



**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
(NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH INCORPORATED)**

"The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance"

Combined Services RSL sub-Branch

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DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING: NEXT GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2026

UPDATE OF THE TENANCY OF CITY TATTERSALLS CLUB "Barrack on Barracks"

City Tattersalls Club has moved out of Barrack Street and we have closed the lease. We currently have no tenant but the Trustees are seeking a new tenant. We will keep members informed of any developments.

NEW CONTACT NUMBER OF COMBINED SERVICES RSL SUB-BRANCH

The new contact number of our sub-Branch is 0419 305 792. Please disregard the previous phone number, as it will be deactivated soon.

The upcoming new telephone number will also be provided once its active.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2025 at Cenotaph, Martin Place, at 10.30 AM

On the 11th November, members of the Combined Services RSL sub-Branch assembled at Barrack Street, 2nd floor at 9:30 am and after some discussion, we walked to the Cenotaph in Martin Place for the Remembrance Day Service. In attendance of William Forsbey, Geoff Cofill, Geoff Graham, Daniel Caffery, Robert Bates, Ian Burt, Ron Hack and Kimberly Metra.

In attendance at the service were the Governor General and various other dignitaries and the Sydney Men's Choir.

Following the service, we all adjourned/walked the Masonic Club where we met other dignitaries of the Masonic RSL sub-Branch and later sat down for an enjoyable lunch. Those I attendance were William Forsbey , Geoff Cofill, Geoff Graham, Daniel Caffery, Brendan Perry, Robert Bates, David Rosen from Burwood RSL sub-Branch and Ian Burt.

by Ian Burt (CSSB Liaison Officer)



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - Archdeacon Andrew Nixon (Director – Veterans’ Chaplaincy, Veteran Experience and Transition Division, Department of Veterans’ Affairs)

Christmas is a well-established part of our culture with plenty of traditions that have built up over centuries. Some are wonderful: time with loved ones, gathering of families, the joy of gifts (especially for kids!). Some are less wonderful: rank commercialism and waste, increases in loneliness and mental health episodes. For most, we have found our own ways to make this season a special and happy one – time with loved ones, celebration, holiday, feasting (and shopping!). Every family has its own unique and treasured rituals that roll out at this time of year.

What is easily so forgotten, overlooked, or long since lost altogether, is the reason we all celebrate Christmas in the first place. Some don’t really care. Some know the Christmas story but reject it outright. Some are intrigued but have never really had the opportunity to hear much about it! For those like me, of an older generation where the Bible story – with a pregnant mother on a donkey, shepherds, angels and wise men – was hard-wired into Christmas, it does seem hard to believe anyone could not know these things. But it’s true! Those of my children’s generation – “Millennials” – and younger have often never heard **any** of it whatsoever.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of a baby, born of a virgin, in a village in Judea. Amidst the atheists’ cries that Christmas was a re-purposing of an ancient pagan festival, it should be noted that whilst that was probably true in many places, it is true for the very reason that as Christianity took hold it changed people, changed cultures and in time changed the world.

It did so because this was not just any baby; it was a baby unlike any before, or any since. This baby was the “Son of God” – that is, a divine being in frailest human form. The creator of the universe becoming part of his own creation. The one in whose image mankind was made, becoming a man himself. A perfect God willingly entering into a world broken and distorted by sin, on mission to save it. We call it the incarnation.

With all that Christmas may hold for you (and for me!) this year, I pray that we all can take some time out to stop and reflect of the true reason for the season. I also pray for those for whom this is going to be a difficult time remembering dear ones not with us.

And I pray especially for those who are struggling with health difficulties and concerns. The incarnation reminds us of the lengths our creator, who knows our every need, has gone to make a way for our complete healing – spiritually, mentally and physically. We look forward in faith to an eternal future where there will be no crying or sickness or pain. Come Lord Jesus, come.

Merry Christmas 2025.



Message from the President.

I and the Committee wish all members a happy and safe time this Christmas and advance Happy New Year 2026. Our last General Meeting was successfully held on Tuesday 2nd December 2025. We go into recess until the next year.



NOTICE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2026 TO BE HELD AT 11.00 AM

ON LEVEL 2, 5-7 BARRACK STREET, SYDNEY

(Light luncheon and refreshments served afterwards)

EDITORIAL:

Ron Hack, PRESIDENT

Kimberly Metra, BUSINESS SUPPORT MANAGER

3 December 2025