



RSL NSW AUXILIARY NEWS

September, 2022



VALE
HER MAJESTY
QUEEN
ELIZABETH II

On behalf of all members, RSL NSW extends its deepest sympathies to all members of the Royal family, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who has passed away at the age of 96.

We thank Her Majesty's unwavering support as Patron of the RSL for a lifetime of public duty to the Crown, the Commonwealth, and to millions of people across the globe.

Rest In Peace.

Running a bit late this month, but for a good reason, we decided to wait until after the Auxiliary Workshop.

Unfortunately, only 20 Auxiliaries out of the 93 in NSW were represented at the Workshop we are hopeful that all Auxiliaries will take time to watch the recording.



Pauline James OAM – Address to RSL Auxiliary Members – 07 September 2022 at Hyde Park Memorial

Good morning all. Thank you for those who have attended in person here today and also to those that have joined us online.

Today I am joining you from Gadigal Country. I would like to acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of this land and pay my respects to the Elders' past, present, and emerging.

I would like to acknowledge the recent loss of Mrs Thelma Crawley OAM who was State President of the Central Council of Women's Auxiliaries. We also should remember all Auxiliary members who have sadly passed away who had been part of our organisation for a long time. They will all be sadly missed.

I want to thank everyone here today for their ongoing support and contribution to supporting veterans and their families across NSW. Your devotion to fundraising is valued by RSL NSW and simply couldn't do the work that it does without you.

Donations such as the \$3.1 million that was presented to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services, formerly DefenceCare, would not be possible without the fundraising that Auxiliary members undertake in their communities. Your contribution to this state-wide donation means that veterans and their families across NSW can access critical services such as financial and homelessness support, DVA claims and advocacy support, employment assistance and more. It also helps RSL NSW to promote who we are and what we do; often confused with clubs, alcohol and gambling.

For the first time in the history of the RSL Auxiliaries we are members of RSL NSW. We opened up our membership to include male members some time ago, so it's time for Auxiliaries and sub-Branches to drop the use of the term "ladies" and "womens" Auxiliary to ensure that everyone feels welcome to join us.

The RSL Auxiliary was established as the fundraising arm of the RSL. We have a long and proud history of raising money for veterans and their families. Whilst the COVID pandemic impacted our ability to fundraise for the ANZAC Appeal and Poppy Appeals, our members developed new ways of fundraising such as making 'Poppy Masks' which can be purchased here at the Hyde Park Memorial and also the various quilt and laundry bag projects. Our Auxiliary members are always looking for new opportunities to fundraise I encourage all of you to be involved and share ideas.

It's important to start thinking about succession planning and what you can do to attract new Auxiliary members. None of us are going to be here forever and it would be sad to watch the Auxiliary disappear because we haven't evolved and become something that family and friends of the sub-Branch, and the wider veteran community, want to be a part of.

The Auxiliary was not established to be a social club nor was it meant to be focussed on just holding meetings; it was about getting together and arranging rosters and ideas to fundraise in local communities. However, as the Auxiliaries have evolved, we have become a social group and special friendships have been made, which is so important to promote to potential new members.

I hear too often that Auxiliary coordinators are doing the lion's share of the work and that their work is becoming difficult to juggle on top of other responsibilities. Attracting and retaining volunteers these days is difficult enough so I don't want our valued members to feel overwhelmed with their volunteer responsibilities. It's important that we all rally around one another and share the workload and be a part of the decision-making process. People want to help, just ask and encourage them to put their hand up, share ideas and contribute to conversations about fundraising and other activities.

We have amazing volunteers and we need to harness that spirit of volunteerism. Only a few years ago our Auxiliaries raised almost \$ 1 million dollars. Recent years have been far less. Even if your Auxiliary is attached to a large Sub-Branch that has large assets we should still be raising money. For our sole purpose is to fundraise, and if we are not fundraising then we are not fulfilling our purpose.

Beyond fundraising, I thank Auxiliary members for supporting veterans in their community by visiting them at home or in hospital, and supporting their sub-Branch with administrative tasks. These are all great ways of supporting your sub-Branch Executives and Welfare Officers and I encourage everyone to explore these opportunities at a local level, if you're looking at different ways that your Auxiliary can support local veterans and their families. Don't forget, this type of activity contributes to your Lady Woodward Cup nominations.

I know that communications to Auxiliary members have been fractured and I want to reassure you all that Sue and I are working with the team at ANZAC House to ensure that information is reaching you. Sue and I prepare and distribute a monthly newsletter which is receiving great feedback and NSW Auxiliary Facebook page is a good bulletin board to keep abreast of what is happening everywhere – with suggestions and news, plus inspiring stories. If you're not receiving the newsletter or following the Auxiliary or RSL NSW social media channels, I would encourage you to talk to Sue and I about this.

The sheer size of NSW will always present challenges for us to convene face-to-face and I know how important this is to come together, share ideas, and socialise. If nothing else, the good thing to come out of the pandemic is our reliance on online meeting platforms such as Teams or Zoom which means that we can meet easily and frequently without having to drive great distances, like today.

You may wish to incorporate this technology to host cluster Auxiliary gatherings where 4 or 5 Auxiliaries meet up once or twice a year to share their concerns, suggestions, successes, ideas etc.

Before I hand over to the ANZAC House team I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue for everything that she does to support me and the Auxiliary members across the State. She spends hours collating information and stories for the newsletter, providing advice to our members and finding new ways to bring the Auxiliaries together. Thank you Sue – I couldn't do my job without you.

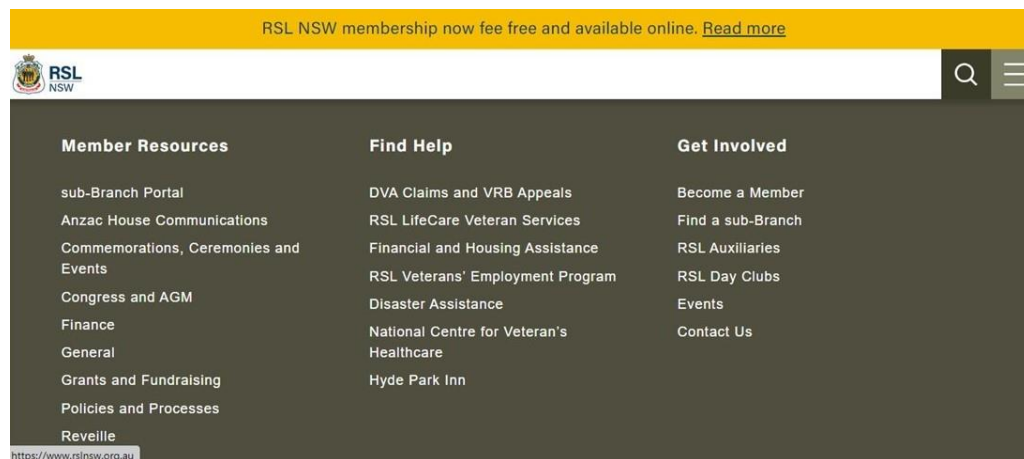
I wish to thank you all for participating today and look forward to hearing any suggestions and ideas on how we can work better together.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend, either in person or visually, hopefully this clarified a lot of concerns.

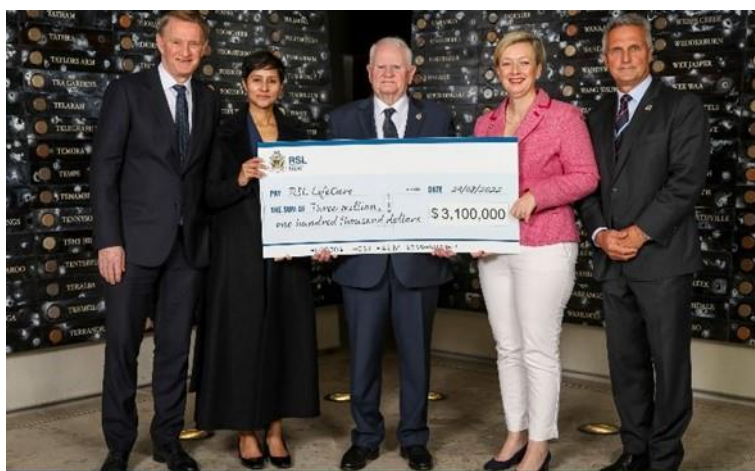
It was also encouraging that a number of sub Branches were represented.

For those who were unable to be there at the time, the session was recorded and a link will be available shortly so no one should miss out. The ink will be sent out by email.

Many topics were covered briefly at the Workshop, eg: RSL NSW Strategic Plan, Fundraising and how these funds are distributed, all information and these and more can be found of the RSL NSW website www.rslnsw.org.au, scroll down to the bottom of the web page and the links to the various topics are there.



In Pauline's opening address to the Workshop she mentioned the amazing donation RSL NSW made to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services.



RSL NSW President Ray James and representatives from sub-Branches across the State presented RSL LifeCare Veteran Services with a \$3.1 million donation on behalf of RSL NSW, contributing sub-Branches, and Auxiliaries to support vital work to support veterans and their families.

Last year, thanks to the support of RSL NSW sub-Branches and other donors, RSL LifeCare Veteran Services was able to:

Provide \$825,872 in financial assistance, including \$485,000 in disaster assistance

Assist 177 veterans experiencing homelessness

Help 944 veterans to lodge 3106 DVA claims

Make 231 virtual or socially distanced visits to veterans and family members at homes, hospitals or nursing homes

Lodge 188 new Veterans' Review Board (VRB) appeals and represent 39 veterans at full VRB Board Hearings

Complete 279 Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mediation discussions

RSL Veterans' Employment Program – Assisted 57 veterans and their partners with employment assistance

Guided 60 veterans through horse handling and riding courses facilitated by the SPUR Equine Program

This latest \$3.1 million donation will assist RSL LifeCare Veteran Services to continue this vital support through the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide period, the continued impact on veterans of the withdrawal from Afghanistan, and natural disasters.

88 regional and metropolitan RSL sub-Branches and related organisations contributed to this donation, including RSL NSW Auxiliary contributions, and proceeds from the annual ANZAC and Poppy Appeals.

A generous boost to the total came from three RSL sub-Branches that were able to donate in excess of \$100,000 each – Maroubra RSL sub-Branch, Canterbury-Hurlstone Park RSL sub-Branch, Doyalson-Wyee RSL sub-Branch, City of Bankstown RSL sub-Branch, and Five Dock sub-Branch.

RSL NSW continues to benefit from the ongoing support of Poppy Appeal token sales by Woolworths in stores across Australia. Woolworths contributed \$122,244 thanks to the generosity of its NSW-based customers.

RSL NSW President Ray James, commented "I commend all RSL NSW members that made the decision to support this important cause with the resources available to their sub-Bran­ches, no matter the scale of their support.

They are truly embracing our ethos of 'One RSL' in supporting veterans and their families beyond the borders of their local communities."



RSL NSW has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the RSL & Services Clubs Association (RSL & SCA) and ClubsNSW to deliver the best outcomes for veterans, their families, and local communities.

Research has told us that the community does not understand the difference between an RSL club (not-for-profit company) and an RSL sub-Bran­ch (unincorporated association).

This is because historically they were once bound as one. In the 1970s, after 50 years of being a single entity, the sub-Bran­ches separated from the clubs as regulations around charities changed. Fifty years on, many communities still affectionately refer to their local club as the 'RSL'.

While RSL sub-Bran­ches went about delivering on its distinct mission of supporting veterans and their families, clubs became centres for the wider community and some retained the name. Clubs continue to play an important role in our communities as they provide a place to connect and enjoy entertainment and provide generous CLUBGrants and other programs.

The intent of the MoU, initiative 4.4 of the RSL NSW Strategic Plan, is to restore the mutual connection between RSL sub-Bran­ches and clubs. Its strategic objectives call for the organisations to commit to a variety of actions, including:

Encourage clubs to maintain an affiliation with RSL NSW where there is a historical link

Advocate for joint membership of current serving and ex-service personnel of both sub-Bran­ches and clubs

Generate mutual support across membership and community engagement

Improve governance within each organisation where there is an affiliation between a sub-Bran­ch and club

Actively engage younger veterans, their families, and the community, through social, physical, and employment initiatives

Jointly manage media, governmental, and public policy issues between clubs and sub-Branches that have the potential to impact the RSL and associated brands

Promote the unique roles of RSL sub-Branches and clubs in communities.



Congratulations to the team at RSL NSW on their Mumbrella award for Association or Membership Publication of the Year.

The purpose of our membership magazine (Reveille) and its digital content is to connect veterans and their families with critical services and support.



LIFE MEMBERS



What a great pleasure to give Mrs Betty Molloy her Auxiliary Life Membership.

Betty is 101 and served Australia during World War 2 in the RAAF.

Betty has served the Auxiliary and Gundagai RSL Sub Branch for many, many years

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE QUILT

What a great pleasure we had
awarding a Thank You For Your
Service Quilt To Dode Simpson,
Secretary Woy Woy, Ettalong,
Hardys Bay RSL sub Branch and
Coordinator Woy Woy, Ettalong,
Hardys Bay RSL Auxiliary

Greg served as a Medic at Vung Tau in 1969 celebrating his 21st Birthday in the war Zone

Greg returned home to never really find his place until he retired and starting to Volunteer

Agent Orange has destroyed Greg's organs

Our grateful thanks to Pauline Grace for this beautiful quilt and to Kaye Brown for the quilting

AROUND THE AUXILIARIES

CASTLE HILL -AUXILIARY



Castle Hill sub Branch VP of Personnel and Welfare Officer & RSL NSW Auxiliary Coordinator Cheryl Hill was very honoured to be presented with a Community Hero's Award by Natasha MacLaren-Jones, Minister for Families and Communities at the Hills Women's Leaders Afternoon Tea hosted by MP's David Elliott and Mark Taylor

Congratulations Cheryl, this was very well deserved!

MAITLAND – AUXILIARY



Congratulations To Maitland RSL Sub Branch Auxiliary on your 100 birthday

CITY OF CAMPBELLTOWN - AUXILIARY

We would have had another BBQ Day at Campbelltown Bunnings in August.

They are a great fundraiser and we always have a great time doing these.

We are also having our get together on 19th October, 2022 at the Campbelltown RSL Club.

Everyone is invited from the Auxiliaries, even if you didn't get an invite as I may have missed you as I got the Auxiliaries from the NSW RSL Website.

So, if you would like to come more the merrier, it is \$40 per person and start time is at 10.45am for seating and just getting to your table. Lunch is at 12pm (noon).

Please let me know if you would like to come along.

There are ladies who can help those who have mobility issues to get to and from the table.

If you like to come email me, or phone. 0434 622 426

My Email is

cityofc.townsubbranchauxiliary@gmail.com.

Can pay on the day. Card payment available.

Please take care of yourselves and be safe.

Sharon Ryan

For Maria Pownall Co-Ordinator

PENSHURST – AUXILIARY ATTACHED TO ANZAC HOUSE



Therese Gardner receiving her 10 year Certificate of service to the Auxiliary. She is our Treasurer and a good example of a hard working member of the RSLNSW Auxiliary we are proud to have her as a member.

Norma Alexander Coordinator

FORESTVILLE- AUXILIARY

Forestville RSL Auxiliary sub-Branch RSL celebrated it's 68th Birthday luncheon on 5th September.

Forty four members were present, including nine Committee members of the sub-Branch which hosted the luncheon.

President, Bob Lunnon, addressed the group going back to the historical year of 1954 when the Auxiliary first began. There is evidence and history of the beginning which was dated in a time capsule buried beneath the 200 year old cannon at the front entrance of the Forestville RSL Club.



During the birthday celebration a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Barbara Chisnall who served as Auxiliary President from 2008 – 2014.



Other certificates of appreciation were awarded to past committee members: Carol Anstiss, Caryl Flint, Shirley Mashman, Barbara Norton, Caroline Finlay and Jan Taylor – all having served between 12 and 15 years.

DUBBO - AUXILIARY



Auxiliary members fundraising for our sub-Branch by helping to run Bingo at the Dubbo RSL Club on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Pictured is two of the members, Marie and Kirsten.



Janet Dawson SAWTEL Today's Witticisms.....

- IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE : "We will heel you. We will save your sole. We will even dye for you."
- AT AN OPTOMETRIST'S OFFICE: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."
- ON A PLUMBER'S TRUCK: "We repair what your husband fixed."
- ON ANOTHER PLUMBER'S TRUCK: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."
- ON AN ELECTRICIAN'S TRUCK: "Let us remove your shorts."
- AT A CAR DEALERSHIP: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."
- OUTSIDE A MUFFLER SHOP: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."
- IN A VETERINARIAN'S WAITING ROOM: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"
- AT THE Electric Power COMPANY: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted."
- IN FRONT OF A FUNERAL HOME: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."
- IN A RADIATOR SHOP: "Best place in town to take a leak."
- ON THE BACK OF A SEPTIC TANK TRUCK: "Caution! - This truck is full of Political Promises"

Thanks Janet



FUNDRAISING IDEAS

ANZAC & REMEMBRANCE DAY TOKENS

A significant number of tokens formerly owned by WBI are available to sub-Branches and can now be ordered online. Sub-Branches will be required to pay a small packing (\$0.25 cents per token) and freight charge, however there is no charge for the tokens.

How to create an account and place an order: Go to the online ordering portal rslnsw.pmashop.co Create an account login by clicking 'Continue' under 'New Customer' and completing your details. Please ensure you enter your official sub-Branch email address in the email field (which automatically also becomes your username) Your account will usually be authorised the same business day, at which point you will receive an email notification. Once you receive authorisation, you will be able to login and place orders using your username and password.



Recently Old Bar Beach RSL sub Branch held a Barefoot Bowls Day.

Barefoot Bowls afternoons are a fun way to raise money with your friends, not only can it get members and their families together it can encourage other members of the community to get involved and may bring in new members.

Many sub Branches have Bowling Greens, if not there would be a local club that would may donate the use of their greens for a fundraiser.

I have some notes on how to hold a fundraiser of this kind and if you are interested, please email me at auxiliaries@rslnsw.org.au and I will be happy to help

*To all our Auxiliary Members who are
not feeling the best at the moment,
we are thinking of you and sending
our love and best wishes*



WHEN THE WARM WINDS BLOW

It's standing room only in the fields of the Somme.
The Spring Offensive has officially begun.
One million poppies in their coats of blood red
Mark time on the graves of those who lay dead.
The spirit of youth is alive and well.
Content to abide where each young soldier fell.
Taken before their time they refuse to lie down.
Even though they're committed to this foreign ground.
And they rise each year to remind the living
The great sacrifice each soldier has given.
An epitaph so real, no words need be spoken.
Just a beautiful tribute to the lives which were broken.
Knowing their mission makes me love them more.
These blood red poppies which I've grown to adore.
The spirit inside makes each one unique.
Makes one wish they were able to speak.
For they could convey their name and their rank.
We would know who they were and whom it is we should thank.
The Army they served in, to separate friend from foe
And pass on their resting place, where friends and family can go.
One hundred years on and they're still marking time.
Nothing will deny these former men in the line.
In winter they sleep under a blanket of snow
Then rise up in Spring when the warm winds blow.
Bill Charlton c 2022



We are very sad to hear of the passing of the wonderful Alf Carpenter OAM, T RSL NSW's most senior veteran 105 years of age, you may remember in our July Newsletter we showed Alf being presented with a Thank You For Your Service Quilt.

In 1934 Alf joined the volunteer forces and enlisted as a soldier. He was ranked as a Sergeant when World War 2 broke out

He fought in Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific and was one of the last living ANZAC veterans who fought in the Battle of Crete in 1941.

Alf was hit in the side of the head with shrapnel while being mortared by German forces in Crete. This affected his optical nerve and he eventually lost sight in his right eye. He received a corneal transplant which restored 25% of his sight and he is still able to drive!

Fighting in New Guinea, Alf was in a landing craft hit by Japanese forces. He landed in the water and floated there overnight until he was picked up by a rescue



boat the next day. With him was a fellow soldier (Ted Lewis) who worked in Wallsend (Newcastle). They agreed to go into business together if they survived the war, which they did in 1946 opening a General Store at Warners Bay.

Alf married Marjorie Yates on 2nd December, 1939 and they had one son

In 1966 Alf bought a kombi van in Australia and shipped it over to Germany. The family spent 2 years driving all over Europe

He practiced thought transference and wrote articles for British journal of Medical Hypnotists. Alf demonstrated his skills at Kiev University in the Ukraine and also in Moscow. On July 4th 1968 he was invited to the American embassy in Moscow to celebrate. He first visited there because he had difficulty obtaining exit visas to leave the country. He was jailed in Russia for several days in the process because he refused to pay authorities extra on top of the original visa cost. Eventually he secured the visa but couldn't get out through Albania, which was the usual way, but got out through Czechoslovakia. His wife stopped the van when they arrived, and she knelt and kissed the ground, saying "thank god we got out of that country."

He had previously told 9News that his secret for a long life was Toohey's Old beer.



Anzac Day 2022, Alf travelled from Newcastle to Sydney at dawn to march with his mates one more time in the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion

Alf was a member of Merewether Hamilton Adamstown RSL Sub Branch

LEST WE FORGET

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Our Deepest Condolences to the Family
And Friends of :

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| ❖ Joan Egley | Woonona-Bulli Auxiliary |
| ❖ Marilyn Moore | Penrith Auxiliary |
| ❖ June Williams | Bundeena Auxiliary |
| ❖ Lyn Turner | Wingham Auxiliary |
| ❖ Leone Vrieling | Former CCWA Councillor |



JOAN EGLEY - WOONONA BULLI

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Joan Egley, a long-term member of Woonona Bulli RSL sub Branch Auxiliary.

Joan's husband, Ken, served in the Royal Navy before emigrating to Australia the 1964's. Her friendship and companionship will be sadly missed by her friends at Woonona Bulli RSL sub Branch Auxiliary.



JUNE (ANNE) WILLIAMS – BUNDEENA

Life Member and Senior Vice President, Bundeena RSL Auxiliary since August 1983, was an active member until 5 years ago. Volunteered for service in Britain with the Auxiliary Territorial Service, during the Second World War. Born in Egypt into a military family, June arrived in Australia to continue her volunteer work. Many organisations were fortunate to have June as a volunteer.



For those of you who use Facebook, do you know that we have both a Facebook Page and a Facebook Group, why not pop over and join us?

Facebook Page,
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163434587113422>)



Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/ccwawomensauxiliarynsw>

Battlefields of WWI , Gareth McCray OAM has regular posts, poems from Bill Charlton, so much more.

We are aware some Auxiliaries have their own Facebook Pages/Groups, if you do, please let me know so that I can add the details to the next Newsletter and other members will be able to follow you.

Heicke Keefe has set up a Facebook group for all of us crafters, **Helping our Veterans Craft Group**, pop over and join, some great ideas to help raise funds.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3455036824555520>

CONTACT DETAILS

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☎ Susan Allen: 0409 608 901

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From 23rd August, 2021

Anzac House will be located in
Suite 11.02, Level 11, 175 Pitt Street,
Sydney, NSW, 2000