



RSL NSW AUXILIARY NEWS

March, 2023

Here we go again, I know February is a short month but did it need to go so quickly?

Thank you for the comments on the multi coloured poppy, I know some of you are going to be very busy making them, please send me photos when you do.

We are always on the lookout for fundraising ideas so don't keep them to yourselves, email me any suggestions and I will be delighted to include them in the Newsletters.

Have you ever heard of a 50/50 Raffle? I hadn't, apparently it's the easiest raffle you can have as all you need are tickets. The 50/50 raffle works like any other raffle — except the winner gets half of the funds you raise and the cause gets the other half (hence the name 50/50). Sometimes its so hard to source prizes, this way there is no need. Who would have thought!

When we had the Workshop back in September, 2022, many queries arose around the Standard Operating Procedures 8 (Auxiliaries), RSL NSW have been working on the issues raised and an update SOP 8 will be released in the near future. As soon as it is available I will let you know.

One thing that will now be part of the new SOP 8 is the positions of State & Deputy State Coordinators for RSL NSW Auxiliary, as you are aware, Pauline and I were appointed to these positions to make the transition as easy as possible with the reconstruction in 2019 when Auxiliaries were brought into the League.

Going forward these positions will be through nomination and election, more information will be coming out about that when the revamped SOP 8 is released.

On that point, this seems like a good time to let you in on some news. After over 10 years with both CCWA and then RSL NSW, Pauline and I have decided to retire, effective Congress 2023. A lot has been achieved through this period, we feel the time is right to step back and hand the reins on.

As you can imagine there has been lots of highs and lows through this period and over the next few months I will bring some of the highlights up in this Newsletter.

We are both very proud of what has been accomplished especially being able to retain Auxiliaries, when some felt they were no longer needed. Not only are they still here but have grown from strength to strength which now can continue.

This is an awesome organisation with an amazing history, a fantastic membership and though we don't know what will happen with the world in the future we know that our service personnel will be well looked after.

As I said lots of highlights to come as we both have some wonderful memories.

Now that Auxiliary life is getting back to normal, we have been asked about contact details for other Auxiliaries, Coordinators change, also I am not comfortable handing out phone numbers etc without the persons consent, so the best way to contact each other (if you don't already have details) is through the sub Branch, address any invitations etc to the Coordinator C/- the sub Branch.

A list of current Auxiliaries is maintained on our webpage [RSL Auxiliaries | RSL NSW](#), as of today we have 91 Auxiliaries.

Aberdeen	Inverell	Tilligerry
Balmain/Rozelle	Kandos	Toukley
Balgowlah/Seaforth/Clontarf	Kempsey/Macleay	Uralla
Baradine	Kingsgrove	Urbenville
Barraba	Lambton / New Lambton	Wagga Wagga
Bass Hill	Laurieton	Walcha
Bathurst	Leeton	Wauchope
Berry	Lidcombe	Wellington
Bonalbo	Lismore, City of	Wentworth District
Bundeena	Liverpool, City of	West Wyalong
Burwood	Lockhart	Windsor
Byron Bay	Maitland	Wingham
Callala Beach	Malabar	Woodburn – Evans Head
Campbelltown, City of	Manilla	Woodenbong
Canterbury Hurlstone Park	Medowie	Woonona-Bulli
Cardiff	Mendooran	Woy Woy Ettalong Hardys Bay
Casino	Moree	Yeoval
Castle Hill	Mudgee	Young
Coffs Harbour	Mullumbimby	
Collarenebri	Nambucca Heads	
Coonabarabran	Nelson Bay	
Davistown	Norfolk Island	
Dorrigo	Orange, City of	
Doyalson Wyee	Parkes	
Dubbo	Penshurst	
East Maitland	Port Macquarie	
Fairfield, City of	Penrith, City of	
Forestville	Sawtell	
Gladesville	Seven Hills – Toongabbie	
Gloucester	Singleton	
Gosford	South Hurstville	
Gundagai	South West Rocks	
Harrington/Crowdy Head	St Marys	
Hornsby	Sussex Inlet	
Huskisson	Tea Gardens	
Ingleburn	The Entrance Long Jetty	



Around this time of year many Coordinators & Deputy Coordinators are being appointed please advise any changes to contact details asap to support@rslnsw.org.au to ensure the information on RSL NSW Portal remains up to date.

SNORES FOR A CAUSE

The Veterans Benevolent Fund (the charitable arm of the RSL & Services Clubs Association) is launching the inaugural fundraising month 'Snore for a Cause', creating awareness for veteran wellbeing.

Healthy sleep habits is an area that isn't discussed enough in health and wellbeing circles but is gaining traction. The concept is to put a spotlight on veteran wellbeing, by asking participants in the month of March to log at least 8 hours a night of sleep.

Snore for a Cause is an opportunity to support Veteran wellbeing but also for self-improvement. It's an initiative that's accessible to all age groups and our hope is that participants see some positive changes in their lives.

Details 🙌 <https://snoresforacause.com.au/>



I know I keep harping on about social media, but it is an important communication tool these days.

All charitable organisations are all fighting for the same dollar, with money being so tight in our community we need people to understand why it is so vital to donate to a RSL sub Branch.

Apparently Facebook is the most used platform in our age group, younger people move around between several. Facebook is a great free way of getting our name out there, not only can we promote our fundraising ideas but we can also let people know what we do and why we do it.

It's not hard to run a Facebook page but it needs consistent posting, it doesn't have to be mammoth posts, maybe just a photo, meme, share something from another Auxiliary post, actually something I did with one of my pages was Today is..... Did you know every day has one or more celebrations, yes it's an American thing but it grabs peoples attention and it's the engagement that is needed. I must admit I haven't posted anything for a while and I have been asked why and when am I going to start again.

Eg: March 20th is the International Day of Happiness, I might post a happy meme or post a happy photo and ask the question, "what makes you happy?" it probably sounds silly to most of you but it works, people begin to become engaged with you and then you have that audience when you want to promote an event.

You can check out the Days of the Year, click on [Days Of The Year](#), also, some fundraising events can be organised around a specific date eg: 1st October 2023 is International Coffee Day, you could hold a fundraising Coffee Morning. A great day to have a fundraising event would be 5th September, 2023 which is the International Day of Charity, a great day to remind people that charity does not have to be just a monetary donation but giving their time, we need new members.

Speaking of that, I was very impressed recently when a sub Branch advertised their AGM in a local newspaper and the positions they needed to fill, took the opportunity to advertise their Auxiliary, never let a chance go by eh!

COOTAMUNDRA VETERANS DROP-IN CENTRE



Saturday 4th March 2023 Ray James had the privilege of officially opening the Veterans Drop-in Centre at Cootamundra in the Riverina, this is a wonderful initiative by Cootamundra sub Branch to utilise a vacant property they own.

They have been trialling the centre since November, 2022 , you can see full details here

<https://youtu.be/eZ6wENtm7QA>

You can watch the official opening on this link

<https://youtu.be/Gr0UXcXV-N0>

These centres are so important for our veterans and we wish them well in the future.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE QUILT

Another busy month, 4 Thank You For Your Service Quilts were presented while Pauline & Ray were down at Cootamundra RSL at the South West District Council AGM



David McCann OAM, OAM (Mil)



Angela McCann OAM



Glen Ivins



Jacqui Vincent OAM JP

Quilts presented at AGM of New England District Council of sub Branches

David Ian Young – Bingara sub-Branch

David completed 3 years National Service 1970-1973, the majority of that time with the 1st /19th RAR. He joined the Bingara sub-Branch in 2004 and immediately became an active member. In 2006 he was elected President and he has held that position ever since. David organises and presides at all meetings, commemorations, and the ANZAC Day march at Bingara. He is also an RSL funeral celebrant and has been a District Council delegate continuously since 2006. David has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the RSL.



Maxwell Tavener OAM – Armidale sub-Branch

Max is a Navy Veteran and served from 1963 until 1984. He joined the Armidale sub-Branch in 1984 and has been an active member ever since. He has held the positions of committee member, Secretary, President, DC and State Congress delegate and DC Vice-President. He is also an RSL Funeral celebrant, pension and welfare officer and organises and conducts commemorations. Max is a Life Member of the RSL and in 2019 was awarded an OAM for his service to veterans.



Robert John Chapman – Tamworth sub-Branch

Bob is a Vietnam Veteran who remained in the Army for 20 years, reaching the rank of WO1. He joined the Tamworth RSL sub-Branch in 1994 and became an active member in 2004. He has served as a committee member, District Council and State Congress delegate, Funeral celebrant, MC at commemoration services, ANZAC Day march co-ordinator and marshal, and Museum Curator. Bob also served as sub-Branch President for many years, finally retiring from the position in February 2019. He remains a member of the Committee and is still Museum curator. He is a Life member of the RSL.





Ian Lyndsay Bignall – Manilla sub-Branch

Ian is a Vietnam Veteran and has been a member of the Manilla sub-Branch since January 1972. Ian has served as a committee member, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, President, Trustee and DC Delegate. He also conducted RSL funeral tributes and assisted with pensions and welfare as well as acting as MC at many commemorations

Unfortunately, 2 recipients were not at the meeting, their Thank You For Your Service Quilts were presented to Sandra Lambkin, President of the New England District Council who in turn will make the presentations to the following:



William Gregson Thurtell – Manilla sub-Branch

Bill is a Navy Veteran. He has been a member of Manilla sub-Branch since February 1981. He has been an active member, serving as a funeral celebrant, committee member and MC at commemorations. He has also acted as DC and State Congress delegate. Bill became President of the sub-Branch in 2017 and will be retiring this year.



Kenneth Hilton Michell JP – Glen Innes sub-Branch

Ken is an Army Veteran. He served overseas and at home with the 7th Signal Regiment and reached the rank of WO2. He joined the RSL in QLD in 1986 and became a member at Glen Innes in 2001. He was an active member from the start and in the last 2 decades has been a committee member, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee, President, funeral celebrant, pension and welfare officer, MC at commemorations and DC and State Congress delegate.

Another group of stunning quilts, we are so grateful to the wonderful ladies who makes these beautiful quilts and to the amazing Kay Brown who quilts them.

I have said it before and I can't emphasize it enough, anyone who doesn't quilt can not comprehend the work and time that it takes to make one quilt and when you think that over the years since Pauline first came up with the idea for the Lest We Forget Quilt, in excess of 300 quilts have been made for our various projects, that's phenomenal, a huge thank you to everyone involved.

I mentioned earlier that Pauline & I would be retiring later in the year but we have a lot of quilts to present till then.

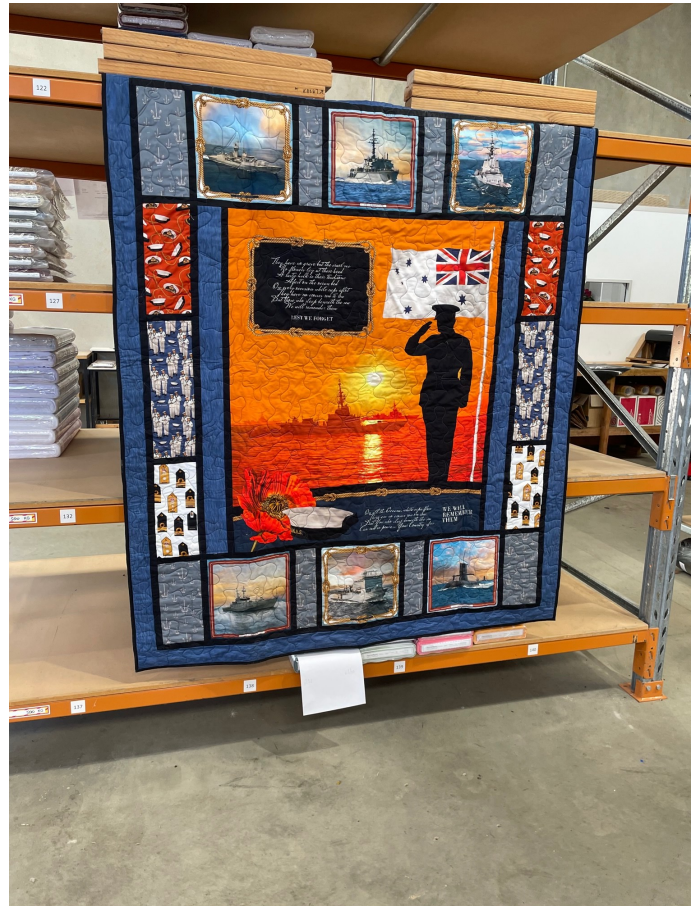
As you can imagine fabric for these quilts has been very hard to source that is until Pauline found a wonderful company in Young NSW. Kennard & Kennard is a family owned and run fabric wholesaler who have been involved in the fabric trade for over 70 years, commencing business in Glebe, Sydney in 1949 as clothing wholesalers. The business has evolved to their current position as a leading Australian wholesaler of quilting, patchwork and furnishing fabrics and is now in its fourth generation of Kennard ownership.

We are very grateful to Kennard & Kennard, not only do they have an amazing range of fabric but are a wonderful company to deal with, especially Ruby Ferguson who has always given us great services.

On their way home from Cootamundra, Pauline & Ray called in to Young and were able to visit Kennard & Kennard and meet Ruby in person for the first time and yes, Pauline did buy more fabric.

We look forward to getting nominations from you.

Please remember this project is for RSL NSW Service Members for their work and support of the League. All you need to do is send an email to us at auxiliaries@rslnsw.org.au with details as to why this person should be acknowledged.



AROUND THE AUXILIARIES

OLD BAR BEACH

Veteran Shane Pritchard and Auxiliary member Kylie Chambers held a pottery class for some Auxiliary members. What a wonderful idea, looks great fun.



Sub Branch and Auxiliary members at the Soldiers Memorial Hall a working bee in cleaning out Barwalla's storeroom and pulling apart old furniture for the skip bin

Great work guys



PORT MACQUARIE

Coordinator Joan Rose, and new members Joan Bird, Sharon Warwick and Wendy Tawler.

Welcome ladies



How awesome is this?

Port Macquarie sub-branch now has a caravan group.

An initial invitation to members by Gary Spencer resulted in a very successful weekend away to Coopernook Hotel.

Plans are under way for another getaway soon.



WINGHAM



Gym Day

Exercise then coffee, what could be better?



QUESTION:

Can anyone tell me the significance of this photo?

I'll explain later



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

Did anyone know the significance of the photo of Pauline and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley on the previous page?



The ship in the background is the HMAS Adelaide which is the venue for the Poppy Ball in October, how exciting is that?

There is a contingency Plan should the HMAS Adelaide becomes unavailable at last minute .

This is going to be an amazing event.





Auxiliaries with Facebook Pages:

Ingleburn

ANZAC House RSL NSW
Auxiliary – Penshurst

Bundeena

Leeton

Port Macquarie

Woonona Bulli

Doyalson Wyee

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 www.facebook.com/groups/3455036824555520

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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From 23rd August, 2021

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