



RSL NSW AUXILIARY NEWS

December, 2022

Welcome to our last Newsletter for 2022, can you believe it? In a blink of an eye the year has gone, and what a year it has been.

The relaxing of many Covid restrictions gave us so much hope of getting our lives back on track, sadly, the weather had other ideas and many of our sub Branches & Auxiliaries had to deal with the horrendous floods, especially Lismore.

Thankfully after 3 years we were all able to hold full Anzac & Remembrance Day Commemorations.

Auxiliary activities returned, we have had Garage Sales, Bunning BBQ's, selling Anzac Biscuits, Craft & Mother's Day stalls, raffles, fundraising walks, race days, golf, bowls, I can't image how many poppies were either knitted and crocheted, wreaths have been made and the icing on the cake has been the Auxiliary get-togethers and birthday celebrations.

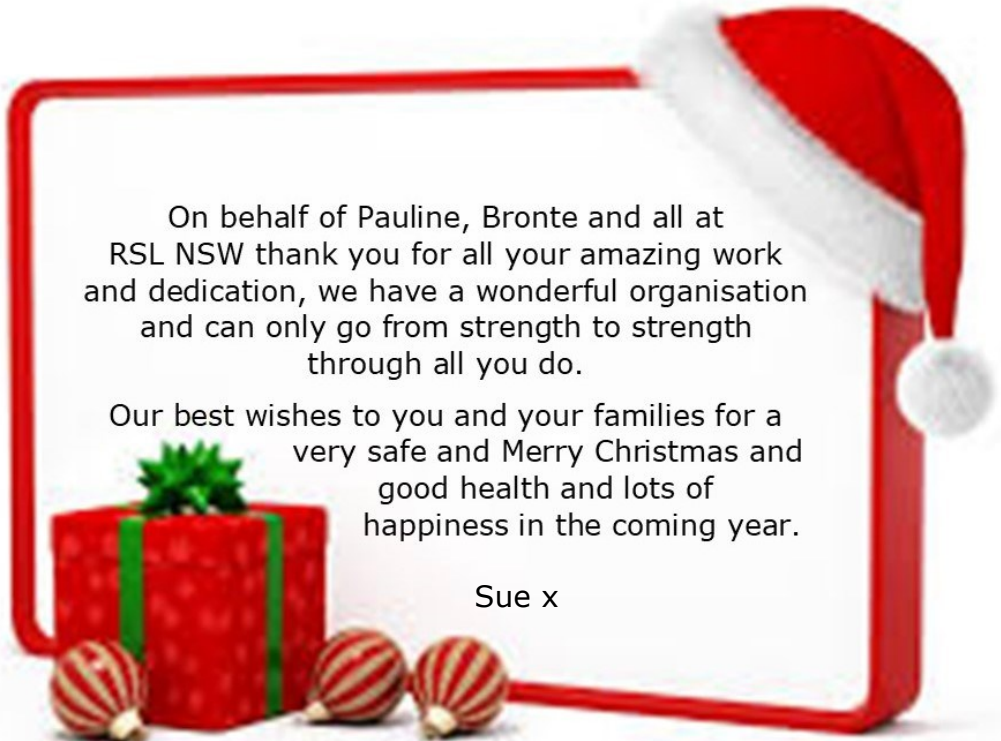
We gained three new Auxiliaries and there are another three in the pipeline.

Membership continues to grow, in November alone we had 53 new members join us.

We had our first (of many to come) Information Workshops and thanks to technology, many of us were able to attend on line.

6 Life Memberships were presented (some had been award prior to 2022 but due to Covid could not be presented)

36 Thank You For Your Service Quilts were presented.



On behalf of Pauline, Bronte and all at
RSL NSW thank you for all your amazing work
and dedication, we have a wonderful organisation
and can only go from strength to strength
through all you do.

Our best wishes to you and your families for a
very safe and Merry Christmas and
good health and lots of
happiness in the coming year.

Sue x

The format for the Lady Woodward Cup changed in line with the new structure.

Membership details are going on to the RSL NSW Portal which will improve communication.

This Newsletter has gone monthly.

So, yes it has been a busy year.

A few thank you's, firstly to Jenny Leach, Jenny has continued to make the poppy masks with all the proceeds going to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services, in total over \$16,000 has been raised which is a mammoth job, thank you Jenny

Another mammoth job is the Thank You For Your Service Quilt Project, a huge thank you to Kaye Brown and the Camden Country Quilters, Anne-Marie Jacobs and Canberra Quilters, Christine Frame, Jenny Leach, Elizabeth Allen & Joanne Michell, truly sorry if I have missed anyone.

Thank you to Bill Charlton for his wonderful poems

Thank you to the Auxiliaries who have come into Anzac House to assist getting tokens ready for both Anzac Day & Remembrance Day and to Elizabeth Pederson of Castle Hill RSL sub Branch and Barbara Lunnon from Forestville for your hard work updating the portal.

Finally thank you to all the wonderful staff at RSL NSW, especially State Secretary, Jeff O'Brien and Dianne Naylor, Executive Support Officer for their help & support.



Now Auxiliary Members are included in the RSL NSW Constitution there has been some confusion as to the status of members who are also Service or Affiliate Members of RSL NSW .

In response to a question from a sub-Branch about membership, the State Secretary has provided the following advice.

"By way of background, when the Women's Auxiliary operated as a separate entity and members of the Auxiliary were not members of the RSL, Service and Affiliate Members could also hold membership of the Auxiliary. This was because the Auxiliary membership was not recognised in the Constitution, nor were Auxiliary members recorded on the RSL NSW membership database. At that time, the entire membership structure of the Auxiliary network was completely separate to RSL NSW.

Since then, Auxiliary membership has been included as a class of membership in the Constitution. This change affected some Auxiliary membership in as far as a member of RSL NSW has never been able to hold two classes of membership e.g. you cannot be a Service and Affiliate member. Any member who was a Service or Affiliate member and an Auxiliary member at the time when Auxiliary members were added to the Constitution, will only be recorded as a Service or Affiliate member in the current RSL NSW database. If we are aware of any awards a Service or Affiliate member may have received from their involvement with the Auxiliary, we can record these on the members profile e.g. Auxiliary Life Membership or a Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge as the case may be.

The way that the situation about continued participation of Service and Affiliate members in the Auxiliary was resolved is contained in SOP 8 item 2.2 which states: "*Members of the RSL Auxiliary will be Auxiliary Members. Any other RSL NSW Members may, at the invitation of the RSL Auxiliary participate in, and assist with RSL Auxiliary activities.*" This means that Service and Affiliate Members can maintain their class of membership while also supporting the work of the Auxiliary by attending their meetings and activities like fundraising.

The main point to remember is that the Auxiliary is now part of the sub-Branch and as such both entities should be working as one, toward the common goal of supporting veterans and their families in their community. The class of membership that is applicable to individual members should be guided by the eligibility criteria contained in Appendix B of the Constitution however the class of membership should not inhibit a person's involvement with the activities that support the charitable purpose of the sub-Branch.

I hope that provides some clarity on the matter."

LADY WOODWARD CUP

Post Covid it was wonderful that our Patron Mr Dennis Wilson was able to join us at Congress, to present together with Pauline James, the Lady Woodward Cup , Certificates and Medals to our Winners Lismore, Wingham and Forestville, again congratulations to all the Auxiliaries



LISMORE



WINGHAM



FORESTVILLE

We really look forward to all the 2023 entries, please give consideration when the time comes to enter, so many of you are eligible. Wouldn't it be lovely to see your Auxiliary name engraved on the Cup?

THE NOWRA VETERAN WELLBEING CENTRE

When I first joined the Auxiliary many moons ago, I felt any funds raised by the Auxiliary should be used for veterans within the local community, I had no idea of the need beyond those boundaries. It was only when I became involved with the former CCWA that I came to appreciate the work done by DefenceCare now known as RSL LifeCare Veteran Services. I realised that we owe a debt to all our veterans not only to those in my local area. This is when I came to believe that we need to work as one, not individual Auxiliaries.

Like me, a lot of people didn't understand the vital work that RSL LifeCare Veteran Services did and sadly some still don't. I would encourage all of you to check out the RSL LifeCare Veteran Services website rsllifecare.org.au and those of you on Facebook to like and follow their page www.facebook.com/RSLLCVeteranServices

On Monday 5th December 2022, RSL LifeCare officially opened a second Veterans Wellbeing Centre, this time in Nowra, a purpose built, state-of-the-art venue to provide an expanded range of health and wellbeing services for veterans, current serving Australian Defence Force members, and their families in the Shoalhaven region.

Supported by the Australian Government and RSL NSW, the centre will support up to 20,000 veterans and their families across the region. Support and services offered includes across health, education and skills, housing, social support and connection, employment, income and finance, and recognition and respect.

RSL LifeCare CEO Janet Muir said the occasion and centre opening had long been anticipated and was welcomed by the local community, particularly the many veterans, current serving members of the ADF and their families living in Nowra and surrounding areas.

"Our service men and women are supported as part of their time in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), and we want to ensure that support continues once they leave active service."

"RSL LifeCare recognises the importance of supporting those who have given so much to protect our country – a sentiment also recognised by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and RSL NSW, both of whom I want to thank for their funding and support of this centre and the service it will provide."

RSL NSW President Ray James said veteran communities have witnessed the benefits of these Hubs in action since the Nowra and Riverina Veteran Wellbeing Centres were established, and that RSL NSW and RSL LifeCare have a strong business case to support how the organisations can operate the centres using their combined resources.

"RSL NSW is committed to supporting the centres for one reason; we know they work," Mr James said.

"Since 2021, RSL NSW sub-branches have donated over \$5.2 million to RSL LifeCare to support the ongoing delivery of services to veterans and their families and I welcome the commitment from the Australian Government to expand the Veterans' and Families' Hub network.

"RSL NSW and RSL LifeCare are uniquely positioned to operate Veterans' and Families' Hubs in New South Wales."

Federal Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, the Honourable Matt Keogh MP said the veterans' and families' hubs were a fantastic resource to support the whole veteran community.

"Every community is different and I'm so glad RSL LifeCare, Open Arms and Invictus are working together to provide the integrated supports that veterans and families need in and around Nowra," Minister Keogh said.

"The Government is committed to providing practical services and supports to Defence personnel, veterans and families to ensure a better future for the veteran community."

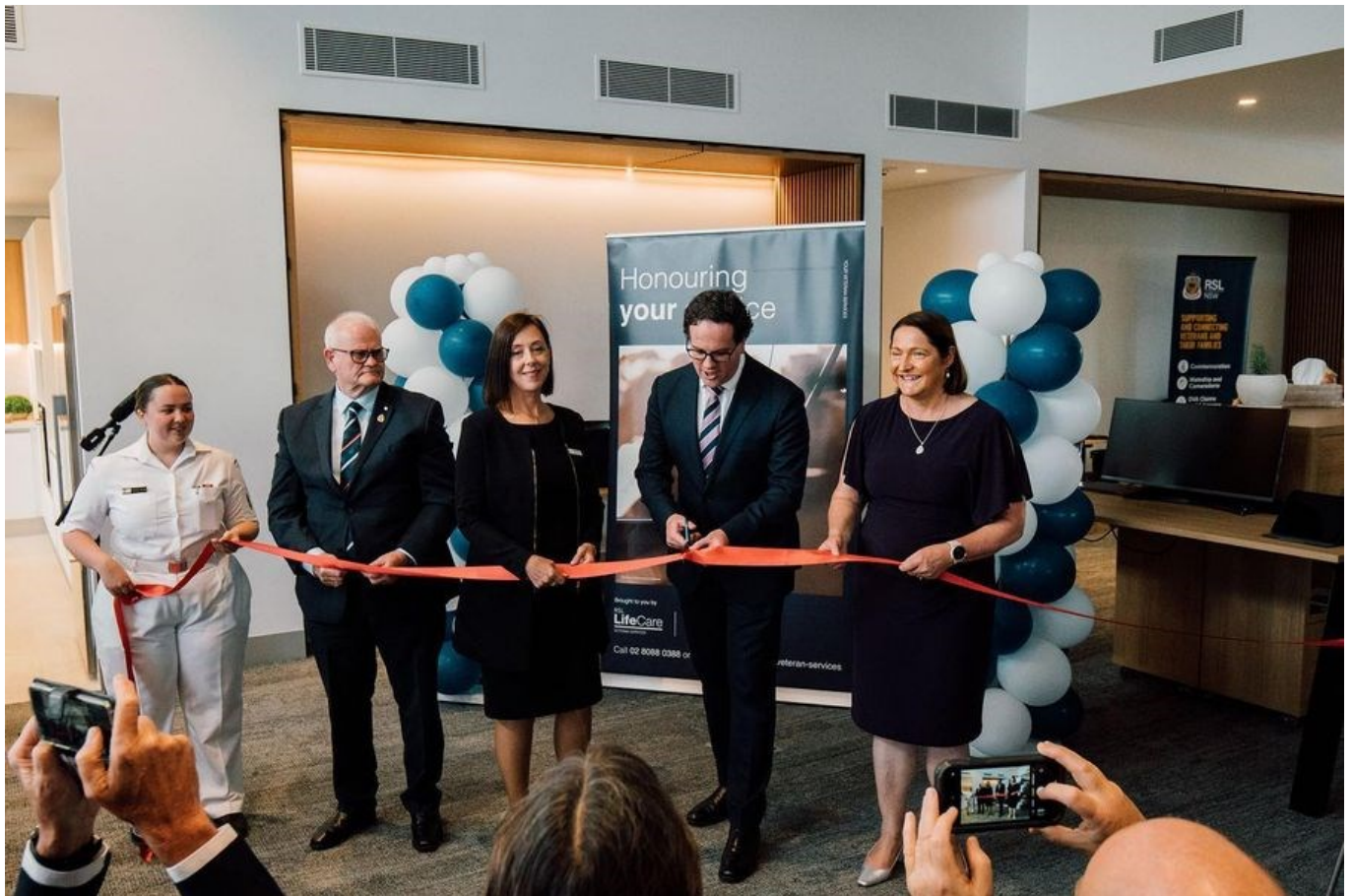
Centre Manager and veteran (USMC), Jason Grimes said he looked forward to continuing to collaborate with local veterans to enhance their opportunities and experiences amongst communities.

"The Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre reflects the needs of the local region and is a place where veterans and their families can come and talk to one another, learn from one another and seek assistance from staff, many of whom are veterans themselves," Mr Grimes said.

In addition to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services staff being located at the centre, staff from Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling and Invictus Australia will be co-located there, building the one-stop shop model for veterans and their families that is at the centre of the Veteran Wellbeing Centre strategy. The spaces within the centre will also be available for local ESOs to access and engage with veterans

Nowra is home to three separate defence bases in the local area.

The Nowra Veteran Wellbeing Centre was made possible through a \$5million grant from the Australian Government, as part of the Veterans' and Families' Hubs Network



As promised, here are the photos of the beautiful quilts that were presented to Pauline at Congress for the Thank You For Your Service Quilt Program, made by the amazing quilters from Doyalson Wyee Auxiliary



Also, these wonderful ladies made a quilt which was presented in the presence of Her Excellency, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW and her husband Dennis Wilson, our Patron to RSL NSW State President Ray James. Sorry the photo isn't too good.



LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to Beverly De Loas of East Maitland Auxiliary on being awarded Life Membership



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE QUILT

This has been a very busy month for Pauline awarding Thank Your For Your Service Quilts (13 in total), congratulations to all recipients and thank you for everything you do.



Don Tait OAM, a Vietnam Veteran,
Castle Hill



Cheryl Hill, Castle Hill



Don Kennedy OAM ,
Forestville



Elizabeth Pedersen , Castle Hill



Syd Lynch, Cardiff



Garry (Mick) James JP, Cardiff



Peter Taylor, Cardiff



Paul Bryant, Fairfield



Michael Alexandra , Fairfield



Charlie Lynn OAM, Camden



Jim Wrigley, Bankstown



The Hon David Elliott

All of the quilts are extraordinary beautiful but I would like to showcase this particular quilt not only is it stunning it could not be more appropriate.



This quilt was presented to Rear Admiral Jonathan Earley CSC, who is a third highest senior officer in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).



Rear Admiral Jonathan Earley, CSC, RAN joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Maritime Warfare Officer in January 1990 from Perth, Western Australia. He has deployed extensively on many maritime operations and exercises throughout Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East as well as the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Caribbean.

His command appointments have included the Anzac Class frigate, HMAS *Ballarat* (2011-12) and the Canberra Class Landing Helicopter Dock, HMAS *Adelaide* (2017-18). In 2017 he was also appointed as the Task Group Commander for the Australian Defence Force's inaugural Indo-Pacific Endeavour regional engagement activity, a high profile event that witnessed the largest Australian joint-maritime task group to have deployed to Asia in over 40 years.

Rear Admiral Earley assumed the role of Deputy Fleet Commander in January 2021. He subsequently assumed the position of Commander Australian Fleet in June 2022 and was promoted to Rear Admiral on 17 July 2022.



Ashore, he has also served in a variety of challenging staff roles at the operational and strategic level. Notable appointments have included tenures as the Director-General United States Force Posture Initiatives and the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative, Chief of Staff to the Chief of Navy and Director of Maritime Operations located in Headquarters Joint Operations Command.

Rear Admiral Earley is a distinguished graduate of the Australian War College, having completed the Australian Command and Staff Course in 2008 and the Defence Strategic Studies Course in 2019. For the latter course he was awarded the Deakin University Academic Excellence prize for his research into the Australia-US security relationship in the Indo-Pacific.

As part of the 2017 Australia Day Honours, he was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for "outstanding achievement and devotion to duty in maritime operational and humanitarian response planning and deployment."

AROUND THE AUXILIARIES

LISMORE AUXILIARY

LADY WOODWARD CUP



We were stunned but thrilled to win the Lady Woodward Cup. We entered not thinking that we had a chance against so many wonderful hardworking Auxiliaries.

Also, congratulations to the Wingham and Forestville Auxiliaries.

Sue Pagotto, our Coordinator was presented with the Certificate and Medallion at the last sub-Branch meeting for this year.

We also had our Auxiliary Christmas Luncheon on Saturday 3rd December.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year to all.

Judy Vivers

Deputy Coordinator

sub Branch and Auxiliary volunteers continued their excellent fundraising efforts at Lismore Bunnings BBQ



PORT MACQUARIE AUXILIARY

They say " a quilt warms your body and comforts your soul " this has been borne out over the last nine years that RSL NSW has had the various quilt projects and it's wonderful to see Port Macquarie Auxiliary continue the work in their local area.

All were very happy to receive their lap quilts and so pleased to be honoured this way.



Max Menz with his wife he served in the RAN



Ron Turner who served in the British Army



Jean Lacey who was in the WAAAF



Irene Treewick

INGLEBURN AUXILIARY

At their recent Christmas party 10 and 20 year membership certificates were presented. Congratulations and thanks to these wonderful members.



10 year certificate Christine Frame



20 year certificate Linda Wheeldon



10 year certificates Pauline Swinbourne Judy Morosin Sue Lock Margaret Coker

10 year certificates were also presented to Margaret O'Grady and Lori Reseigh

CASINO AUXILIARY



Hazel Slaney at the wonderful age of 100 years selling Remembrance Day badges in Casino

Getting ready for a great Christmas Raffle at St George Maso's



Getting together to celebrate Christmas, thank you to our sub Branch for providing lunch



FORESTVILLE AUXILIARY



A November fundraiser "Fashion Parade" was organised by the Forestville RSL. With 100 in attendance and a raffle, over \$2,000 was raised for the support of Veterans and their families in need. It was a lovely day for the members to enjoy being served by not only the hard-working committee, but by the Forestville Club CEO and the sub-Branch president who offered a welcome drink on arrival. Annie Betts, Coordinator, produced a big winner with this event.

Three happy Auxiliary members from Forestville at Anzac House helping to pack up boxes of poppies for the streets of Sydney on Remembrance Day.

While we are seen packing poppies, we were also happily wearing the felt poppies made by our Forestville Auxiliary. The 600 poppies we made received donations from the local community of upwards of \$1200. All for the good cause to support Veterans and their families in need.

L to r

Barbara Lunnon, Shirley Kellock, Jill Scifleet



President Bob Lunnon presented the certificate and medal for runner up Auxiliary, Forestville to Coordinator Annie Betts.

Members present that evening to receive the award are l to r:

Annie Betts, Judy Hardman, Caryl Flint, Jill Scifleet, Barbara Lunnon and Bob Lunnon, President Forestville RSL sub-Branch.

BARADINE AUXILIARY

We commemorated War Widows Day in Baradine on Wednesday 19th with a small ceremony and a presentation of a certificate and flowers commemorating the inaugural event. The 4 ladies in our town are Stella Hotchkiss, Moy Lane, Pam Brown and Rae Tassells and all had husbands who served during WW2. They were thrilled with the award and the recognition. The event made a full page spread in our local newspapers as well.



Baradine RSL Auxiliary Coordinator Dot Skinner presented Moy Lane with her flowers and certificate commemorating War Widows Day.



Dot Skinner and RSL member John King with Stella Hotchkiss



Dot Skinner and Pam Brown

Baradine pays tribute to local war widows

War widows have been formally thanked at an inaugural annual event established by the NSW Government.

by ILL CUTTS

The Baradine RSL Women's Auxiliary group with RSL sub-branch members on Wednesday, 19 October, at an afternoon tea held to commemorate the inaugural NSW War Widows Day. The event was held at the Baradine RSL Women's Auxiliary committee meeting and was attended by all who have been touched and inspired by the death of their spouse as a result of their Defence Force service.

"It's important that together we support, respect, inspire and celebrate our war widows, many of whom are now in their 80s and 90s and have served our country with honour and distinction," said ILL CUTTS.

"This is a special day that pays tribute to the brave men and women who served our country during WW2 and WW1. It is a day to remember that war widows are a part of our community and it is important we acknowledge and pay tribute to their sacrifice."

and those of their families. "We are proud to be a part of the NSW War Widows Day and to acknowledge the four war widows in our community today and pay tribute to their sacrifice."

Baradine war widows Vera May Lane, Stella Hotchkiss, Pamela Brown and Rae Tassells were presented with commemorative certificates in recognition of their valued contribution to the nation.

The date of War Widows Day is 19 October. The date was chosen to honour the 100th anniversary of the Australian War Veterans' Day (AWV) in 1918. The date was also chosen to honour the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1.

The Baradine RSL Women's Auxiliary committee meeting was held at the Baradine RSL Club on Wednesday, 19 October, at 2.00pm. The event was attended by all who have been touched and inspired by the death of their spouse as a result of their Defence Force service.

President of the Baradine RSL Women's Auxiliary, Dot Skinner presented a War Widows Day commemorative certificate to Stella Hotchkiss, assisted by RSL member, John King.

Dot Skinner presented Pam Brown with her War Widows Day commemorative certificate.

Baradine left again was present, Moy Lane was delighted to receive her War Widows Day certificate from Dot Skinner.

MT Marshall
1655 Napier Lane, Connehobran

AUCTION
Thursday, 24th November 2022
11.00 am
Inspection by appointment only
Contact: ILL CUTTS
0427 467322

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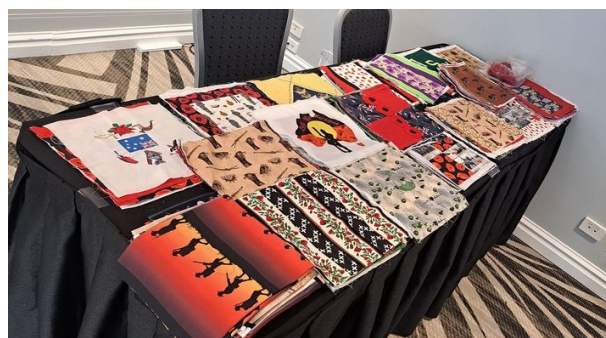
Cheers Evelyn Hampton
Baradine RSL Auxiliary

CASTLE HILL AUXILIARY

11 year old Ruvi presenting 40 poppies she had made for Remembrance Day to Castle Hill RSL Auxiliary, what a great job.



The Castle Hill and District sub-Branch recently hosted a thankyou morning tea for their sub-Branch Auxiliary, to thank them for all their hard work behind the scenes throughout the year. They provide poppies for Castle Hill RSL, Club Parramatta and Lynwood Club each year and run the stalls for Anzac and Remembrance Day. Some beautiful squares they have been working on were on display and these will be turned into some thank you quilts over the Christmas/New Year holidays. They thanked all the members for what they do and the support that they provide both the sub-Branch and to one another .



The members of the Castle Hill Auxiliary also made 60 full Christmas Hampers and 10 half hampers. These are given to their widows & widowers. Half hampers are for people without kitchens and are accompanied by a lovely posy of flowers. What a beautiful Christmas these people will have.



THINK OF OUR SOLDIERS

It's almost Christmas.
So much to be done.
We're counting the days now
One by one.

Takes me back to Viet Nam
Christmas '65.
We also counted the days then
And hoped we survived.

Did not seem much like Christmas.
Even Santa wore greens.
Some said he looked like our Sergeant.
They were both tall and lean.

We had a respite from the fighting.
It seemed the right thing to do.
Then it was business as usual.
Till our tour was through.
Then we returned home.

Soon it was Christmas again.
But our mates were still fighting
And it was not the same.
Christmas time is for children.

Not for those serving at war.
Separated from their loved ones.
Some are lost evermore.
Always think of those soldiers

When Christmas time comes around.
Hope their tour is soon over
And they come home safe and sound.

Bill Charlton c 2021



What a year we can make this, all being well our first full year doing what we do best.

Our main focus should be on both fundraising and recruiting and having fun too.

The Newsletters will continue monthly, please continue to share what is happening in your Auxiliary, we want to support you where we can.

Recruiting:

Recently RSL NSW launch the Recruitment Toolkit for use by all RSL sub-Branches, yes, this is aimed at new sub Branch members but there is a lot in there that can be adapted by Auxiliaries. Full information can be found on the RSL NSW website or click on the link [Recruitment Tools | RSL NSW](#).

There are some great resources here covering so many things.

Social Media is the way of the world these days, we have suggested many times for Auxiliaries to have a Facebook Page, there is great guide to using social media in the Toolkit, including how an active social media presence can help and a step by step guide to setting up a Facebook Page.

There is also an Event Planner Guide with some great templates you can use for promotions.

Please take full advantage of these resources.

Fundraising:

It goes without saying, our biggest fundraisers come with Anzac Day & Remembrance Day, don't forget!

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.

The beginning of the year is the time you need to plan your recruiting and fundraising strategy so as the Coordinator can prepare a report to be presented to the sub Branch prior to their Annual General Meeting.



So much to look forward to.





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



Honouring our members on their passing is very important and they should be acknowledged here in the Garden of Remembrance.

If possible please also include a photograph.

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

NORMA THERESE FRATER—BARADINE AUXILIARY



Norma passed away suddenly on Friday 14th of October aged 88 at the Baradine MPS which had been her home for the past 3 yrs.

Norma joined the Baradine Branch in 1951 along with her sister Pat and mother and had served 71 years in the group.. She was made a Life Member in 1991. She held a number of positions in the group but was Treasurer for over 50 years. Norma still took an active part in our group activities up until COVID stopped residents from attending events. Her RSL service was acknowledged at her funeral service at the graveside by local members.



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>



auxiliaries@rslnsw.org.au



Pauline James: 0411 877 396

Susan Allen: 0409 608 901



sueallen123@bigpond.com

From 23rd August, 2021

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