



# SITREP

## RSL Hornsby (Sub-Branch)

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



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### President's Message

Hi Everyone,

The RSL exists to care for veterans and their families and to commemorate those who have served, suffered and died in the service of the Commonwealth. "Veterans caring for and supporting veterans". Over recent months, the Executive and Committee have been working behind the scenes to support that core mission.

With the appointment of a new President and CEO to the Hornsby RSL Club, representatives of the Executive teams of the Sub-Branch and the Club have been meeting and corresponding to consider ways in which the Club can provide additional support, both financial and in-kind, to the work of the Sub-Branch. Initiatives include an increase to the annual cash grant, support for a part-time welfare officer (remember Ros), additional display cabinets so that we can display memorabilia from more recent conflicts, access to a confidential office to assist veterans with welfare/wellbeing matters, increased interaction with RSL Club sporting and recreation sub-clubs and facilities, material support for public commemorations (ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day etc) and more.



We have recently had two members complete the RSL NSW Wellbeing Support Officer course; that will strengthen our welfare/wellbeing resources at the local level. During August, we have commenced the Guitar Learning Program that supports mental health and wellbeing, as a further addition to the Sub-Branch Sport and Recreation offerings. The program is government funded and conducted by Noro Community Music and the small group of members who have signed up are already appreciating the benefits.

### Call to Arms

It is now only six months to our Annual General Meeting when the existing Executive and Committee will complete their tour of duty, and we will need to elect a new Executive Team and Committee to serve the Sub-Branch over the next three years. Some of our Executive have now become OBE's (Over Bloody Eighty)

while others deal with serious health issues and may not be able to continue serving as they have done over a long period. And our Vietnam era contingent is not far behind them. We need an urgent refresh.

As we approach this time of change, now is the time, for those who are able, to consider joining the Committee and the Executive. Before we get to the next election AGM, please consider how you might assist, come to some Committee meetings, and/or speak with current Executive members, to get a feel for what could be done and how you might be a part of our team caring for and developing our local veteran community. Note that Affiliate Members can serve on the Committee (other than as President or VP).

Looking ahead, I also want to encourage you to seek out and invite other veterans who are not yet RSL members or who are not actively participating in our local veteran community. Please invite them and assist them to join; there is no cost involved, and it can be easily done online through RSL NSW.

Your action now can assist us to be truly a veteran community that cares for local veterans and their families.

Best Regards,  
Neil Turner

## Welcome

Since the last edition of SITREP, the sub-Branch has welcomed a new member, Dominic Koos. Dominic served for nine years in the RAAF in the 1980s.

## Vale

It is with sincere regret that we must acknowledge the passing of Frank Hallissy, John Ellis, James (Jim) Horton, John Isaac (Ike) Nelson, Adrian Needham and Michael Morrison.

Frank was born on 25 January 1930. He served in the Australian Army Reserve for many years including postings as CO 17 RNSWR, Commander 5 Task Force and Deputy Commander Training Command. Frank passed away on 5 July 2025.

John was born on 30 January 1939. He served in the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Navy Reserve from 1952 until 1987. His service included operations during the Malayan Emergency and South Vietnam. John passed away on 15 July 2025.

Jim was one of our centenarians being born on 3 January 1923. Initially, he enlisted in the AIF in March 1942 and then transferred to the RAAF in November 1943 serving until September 1945. Jim passed away on 1 August 2025.

Ike was born on 4 July 1929. He served as a signaller in the Australian Army in the 1950s including service in Korea with 406 Sig Sqn. Ike passed away on 4 August 2025.

Adrian was a long serving member of the Royal Australian Navy retiring as a Commander. He passed away on 17 August 2025 after a long and difficult battle with mesothelioma

Michael was born on 12 June 1937. He was a long serving infantryman in the Australian Army including overseas service in PNG, Borneo and Vietnam. He was Mentioned In Despatches during his operational service. Michael passed away on 18 August 2025.

**LEST WE FORGET**

## News and Activities

### Issues and Activities.

#### Motion for RSL State Congress

As members may recall, at our July General Meeting, the sub-Branch agreed a motion proposing a split of the Service membership category to create a Service Member (ADF) and Service Member (Allied) as well as a significant number of amendments throughout the Constitution to bring this change into effect. The Northern Metropolitan District Council supported the proposed motion at its meeting on 19 August. However, it still needs to be included on the Agenda for the RSL NSW Annual General Meeting. As a change to the Constitution, the motion will have to achieve a two thirds majority at the AGM on 24-25 October to be successful.

#### Fashion and Jewellery Show

Planning for the upcoming "Fashion and Jewellery" show on 20 September is now well underway. All proceeds from the show go directly to supporting our veterans and their families. We will welcome any items that can be used for door and raffle prizes no matter how small or large.



**Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch  
Auxiliary**

Invites you to a  
**Fashion and Jewellery Show**

**Saturday 20 September 2025**  
2pm – 4pm

Hornsby War Memorial Hall- 2 High Street Hornsby  
Stylish Fashions by Donna- Lou  
Affordable Jewellery by TJM Designs  
Cost \$10.00 per person



Fundraiser – Veteran's Health & Wellbeing  
Raffle and Lucky Door Prizes  
Includes light Afternoon Tea  
(Tables of 8 can be pre-booked)

RSVP by Friday 12 September 2025

Email: [kerryvivian54@gmail.com](mailto:kerryvivian54@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Dates

A look ahead of sub-Branch activities for the next three months.

Please remember that the September General Meeting is on 14 September and the Christmas General meeting will be on 7 December.

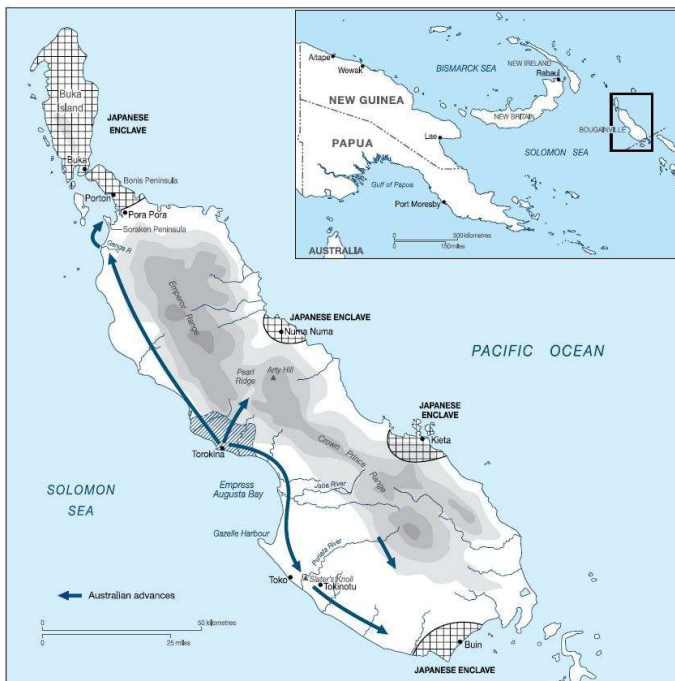
<b>September</b>	Tuesday	9th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting
	Wednesday	10th	10.00am	Coffee Club
	Sunday	14th	11.00am	General Meeting & Veterans Luncheon
	Saturday	20th	2pm	Fashion and Jewellery Show
<b>October</b>	Tuesday	7th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting
	Wednesday	8th	10.00am	10 Pin Bowling Club – L2 "the Attic"
	Sunday	26th	11.00am	General Meeting & Veterans Luncheon
<b>November</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY Service at the Cenotaph from 10.30am</b>	
	Tuesday	11th	6.00pm	Committee Meeting
	Wednesday	12th	10.00am	Coffee Club

## Heritage

### Snippets from the Past. The Bougainville Campaign of 1945

This edition continues our focus on the campaigns of 1945 to mark the 80th anniversary since the end of WW2. Sometimes, criticised as unnecessary, these operations, nevertheless, sought to clear substantial Japanese forces from what was then still Australian territory. The Bougainville campaign was one of these.

Bougainville had been captured by the Japanese in April 1942. However, several coastwatchers, notably Jack Reid around Buka in the north and Paul Mason around Buin in the south, remained in place and provided valuable early warning of Japanese naval and air movements during the Guadalcanal campaign.



<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/bougainville->

assessed to have several combat capable formations.

Initially, 23 Brigade garrisoned nearby islands while 11 Brigade thrust north towards Buka. There was a separate push east along what was known as the Numa Numa Trail to secure Pearl Ridge but effort beyond that was limited to patrolling. The main effort was to be in the south towards Buin and the bulk of the Japanese strength.

The central thrust towards the Pearl Ridge achieved its aim. The push toward Buka met with fierce Japanese resistance and stalled. An attempt to outflank the Japanese defences in the area of Porton Plantation failed with heavy casualties. The advance towards Buin progressed steadily against determined Japanese resistance. By late May, the Australians had closed up on the Mivo River but heavy rain and flooding in the area threatened the Australian lines of communication. Operations resumed in late July but combat operations were suspended in early August after the dropping of the atomic bombs.



*Fighting at Slater's Knoll Apr 1945*

Japanese forces surrendered on 21 August 1945. The campaign cost Australia 516 killed and 1,572 wounded. Around 8,500 Japanese were killed in the same period and a further 9,800 died from starvation and disease. Two Victoria Crosses were awarded to Australians; Corporal Reg Rattey for actions during the fighting around Slater's Knoll in March 1945 and Private Frank Partridge for actions during the Battle of Ratsua, in the north, in July 1945. A third Victoria Cross was awarded posthumously to Corporal Sefanaia Sukanaivalu of the Fijian infantry Regiment while working with US Army in June 1944.