



# RSL NSW AUXILIARY NEWS

October 2022

Another month has flown by, getting too close to Christmas.

So much time went into preparing our recent Workshop, it's hard to believe that it's three weeks since the event.

As I said in the last Newsletter, it was disappointing that only 20 Auxiliaries out of the 93 in NSW were represented. I have since emailed out the link for members to watch the recording and hopefully many have now done this, however I want to use this opportunity to not only give a brief summary of the session but to expand a little on it.

I will go through each presentation in point form then at the end of each speaker I will add any further comments.

The Workshop opened at 2.15pm 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, with the Acknowledgement of Country given by Pauline McIllhatton, Coordinator Bundeena RSL Auxiliary.

Unfortunately, Ray and Pauline James' segments were not recorded.

## **Pauline James (State Coordinator RSL NSW Auxiliaries):**

- Paid respect to all members who has recently passed
- The Poppy Mask Project had raised over \$16,000 so far for RSL LifeCare Veteran Services
- Spoke about our need to fundraise and we need to come up with new ways in which to do this
- Auxiliaries should be working as a team, they are not meant to be solely social groups, the shared purpose is to raise funds, she stated "we are not fulfilling our purpose if we don't raise funds"

Pauline's full presentations were published in September Newsletter, if you haven't read it, you can by clicking this link [September Newsletter](#)

## **Ray James (RSL NSW State President ):**

- Auxiliaries are no longer stand alone groups, they are now a recognised part of the RSL.
- Is very pleased to have the Auxiliaries and sub Branches working together, we are no longer separate identities.
- Many Auxiliaries are now attending sub Branch meetings and he encourages all sub Branches to take this on board

## **Jon Black (RSL NSW CEO):**

- To look to the future of RSL NSW we need younger people to join both sub Branches and Auxiliaries

- We now have online membership for sub Branches
- Members do not have to attend meetings
- Auxiliaries do a great job and funds raised were part of the \$3.1m funds donated by RSL NSW to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services
- RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021-2026
- We need input from Auxiliaries,
- The role of State & Auxiliary Coordinator & Deputy Coordinator, we need a succession plan, should there be a voting system for the roles, terms of service etc.
- Comments from the floor:
  - Auxiliaries should have a say in where the money is donated
  - Some Auxiliaries do not have a good relationship with their sub Branches. As Communications Manager, Trina Constable is working on improving the communication between sub Branches and Auxiliaries, if there is a problem contact either Pauline James, Sue Allen or Trina Constable for assistance
  - Lyn Elliott from Port Macquarie.  
 "Our Auxiliary has a great working relationship with our sub branch they ask us where we would like the funds we have raised be donated. As for ideas to encourage new members, we have combined wellbeing and recruitment drive together. Regular horse riding as therapy for vets and if they volunteer to help out, they get extra sessions. We have started regular coffee mornings for vets and partners. A dog walking club has been set up, and a BBQ breakfast on the local beach is enjoyed by members and partners. And we are now contacting our local Bunnings store to start fund raising sausage sizzles quarterly. We have 15 members, some are now in aged care, we have about 9 who attend meetings regularly.

Sadly, for too many years the perception of both sub Branches and Auxiliaries has been age related and RSL Club related. This has created an unfortunate stigma to our organisation, for us to grow and for the future we have to break this stigma.

RSL NSW are working hard on this, online membership for sub Branches has already shown a great response, at this point of time unfortunately online membership is not available to Auxiliaries, but it is coming.

One thing that we need to keep in mind is that we (the Auxiliaries) are now part of the League, in the past we have all had an issue with communication, not knowing what is going on, not sure who to go to, etc., etc. now all the information is available to all of us on the RSL NSW website, There is lots of great information in there..

John talked about the Strategic Plan, the document sets out the future, the visions, the plan, goals, how the plan will be implemented and the values of RSL NSW, together with the progress to date, the plan will be reviewed annually. This is on the website but if you would like to go straight to it just click the link [Strategic Plan](#)

Our thanks to Lyn Elliott for sharing what wonderful work Port Macquarie is doing, this is what we need to do, share, share what we are doing, share our ideas, work together in building our relationship with not only our veterans but their community.

#### **Trina Constable (RSL NSW Head of Communications, Marketing and Membership):**

- We are currently working on adding all members details to our CRM providing direct communication to of our Auxiliary members, once the details are on the NSW Portal they can be maintained by your sub Branch Secretary

- We have great resources in our Auxiliary members which some sub Branches don't understand, we are currently looking at the possibility of Auxiliary members taking the a more active role in sub Branches
- Why has the age to join an Auxiliary risen from 16 to 18?  
By law in NSW everyone working with someone under 18 needs a Working With Children Check, we have to protect children under 18.
- Currently we have thousands of unused tokens at the warehouse, these are being made available to all sub Branches and Auxiliaries at a cost of 25 cents (to cover picking and packing)
- There is a new criteria for the awarding of the Lady Woodward Cup, details are on line
- Thank You For Your Service Quilt , fantastic program, great to get the community involved, local quilting groups can help. All sub Branches are able to nominate someone who is a sub Branch member or someone in the wider veteran community who is worthy of receiving a quilt.
- Congress being held in Newcastle, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2022 , due to the size of the venue there is no allowance for observers to attend in person, the sessions will be available online.
- Auxiliary Handbook, working on a framework for sub Branches

There are so many people out there who would like to volunteer to support our veterans in their community. There are many ways in which to bring them in, to name a few:

- Does your sub Branch host social /family friendly event and could the Auxiliary coordinate these?
- Does your sub Branch have administration duties that an Auxiliary member can undertake? eg: Bookkeeping, maintaining records, social media.

### **Jeff O'Brien (RSL NSW State Secretary):**

Jeff went through a number of questions that had been received prior to the Workshop being held.

- Meetings – can be held as often as the Auxiliary wants
- Minutes – formal minutes no longer need to be kept however, it is advisable to take some notes to check back on where you are and what plans you have for the year
- Auxiliary must present an Annual Report to the sub Branch AGM, on what they have done and what they intend for the coming year
- Attending Meetings – members do not need to attend meetings but are require to contribute in other ways
- All decision made by an Auxiliary should be by consensus of the membership
- Member Contact Details – once all details are up on the portal, they will be maintained by the sub Branch and they should be kept updated of any changes
- Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators – are there to link Auxiliary and sub Branch , currently no term of office at local level, can they be changed if members are not happy, if this can't be solved within the Auxiliary contact Pauline or Sue for assistance
- Why can't we have our own bank account? – sub Branches and Auxiliaries are now one entity, due to the Burgen Inquiry lots of changes needed to be made for accountability.
- Why are some Auxiliaries still using the word Women's? we are an open an inclusive organisation
- Due to the cost involved, new badges will only be issued to new members
- Acknowledgement of Services Badges, 10y, 15y, 20y, as we are now recognised as part of the League, sub Branches do not present these badges, I as an Auxiliary we can

not afford to provide these badges, Certificates of Services can be issued by sub Branches.

- Current Awards is available- Life Membership and Certificate of Merit forms on RSL NSW website
- Can Auxiliary Group Gather? – Absolutely, great idea, you can also invite the State Coordinator or Deputy State Coordinator

From the comments we have received, everyone enjoyed the Workshop and got a lot out of it. Hopefully we can do it again in the future.

The link to watch the Workshop is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIW78HRyx8>.

If anyone has any further questions or comments please contact either Pauline or myself.



**Lady Woodward Cup** nominations for 2022 have now closed, the winner will be announced at the RSL NSW Congress, our best wishes to those Auxiliaries who entered.

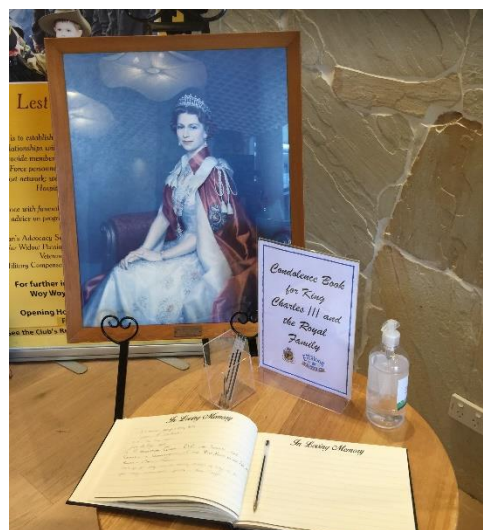
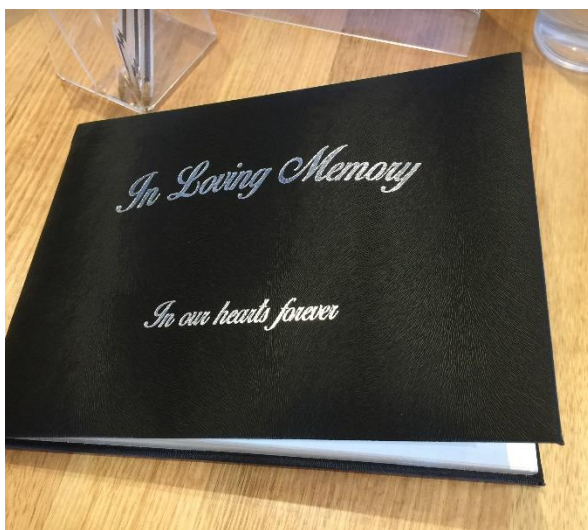
Why not include the Lady Woodward Cup in your plans for the coming year, all Auxiliaries no matter how small are eligible to enter, the closing date for the 2023 year will be 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

The Nomination Form can be found on our website.



As I was writing the Newsletter last month, we got the sad news of the death of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, since then we have seen amazing scenes the likes of which we will never see again, we lived through a huge piece of history.

A lot of sub Branches held Memorials, at Woy Woy, Ettalong, Hardys Bay RSL, the Auxiliary Coordinator and also sub Branch Secretary Dode Simpson, brought a Book of Condolence, which was set up in the foyer of the club. A beautiful thought, the book is to be sent to Buckingham Palace.







## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

We have been asked if members are required to take the Pledge of Alliance to King Charles III, Members are only required to take the pledge at an AGM. The pledge they took last time was to The Queen, Her heirs and successors, as such there is no need to take a new pledge before the AGM

## OUR BEAUTIFUL QUEEN

### SONG

She was ever so young,  
When she came the throne.  
But she promised to serve us  
Till her duty was done.  
And true to her word  
She was loyal and kind  
With a beautiful smile.  
As sweet as you'd find.

### CHORUS

She was our English Rose  
Our Sovereign Supreme  
The head of our family.  
Our beautiful Queen!  
Both at home and abroad  
She was highly thought of  
For her kind, gentle ways  
And her Christian love.  
But her reign is now over  
She's gone to be with her Prince  
He left sometime before her,  
And she's missed him since.

### CHORUS

She was our English Rose  
Our Sovereign Supreme  
Sleep in peace, our dear lady.  
Our beautiful Queen!





14 September 2022

## An important message from the RSL NSW and RSL QLD State Presidents

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Dear Members

On Monday 5 September, we met and discussed strategic cooperation opportunities for both States to work more collaboratively. Sharing the same brand, similar aspirations, and a core charitable purpose of supporting all veterans and their families - not just our members - it was agreed that a series of activities will be immediately pursued to support the veteran community across both States, as well as committing to exploring other strategic initiatives over the medium-term (the next 2-3 years).

The agreement addresses the following key areas:

**Funding support:** In order to assist RSL NSW to deliver strategic initiatives to better support veterans, RSL Queensland will provide RSL NSW with funding to the value of \$2.6 million.

**Aligning Services:** RSL NSW, through its service provider RSL LifeCare Ltd, will explore the opportunity to collaborate with RSL QLD to deliver the RSL Employment Program and the opportunity to access established grant programs such as the Veteran Enterprise Start Up Grants.

**Sustainable local fundraising:** RSL Queensland will explore opportunities for sub-Branches in both States to join an affiliate program designed to boost their fundraising efforts. The affiliate program will be offered by invitation first to RSL Queensland's more than 230 sub-Branches, before being expanded to RSL New South Wales' more than 320 sub-Branches. It is envisaged that the program will enable sub-Branches to invest in the ongoing delivery of unique and localised support to their veteran community while ensuring the sustainability and longevity of the RSL.

**Consistent care:** RSL Queensland and RSL NSW will prioritise the alignment of service delivery operating models so that veterans will experience a consistent standard of care and support from State to State. This will include the interoperability of Veteran Wellbeing Centres (now referred to as Veteran and Family Hubs) and all forms of digital delivery of services and support to veterans and their families.

The ABS Census Data released earlier this year revealed that more than half of Australia's veteran population resides in Queensland and New South Wales. Through deeper collaboration and a shared approach, RSL Queensland and RSL NSW can shape positive outcomes and enhance the support and services we offer veterans and their families, no matter where they live. This, in turn, will enable RSL Australia to stand stronger as a united advocacy voice to the Government on key veteran matters and to collaborate with other RSL State Branches.

We agree that a united RSL is a strong and relevant RSL. We see an RSL that continues to advocate for veterans, enables mateship and camaraderie and leads commemorations for all veterans in their communities. Achieving real change for veterans demands this deeper level of collaboration and partnership across the RSL network and the veteran charity sector.

**RSL NSW President Ray James, OAM**

**RSL Queensland State President Stephen Day DSC, AM**

## LIFE MEMBERS



Congratulations to Mair Fullerton on receiving her Life Membership.

Mair is a member of East Maitland RSL Auxiliary, she was awarded her Life Membership in 2021 but due to Covid was only recently presented with her award



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE QUILT



Congratulations to Neil Cromarty OAM of East Maitland RSL sub Branch , in recognition of his many years as the Sub-Branch Secretary.





## AROUND THE AUXILIARIES

### **FORESTVILLE- AUXILIARY**

The Forestville Auxiliary members started early in August to make poppies for Remembrance Day. With a few working bees and enthusiastic volunteers at home and in other local community groups, we now have over 500 poppies to be sold prior to 11 November. This will be in addition to the usual badges/tokens sold.



l to r round the table:  
Judy Hardman, Jill Scifleet,  
Myra Mooney, Eva Morrison,  
Jackie Pretti, Kay Hamilton,  
Gina Ferreira, Barbara  
Lunnon

Our poppies were made for Remembrance Day with an additional aim of bonding and growing auxiliary spirit by getting members together to know each other and to share the joy of a simple craft project. Plus it is an easy fundraiser. It required members only to bring scissors. No sewing involved!. We even had some seniors at 90+ who were at home happily cutting and putting the poppies together. The cost was minimal for materials, such as red felt. Most were donated

Here's wishing Auxiliaries everywhere, good luck with their poppies. It would be lovely to see all the different shapes, sizes and designs of originally crafted poppies.

Barbara Lunnon

### **OLD BAR BEACH-AUXILIARY**



Auxiliary & sub Branch members  
battled rain, wind and LOTS of  
mud! at the Old Bar Festival what  
an amazing effort!



## **PORT MACQUARIE -AUXILIARY**

Recently RSL Port Macquarie sub Branch President Jason Gill presented Roy Boyle with a lap quilt made by the Auxiliary members

Roy Boyle turns 98 years old this year and served in PNG. He was delighted with the lap quilt and said he felt honoured.



Roy Boyle with Lyn Elliott



Coordinator Joan Rose , Deputy Coordinator Lyn Elliott & sub Branch President Jason Gill

## **BASS HILL AUXILIARY**



Bass Hill RSL Auxiliary members who attended Kingsgrove Auxiliary 70th Birthday function

## MAITLAND-AUXILIARY



It is with pride that the ladies of Maitland RSL Women's Auxiliary celebrated, on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022, their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Thank you to all the Auxiliaries who helped us celebrate and make our day a success. It was lovely to see treasured friends again.

Our cake was cut by two of our longest standing members Peggy Hume and Helen Rae, also in the picture was Fred Goode Maitland RSL President, Jenny Aitchison MP, Christine Kidd Coordinator.



Margaret Jones, Meryl Swanson  
MP, Peggy Hume, Christine Kidd

Christine Kidd Coordinator

## URALLA-AUXILIARY



The Uralla Auxiliary and the Uralla sub-Branch of RSL NSW held a street stall recently, lots of goodies, baked goods and beautiful raffle prizes, out in the public and the baked goodies were a big hit. Thanks to Auxiliary members they had an amazing collection of fresh quiches, sausage rolls, cakes, tarts, scones and slices.

## KINGSGROVE-AUXILIARY



Congratulations Kingsgrove RSL sub Branch Auxiliary on your 70th birthday celebrations and thank you to Bronte Pollard for attending on behalf of RSL NSW Auxiliaries

## EAST MAITLAND – AUXILIARY

At the East Maitland Memorial Hall we paid tribute to the East Maitland Sub-Branch Auxiliary's 88th anniversary with a luncheon and presentation of a couple of awards and achievements.

The luncheon was attended by special guests Ray James OAM (RSL NSW President), Jenny Aitchison MP, Meryl Swanson MP, Pauline James OAM (RSL NSW Auxiliaries Coordinator), Peter Blackmore (East Maitland RSL Sub-Branch member), members of the East Maitland Sub-Branch & Auxiliary and members of numerous surrounding district RSL Sub-Branch Auxiliaries.

The day included East Maitland Sub-Branch Auxiliary member Mair Fullerton being awarded life membership, the official unveiling of the East Maitland Sub-Branch HMAS Maitland life buoy and presentation of a RSL "Thank-you For Your Service" quilt to Neil Cromarty OAM in recognition of his many years as the Sub-Branch Secretary.

Following lunch and sweets, a number of door prizes and raffles were drawn followed by an auction raising further funds for the East Maitland Sub-Branch to continue their charity work amongst the Veteran Community.



East Maitland sub Branch



## FUNDRAISING IDEAS

As you know The purple poppy is often worn to remember animals that have been victims of war.

Animals like horses, dogs and pigeons were often drafted into the war effort, and those that wear the purple poppy feel their service should be seen as equal to that of human service.

The founder and president of the Australia War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) and 2017 ANZAC of the Year award recipient Mr Nigel Allsopp said "the 24th of February or purple poppy day is a day all Australians can wear a purple poppy and a time to think not only about our soldiers who gave their lives in war, but also spare a thought for the four-legged and winged hero's that fought and died alongside our troops".

Poppy patterns were included in our August newsletter, this is not only a great opportunity for people to be made aware of the Purple Poppy but also to raise funds.



Our Max loves his Purple Poppy

Speaking of making poppies I have received a couple more patterns from Cheryl Hill at Castle Hill Auxiliary, thank you Cheryl, if you would like to download them just [click here](#)



*To all our Auxiliary Members who are not feeling the best at the moment, especially Dianne Pitt, Wentworth & District Auxiliary we are thinking of you and sending our love and best wishes*



## GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Our Deepest Condolences to the Family  
And Friends of :

❖ Gloria Formby City of Orange Auxiliary



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/345503682455520>

## CONTACT DETAILS

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☎ Susan Allen: 0409 608 901

sueallen123@bigpond.com

From 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2021

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