

RSL NSW AUXILIARY NEWS

July, 2022

Thank you to everyone who responded too our last Newsletter, your input and comments are greatly appreciated, the consensus to how often we should do the newsletter came back as monthly so **Welcome** to our new monthly Newsletter. Again, I have to say I do need your input for the content.

Since the last Newsletter we are thrilled to welcome a new Auxiliary, Stockton (near Newcastle) to our Auxiliary family, also, so exciting is that including the Stockton members we have 39 new members on board, 16 of those are in the one Auxiliary.

Recently I was asked to speak to a group of crafting ladies at an Over 50's Retirement Community, they are a patchwork/quilting group who not only do beautiful work but want to make a difference. We had a lovely chat and I thought a couple of them might join but you had to pick me up from the floor when I got a call to say 16 had joined.

I was delighted to be asked to go back and present them with their badges



Not only did they arrange a lovely morning tea they also handed a stunning quilt to Phil Davies, Secretary Doyalson Wyee RSL sub Branch for the sub Branch to raffle



Something I would like to mention here about quilts, anyone who doesn't sew will not appreciate the time & cost that goes into making a quilt, this quilt is valued between \$600-\$800. A fantastic donation, the ladies will also be making items for street stalls and Anzac Day & Remembrance Day.



Another thing I was very impressed with, these days new members do not take the Pledge of Allegiance when receiving their badges, Phil made these really cute tags to attach to the badges. I think it's a great idea and we at Toukley RSL Auxiliary will certainly be copying it.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that I had contacted sub Branch Secretaries, requesting details of Auxiliary membership, it is essential that now we are part of the League RSL NSW have a correct record of us all on the portal the same as any other.

I've been asked why we are doing this, obviously it is not only a RSL NSW requirement but it will improve communications.

I have had a good response but unfortunately a lot of information is missing, so I will be contacting Coordinators to have the gaps filled.

So, what is a portal? it is a gateway the RSL NSW website, it is a point of access in which the content is only available for a set of specific users. Those specific users will be the sub Branches, but they only have access to their own sub Branch information, it is not open to all and sundry.

One thing that a lot of people agree with is the lack of communication, once our part of the portal is up and running all information (including the Newsletters) will go out to all members who we have details for, so everyone will be kept fully up to date.





Over the last few weeks a number of questions have been asked so I think the issues should be discussed with all Auxiliaries.

Processing new Membership Applications

New Membership Applications forms are found on our website at <u>RSL-Auxiliary-Member-Form.pdf</u> (rslnsw.org.au), a copy is also attached at the back of this Newsletter.

The completed form should then be given to the sub Branch Secretary.

We no longer need to have a proposer or seconder, however, there is provision for the application to be declined by the sub Branch, a reason needs to be given if the application is declined.

A copy of the form should then be sent to RSL NSW support@rslnsw.org.au and the badge will be sent out.

New members are not required to take the Pledge.

Meetings

I won't complicate things by talking about the old regulations but members who have been around for a while will know that meetings were mandatory, they no longer are.

There is only one meeting a year required and that is prior to the sub-Branch AGM in order to endorse the RSL Auxiliary Coordinator's annual report to the sub-Branch President.

There are pro's and con's to having regular meetings which need to be considered, without going into it too deeply a pro is the social aspect and for many people this is important.

On the con side, this is what I think has hampered us getting and retaining members. Not all people are able to attend regular meetings, that could be due to health, family, work or any other commitments. Just because a person can not attend a regular meeting does not mean that they can't contribute to our cause. We need to (I hate this expression) look outside the box. A great example is our new members at Doyalson Wyee RSL Auxiliary, most of these members can not attend the meetings, however as you will have read earlier, they will be making a huge contribution. Obviously, there will be a need for good communication between Coordinators and members.

Working people may be able to take the tokens to work during the Anzac Day & Remembrance Day period, attend weekend fundraisers, many things, we should not be excluding anyone who is able to assist with our vital work no matter their age or status.

A helpful hint on setting meetings, would be for members to discuss the frequency of meetings and make a decision as a group to how often meetings are held. There is no requirement to take formal Minutes but I do suggest that notes be taken as a record.

Selling Tokens

When selling tokens please ensure you wear your Auxiliary Badge and carry the sub Branch Charity-NFP Certificate and have it on display

Auxiliaries Getting Together

Covid has been the only obstacle of Auxiliaries getting together for events and celebrations and we encourage all Auxiliaries to get back doing this, these events have always been well attended and enjoyed.

A current list of Auxiliaries can be found on our website <u>RSL Auxiliaries | RSL NSW</u>, invitations should be sent C/- the relevant sub Branch.

If you have an event coming up and would like to advertise it in the Newsletter please let me know.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE QUILT

Pauline has been very busy presenting Thank You for your Service Quilts to some wonderful people, congratulations to you all.



What a Pleasure it was to award A Thank You For Your Service Quilt to Jeff O'Brien the RSL NSW State Secretary

The beautiful quilt made by Jan and Kerry and quilted by the amazing Bruce N Kaye Brown



Christine Dartnell in Barham with her Thank You For Your Service Quilt

Quilts made by Irene and Jo-Ann form Glenn Innes And Kaye Brown



Bill O'Malley with his Thank You for his Service Quilt today at the DC meeting in Barham



Congratulations to Dulcie Balderston on receiving your Thank You For your Service Quilt

Dulcie was a proud member of the Taree Womens Auxilary before it's closing and a very proud member of the Taree RSL Sun Branch for 31 years

Dulcie is a proud 96 year old Australian Veteran

Quilt made by Jo-Ann and Irene



Thank you Del Heueke OAM for your service to RSL NSW

Quilt made by Jo- Ann Michell and Irene from Glen Innes



Thank you, Charlie Fisher, for what you do for the Taree RSL Sub Branch

Quilt made by Jo- Ann Michell and Irene from Glen Innes



We had the pleasure of Awarding a Thank You For Your Service Quilt for Mr Bill Hardman OAM unfortunately Bill was not able to attend the presentation so his Wife Judy and son Karl received the quilt

Thank you once again to the amazing Kaye Brown and her wonderful quilter's



This is RSL NSW's most senior veteran Alf Carpenter OAM. 105 years of age, and being presented with a Thank You For Your Service Quilt from the RSL Auxiliaries. Thank you for your service Alf!





Thank you Tony Ryan for your wonderful service to RSL NSW

Quilt made by Camden Country Quilter's Quilted by Bruce N Kaye Brown



Congratulations Terry Gould on recognition for your Service to RSL NSW over many years

Quilt made by Camden Country Quilters and Quilted by the wonderful Bruce N Kaye Brown



Uncle Harry - Harry Allie

There is an article taken from the NSW War Memorials Register on Uncle Harry Allie later in the Newsletter.

I told you Pauline had been busy.

If you would like to nominate someone to receive a Thank You For Your Service Quilt please contact Pauline at auxiliaries@rslnsw.org.au, if any quilters would like to help, please also contact Pauline.

As I mentioned earlier, quilts are not cheap to make, the cost plus the time involved adds to the overall value of the quilt. We would be very grateful if it is possible for any sub Branch to make a donation to this project, again please contact Pauline if you can help.



Harry Allie

Warrant Officer, Royal Australian Air Force

A descendant of the Gudjala People and RAAF Indigneous Elder

"There was that early mateship, a sense of the strong helping the weak and the weak helping the strong."



Harry Allie looks back at his 23 years of service in the Royal Australian Air Force with unusually fierce pride.

"There was that early mateship, a sense of the strong helping the weak and the weak helping the strong."

Coming from a rural Queensland background, he left school at 14 and worked first as an assistant pastry cook then as a postal officer before applying for the air force when he was 23.

It took Harry a few more years than most to get the confidence to apply and he wasn't surprised when he heard the air force didn't recruit Aboriginal people. This was in 1966, a year after Indigenous Australians were granted full voting rights nationally and in all states, Queensland being the last.

Harry is a proud descendant of the Gudjala Tribal group and two of his uncles and an aunt had already given service in World War I and World War II. So he pushed ahead and on 15 January 1966 he enlisted. After two days of psych and aptitude tests was selected among 14 successful candidates in the North Queensland region to enlist in the RAAF.

What followed were 10 weeks of basic training in Adelaide and two months at Wagga Wagga, NSW, where the newly minted Aircraftsman (AC) Allie was given his first posting in Sale, Victoria.



Aircraftsman Allie working on the base in Sale, Victoria

If during his service Warrant Officer Allie's hard work was rewarded with promotion and successful re-postings around the country, he was only repaying the faith others had had in him.

Once when Harry was sick at home as a boy, his high school principal visited and suggested to his mother that he sit the entrance exam for the postal service. Again, this was not an area where many Indigenous people worked but Harry passed.



"That was like winning the lottery. You got a smart uniform and a regular wage, something a lot of people from my mob didn't have."

It was not only Harry's uncles and aunties who played their role in Australia's major conflicts. His younger brother David followed him into the services, joining the army and serving throughout Australia and in Vietnam.

Continuing the family tradition of public service, his sister Valerie was on staff at James Cook University where she was honoured with a PhD while younger brother Phillip has worked for many years in community health.

Harry's career in the air force was also the fulfilment of the longing he'd felt as a young boy when he would spend up to four hours on the train from Charters Towers to Townsville to watch planes taking off and landing at the RAAF base at Garbutt Airport.

Another marker of his early ambition to be part of the new world was saving money as a teenager to experience flying himself. It took a while but after deducting his regular contribution to the household from his weekly wage, he saved enough to catch the Dakota DC3 that flew commercially from his home in Charters Towers to Townsville.

His commitment to the air force meant long periods away from his family and community, right from his early days as a new recruit. Coming from a loving tight-knit family and community made it all the harder.



"Getting letters from home was important and I was always very homesick. My mother couldn't read and write and my father worked for the railways and was often away so they would get one of my cousins to write the letters."

On the other hand, Harry was part of a strong peer group right from his first days in the RAAF. He was able to mix well and blend in and he and his cohort were very protective of each other throughout their careers and after.

There were few people of colour in the services, but Harry witnessed relatively little discrimination.

"If there was discussion in the background and something was occasionally said, my mates would tell them to pull their head in."

It was at his first posting as an equipment assistant in Sale that Harry met his wife of 51 years, Bev. As fate would have it, she was in the WRAAF but was promoted to

sergeant while he was only a corporal and so they were not allowed to go to the movies together. Obviously, this was discrimination of a different kind.

"She was also taller than me and stood right out but I was fortunate enough to be a sweet talker."

They married in 1969 and in line with regulations then, Bev had to discharge from the WRAAFs.

The most memorable posting was to McClelland then Edwards Air Force Base in California, USA. It was March 1973 and the RAAF was taking delivery of the revolutionary F111 aircraft. Harry's role was as logistics support to the team. It was his first trip overseas.

"We were at the forefront of making sure we met every criteria, that the air force was doing everything that was required and it was interesting to see how our air force could stand alongside another much bigger air force, like the US Air Force, and I thought we were doing a great job."

Harry was discharged after 23 years in the Royal Australian Air Force. He then used his skills, knowledge and experience to work in the defence industry on major contracts. Following this were roles in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) policy and advocacy area as well as in community engagement with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Servicers and Indigenous Affairs.

In retirement Harry remains actively involved with Indigenous issues as well as community programs at the local, state and national levels.

Appointed by the Chief of the Air Force as the Inaugural Air Force Elder, Harry has also been selected as an Ambassador for the NSW Centenary of Anzac Advisory Council.

Proud of his experiences and knowledge, Harry takes every opportunity to improve the position and opportunities available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as well as all those in vulnerable communities.



Thank you to the State Library of NSW, NSW War Memorials Register

https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/nsw-stories/harry-allie



We will all remember the great response we got back in 2018 when we asked for Yellow Poppies, either knitted or crocheted for the Invictus Games.

Recently the first Invictus Games post Covid were held in The Netherlands and guess what! Yes, we gave Yellow Poppies to the Australian Invictus Team, as well as friends and family, apparently they were very popular.

The photo below is of Jennifer and Peter Reynolds, (Jennifer is the Sport and Recreation Project Manager at RSL NSW) at the Opening Ceremony, moments before a French woman tapped Jennifer on the shoulder to ask her where she got the beautiful yellow poppy she was wearing on her lanyard. In the spirit of the Games, Jennifer generously offered her poppy to the French woman seated behind her, who was very excited and grateful.

Jennifer made the following comments "As you know, it is a popular activity during the games to swap pins around. The yellow poppy was the first request for this to occur.

Please pass on my gratitude to the Auxiliaries for their hard work in creating these beautiful poppies. They are much appreciated and cherished amongst the participants of the games."





POPPY MASKS

Our thanks again to Jenny Leach for her continuing work with our Poppy Masks, the way things are going, masks could be with you for some time to come. As you know these masks are made from beautiful scarves, Pauline has been asked many time where buy the scarves so Jenny & Pauline have put together set of a scarf with a matching mask.



These sets are available for \$30.00, they come in several colour combinations, if you would like to purchase one, just contact Pauline via auxiliaries@rslnsw.org.au

AROUND THE AUXILIARIES

CITY OF CAMPBELLTOWN - AUXILIARY

We had our Fund raiser.

A BBQ Day at, Campbelltown Bunnings on the 18th June, 2022.

It was such a great day, so much fun, with a lot of laughs and ran off our feet trying to serve everyone who was hungry for sausage sandwiches.

We made a good amount for The Veterans.

If you have a Bunnings in your area, you should ask if they have a spot and put your name down to run it yourself.

They give you the BBQ, tables and the gas and a place to hold it.

You supply the onions, bread, drinks, sausages, napkins and sauces.

Bunnings will give you the requirements of what is needed and then you just have to have the man or lady power to run it for the day.

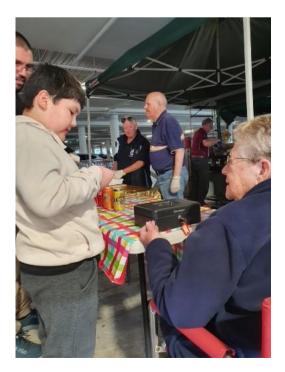
It is an enjoyable day.

All money raised is for your fundraiser, Bunnings doesn't take anything from you.

I hope other Auxiliaries consider this as it is not easy but, it is a great fundraiser and you will have a great day.

Sharon Ryan

City of Campbelltown RSL Sub Branch Auxiliary.





BATEMANS BAY - AUXILIARY

Announces that it is bringing back their monthly One Cent Auction, after a break of 12 months due to Covid and other availability reasons.

This is a very popular afternoon which is enjoyed by approximately 20 to 30 ladies usually (and occasionally a couple of gentlemen if they're game enough). We have a few laughs, a cup of tea and biscuits, and it's great to be able to get together again and have a chat and win some prizes.

Our first one is on Wednesday, the 22nd June, and then every third Wednesday until November.

All of us in the Auxiliary are looking forward to it and the opportunity to assist with our fundraising.

Anita Barnes

Deputy Coordinator Batemans Bay

WINGHAM AUXILIARY

WINGHAM RSL SUB BRANCH VETERAN'S 'VOYAGER' CHALLENGE FUNDRAISING VENTURE FOR RSL LIFE CARE

Retired Naval Warrant Officer and current Wingham RSL Sub-Branch President Ron Irwin, alongside his wife Lesley of 58 years, marked the 58th Anniversary of the Sinking of HMAS "Voyager" with a highly successful 82klm walk around Wingham Central Park, NSW to mark the event with a klm for every one of the 82 lives lost on that terrible day 10th February, 1964. Ron was there that night when the tragedy happened.

The event commenced on Thursday 24th February from

Anzac Place, on the corner of Bent and Farquahar Streets, Wingham and the plan was to complete it within 58 days and before Anzac Day 2022 weather permitting.

During the period of the challenge Ron had an emotional meeting on Wednesday morning March 23 when a survivor off the HMAS Voyager Stan (known as Sam) Porter and his wife Gloria travelled from Qld to Wingham to join Ron & Lesley in the walk after reading about the Challenge on social media.

It turned out that Stan's wife Gloria's Aunt Helen was married to Lesley's Uncle Hilton Glenn and she was delighted to met Lesley and see the memorial seat placed in Anzac Place honouring Ptes. David Manning Glenn and Hilton Glenn who had served in the 2nd World War Hospital Unit.

Ron and Lesley were joined on their walk by members of the Wingham Sub-Branch and even "Buddy" the four-legged companion of Sub-Branch member Roger Turner and wife Lyn made the walk around the park and some of the locals as well.

Ron was overwhelmed by the support from locals and local business and organizations including the Wingham Memorial Services Club and many other generous contributors.

The final tally raised of \$5866 overwhelmed Ron – who ironically is aged 82 yrs and he and wife Lesley celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary this year 2022.

Thanks to all for their support and look forward to doing it again next year!!!!

All funds have now gone to RSL Life Care

Wingham RSL Sub-Branch Publicity Officer

Pam Muxlow







FORESTVILLE-AUXILIARY

It was an extra special occasion, Pauline, when you and Ray were able to join us on 1st of June at the Forestville RSL sub branch meeting. Your presence was very appreciated.

Our Forestville Auxiliary had their monthly meeting on Monday 6 June, and I asked Judy to bring the Quilt for more members to see. It was well received and admired as it was placed up high and visible at the front of the meeting room.

As it happened the guest speaker for this meeting was our Mayor Michael Regan of Northern Beaches Council. The Mayor, who knows Bill & Judy Hardman quite well, also admired the Quilt. There were 26 members present.

Barbara Lunnon

Patron Forestville RSL Auxiliary





This article was in my local Family History Society newsletter and the unknown author requested pass it on.

SERIOUS LOCK-DOWN ADVICE

Everyone, please be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home!

I was just talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking my Pepsi and we all agreed

that things are getting bad. I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine because she puts a different

spin on everything! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge because he's been acting cold and distant!

In the end, the iron straightened me out and said that the situation wasn't all that pressing and that all the

wrinkles would be ironed out soon! The vacuum however, was very unsympathetic.... told me to suck it up!

But the fan was very optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon! The toilet looked a bit flushed

but didn't say anything when I asked it opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged while

the doorknob told me to get a grip! You can just about guess what the curtains told me.....they told me to

pull myself together!

We will survive!!

Please pass it on --- gotta keep up the humour!

Regards,

Janet Dawson

Sawtell RSL Sub Branch Women's Auxiliary.



We were thrilled when Pauline received this letter from Charles HJ Davies MVO Private secretary to The Princess Royal thanking us for the Poppy masks and scarfs.





To all our Auxiliary Members who are not feeling the best at the moment, especially Trish Bain , Annette Denley, Gail Rowe, Bev Howard, we are thinking of you and sending our love and best wishes



If you are like me you will be shocked to realise that it is 9 years since Pauline came up with idea of making a quilt, one quilt and we all know what grew out of that.

Recently Pauline & Ray attended The Rotary Club of Liverpool Greenway Charity Black Tie Ball to raise money to support Lifeline Macarthur and Western Sydney. Lifeline do an amazing amount of work within the veteran community, on behalf of RSL NSW Auxiliaries Pauline donated this beautiful quilt, made by Kaye Brown and Camden Country Quilter's, which was auctioned on the night

An identical quilt was also been donated to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services for an online auction which was held as part of the inaugural RSL LifeCare Veteran Services Gala Dinner, held Saturday 2nd July, 2022. We are thrilled to let you know that over \$5,000 was raised over the two events.



Something for all the parents and grandparents, what a wonderful opportunity to involve the children.

Students across NSW are encouraged to get creative as RSL NSW together with NSW Department of Education, Catholic Schools NSW and the Association of Independent Schools of NSW launches an art competition to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the RSL and Schools Remember ANZAC Commemoration next year.

The winning designs will feature on the 2023 Commemoration program and at an exhibition at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park.

More information including the guidelines, how to submit artwork, judging and FAQs can be found at https://www.rslnsw.org.au/artcompetition/





GAREN OF REMEMBRANCE

BETTY HOBBS, OAM -SAWTELL



Local identity, Betty Hobbs, who passed away on 7 July, 2021, aged 94, was posthumously awarded the order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List On Monday for her service to the Community of Sawtell.

Betty moved to Sawtell with her parents in 1946 and apart from holidays, never left until her passing almost a year ago. In 1952 she married another local identity Nugget Hobbs who predeceased her in 2003. Nugget was also extremely active in community organisations including as a founding member of the Sawtell Life Saving club and the Sawtell RSL.

Betty was widely recognised and acknowledged as a local stalwart. She was a founding member of numerous organisations in the Town including the RSL Ladies Auxiliary, Torchbearers for Legacy and the Ladies Surf Club. She was also extremely active in the Sawtell Bowling Club and the Sawtell Reserve Trust for many years. Betty served these organisations in various leadership positions, in some cases for several decades. The walls of her modest lounge room were covered in Life Memberships and Certificates of Appreciation from these organisations.







ALAN HILL -CASTLE HILL

Prior to the opening of the RSL Auxiliary in Castle Hill & District sub-Branch Alan has assisted his wife Cheryl in many activities

Since 2006 we have delivered war widows/widowers Christmas hampers Alan helped with the pre working involved with the hampers some years as many as 89 hampers.

All the products that were bought to fill the hampers, Alan often drove Cheryl to buy some of the heavy goods and did the heavy lifting, Alan also arranged the goods to make the packing easier. At hamper packing time Alan did the disposal of all the boxes, the placement of all the hampers prior to pick up and delivery



Alan also attended the war widows/widowers lunch put on each year in support of Cheryl.

In 2020 the RSL Auxiliary started again within the sub-Branch, Alan was one of the first people to join, again helping with any heaving lifting involved with the preparation of some of the events held. Alan also attended the meetings and many other activities.

His continual contribution to the sub-Branch will always be remembered.



LITA HAMILTON - WOONONA-BULLI

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Lita Hamilton on Sunday 19th June. 2022, Lita was a war Widow, Life Member of the Womens Auxiliary and long serving President for 26 years until her retirement.

Lita was a tireless fundraiser for the sub Branch and Youth club. The sub Branch sends their condolences to Lita's family.



NOELENE JOYNER- CANTERBURY HURLSTONE PARK

Our Deepest condolences to the Family and Friends of Mrs Noelene Joyner life Member of Canterbury Hurlstone Park RS L sub Branch Auxiliary

Noelene you will certainly be missed by RSL NSW Auxiliaries and Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Sub Branch Auxiliary Membership





BERYL 'BOBBIE' STEPHENSON - CANTERBURY HURLSTONE PARK

Bobbie was a Life Member of Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL sub Branch and Life Member of Canterbury Hurlstone Park Club Ltd and very proud member of Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL sub Branch Auxiliary





Well, we're nearly finished, this isn't quite a short as I thought it would be but, it is what it is. One quick thing, if there are any members not well please let me know so that they can be sent a cheerio.

Don't forget if your Auxiliary has it's own Facebook Group Page let me know so I can list them in the upcoming Newsletters, a great way of sharing.

One final thing, many people like to read a paper copy of a document rather than an electronic version, unfortunately due to costs we are not in a position to send out hard copies, some Auxiliaries have found that their local MP's either Federal or State are happy to copy the Newsletters for them, so each member get their own copy. Something to consider.

As I am writing this the weather is turning nasty again so please take care and stay safe.

Cheers Susan

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



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