



**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 2025 NEWSLETTER

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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

PUBLIC STATEMENT: The Combined Services RSL sub-Branch wishes to clarify that recent comments made by Ms. Nikhita Sahay on the ABC represent her personal views alone. These comments do not reflect, and should not be taken to represent, the views, policies, or positions of the Combined Services RSL sub-Branch.

As an organisation, the sub-Branch remains committed to supporting veterans and their families, upholding the values of service, and working in the best interests of our members and community.

COLLATION OF THE REVEREND ANDREW NIXON TO ARCHDEACON – 28th JULY 2025



Our Honorary Chaplain the Venerable Andrew Nixon was collated (promoted) to the inaugural position of Archdeacon (Chaplain for Veterans) on 28th July 2025.

Pictured above is the Venerable Andrew Nixon with the Right Reverend Grant Dibden, Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Forces. Andrew presided over our Pre ANZAC Service at the Cenotaph this year and Grant presided over our Service in 2024.



(Pictured, Ron and Lesley with Andrew)

Andrew now works on the pilot program instituted with Department of Veteran Affairs and ADF Chaplaincy services aimed to enable those chaplaincy services to be provided to veterans coming out of the Defence Forces. He remains as a senior Navy Chaplain in this role but he is now in a full time position within the Department and he has resigned as a senior NSW Police Chaplain. He does continue to remain as our Honorary Chaplain. We wish him well in his new position within the Department.

Several of our members attended the collation service at St Andrews Cathedral which was a memorable occasion.

Anglican News article: A New Era of Support

reprinted article 3 August 2025 with permission from Anglican News Service on our website

TOUR OF VICTORIA BARRACKS – 24th JULY 2025

REPORT

by Stan Beaman

Our tour of Victoria Barracks on Thu 24 Jul 25 was attended by nine members, six from Masonic and three from Combined Services/City of Sydney sub-branches. A number of people who had wanted to attend had to pull out because the date became unsuitable.

As the organiser, I must confide that I wasn't sure how interesting and valuable this particular tour would be. I have always loved the place but what could they show me that would add to what I already know?

Well, I'm happy to say – and this was confirmed by the comments of others – that the tour was just great! We were fortunate to have a beautiful sunny July morning and to have two admirable guides (Dave and Denis) to show us around.

Of course, the centrepiece for the tour was the wonderful sandstone barracks building. Dave Bowron informed us that it is the longest building in the Southern Hemisphere. I'd be keen to hear of any competition for this boast.

This main building was, for many years, the accommodation for the soldiers here, and their NCO rank. As we walked along the front, we were shown dark scratch marks on the walls – being the scratches made as soldiers scratched their flints in order to light their cigarettes. Some sandstone blocks beside doors were a bit worn in the middle, due to soldiers using them to clean and sharpen their bayonets.

Lots of interesting stuff about the preparation of the sandy ground for establishing buildings, the use of local sandstone, the acquisition of tiles from England, and so on. My favourite buildings, of course, are the original sandstone structures built during the 1840s. Water supply came from nearby (Centennial Park area) by tunnel. Men in the cells were tasked to haul tubs of water from the deep well for distribution within the barracks.

We learned about the varying uses of buildings over the years as well as the cellars for aging quality wines beneath the Officers' Lines and in what is the current Officers' Mess.

That's enough from me. If any of those attending have points of interest to add, I would be very glad to receive them from you, to add in.

Lunch was just up the street at Paddo RSL Club and was very much enjoyed, as was the continued camaraderie.

A final reflection from me: I would be very happy to return to Vic Barracks to do that tour again, even after having done it just now. It was very pleasant and the guides were great!



From left: Daniel, Denis (guide), Robert, Stan, John, Graeme, Kenneth, Damien, Robert, Terry



From left: Same as on the left photo except that the guide in this photo is Dave Bowron (the one with all the badges around his hat band 😊)

VALE

JOHN EDWARD BULL

Justin Zhang, his stepson, let us know on September 2, 2025, that his stepfather, John Edward Bull, passed away on 23rd July 2025, over the phone.

JOHN EDWARD BULL was a member of the City of Sydney SB, which is our Chapter sub-Branch now.

John's service was in the National Service from January 1959 to March 1959 and in the Citizen Military Forces from March 1959 to February 1962. He was discharged in the rank of gunner.

He was posted in the 13 National Service Training Battalion in January 1959, 14 Field Regiment in March 1959 and 18 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in May 1960. He received of honours and awards in the Australian Defence Medal and the Anniversary of National Service 1951- 1972 Medal.

Lest We Forget

HELEN STREETER

Helen Leah Streeter (nee Burt) was born on March 30, 1932 in Neutral Bay and spent most of her life living on the North Shore, particularly in Killara. She sadly passed away, on the 17th July 2025 at the ripe old age of 93.

She attended Abbotsleigh girls' school, in Wahroonga. On September 1, 1961, she married Oscar—better known as George to all his friends. She was the first born of Alec & Anne, the big sister to her twin sisters Judith and Janet and her 2 brothers Bill and Ian. She was the step mother to Richard and Rosemary, mother to Alex mother-in-law to Chizuko, and grandma to Randle, Douglas, and Winston and most recently to Yu.

She even took the time to pick up Ian and Satoko's children from the bush school in Wahroonga every afternoon.

She was very independent and until the end lived by herself in her 2-bedroom apartment in Killara, and was still driving up to the age of 92. She was fiercely independent and sharp as a tack. After George passed, she managed everything herself—living on her own, driving, cooking, washing, looking after her grandchildren and maintaining a busy social life.

Helen went by many names—Mrs. Streeter, Helen, Auntie Helen, mum, Grandma—but the favourite was simply "the red hat." No explanation needed.

No matter what name you called her, she was unique, and truly one of a kind— thank God!

She loved playing games—not just cards, golf, or the pokies, she was the longest serving member of her beloved Killara Golf Club, not to mention the longest serving member of Asquith Leagues Club, Hornsby and North Ryde RSL clubs. Additionally, she loved the Royal Easter show and was also one of the longest serving members of the RAS. She would go every day of the show catching the train and the bus. She was known by everyone of the staff in the members stand. She simply loved the pomp and ceremony.

She proudly went to the ANZAC day service every year, as well as marched for Remembrance Day and other events and regularly attended the RSL, Masonic club and Combined services, sub branch committee meetings, luncheons and social events.

As she had been doing for many years, Helen attended Combined Services sub-Branch March on 11th April 2025 to the Cenotaph for the pre ANZAC day memorial service and laying our wreaths.

Helen was an amazing, caring person who always put others before herself. She loved to gamble and cherished her family and friends, but she especially loved Chizie and her grandkids: Randle, Douglas, Winston, and her latest addition, Yu.

Signing off for the last time, with her iconic farewell:

God bless, and sweet dreams.

Rest in peace, Helen.



by: Alexander George Streeter (Chatswood RSL sub-Branch member, son of Helen Streeter)

PRESIDENT LUNCHEON 2025 - 4th SEPTEMBER 2025

Our President's Luncheon was a successful camaraderie event with 73 attendees hosted by our President Ron Hack, graced with our sub-Branch Chaplain Ven. Andrew Nixon and our guest speaker and member, Brigadier Malcolm Wells, DSC AM (Retd), loyal toast by Margaret Welsh, toast to the league by Geoffrey Graham and vote of thanks by Ian Burt.

Before the luncheon started, we had our Mimosa for refreshment on arrival and interludes of Scottish music by Capt. (Retd) Dr Ian Cameron, who flew from Queensland just to attend our President's Luncheon.

Everyone seems to have enjoyed their meal and the great camaraderie.

We celebrate this Luncheon once a year with this Luncheon being for the 82nd year of our sub-Branch. The Luncheon is always successful through our members who assist and attend, as well as our friends from other sub Branches who also attend. But a special thank you goes to our Business Support Manager who is so professional in her organisation of the event.

Malcolm, with his address, gave us a very good insight into the challenges of having a career in the Army with postings both in Australia and overseas finishing up as Chief of Staff at Forces Command. There is also the personal challenge of changing residences 20 times in his career and changing schools for his children 9 times. He is presently starting a consulting business in Sydney. And he is currently President of the Royal Australian Regiment Association.

We hope to see you again next year.

Below are some photos taken during our President Luncheon 2025. More photos can be seen on our website.



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WSO - VISITING HOSPITAL AND ONLINE SESSION



Visit Helen Streeter when she was in the hospital last 27 June 2025 with Daniel Caffery, Ian Burt and Kim Metra



Visit Corinna Kelly in the hospital last 11 July 2025 (from left Daniel Caffery, Ian Burt, Corinna Kelly and Kim Metra)



On left side photo Daniel Caffery WSO attended online presentation of the Moral Injury Follow-Up series last 24th September 2025 focused on treatment and recovery for Veterans.

Hosted by Cath Allen (Service Design & Transformation Lead) RSL NSW.

Co-hosted by Professor McConnell - (Neuropsychiatrist & Permanent Impairment Specialist) and Shane Barker - (Neuroscience Leadership Educator).

NOTICE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2025 TO BE HELD AT 11.00 AM

ON LEVEL 2, 5-7 BARRACK STREET, SYDNEY

(Light luncheon and refreshments served afterwards)

Normal Agenda Items plus:

Guest Speaker: MAJ (AAC) Stan Beaman, RFD, BA(Hons), Dip Ed.

Topic: Part 2 of "A Soldier's Story: World War I." The Western Front (with PowerPoint)

MOTION ON NOTICE: That this sub-Branch grants in principle approval for the Trustees and Committee to negotiate any property dealings with other parties and to bring back to the sub-Branch any proposals for consideration.

This motion gives the Trustees and Committee the flexibility to deal with leasing, property offers and proposals, and to investigate them appropriately. For example, the Committee recently received a proposal for the purchase of the Barrack Street property, with a possibility of buying back into the strata levels of the same property on renovation. Standard Operating Procedure SOP 6 Section 2.2 applies.

MOTION ON NOTICE: That this sub-Branch vests the position of Membership Officer, as identified in Standing Operating Procedure SOP 5, Section 5.6.2, in the position of Business Support Manager.

This motion gives the responsibility of managing membership processes to the Business Support Manager.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED MOTIONS FOR CONGRESS

LAST GENERAL MEETING 2025 - TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2025

Our last General Meeting 2025, Tuesday 2nd December 2025, will be held on Level 2,5- 7 Barrack St., Sydney, at 11 am, lunch will be on Level 1 Restaurant.

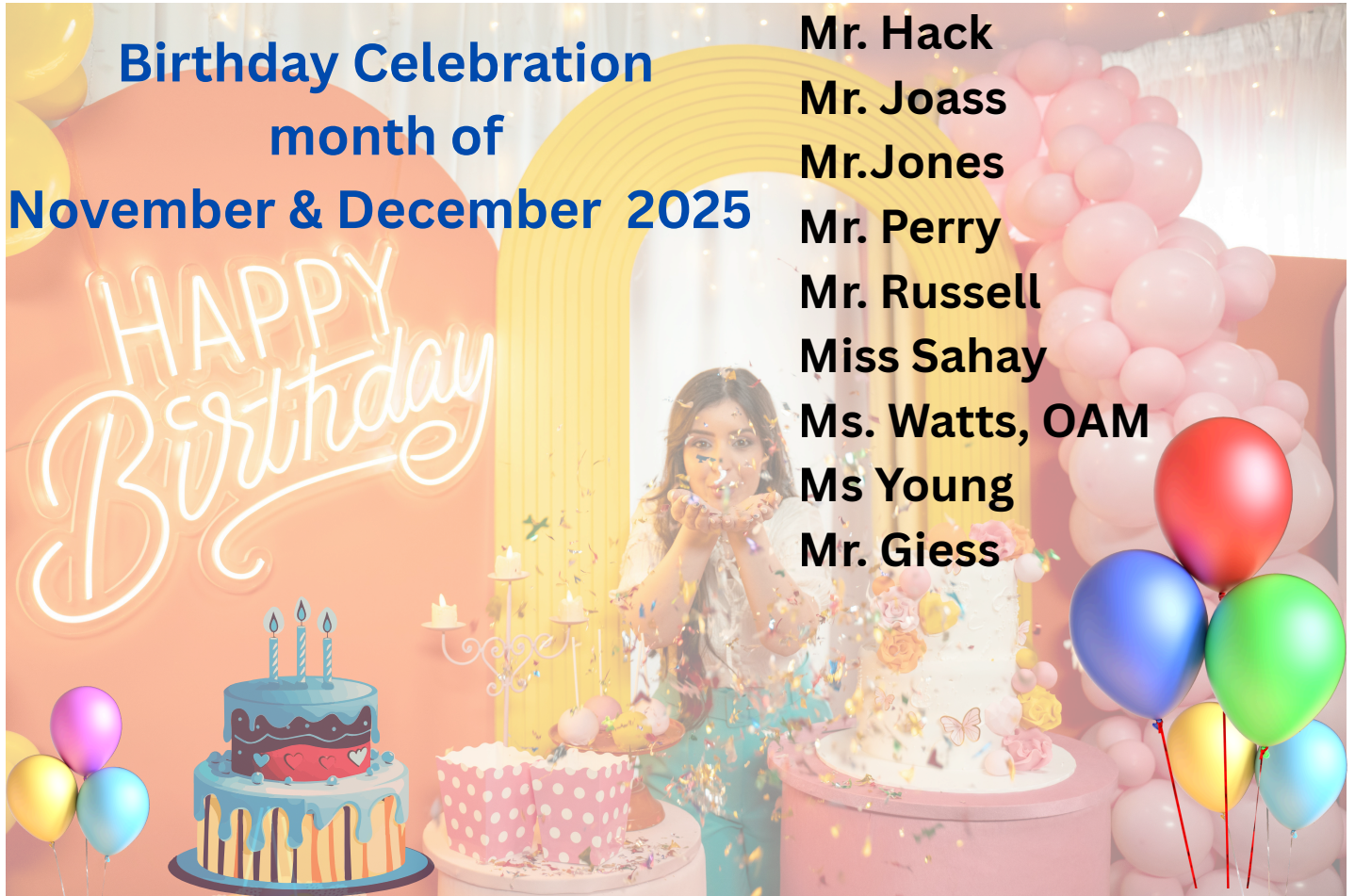
It will be our sub-Branch Christmas Lunch for this year, 2025.

Members are encouraged to attend our last General Meeting to celebrate with us as a Christmas Lunch.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - TUESDAY

11th NOVEMBER 2025

Our sub-Branch will be laying a wreath in the Cenotaph, Martin Place, at 10.30 AM. Afterwards will be back in the sub-Branch Level 2 for a small programme with our guest speaker TBA. There will be a light lunch and refreshments afterwards.



EDITORIAL:

Ron Hack, PRESIDENT

Kimberly Metra, BUSINESS SUPPORT MANAGER

30 September 2025