



# SITREP



## RSL Hornsby (Sub-Branch)

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



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### President's Message

Hi Everyone,

I hope this Newsletter finds you all safe and well. Our last meeting included another successful Christmas in July luncheon with over 80 members and guests attending. A special thank you to the Auxiliary for the raffle and fundraising tables stacked with great items for sale. I am now the proud owner of a ukulele with only three strings. A big thank you to Lynn from the Auxiliary for her home-made biscuits, always a treat with tea or coffee.

This year's City to Surf has seen some of our members and their families competing in the fun run as part of the RSL NSW contingent. RSL NSW understands that 300 runners competed this year as part of the Sport and Recreation program.

The Hornsby RSL sub-Branch will be attending the re-opening ceremony for the Sphinx Memorial and HMAS Adelaide Mast on the 27 August 2024. The Ku ring gai High School year 7 classes help maintain the memorial and its surrounds throughout the year culminating in a memorial service at the Sphinx Memorial on ANZAC Day.

The Hornsby RSL sub-Branch in conjunction with the Veterans Well Being Centre-Hornsby filmed our recent Veteran Assistance video, "10 Steps for Success Managing Your Medicines", at the Hornsby Heights Pharmacy. The Pharmacy is owned and operated by one of our members Alexandra Torrens who is also a Flight Lieutenant Pharmacist in the RAAF Reserve.

A big thank you to Alexandra for making her Pharmacy available for the filming but more importantly for taking a lead role in the video. Alexandra's advice and guidance throughout the video will be of benefit to our Veterans. Thank you to John Zeller who also features in the video. The video will be uploaded to both



web sites over the coming weeks once editing has been completed. Please support our local Pharmacy owned and operated by a Veteran.

The decision on our Grant application to fund mental health training courses is due this month. Hopefully we will be successful. Our annual Club's Grant application has been submitted and we await an answer from the Grant Committee.

Our Coffee & Chat meetings and Ten Pin Bowling sessions continue to be extremely successful. Please contact John Zeller to make a booking as numbers are limited.

All the best and keep safe.

Regards

George Main

## Welcome

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

- Mr John Rawson. John served in the RAN for 22 years.
- Mr Darren Haydon. Darren is the son of the late Ron Haydon and has become an affiliate member so that he can escort his mother (Ron's widow) to sub-Branch events.
- Mrs Christina Crasto. Christina is a member of the Auxiliary.
- Mr Donald Dunlop. Donald served in the Australian Army from 1954-57 and has also joined the Auxiliary.
- Mr James Marshall. James is a member of the Auxiliary.
- Mrs Dode Simpson. Dode is an Associate Member who is also a member of Woy Woy/Ettalong/Hardys Bay RSL Sub-Branch.

## Vale

It is with sincere regret that we must acknowledge the passing of Ray Davis.

Ray was born on 16 October 1947. He served in the Australian Army from 1965 to 1971 including a tour in Vietnam. Ray has been very active in the sub-Branch including as sub-Branch Vice-President. He was our Parade Marshall for many years and was also President of the Hornsby & Northern Districts T&PI Club. Ray passed away on 15 Aug 24.

Lest We Forget

## News and Activities

### Issues and Activities.

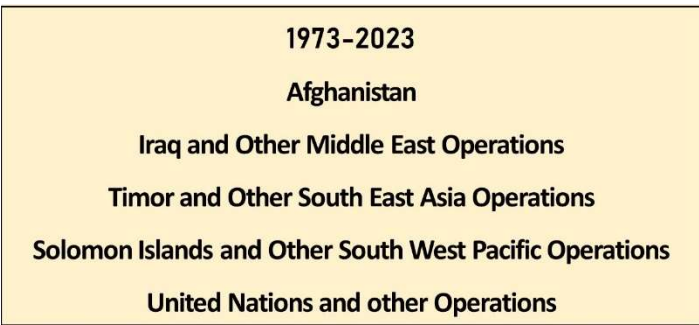
#### Inaugural Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) Commemoration 11 July

On 11 July 2024, the sub-Branch conducted its inaugural MEAO commemoration at the Hornsby Cenotaph. A much larger commemoration was held, at the same time, at Martin Place. Subject to feedback from members, the Committee anticipates that this will become a regular event. (Photo Maria Genford via Facebook)



**Changes to Plaque – Hornsby Cenotaph**

The last edition of SITREP foreshadowed the replacement of the ‘Other Conflicts’ plaque on the Hornsby Cenotaph. The new plaque will recognise the diverse and wide span of Defence activities and commitments of ADF personnel over the past 50 years. The Development Application for the work has been approved by Hornsby Council and a contractor has been engaged to complete this task. Subject to any casting limitations the wording for the new plaque is shown here.



**RSL NSW State Congress**

The next RSL NSW State Congress and AGM will be held at Newcastle from 27-29 October 2024. Hornsby sub-Branch will be represented by Phil White. More information on the motions to be considered at the Congress will be distributed to members in early October.

**Auxiliary News**

The Auxiliary has been hard at work obtaining sponsors to donate raffle prizes for our Sub Branch monthly meetings. We recently held a trading table and raffle (with five donated prizes) that raised just over \$800.00. A BBQ at Thornleigh Bunnings on Saturday 7 September is our next objective. In our future Sub Branch meeting in November, we will be holding the normal raffle (with gingerbread houses) as well as a silent auction with some incredible items to be auctioned. The Auxiliary has three new members all with their own skill sets and enthusiasm to help in our fundraising activities (Christina, James and Donald). Dulcie and John Zeller are organising the Remembrance Day selling of tokens at the Hornsby RSL and also at some of the local train stations. We would like to thank members and guests of the Sub Branch for warmly contributing to our raffles and other fundraising activities.

**Welfare Notes**

We currently have one of our Committee members undergoing Advocacy and Well Being Training. Once completed we will be able to offer qualified support to our members and their families. In the meantime, if you need assistance with DVA claims please contact our Secretary Neil Turner.

**Upcoming Dates**

**Please note that our final general meeting and Veterans’ Lunch has been moved to 24 November.** The dates for the remainder of the year are shown below:

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	<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY Service at the Cenotaph</b>
	Tuesday	12th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting
	Wednesday	13th	10.00am	Coffee Club
	Sunday	24th	11.00am	General Meeting and Veterans Lunch
December	Tuesday	10th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting
	Wednesday	11th	10.00am	10 Pin Bowling RSL Club - L2 "The Attic"

## Heritage

### Snippets from the Past - The Catafalque Party

At our major commemoration events on April and November, a Catafalque Party takes post at the four corners of the Cenotaph and remains in position until the memorial service is completed. The Australian Army website describes the Catafalque Party as:

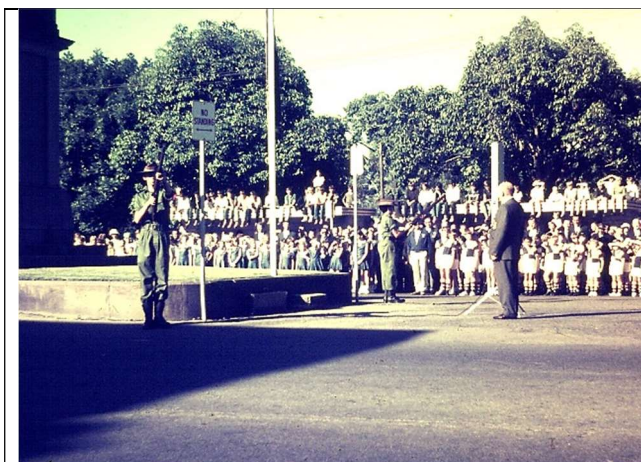
*'... four members of an armed guard who stand, their heads bowed and their arms (weapon) reversed. The guard stands facing outward approximately one metre from the coffin or catafalque as a symbolic form of respect for those who have fallen.'*



The origin of the reversing arms as a mark of respect for the fallen has been lost in time but most sources suggest that the practice originated with the ancient Greeks. Certainly, within Britain, the tradition was well established by the 1600s with one story noting that a soldier of the Parliamentary New Model Army was punished when he reversed his arms as a mark of respect after the execution of King Charles I in 1649. Special drill movements were established for the funeral of the Duke of Marlborough, John Churchill, in 1722 and have continued to evolve ever since.

At Hornsby, most of our Catafalque Parties have been provided by local cadet units with Barker College probably having an association since the Cenotaph was opened in 1923. More recently, Normanhurst Boys' High Cadet unit and its successor, 226 Cadet Unit, has also been a regular participant. There have also been instances when CMF/Army Reserve units have also provided Catafalque Parties.

At least two of our current members, in their earlier days, have been part a Catafalque Party at Hornsby Cenotaph. There are probably others but the two currently known are Graham Leach as a member of 17 RNSWR in the 1970s and yours truly as a member of Normanhurst Cadet Unit in the late 1960s.



1968



1978

### Editor's Note

Many thanks for reading. As always, feedback and information are appreciated.

Phil White (aka Phil #2)