

PRESIDENTS PEN



Acting President James Batkin, Sue Roper and Grant Smith at the Cumberland Australia Day awards presentation.

SUE FLYS HER FLAG...

Australia Day - Over 40 members from the Cumberland sub-Branch gathered at the Auburn Tennis Cub for the first event of 2023.

The 'Australia Day Awards' luncheon was organised by James Batkin and Grant Smith for the surprise presentation of a 'Certificate of Achievement' and an Australia Day Medallion to sub-Branch member, Sue Roper, from the Australia Day Council.

Sue Roper has been volunteering for many years in several local charities. As well as being a member of the Cumberland RSL sub-Branch, Sue is treasurer of the Western Districts Disabled Ex-Servicemen's Association. Sue also volunteers several days a week with the Meals-on-Wheels organisation and is involved with the local Red Cross. Sue also cheerfully volunteers for bus driving duties for many of our sub branch travel requirements. To top it all off, Sue has been a blood donor since 1980.

We congratulate Sue on receiving the award from the Australia Day Council and acknowledge her fine community involvement.

CREATIVE Thinking Mode ...

The recent January 'Strategic Planning and Information' meeting for the committee with the theme, 'Thinking outside the square'.

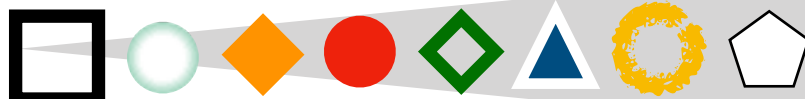
'Creative Ideas' were presented by all around the table as to where we could possibly be as a sub-branch over the next five year period.

President Greg Read and Vice President Ron Inglis, endorsed the formation of a new 'Commemoration sub-Committee' to map out a 12 month annual program for those local events.

The 2023 events program will be released in the near future.



Sunday morning planning and information meeting with a difference - Committee members explore many new ideas for Cumberland sub-branch over the next five year period.



"A welcome change is coming... Think outside the square"



JANUARY

Greg's hot seat ... My welcome challenge

COMMITTEE

President	Greg Read SC
Vice President	Ron Inglis
Vice President	James Batkin
Treasurer	Mehmet Evin
Secretary	Mark Lee
Committee	Ross Baker
Committee	Paul Hughes
Committee	Chris Hurley
Committee	Alice O'Connor
Trustee	Alan Chapple
Trustee	Paul Hughes
Trustee	Avanua Kupu

RSL AUXILIARY

Co ordinator	Ann Batkin
Assistant	Alice Walsh

TURKISH CHAPTER

Co ordinator	Mehmet Evin
Assistant	Cemil Kilicoglu

CUMBERLAND CONTACT

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Appointment Only

RSL Auxiliary - Ann Batkin
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No postcards from President Greg Read, as yet, as he sips those ice cold sunset martini's as part of his new daily ritual on his well deserved Philippines holiday; however, his seat in the Auburn office is hot, and my keyboard need a squirt of WD 40 after past few weeks!

Our new Secretary, Mark Lee, was thrown into the deep end over the Christmas break, as he and several committee members worked tirelessly to construct a very good strategic plan and information meeting.

Held on the first Sunday of January, our sights are set on a very different agenda for the year ahead. More planning details to follow after our February committee meeting.

Then before Greg departed, he volunteered us as a sub-branch, to host the annual NSW National Servicemen's Commemoration; their normal site and date at Ingleburn RSL was no longer available.

I have take on this welcome commemoration event as a new task in 2023; I look forward to many new faces to Lidcombe in February for their commemoration. I sincerely hope some of our members can make it along, although it is short notice, opportunity sometimes comes gift wrapped and this could be one of those occasions.

The Cumberland office at the Auburn Business Centre has a new look and feel, clean and spacious. However we are aware that the office is not very accessible for members, being in a busy part of Auburn with very limited parking. Mark is working a three day week in his honorary secretary role, his email and mobile phone are the direct contact point.

The committee is exploring options for future events, meetings and administration. For this year, as many as possible of all our meetings will be held at Dooleys, Lidcombe.

JAMES BATKIN
Acting President
RSL NSW
Cumberland sub-Branch





The ROUSE
Vice President - RON INGLIS

NUMBERS

Who's counting? ... We are!

In 2023 the Cumberland RSL sub-Branch enters its second century. Oh, I know we have had the name Cumberland only since 2016 but that was only a name change. Our sub-Branch has been operating continuously in this part of Sydney's western suburbs ever since the Auburn sub-Branch was granted its Charter way back in 1922.

Making it to 100 and to still be hale and hearty is pretty good for any organisation, especially one that is a charity that relies almost entirely on volunteers.

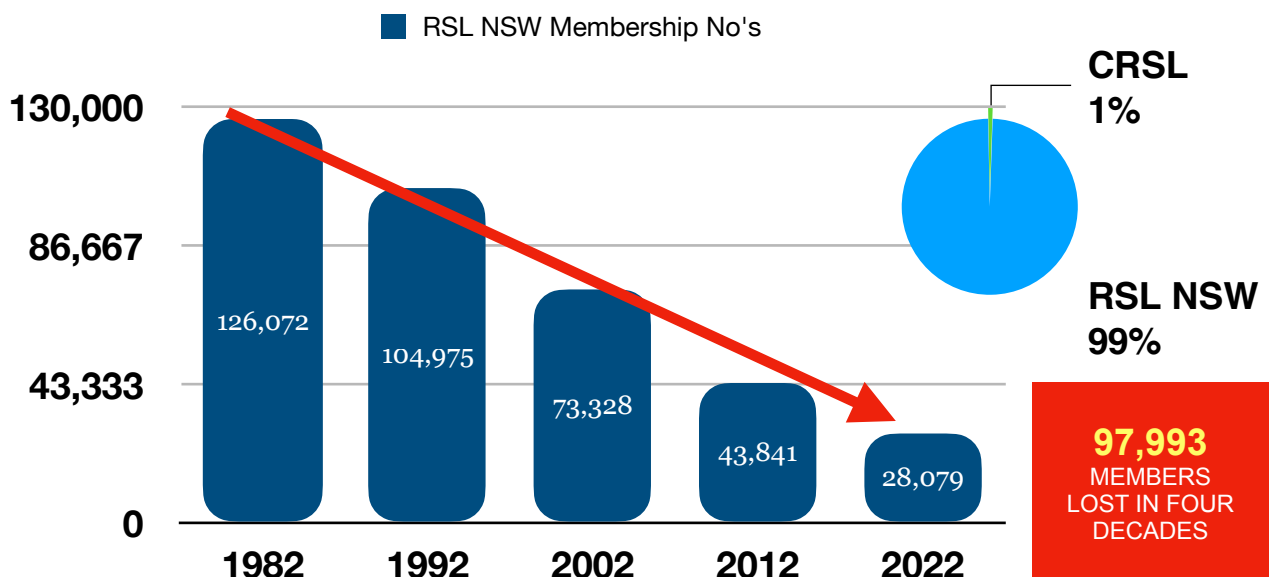
Our sub-Branch has been supporting veterans ever since a few Auburn men, returned from the First World War, gathered together in homes or public halls to support each other and remember their mates. Our sub-Branch can look back on a long and proud history of being one of the leading sub-Branches in the state of New South Wales.

We should not be surprised that few human organisations, be they businesses, cultural groups, church congregations or charities, make it to 100 years.

Times change, people move on, populations grow and decline. What was enormously popular with one generation, is old hat and discarded by the next. Turning 100 is an achievement but, as the graph below shows, the times are changing and we will have to do some serious thinking on how we can energise our organisation into its next hundred years.

This is the great challenge for our sub-Branch and many others around the state as we enter our second century. It is not just a matter of head office having an idea and taking the responsibility.

Each sub-Branch and every RSL member has to be ready for change and new directions, if we all sign up one new member this year, this would help in numbers, what can you do?



Membership's... Cumberland's Future

MEMBERSHIP	January 2023	%
Service	142	65
Affiliate	64	29
Auxiliary	12	6
Total	218	

RESIDENCE	No's.	%
15 km to Lidcombe	110	50
Outer SYDNEY	71	33
Country NSW	29	13
Interstate	8	4
Total	218	

Interesting exercise breaking down the Cumberland membership numbers to discover 'who we are and where we reside'.

The Cumberland membership data base held at RSL NSW HQ, is presently under review as return post always provides entries to update, and good

news there are new members joining along with the transfer of Granville members to our ranks.

Committee will seek an experienced 'computer operator' to take on the membership roll in the near future, update of the register monthly is the main task, any volunteers please contact Secretary.

NEXT MEMBERS EVENT - GENERAL MEETING

Monday 27 February 2023 - 4.30 pm - Dooleys Lidcombe
Doors Open 4pm - Afternoon tea service for all

NEXT MEETING
COMMITTEE
Monthly Status
Monday 20 February 6pm
Dooleys, Lidcombe

NEXT MEETING
MEMBERS
Tea Party
Monday 27 February 4.30 pm
Dooleys, Lidcombe

NEXT MEETING
AUXILIARY
Planning Meeting
Wednesday 8 February 12 pm
Dooleys, Regents Park

NEXT MEETING
TRUSTEES
Annual Returns
Tuesday 1 August 6pm
Dooleys, Lidcombe

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Election of new Committee

Tuesday 16 May 2023 - 4.30 pm - Dooleys Lidcombe