

# PRESIDENT'S PEN



## CUMBERLAND CORRAL

### Welcome Country Tour at Spur Ranch

**PICTON, Monday 27 March** - As the rain eased and the clouds hovered low over the valley, hundreds of local bell birds were singing their very Australian tweet in the distant trees as the coach, carrying 35 RSL Cumberland members, slowly made its way towards the front farm gate of 'Spur Ranch'.

At the gate, Spur General Manager, Max Steeter, was there to greet the group. He commented that our group was the largest RSL group to visit the ranch for a tour of the property and observation of the daily routines. Due to the weather, it would not be a horse riding day but the group enjoyed their morning tea of hot cross buns and coffee followed by a walk around tour of the ranch.

The 15 resident horses were quick to gather at the front fence and greet the visitors, giving a perfect performance of horse play with biting, jumping and kicking, all signs of a healthy young mob of horses.

Max is a man not short of a few words and was very happy to deliver an extensive description to the members of how the RSL LifeCare SPUR program works. He shared his vision for the way forward for the 300 acre property in years to come.

Grateful of the recent donation from RSL Cumberland that will now bring many 'square meters of concrete' to the surrounding pathways around the main building, along with many much

needed new pieces of equipment around the facility. Max was also delighted to announce a new name for the main workspace at the ranch, "Cumberland Corral".

"A new 'rusty steel sign' will be erected very soon" Max said with excitement and gratitude in his voice.

RSL LifeCare Head of Business Development Manager, Michael Green, was also in attendance from his St Leonards office. "Getting a first hand look at Spur Ranch with a large group of RSL members on site, was a real treat. The event panned out well, love the group photograph on the gate ' said Michael.

Cumberland senior member Ron McLennan, made his customary speech, without a microphone, and said it was a great privilege to actually see where our good funds were going. We can physically see the difference that our donation is making to what is truly a great RSL LifeCare program for the new veteran Services division of the League.

After a tasty Aussie sausage and salad BBQ lunch, with blue sky overhead, the group made its way home to Sydney. Members expressed their delight with the tour and appreciated the occasion to see Spur Ranch and meet the staff and management on the day.



RSL LifeCare Veteran Services

[rslifecare.org.au/veteran-services](http://rslifecare.org.au/veteran-services)

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## COMMITTEE

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Assistant	<b>Alice Walsh</b>
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Co ordinator	<b>Alice O'Connor</b>
<b>TURKISH CHAPTER</b>	
Co ordinator	<b>Mehmet Evin</b>
Assistant	<b>Cemil Kilicoalu</b>

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# PRESIDENT'S DESK

## *On Course with new Directions ...*

***After a busy past few weeks, barefoot bowl activity with the local community, Spur Ranch 'country' tour, administration for the annual report combined with the annual audit, and then in no time April is upon us, and ANZAC DAY!***

*April brings a full calendar of Anzac related events across our district. It's always a busy time for us here at Cumberland. A time when we invite the community to focus on the service and sacrifice of our Australian Defence Forces, past and present.*

*The major Anzac events are set out in this issue of President's Pen and I encourage all members to support these commemorations in your area if possible.*

*We are also approaching a most important time in our Cumberland history, when the AGM next month will deliver a new committee to lead us over the next three years. As recently expressed by our RSL NSW State President, Ray James, it's time for a generational change. Can I urge all members to consider how they can contribute to Cumberland's future. New, younger members need to step up, and the older veterans need to step back; that's how we have to move forward, nominations are now open, with all positions vacant on the committee.*

*We welcome our younger members to take the responsibilities. A good foundation has been established since we set Cumberland in motion back in 2016 when the district sub-branch merger process began.*

*Our office, profile, publicity and event functions are being modernised. Cumberland is in a strong financial position and we are ready to move forward with a new committee and a revitalised Cumberland strategic plan in June of 2023.*

*Big thank you to the executive committee for their recent efforts to make the new events and commemorations very successful. I am looking forward to the next road trip down to Canberra for the Coral Sea commemoration and the Australian War Memorial visit in May. Please get on board, seats are limited!*



**GREG READ** SC  
President  
RSL NSW  
Cumberland sub-Branch

# VISION PLAN BELIEVE ACT

*'One RSL - working together, delivering locally'*



# ANZAC WEEK CUMBERLAND DISTRICT



**FRIDAY - 21 April - 7 am**

**MONDAY - 24 April - 7 am**

## **ANZAC APPEAL BADGE SALES**

Strathfield - Lidcombe - Auburn Railway Stations  
Nationally available at Woolworths - Officeworks stores

**FRIDAY - 21 April - 11 am**

**MONDAY - 24 April - 11 am**

## **ANZAC APPEAL BADGE SALES**

Dooleys Catholic Club, Lidcombe

**FRIDAY - 21 April - 10 am**

## **ANZAC WREATH LAYING**

Clyde Carriageworks Memorial, Auburn  
Soldiers' Memorial School of Arts, Guildford

**SATURDAY - 22 April - 10.30 am**

## **COMMUNITY ANZAC COMMEMORATION**

Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway  
Killoola St, Rhodes Park, Concord

**MONDAY 24 April - 10 am**

## **COMMUNITY ANZAC COMMEMORATION**

Auburn Hospital

**TUESDAY 25 April - 6 am**

## **ANZAC DAY - DAWN SERVICE**

Memorial Park,  
Memorial Drive, Granville

**TUESDAY 25 April - 10 am**

## **ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION**

Davey Square Memorial  
Rochester St & Beresford Rd, Homebush

# Lest We Forget

# Around The Traps ...



## AHOY THERE

Cumberland Vice President, James Batkin, (L) proudly wearing his army cap, is on the bridge tour of HMAS Adelaide at Garden Island, Sydney. James was an invited guest of the Naval Historical Society of Australia and was also treated to some of the rare unseen sights of Garden Island.

## ON TRUST

Cumberland Trustee, Paul Hughes, recently attended a quarterly financial meeting to review the Cumberland investment returns of the last six months and seek directions on where future markets are heading in 2023. Perpetual finance advisor, Liz Wheatley, and independent accountant, Ray Horne, were at the board room table with other Cumberland executives joining via the zoom!



## HORSE'N AROUND

Members of the RSL Cumberland pose for one of many photographs around the most favourite resident at Spur Ranch, 'Apache' the mascot pony. He has a major role this year to lead the Anzac Day Parade at the Narrabeen RSL Lifecare Village for their annual service. Apache will be one of seven horses in all to form the 'mounted troop' on the day.

## NEXT MEMBERS EVENT - GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 18 April 2023 - 4.30 pm - Dooleys Lidcombe  
Doors open 4pm

### NEXT MEETING COMMITTEE

Monthly Status  
Tuesday 11 April 6pm  
Dooleys, Lidcombe

### NEXT MEETING MEMBERS

Tuesday 18 April 4.30 pm  
Dooleys, Lidcombe

### NEXT MEETING AUXILIARY

Planning Meeting  
Wednesday 24 May 12 pm  
Dooleys, Regents Park



*"A welcome change is coming... Thinking outside the square"*