



SITREP



RSL Hornsby (Sub-Branch)

Supporting veterans in the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai area



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President's Message

Hi Everyone,

We are well and truly into 2024, with ANZAC Day and Mother's Day now gone. I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well.

ANZAC Day was strongly supported by the community and Veterans. It is estimated that the crowd was around three to four thousand. However, the crowd numbers for the Sunday service prior to ANZAC Day were very low. The Committee will review whether we continue with the Sunday ANZAC Service. A big thank you to all involved in the two services.



The lead up to and after ANZAC Day saw the Committee members attending local schools and Aged Care Facilities ANZAC services. It is always a pleasure to be involved in the local community.

Subject to endorsement at our May meeting, Phil White will assume the duties of the Treasurer. Dulcie will remain as a Trustee. Special thanks to Dulcie for guiding us through the highs and lows of the past few financial years, ensuring that the sub-Branch finances and share portfolio were kept financially sound.

The Committee will be submitting an application to DVA NSW and the Hornsby Council to add a plaque to the Hornsby War Memorial to recognise Veterans from recent wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

The Tank documentary "tank 169043" has now been completed and more details on this later in the News and Activities section of this edition. This is not a war documentary but the story of four Armoured Vietnam Veterans who served together and re-unite some 53 years later. A special thank you to the Hornsby sub-Branch for their support during this project. All grant acquittals have been completed on time.

The Sub-Branch, in conjunction with the Veterans Well Being Centre-Hornsby, will be producing a Medication Awareness video. This video will record the many issues Veterans face with their medication and entitlements.

I look forward to catching up with you at our next meeting on 26 May 2024.

Welcome

Since the last edition of SITREP, the sub-Branch has welcomed nine new members:

- Mrs Mary Chidgey. Mary is the wife of our late member, George Chidgey.
- Mrs Diane Koutchavlis. Diane is the wife of our late member Ron Koutchavlis
- Mr Aron Looker. Aron served in the Australian Army including deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and Solomon Islands.
- Mrs Penelope Looker. Pennie served in Australian Army including deployments in East Timor and Solomon Islands.
- Mrs Glen Yeaman. Glen is the wife of our late member Stan Yeaman.
- Mr Peter Jason. Peter served in the RAN including deployments to East Timor and the Persian Gulf.
- BRIG Satish Malik. Satish served in the Indian Army for 36 years.
- Mr Amardeep Bhardwaj. Amardeep served in the Indian Army for 38 years.
- Mr Timothy Kay. Tim is currently serving in the Australian Army as a member of 1/15 RNSWL.

Vale

It is with sincere regret that we must acknowledge the passing of two long time members of our sub-Branch, Reg Brooks and Norm Oliver.

Reg was born on 4 April 1936. He served in the Army Reserve for many years as an engineer in the 5th Engineer Group. Reg joined the sub-Branch in 1969. Reg passed away on 14 March 2024.

Norm was born on 26 January 1927. He served in the RAN during World War 2 and its immediate aftermath. Norm was present on HMAS Napier during the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay in 1945. Norm had been a member of Hornsby sub-Branch since 1952 including three years as sub-Branch President. Norm passed away on 27 March 2024.

Lest We Forget.

News and Activities

Issues and Activities.

ANZAC Day Commemorations



The sub-Branch led our traditional commemorations for ANZAC Day. There was a great attendance at the Dawn Service with, what is probably, a record number of wreaths laid. Service clubs, youth groups as well as many local schools joined the veterans to remember service and sacrifice during conflicts past. The address at both services was given by Commodore Melinda Barnes and her contribution is appreciated.

Our two services were well supported with assistance from Emergency Services, Volunteer Organisations and Hornsby RSL Pipe Band. 226 Regional Cadet Unit provided the catafalque party and assisted with the flags. A unique element of the Sunday Service was the presence of a CDC bus with a special ANZAC livery. Many thanks to the CDC NSW Northmead Depot Manager, Joshua Gray, for his assistance. As always, our sub-Branch members supported the conduct of both services. In addition, for the first time, the sub-Branch engaged a company to set up and dismantle the necessary infrastructure and this arrangement worked well.

Our fund raising associated with ANZAC Day was particularly successful with over \$9,000 being raised by the Auxiliary and sub-Branch volunteers, to support veteran services locally and further afield. A special thank you to all who contributed for their efforts.

The photos on the following two pages provide an impression of both services. Thank you to Bill Tripcony and Leading Senior Constable Steven Henri, Hornsby Police, as well as (via Facebook) the Office of Matt Kean MP and Hornsby Shire Council.





REMEMBRANCE

SERVICE

LOYALTY

Middle East Area of Operations Commemoration 11 July

As a consequence of a motion carried at the 2023 Annual General Meeting, RSL NSW is proceeding with an inaugural Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) commemoration on 11 July 2024, and continues to lobby RSL Australia for a national commemorative day.

The MEAO commemoration will honour those ADF personnel who served in conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan during 2001 – 2021. It marks the date on 11 July 2021 when Australian troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan. ANZAC House is seeking feedback from the Young Veterans Committee to ensure the event meets the expectations of this cohort.

An official service will take place at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney, at 11am on Thursday 11 July 2024. All RSL NSW members, the wider veteran community, and members of the public are welcome to attend. More information about the commemoration will be announced closer to the date.

Tank Crews in Vietnam Documentary

The December 2023 edition of SITREP made reference to a DVA sponsored documentary about tank crews in Vietnam. This documentary is now being released in a 10-part series with each part being 30-40 minutes duration. The documentary can be accessed via the Veterans Well Being Website <https://veteranswellbeingcentre-hornsby.org/tank-169-043-documentary/>

Committee Changes

As George has said, our current Treasurer, Dulcie Zeller, has stepped down from that role. Many thanks to Dulcie for her tireless work in that position over the past few years. Subject to approval at our next General Meeting, Phil White is taking over as Treasurer and consequently must step down from his role as Vice President. Hopefully someone will put their hand up for that role which includes, among other things, the preparation of this newsletter.

Upcoming Dates

Just a reminder about the sub-Branch’s planned activities over the next few months:

June	Tuesday	11th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting
	Wednesday	12th	10.00am	10 Pin Bowling RSL Club - L2 "The Attic"
	Sunday	23rd	11.00am	General Meeting and Veterans Lunch
July	Tuesday	9th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting
	Wednesday	10th	10.00am	Coffee Club
	Sunday	28th	11.00am	General Meeting and Veterans Lunch
August	Wednesday	14th	10.00am	10 Pin Bowling RSL Club - L2 "The Attic"
				"STAND DOWN MONTH" - * NO COMMITTEE, GENERAL MEETING nor LUNCHEON
September	Tuesday	10th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting

	Wednesday	11th	10.00am	Coffee Club
	Sunday	22nd	11.00am	General Meeting and Veterans Lunch
October	Tuesday	8th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting
	Wednesday	9th	10.00am	10 Pin Bowling RSL Club - L2 "The Attic"
	Sunday	27th	11.00am	General Meeting and Veterans Lunch
November	Monday	11th	10.30am	REMEMBRANCE DAY Service at the Cenotaph
	Tuesday	12th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting
	Wednesday	13th	10.00am	Coffee Club
December	Sunday	1st	11.00am	General Meeting and Veterans Lunch
	Tuesday	10th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting
	Wednesday	11th	10.00am	10 Pin Bowling RSL Club - L2 "The Attic"

Heritage

Snippets from the Past.

What people have been doing over the past 50 years

As George notes in his message, the sub-Branch is currently working up a proposal to amend one of the plaques on the Hornsby Cenotaph. The intent is to replace the rather generic 'Other Conflicts' plaque with one which provides more detail on the ADF's post-Vietnam activities. By amending the wording, the sub-Branch is seeking to recognise the diverse and wide span of Defence activities and commitments of ADF personnel over the past 50 years. The following paragraphs summarise the operations and defence deployments grouped in the same manner as the proposed wording on the new plaque. The dates identified below have been taken from the Defence eligibility criteria for various clasps recognising service in particular operations.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan recognises the various operations in that country from 2001 until 2021.

Iraq and other Middle East Operations

The Iraq acknowledges the various commitments to that country from 1991 to 2022. Other Middle East operations recognise deployments beyond Iraq including but not limited to:

- Operations in the Middle East, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman; (1975-2023)
- Kuwait (1990-2003);
- Lebanon (2006-2008);
- Sinai (1982-1986 and 1993-2023);
- Bahrain, Cyprus, Jordan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (2014 onwards); and
- West Sahara (1991-2012).

Timor and Other South East Asia Operations

Timor recognises the various operations in East Timor and then Timor Leste from 1999 to 2012 and other SE Asian operations include but are not limited to:

- Cambodia (1991-1999);
- Singapore and Malaysia Operations (1975-1989);
- South Vietnam Evacuation operations in 1975; and
- Irian Jaya (1976-1981)

Solomon Islands and Other South West Pacific Operations

Solomon Islands recognise the two major operations in that country initially from 2000 to 2002 and then again in 2003 and 2013. Other South West Pacific operations include:

- Bougainville (1997- 2003); and
- Fiji (2006).

United Nations and other Operations

The ADF has been involved in numerous UN operations as well as others outside of the UN mantle. Operations include but are not limited to:

- Iran/Iraq (UNIMOG) (1988-1991)
- Ethiopia (UNMEE) (2001-2005)
- Namibia (UNTAG) (1989-1990)
- Guatemala (1997);
- the Balkans (1992-2012);
- Kashmir (1975-1985);
- Mozambique (1994-2002)
- Peshawar (1989-1993);
- Somalia (1992-1995);
- South Sudan (2011-2023);
- Sudan (2005-2011);
- Uganda (1982-1984);
- Rwanda (1994-1996);
- Sierra Leone (2001-2003);
- Korea after (1975 onwards);
- Border Protection (1997 onwards)

It's certainly been a busy 50 years!!

Editor's Note

SITREP, in its revised form, is now in its fifth year after being resurrected in the dark days of the pandemic. Notwithstanding the changes to the sub-Branch Committee mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, it will continue in its current form. Many thanks for reading. As always, feedback and information are appreciated.

Phil White (aka Phil #2)