Tom Hale and shortly after moved to Bonalbo in 1953 where she had 2 daughters and 1 son.

Elsie joined the Bonalbo sub-branch of the Women's Auxiliary RSL of Australia on 15 January 1955 and her membership was *continuous* and *outstanding* for 53 years.

Elsie was elected President in 1973, a position she held *continuously* with *pride* for *thirty three* years.

Mrs Hale, was a staunch member of the auxiliary, always happiest doing voluntary work wherever and whenever she possibly could until illness prevented her from doing this. Her later years were spent in Grafton.

She was well respected and liked by her fellow auxiliary members.

She will be sadly missed by us all.

JOAN TART—BONALBO

Mrs Joan Tart joined the Bonalbo RSL Auxiliary in 1996 Badge Number 49432. Joan was our Treasurer for many years and did a great job, she also assisted her husband who was Treasurer for the sub branch. Joan resigned from this position on 15 September 2012, she felt that the younger members should step up and felt 16 years was enough. Joan was well liked by our members and helped out at street stalls with her fruit cakes. Sadly Joan passed away in January this year. She will be missed and remembered by our group.

MARGARET BLAKE - PORT MACQUARIE

Margaret has only been with us since early 2017 but quickly became a committed member attending most of our meetings & outings. Margaret was President of the Port War Widows League & was a very popular President

BETTY HARRIS—PORT MACQUARIE

Betty a life member. Unfortunately she been sick for some time.

BARBARA CLARK—PORT MACQUARIE

Barbara was the wife of The Sub-Branch Treasurer Colin Clark. his wife Barbara passed away due to ill health Barb. Barb hasn't been active for sometime.

Our condolences to all their families.

ENDA DANIELS –KNOWN AS DANNY—TOUKLEY

Danny joined the Auxiliary at Doyalson/Wyee in 1982. From 1983 to 1994 she held the position of Treasurer.

After her husband Ken passed away, she moved to Toukley and transferred to that Auxiliary, where she held the positions of Secretary and Treasurer.

In 2018 Dany suffered a stroke and moved to be close to her granddaughter in Cessnock.

Danny passed away 8th June, 2019



EDNA MACK - COONABARABRAN

It is with regret Coonabarabran RSL Auxiliary advise the death of one of our dearest and long serving member/secretary and dear friend Edna aged 79yrs.

Edna joined our Auxiliary in 1989 and was a great supporter, devoting her life to our Auxiliary and becoming secretary in 1992. Edna's many years of assistance to the RSL is to be commended.

Coonabarabran Acting Secretary

Cath Frawley

JOYCE LAWLER—PENSURST AUXILIARY

Joyce Lawler was born in Caledonia St., Bexley, attended Bexley Public school and then Kogarah Demonstration School until she was 14 when she went to work at Ways Haberdashery in the City of Sydney. She married in 1941 and then the happy couple built their home for life in Grove Ave. Penshurst.in 1946 where she raised her children and helped raise her grandchildren. Joyce became a member of the Penshurst Auxiliary in 1966 and remained active as Vice President and in charge of the indoor bowling until her last weeks.

These are some of the facts of Joyce Lawler's' life but not her essence. She was an amazing woman who had put in a lot of hard work over her 52years with the RSLNSW Auxiliary (Women's Auxiliary) receiving her 50 year badge from Mrs Pauline James, President of RSLNSW Auxiliary. Joyce was quite "chuffed" to have received her well-earned badge. She was the only life member at Penshurst Auxiliary to receive the accolade, we were all very happy for her and proud of her achievement.



Joyce Lawler receiving her 50 year badge and citation from RSL Auxiliary President Pauline James – 2017.

Although Joyce loved her musicals she had a dry sense of humour. One moment that brought that clearly into view was the introduction of a 'birthday cake' after the Auxiliary meetings. Joyce sat there with her arms folded, straight faced and uttered, "Cake! Cake! We never got a cracker with the old mob!" The room broke out in laughter and she calmly said, "Well, it's true". Needless to say she enjoyed the cakes.

We all remember Joyce Lawler in our own way and have our own special memories. I have included a few of the memories from some of our Auxiliary members to help demonstrate what a wonderful woman Joyce Lawler was and how she will always be remembered.

Joyce Lawler at her birthday celebration held with her Auxiliary colleagues – 2017.



JOYCES' ANECDOTES

I have only known Joyce for a few years and my first introduction took me by surprise as the only other Joyce I have ever met was my Mum.

When Joyce greeted me at my first Women's Auxiliary meeting as a new member, Joyce gave me a smile, a kiss and made me feel that I was truly welcome.....I thought that's what my Mum Joyce would have done..... Must be something special about that name..... Joyce.... so instantly I felt a strong connection and always regarded Joyce as a special warm and caring lady whom I was lucky enough to call my friend.

Joyce will be missed but always remembered because she was so special to everyone.

Edvina Auxiliary member

Joyce was unique with a quirky sense of humour. She was a strong and independent woman, sometimes referred to as stubborn by some, however I admired her for it. She reminded me of my Nan.

Joyce and I had some epic conversations. She would crack me up with her one liners, even during her short time in the nursing home her sense of humour flowed. I spent time with her on the Friday before her passing (one of her better days) and her one liners and comments had me in tears of laughter.

Joyce will remain in my head and heart ALWAYS.

Therese Gardner Treasurer Penshurst RSLNSW Auxiliary

For the short time I had known Joyce, I found her to be a remarkable person, straight forward , honest & kind hearted, I will miss her. - Cheryl Auxiliary member.

I have met many people throughout my life and was privileged to meet Joyce Lawler many years ago. Over the years we became close friends, I admired Joyce for the Lady she was and miss her company very much. Missing you Joyce. - Marlene Auxiliary member.



Joyce Lawler deceased 4th February, 2019. Lest we forget.

Norma Doreen (Dawn) Rash OAM

Former Central & Eastern Metropolitan Councillor RSL Women's Auxiliaries, 70 years of voluntary service.

RSL Auxiliaries and Sub Branches were saddened to hear of the death of Dawn on 26th May 2019.

Dawn held the position of State Councillor from 1970 until she moved to Ulladulla in 1989, she transferred to the Milton/Ulladulla RSL Women's Auxiliary holding the position of Secretary and then President until the Auxiliary closed.

Dawn joined Rose Bay RSL Women's Auxiliary in 1947, transferred to Bondi Junction RSL Women's Auxiliary in 1970. she was the co-ordinator for RSL Sunday at Concord Repatriation Hospital (as it was known then), organised visits to Rozelle Psychiatric Hospital

Dawn was a member and Councillor to RSL Youth Clubs, co-ordinated and delivered Meals on Wheels for 48 years (including Ulladulla), fund raised for RSL days, such as ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, catering etc. and attended many RSL Women's Auxiliary events.

Dawn holds:

The Order of Australia

RSL Merit Certificate

Life Membership Bondi Junction/Waverley RSL Women's Auxiliary

Life Membership RSL Youth Council

Certificate of Appreciation RSL State Branch

Certificate of Appreciation from South Sydney Council Meals on Wheels

Premier's Award for her community work.

To Dawn's family, our deepest sympathies

Thelma Crawley