



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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SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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1, CELEBRATING OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

A SUCCESSFUL LUNCHEON RATED HIGHLY !!



THE
ANNIVERSARY
CAKE



Colonel Michael Miller LVO RFD, Official Secretary to Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, gave an interesting and informative address on the Vice Regal role and its history.

The picture shows Colonel Miller receiving his LVO (Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order) for his distinguished Vice Regal Service, from His Majesty, King Charles III, in May this year.

In his address Colonel Miller described the roles of the Governor being constitutional, ceremonial, and community (She is Patron for many community organisations,). He also pointed out that the office of Governor of New South Wales is the oldest public office in Australia.

Colonel Miller did mention that his first membership in the RSL movement was with Combined Services RSL sub-Branch. However, becoming Patron of 3 Transport Association Inc., the powers that be in that Association, had him transferred to the Ashfield RSL sub Branch, being their preferred RSL sub Branch.

Shane Burette, our Vice President, proposed a vote of thanks for a very informative address.

The Luncheon was also attended by the RSL NSW President, Mr Ray James OAM, his wife, Mrs Pauline James OAM, State Coordinator RSL NSW Auxiliaries, Jeff O'Brien, RSL NSW State Secretary, a number of representatives from other veterans organisations, and Presidents or their representatives from eight other sub Branches as well as Executives of the East Metropolitan District Council (EMDC). In all nearly 80 people attended the three course Luncheon on Friday 8th September. Several of the sub Branch Presidents at the EMDC Meeting the following week praised our sub Branch for a very successfully run Anniversary Luncheon.

A souvenir coffee mug was provided to members and VIP attendees, as was an 80th Anniversary Souvenir Magazine prepared by Kim Metra and Ron Hack with the support of Committee Members. The Magazine provides some history of the 80 years of the sub Branch in photos and articles adopted from earlier records of sub Branch magazines. The magazine will be posted out to members who were unable to attend the Luncheon or can be picked up at the office. An electronic copy of the magazine can be sent on a request to the office.







2. VALE: KATHLEEN MONTGOMERY 101 YEARS

Sadly Kathleen passed away on Saturday 23 September 2023. Born on 13 May 1922 as Kathleen Violet Rexstraw. She joined the RSL on 15 January 1981 and was also a member of the Combined Services RSL Club (Barracks on Barrack). As a regular attendee at General Meetings, she last attended at our President's Lunch in December 2022.

She served as an Aircraftwoman in the Royal Australian Air Force from 17 August 1942 until 5 November 1943, specialising as an Equipment Assistant. For serving during the War she was awarded the War Medal 1939-1945.

RSL members are welcome to attend the funeral which will be held on Tuesday 3rd October at 10.30 am. The location is the Camelia North Chapel at Macquarie Park Crematorium, Plassey Road, Macquarie Park.

3. VETERANS HEALTH DAY WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2023

In past years our sub Branch has supported the Annual Veterans Health Day, managed by Burwood sub Branch and previously held at Concord Repatriation Hospital.

This year they will be running it at the Burwood RSL Club. Thanks to Deborah Shepherd, their President, our members (including partners and carers) are invited to attend at no cost.

The focus of presentations by qualified presenters will be on mental health.

Details:

Date	Wednesday 11 October 2023
Timing	9.30 am for 10.00 am start
Location	The Dome, Burwood RSL Club, 96 Shaftsbury Road, Burwood
Parking	Club opens at 9.00 am. Plenty of onsite parking.
Catering	Lunch is provided plus Morning tea.
Register	Register your attendance on the Burwood RSL Club website going to the sub Branch page for Veterans Health Day. You can also directly go there clicking onto the following URL: www.clubburwoodgroup.com.au/sub-branch/veterans-health-day/

4. NEXT GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023

THE GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT 12 NOON
ON LEVEL 2, 5-7 BARRACK STREET, SYDNEY
(Light luncheon and refreshments served afterwards)

OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS JAMES WARRAND (PROFILE BELOW)

James will be providing a presentation on the Japanese Submarine Attack on Sydney Harbour in World War 2.

A Resolution is proposed for the Meeting: “That the sub-Branch delegates responsibility, including accountability, for the recruitment and employment of any paid persons of the sub-Branch, to the sub-Branch Executive.”

We are looking for additional members for our Committee to help and advise. If you are interested contact Kim. Notice is also given that the Committee proposes to seek the appointment of additional members to the Committee at the Meeting.

PROFILE OF JAMES WARRAND



James has been a keen sailor since he grew up on the Pittwater sailing VJ's, and then owned a small yacht on Sydney Harbour for many years.

His working life included being a dairy farmer and contractor, also as a life insurance and general fire insurance agent, marketing of insurance funding companies and as a financial planner. He has been a volunteer guide at the Maritime Museum for fourteen years, and since 2017 has been part of the Speakers Group (historical and maritime topics).

James also serves as the Enquiry Desk for the HMS Hood Association as his father, Commander John Warrand, was the Squadron Navigation Officer at the time of her sinking in 1941.

James was involved with the Cobbitty Rural Fire Brigade for over 35 years, and has been involved with several organizations based in the Camden District.

James has been a volunteer guide at the ANMM for many years and since 2017 has been part of the Speakers Group.

5. CYBERSECURITY TIPS

Detective Sergeant Andrew Lam, of the NSW Police Cybercrime Squad, was our Guest Speaker at our previous General Meeting.

He is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve.

He spoke on Cyber Crime in Australia and its impacts on our computers and mobile phones.

On a follow up request he has issued a list of tips for handling scams and attempts at identity theft.

The list is available from Kim at our office and we have sent it out as an attachment to this Newsletter.

6. RSL NSW ELECTIONS

Elections are currently being held for the position of State President and for Directors of the RSL NSW Board.

All RSL Service Members are entitled to vote. The latest magazine and website have details.

There are three candidates for President and all three appear experienced and qualified, likewise are the candidates for positions of Director. That is a good healthy sign.

It will be hard to select who to vote for but I will be looking for support for veterans and their families and support for the sub Branches in their resumes.

Of interest is one of our members, Phillip Chin, who is seeking reelection as a Director. Phillip is campaigning for more transparency in RSL State finances. I will be supporting him but I am biased as he was under my command in 2010 and 2011 in the Army and found him to be very capable. I will be voting for him as a Director.

7. NSW ANNUAL CONGRESS

RSL NSW will be holding its Annual Congress on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 October 2023 in Newcastle. Geoff Graham and Ron Hack are Delegate and Alternate Delegate.

Details can be found on the RSL NSW website. On the main page go to the bottom and click on "Congress and AGM". You are welcome to look at the proposed motions for Congress and email Kim on any concerns, The committee intends to review them on 19 October, although at this time I do not see any motions crucial to the interests of our sub Branch.

Ron Hack, PRESIDENT

Kimberly Metra, BUSINESS SUPPORT MANAGER

29 September 2023