



# SITREP



## RSL Hornsby (Sub-Branch)



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### President's Message

Hi everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. We are living in different times with an uncertain future so please take care of each other. If you need any assistance please call the sub-Branch 9476 6680 or Email [info@hornsbyrslsubbranch.com](mailto:info@hornsbyrslsubbranch.com). Our Welfare Officer, Ros, can be contacted on 0408 237 678.

I doubt if we will be able to hold our September General Meeting due to the current restrictions however, we will keep you updated as the weeks progress. With a lot of luck, we may be able to meet and once again enjoy the company of our fellow veterans and families.

A special thank you to one of our retiring committee members, Bill Tripcony. Bill has given excellent service to the sub-Branch and our members for many years. Bill, you will be missed, especially your navy stories and your marvellous ability to wire up our office hardware. We look forward to joining you for lunch at our next General Meeting.

Thank you to Neil Turner our Secretary for nominating and standing for the RSL Club board vacancy. Unfortunately, Neil was unsuccessful. However, we will keep trying to ensure that a sub-Branch member is on the Board.

Thank you to John and Dulcie Zeller and their helpers. The team of sellers conducted fundraising by selling chocolates and pens at Westleigh and Hornsby Mall. \$1318.00 was raised. Thanks team.

The Committee are still working behind the scenes on several projects; in particular an upgrade to our IT system and establishing closer relationships with the Veterans Centre at Dee Why.

Thank you to Shayne Harris, one of our members, for designing and implementing our new Face book page for the sub-Branch. Please visit our Face book page and keep up to date on what's happening at the sub-Branch.

Regards  
George Main

## Vale

It is with sincere regret that we must announce the passing of three members, Lindsay Dafter, Harry Anderson, and Morgan Lingane.

Lindsay was born on 13 April 1925 and served with the RAAF during World War II as a member of 61 Operational Base Unit. He passed away on 3 June 2020.

Harry was born on 29 July 1936 and served in the RAN as a submariner. He passed away on 17 June 2020.

Morgan was born on 4 May 1935 and served in the Army as a member of the CMF. He passed away on 5 July 2020.

We would also like to acknowledge the passing of Ken Shadie OAM, a member of the Brooklyn sub-Branch who died 30 June 2020. He was known to many members of Hornsby sub-Branch.

## Sick Parade

The following members have been in hospital or have undergone significant medical treatment over the past three months:

- Ron Haydon;
- Peter Blaxland; and
- Ian MacPherson

We understand that all three are improving and we wish them well over the next few months.

## News and Activities

### Issues

George has covered a number of matters in his message on the previous page.

As he noted, the sub-Branch's Face book page has been reactivated at the end of June. It can be found at ( <https://www.facebook.com/HornsbyRSLSubBranch> ) and also accessed via the sub-Branch's website.

Members may be aware that RSL NSW recently sought comments on two models for sub-Branch incorporation. This work follows on from the 2019 RSL NSW Constitution process and reflects an outcome of the 2019 Congress. Sub-Branches will not be forced to incorporate but should do so if each sub-Branch believes that it is in its best interest. A short paper, *Incorporation – Matters for Consideration* can be found on the NSW Branch website ( <https://assets.rslnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/04104542/Should-a-sub-Branch-Incorporate.pdf> ). As the title implies, it provides discussion about the process and matters which could be included in the decision-making process. Drafts of the two constitutions can be found at:

- Company Limited by Guarantee ( <https://assets.rslnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/03090907/Draft-CLG-Constitution.pdf> )
- Incorporated Association ( <https://assets.rslnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/03090935/Draft-IA-Constitution.pdf> )

Neil Turner has reviewed both models and prepared comments which were considered by the NMDC meeting August. This is a 'work in progress' and is something that members will need to consider at some time in the future.

## Welfare Notes

Our Welfare Officer, Ros Hutchinson advises that the following may be of interest to members:

- A Commemorative Medallion and certificate to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII is being awarded to all living veterans of WWII. -Applications can be made on line (<https://portal.nationalmailing.com.au/DVA/certificate> ) or by phone on 1800-838-372.
- For senior carers who need some support, a free service, Northern Sydney Carer Support, is available by contacting NSLHD Carer Support Service on 9462-9488 or 0434323411

Ros also suggests that if members are in hospital, they (or a family member) should ring the sub-Branch or Roslyn Hutchinson, the Welfare Officer at Hornsby RSL Club so that any support requirements can be identified.

## Sub-Branch Committee Meetings.

The sub-Branch Committee has continued to meet over the past months with a mix of 'Zoom' and face to face meetings. No meeting was held in August as it is a scheduled stand down month. Key outcomes from those meetings are addressed in other items on this page.

## Upcoming Dates

Two months ago, the sub-Branch Executive had anticipated that our regular monthly Sunday meetings could resume in August. Unfortunately, the second COVID 19 wave has 'drowned' that idea. At this time, we cannot make more definitive plans until we are confident that restrictions, particularly as they relate to the meeting venue permitting such gatherings. As George noted, at this point in time (late August), a September meeting is unlikely but, as yet, a final decision to cancel has not been made. We will determine the viability of the October and November meetings closer to the respective dates.

## Heritage

### Anniversaries

#### Victory in the Pacific Day

Australia recently commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in World War II when the Japanese forces surrendered on 15 August 1945. This brought to a close a six-year long conflict which saw Australians serving in many parts of the world in the conflict against the Axis powers. Some of our older members will have personal memories of that day, either in Australia, or elsewhere. Almost one million Australians served in World War II with 39,655 dying during, or in the immediate aftermath of the conflict. This number from the Australian War Memorial is higher than the more commonly cited 27,000 as it includes non-battle casualties and those who succumbed to wounds, injury or illness up to 30 June 1947.

On 15 August 2020, the sub-Branch Executive laid a wreath at the Hornsby Cenotaph to commemorate this significant anniversary.

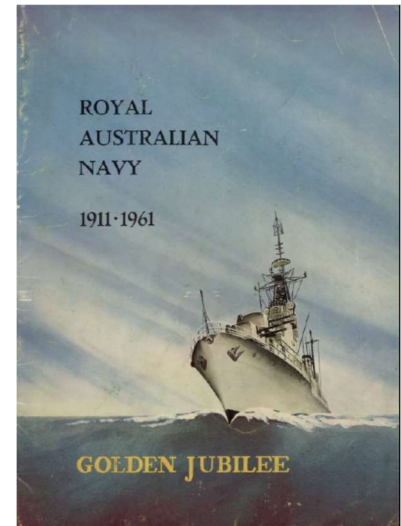
#### Vietnam Veterans Day

Vietnam Veterans Day was marked on 18 August with a small wreath laying ceremony at Hornsby Cenotaph

## Snippets from the Past

The Royal Australian Navy's official foundation date is 10 July 1911 and Tony Mills recently uncovered an electronic version of a booklet published by the RAN in 1961 to commemorate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As almost 60 years have elapsed since its publication, the book represents a time capsule not only of RAN history but also of expectations for the future, which is now our more recent history.

The Navy of 1961 was a force in transition with older World War II era vessels gradually being replaced by more 'modern' ships and aircraft. The flagship of the fleet, HMAS Melbourne, features prominently, complete with Sea Venoms, Gannets and the Wessex helicopter just being introduced into service. HMAS Sydney is not mentioned except in its aircraft carrier form during the Korean War. While its conversion to a troop carrier was obviously underway in 1961 (it was recommissioned in 1962), its work as the Vung Tau ferry didn't begin until 1965. The Daring class destroyers had recently joined the fleet and the Type 12 frigates are starting to roll out of the shipyards.



The Navy of Tomorrow Chapter provides an interesting comparison between what was contemplated in 1961, and what we now know actually happened. Planning for our own submarine force is not mentioned. The move from gun to missile as the primary naval weapon was anticipated. This transition when combined with the yet to be introduced DDGs, was seen as the Navy of the future as a fanciful sketch of the USS Charles F Adams suggests. Sixty year on, missiles are now a vital weapon system but while the DDGs fired their guns in anger a few years later, no missiles were fired from these vessels on operations.

Perhaps the most amusing prediction relates to the issue of nuclear propulsion. Clearly in 1961, the only issue concerning the introduction of nuclear propulsion was the question of time and this led to the inclusion of this paragraph:

*'When Australia will enter the nuclear age of surface ships or submarines depends on the pattern of future defence strategy. At present the Royal Australian Navy is armed for limited, conventional war, which does not justify the tremendous expense of atomic age weapons. However, the eventual development to nuclear power is as inevitable as the advance from sail to steam.'*

Well, maybe not!

## Embarrassing Memories

We continue our series on embarrassing memories but this vignette draws on a more recent experience than the two previous accounts.

As members will be aware, over the past five years Australian service personnel have served in operational roles within Iraq. Those serving in Iraq are occasionally subjected to rocket attacks from various armed groups operating in that country. Recently, one such attack, which fortunately inflicted no casualties, did catch one Australian soldier together with a few other Coalition personnel immediately after their showers. The normal drill when such an incident occurs is for personnel to get on the ground and take shelter in a bunker when possible. Given the circumstances, a bunker was not available. For our Aussie soldier in nothing but a towel, sheltering on the wet floor under the bathroom hand basin squeezed together with three other half naked Coalition soldiers was the best option. When the alarm lifted, they managed to change quickly and dashed to the bunker. Once there, they noticed others who obviously had been caught in a similar predicament. However, these personnel had large poncho towels that enabled them to move to the bunker without the need to put any clothes on. The Australian soldier had been advised to acquire one of these poncho towels before deploying but thought the advisor had been joking and the item wasn't necessary. Needless to say, that view has now changed and a poncho has now been purchased as an essential force protection item. As readers will appreciate, a photo is not appropriate in this instance.

## Editor's Note

This is the third newsletter in its current form and it is continuing to evolve. Any feedback on content and style is appreciated. Please take care and thanks for reading.

Phil