

# COMPASS



Quarterly Newsletter - RSL NSW Cumberland - Autumn 2023  
Approved Australia Post - Print Post No. PP 100029483

## AUBURN MEMORIAL

Salute Our Statue

**BEN HINTON**

Officer in our ranks

**SUE ROPER**

Community champion

**SPUR RANCH**

Breakout tour project

**RSL LIFECARE**

Tribute to Turkiye



**RSL NSW**  
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# CUMBERLAND

*Ready to lead 2023 and ... the big picture*



*First day on deck, commemoration service at Lidcombe Remembrance Park with local RAAF Air Cadets, Cumberland Councillors and our Auburn Member of NSW Parliament, Lynda Voltz.*

**" It** has been good to return from a most enjoyable break in the Philippines and be straight back into the Cumberland activity calendar for 2023.

The National Servicemen's commemoration held at Remembrance Park, Lidcombe recently was a most successful event. Special commendation to James Batkin and Mark Lee for bringing it all together, as organising hosts, they can do me a party any time!

We are now well advanced with preparations for Anzac Day across our Cumberland district. April is always a busy time and I encourage all members to give full support this year to the various events associated with Anzac Day. As soon as we have firm dates and times you will be notified.

Concord, Homebush, Strathfield, Lidcombe, Auburn, and Granville is our 'new patch' that we are trying to accommodate. It's logistics are to the full and it will be a true 'team' effort again this year. I feel the sacrifice that volunteer office bearers make is not always recognised sufficiently for modern day veterans, the added value they bring to the sub branch is high, very high!

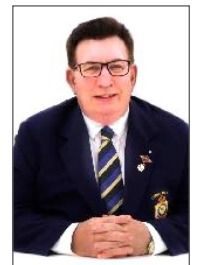
Looking further ahead, Cumberland will be very involved in aligning our thinking and plans with the overall RSL NSW Strategic Plan. This strategic plan is the 'road map' for the revitalising and restructuring of our organisation that has been in the background for the past few years. Times and generations change and we need to move with the times. I feel we are in a good position to face the challenges and to become one of the 'leaders' as we move into this decade as a senior part of RSL NSW. Like all good leaders in the veteran community we all need to have a succession plan, and that is someone to lead the organisation into the future in place of myself and others.

The Annual General Meeting is our next big challenge after Anzac Day, to be held on Tuesday, May 16, this will be an important event in the history of Cumberland.

Committee and trustees will be elected to serve Cumberland over the next three years, to carry forward our implementation of the Strategic Plan, and then to add some, put their own mark on what they can bring to our membership and the RSL over their period in office. All positions will be vacant and I encourage younger members, those perhaps under 65, to really consider this opportunity to be part of the next chapter of Cumberland's history.

RSL NSW is a changing and evolving organisation and Cumberland will have to be a part of that changing equation. We all volunteer out time, efforts, and energy into supporting veterans, families and our members. Finding office bearers for the future is the challenge for all and maintaining our community links with commemorations at the same time - we all need to remember the big picture.

**GREG READ** SC  
President  
RSL NSW  
Cumberland







*“ RSL NSW Cumberland ...  
welcome to Dooleys Catholic Club  
for your future meetings and events.*

*A warm welcome from members and staff,  
may the good times return in 2023.*

**DAVID MANTLE**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Dooleys, Lidcombe



*First meeting for 2023 at Dooleys 'Full House' with over 60 members in attendance.*



# AUBURN

## WAR MEMORIAL

by

**RON  
INGLIS**

Vice President  
RSL NSW  
Cumberland

# “HEY MISTER

*What's the story of the old statue in the park?*

**The** Auburn War Memorial is one of the finest public works of art in Australia. It is a tall, proud structure seen each day by thousands of rail travellers as they journey to and from the city of Sydney. The memorial was designed to be a genuine *monument aux morts*, that is, it was intended to carry the names of those from the Auburn district who died in the Great War of 1914-1918. The central panel of the memorial has the names of 135 men of Auburn who paid the supreme sacrifice in the First World War.

Over 900 men of Auburn signed up for service in the First Australian Imperial Force so Auburn could not be like most other communities in Australia and put on their memorial the names of everyone who enlisted.

The monument, originally called the Auburn Soldiers Memorial, is surmounted by three figures. Originally the centre figure was a soldier with arm outstretched, holding a banner or flag in a 'Liberty Guiding the People' pose. Statues of soldiers in this pose are common in France but are rarely found on Australian War Memorials. The arm and flagpole, upraised at 45°, were frequently damaged by the elements so when the statue was refurbished in 2014 the arm and flagpole were redesigned to be sturdier in inclement weather.

Either side of the soldier are two female forms, on his right is PEACE with a dove on her right shoulder and on his left, JUSTICE, blindfolded and with scales. At the feet of the soldier is a laurel wreath overlying a crown and a 'rising sun' array with the words AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES.

The memorial also carries the names of major battle sites of the First World War.

The memorial was designed by architect M. McGowan of Leichhardt and built by stonemasons Melocco Brothers of Annandale. The statues on top were almost certainly imported from Italy.

***An Avenue of Honour was planted from Macquarie Road down to the memorial and the unveiling was performed by the Governor-General, the Duke of Gloucester, on 26 October 1946***

## **Original Location ...**

The original Auburn 'Soldiers' Memorial stood, facing west, between the entrance to

Auburn Station The land was donated by the NSW Railways Department and for the next 93 years was known as Railway Park. The memorial was unveiled with great public ceremony on Sunday 30 April 1922. The unveiling was carried out by Major-General Sir Charles Rosenthal, who had been the popular commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division during the war and was now a member of the NSW Parliament.

## **The Second World War: Additions and relocation ...**

After the Second World War (1939-1945), most communities in Australia did not build separate Second World War memorials but simply added names and inscriptions to the existing Great War memorial. This happened in Auburn. It was decided by the council to undertake a major project of moving the memorial to Auburn Park and replacing the old white tablets with new panels incorporating Second World War names and inscriptions. An Avenue of Honour was planted from Macquarie Road down to the memorial and the unveiling was performed by the Governor-General, the Duke of Gloucester, on 26 October 1946. and Rawson Street.



*continued ...*

### **Moved again ...**

The commemorative site in Auburn Park proved to be too isolated so in the early 1980s the memorial was refurbished and brought to stand in the RSL car park directly opposite the Auburn RSL sub-Branch club house in Northumberland Road, Auburn.

### **And again ...**

When all RSL property in Northumberland Road, Auburn was sold in 2013, the Auburn Council established a committee of interested parties under the chair of Frances Hamilton, landscape architect of Auburn City Council. After extensive consultation the committee came up with a project to move the refurbished memorial back to Railway Park, but this time positioning it on the Rawson Street side and facing south. The memorial was rededicated in a major public ceremony on Saturday 28 February 2015.

The Auburn 'Soldiers' Memorial could be the only war memorial in Australia that has moved three times and is now back in the same park, now called Memorial Park, in which it was originally unveiled.

On 28 February 2015, the following plaque was unveiled adjacent to the memorial

## **AUBURN WAR MEMORIAL**

### *Rededicated*

*Upon return to Auburn Memorial Park On the occasion of the centenary of Anzac A MEMORIAL TO ALL AUSTRALIANS WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY IN WAR AND PEACE*

### *Unveiled by*

*Wing Commander (AAFC) Paul Hughes*

*28 February 2015*

*Returned and Services League of Australia  
Auburn sub-Branch*

So that's the story of the old statue in the park. It is worth a salute as you pass by.



*For a detailed report on the unveiling of the Auburn War Memorial in 1922 go to Trove, AUBURN SOLDIERS MEMORIAL UNVEILED Cumberland Argus & Fruit growers Advocate, Saturday, 6 May 1922, p1.*



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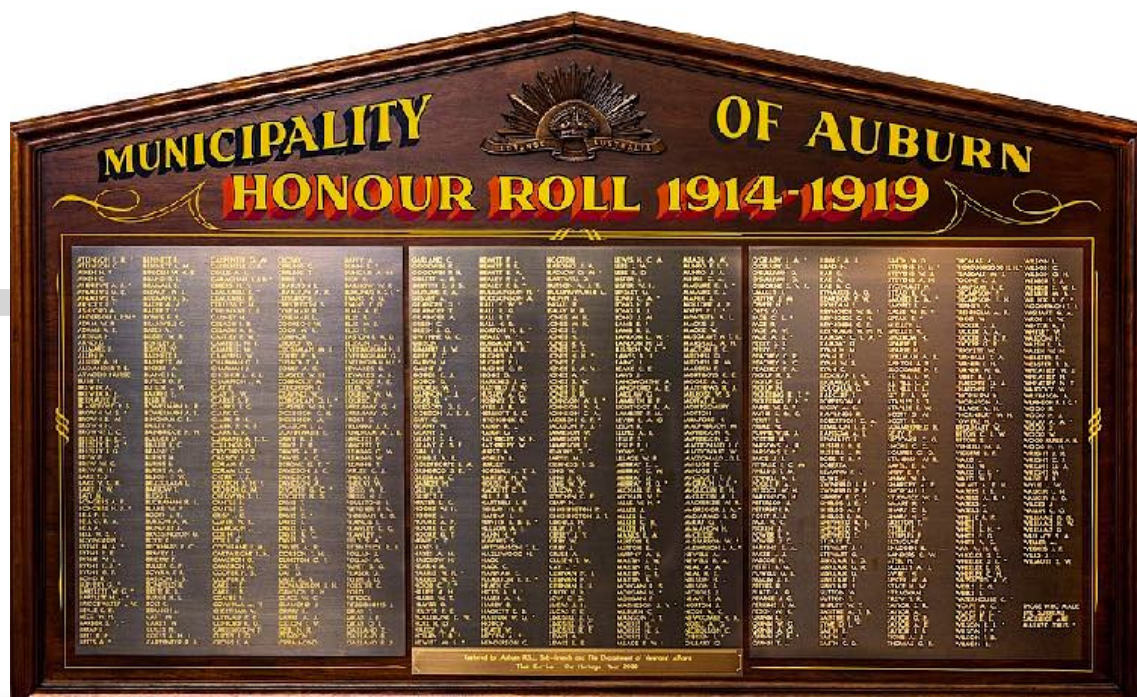
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*This war memorial honour board is a large timber honour roll for the First World War. It has an overall rectangular shape, with a pointed top edge. It features a bronze Rising Sun emblem at the top of the board, inscribed with the words 'Advance Australia'.*

*The roll lists the names of 900 Auburn men, plus that of Nurses Atwood and Wood, who enlisted for service in the war. They are printed in gold across three metal panels, attached to the main body of the board. Thirteen of the men listed had the surname 'Jones', the largest name category by far. The names of all men from Auburn's primary memorial, the Auburn War Memorial, are found on this roll, except for Alexander Hood.*

*The original version of the roll was installed and unveiled at the Auburn Council Chambers in the early 1920s. It is reasonable to assume the names on this board were drawn from the lists held by the Auburn War Memorial committee, as all the spelling mistakes on the Auburn War Memorial bar one, John Arnott, have been repeated on this board. Those who compiled the names for the board also added some mistakes of their own—they turned the correct Wolff into Wolfe and the correct Hickin into Hicken. There are also several discrepancies between the initials on the Auburn War Memorial and initials on this board.*

*With the opening of the new Auburn Council Chambers and Town Hall, and the demolition of the old Town Hall, the roll was relocated to the Auburn RSL sub-Branch Club in Northumberland Road. It was mounted on the wall of the 'Anzac Room'. The matching roll for the Second World War, listed separately on the NSW War Memorials Register as the Municipality of Auburn Second World War Honour Roll, was also moved at that time.*

*The First World War roll was originally all timber. In 2000, the names were redone on the metal panels, which were affixed to the original backing board. This project was undertaken by the Auburn RSL sub-Branch and financed by a 'Their Service – Our Heritage' grant. It is possible this refurbishment led to the asterisk being left off for A. H. Marshall, W. S. Ryan, and R. Webster, indicating they made the supreme sacrifice.*

*In 2013 all RSL property in Northumberland Road, Auburn was sold. The club and the sub-Branch vacated the premises on the last day of 2014. Since then the Cumberland RSL sub-Branch has cared for both Honour Rolls at their office.*

**Restored by RSL NSW Auburn sub-Branch and  
The Department of Veterans' Affairs. Year 2000**



*Graduation day, a proud moment - Midshipman Ben Hinton, HMAS Creswell*





# MIDSHIPMAN

BENJAMIN HILTON, RAN

**Midshipman** Ben Hinton joined the Royal Australian Navy from Gold Coast, Queensland as a Combat Systems Operator in 2012. Ben has enjoyed postings to a fleet of His Majesty's Australian Ships, Melbourne, Newcastle, Sydney, Darwin and Hobart.

While in Sydney, Ben was involved in leadership in the 307 Squadron Air Force Cadets that paraded at Lidcombe. During this time Ben joined the Cumberland RSL sub-Branch and was an active member.

Posted to Darwin, Ben deployed to the Middle East on Operation MANITOU and to New Zealand as part of the Australian humanitarian response to Kaikoura earthquake in 2016. November 2016, Ben was recognised with a Commanding Officer's commendation, and 'Sailor of the Quarter' for his leadership and work ethic.

Following his sea postings, Ben was posted to School of Maritime Warfare as an administrative assistant to the PWO faculty, and then to the J2 Branch, HQJOC in the Joint Intelligence and Surveillance Watch. In 2019, Ben was promoted to

Leading Seaman and posted to HMAS Hobart as a Sonar Controller.

While posted to Hobart, Ben deployed to North-East Asia, and participated in ASW exercises with foreign submarines using the newest DDG sonar equipment.

In 2020, Ben posted to Posting Cycle Movements Coordination Cell (PCMCC), COVID-19 Task Force as an Operations Case Manager. During this challenging posting, Ben was recognised with an Australian Defence Force Gold Commendation in December 2021 for his leadership, work ethic and problem-solving ability.

Following the COVID-19 Task Force's disbandment in 2022. Posted to HQJOC, Ben was offered a commission as a Naval Intelligence Officer; Ben was commissioned Midshipman in July 2022.

Married to Rebecca, they have two daughters, Isabelle and Erica. Ben enjoys camping with his family and supporting the Carlton Blues in the AFL and, when able, attending motorsport events, especially camping at Bathurst.



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*Cumberland Vice President James Batkin, presents Sue with her Australia Day award.*



# SUE ROPER

## Family Army Affair 'Cumberland Community Champion'

by

**RON INGLIS**

Vice President - RSL NSW Cumberland

**Australia Day 2023** - over 40 Cumberland sub-Branch members gathered at the Auburn Tennis Cub for the surprise presentation of a 'Certificate of Achievement' and an 'Australia Day Medallion' to Cumberland member Sue Roper.

Sue is a real local girl. She grew up in Regents Park, attended Regents Park Public School then Birrong Girls High. Much to her mother's disappointment, Sue left school at Year 10. (*"I was really keen to earn money", says Sue.*)

While at school, Sue had an excursion to the Australia Post International Mail Centre at Clyde and her career path was set. Sue worked for Australia Post for 38 years, firstly a short time at Auburn Post Office then to the Clyde International Mail Centre where she worked to retirement.

Both before and after retirement Sue Roper volunteered in many local charities. As well as being an active member of the Cumberland RSL sub-Branch, Sue is treasurer of the Western Districts Disabled Ex-Servicemen's Association. Sue volunteers several days a week with Meals-on-Wheels and is involved with the local Red Cross. With all these groups Sue cheerfully

volunteers for bus driving and various other duties. To top it all off, Sue has been a blood donor since 1980. We acknowledge Sue's fine community involvement.

In 2022 Sue went on a 17-day tour of the Western Front in France and Belgium. The tour covered many places of significance to the men of the Australian Imperial Force in the First World War. It was a very special time for Sue for she has the sad distinction of losing three great uncles in the First World War, two brothers on her mother's side of the family and one on

her father's side.

2046 Private Eric Stuart Ball, a farmer born in Cootamundra, was 21 years of age when he enlisted at the RAS Showgrounds, Sydney on 11 April 1916. After a standard 4-months' training, Private Ball embarked on the Anchises on 24 August 1916, arriving in England on 11 October 1916. (Yes, the voyage took seven weeks. All troopships carrying Australian reinforcements to England had to travel via South Africa.)

Private Ball crossed to France on 21 November 1916 and was taken on strength of the 35<sup>th</sup> Battalion. In May 1917, Eric Ball was gassed,

**This memorial has the names  
of 11,000 Australian soldiers  
of the First World War  
who died in France  
but have no known grave**



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*continued ...*

resulting in him spending many months in hospitals both in France and England. Private Ball returned to his battalion in France in January 1918 and he fought on until he was Killed in Action on 5 April 1918. His body was never found, hence his name on Australia's National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux. This memorial has the names of 11,000 Australian soldiers of the First World War who died in France but have no known grave.

Private Eric Ball is honoured on the Junee Reefs First World War Memorial, the Junee War Memorial Clock Tower and on the Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

3871 Private George Forester Ball, the 26-year-old brother of Eric Ball, also born in Cootamundra, had an argument with his father and enlisted under the name of Harold Francis Melville. Harold enlisted on 31 August 1915 at Holsworthy and embarked for overseas service on 7 January 1916. He was in Egypt for some three months before moving on to the Western Front, arriving in Marseilles on 4 April 1916. He was taken on strength of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion immediately before the Battle of Pozieres. In the battle he was slightly wounded, returning to his unit two months later. On 3 October 1916 Private Melville received an accidental gun-shot wound to the head and right leg from one of his fellow soldiers. This was a more serious wound and Melville was evacuated to England where he remained for eight months.

Private Melville's record shows that he was not an exemplary member of the AIF. He had 70 days' VD treatment then he went AWL for six days for which he had to forfeit 18 days' pay. For being 'Drunk' and 'attempting to strike an RMP', Melville had to do 14 days detention. Another 'crime' was 'neglecting to obey an order given by a senior NCO for which Melville had to do 5 days Field Punishment N° 2.

Private Melville went back to France in February 1918 but was immediately in hospital with Gingivitis (Gum Disease). He did not get back to his battalion till 9 May 1918. Harold Melville was Killed in Action on 23 August

1918 during the great Australian advance up the Somme valley under General Monash. He was buried in the Heath Cemetery at Harbonnieres. In this cemetery there are 910 Australian graves out of 1499 burials. Three of the Australian graves are Auburn Memorial men. It was not until several years after the war when medals were being distributed that it was discovered that Harold Francis Melville was really George Forester Ball. He is honoured on the Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial, Canberra under his real name with the note 'also known as Harold Francis Melville'. His name does not appear to be on any other Great War memorial in Australia.

There was another brother, Hector Victor Ball, who did not go to the war. Sue remembers visiting him as a child during the eight years Hector spent in Lidcombe State Hospital following a stroke.

The third great-uncle of Sue Roper to die in the First World War was 59396 Private Alexander Thomas Roper. When he enlisted in Sydney on 13 May 1918, Alexander declared he had been previously rejected for service because of defective vision. This time he was accepted and he embarked on the Borda

on 17 July 1918. Private Roper only got as far as Cape Town where he was taken off the ship suffering from 'Primary Syphilis'. He died almost two months later in N°7 South African General Hospital from the Spanish Flu epidemic, then sweeping the world. Private Roper was buried in the Woltemade Cemetery, N°4 Military allotment, Cape Town.

Private Alexander Thomas Roper is honoured on the Pymont & Ultimo War Memorial in Sydney and on the Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial, Canberra. Soldiers, such as Private Roper, who left Australia but did not land in France before the Armistice, were awarded the British War Medal but not the Victory Medal.

Sue Roper, a true 'community champion' for the Cumberland district of Sydney.



**Sue Roper finding the name of Pte Ball on the Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France.**



*Sue Roper at the grave of Pte 'Harold Francis Melville'  
in the Heath Cemetery, Harbonniers, France.*





*Photograph By Navy Photographer - POIS Yuri Ramsey*

*Submarine HMAS Rankin sails on the surface in the waters north of Darwin during AUSINDEX 21.*



# 21st CENTURY NAVY.AUKUS

*Former Royal Australian Navy Communications Officer and recently retired Director of Sea Power Centre Australia, **John Perryman**, explains some of the basic details of the **nuclear power process**.*

*When deployed in the Pacific in 1992 John Perryman was invited on board the nuclear submarine USS Pasadena.*



JOHN  
PERRYMAN

## NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES

*How do they work?*

# POWER AND ENERGY *for* NUCLEAR SUBMARINES

**The** announcement on Thursday 16 September 2021 that Australia had cancelled the Attack class submarine project in favour of pursuing a nuclear powered option better suited to our nation's strategic interests, has sparked a frenzy of reporting in the press and stimulated vigorous discussions throughout the community.

A number of friends and relatives have sought my insights concerning just what a nuclear option means for the navy and the nation. In those discussions it became clear to me that many people don't seem to have a clear understanding of how a nuclear powered vessel works and most were surprised to learn of the part that good old fashioned steam plays in the equation. Some also failed to appreciate the distinction between acquiring nuclear powered vessels and nuclear weapons, the latter of which is not a consideration.

In the minds of most that I spoke with, a nuclear power plant was a mysterious piece of glowing green equipment that emits energy that is somehow used to propel a vessel through the water.

Notwithstanding the green glow reference, it is not too far from reality and the purpose of this short paper is to provide a simple explanation concerning how a nuclear powered submarine works. It is not my intent to comment on strategic sensitivities except to say that the new AUKUS alliance is central to achieving a nuclear powered submarine option.

## **Los Angeles 688 Class Submarines**

In 1992 I was fortunate to be part of a group of sailors from HMAS Tobruk (II) that undertook a tour of the Los Angeles Class submarine USS Pasadena, SSN 752, which at that time was visiting an Australian port.

We were welcomed on board and each of us received an unclassified brochure that served to take much of the mystery out of how and what the vessel was capable of.

Of great interest to me was 'how did this nuclear powered vessel work?' I was delighted to see included in my brochure a simplistic and useful explanation, with an illustration, that I have included in this paper.

## **The Power Plant**

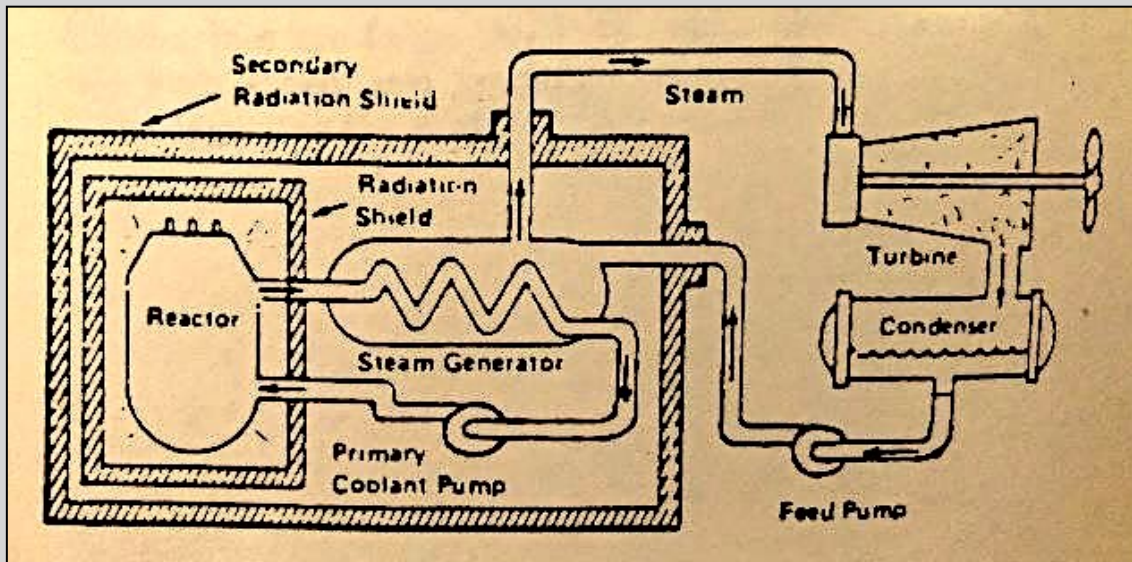
The power plant of a nuclear powered ship or submarine recruits a nuclear reactor to provide heat.

The heat comes from the fissioning of nuclear fuel contained within the reactor. Since the fissioning process also produces radiation, shields are placed around the reactor so that the crew is protected.

A typical nuclear propulsion plant, such as those found in the Los Angeles Class submarines, uses a pressurised water reactor design that has two basic systems; a primary system and a secondary system.



*British Astute class submarine*



### **POWER PLANT**

*A basic diagram of the two separate closed systems that interact to propel a submarine through the water.*



### **COAL FOR FUEL - HMAS AUSTRALIA**

*Coaling the RAN battle cruiser HMAS Australia (I) was an all ship evolution involving most of the ship's company to bring the vital energy source on board. It was a laborious and frequently undertaken task limiting range and endurance.*





*1986 - At sea - Leading Seaman Signalman, John Perryman, HMAS Hobart  
in company with the USS New Jersey battle group,*

*continued ...*

The primary system circulates ordinary water and consists of the reactor, piping loops, pumps and steam generators.

The heat produced in the reactor is transferred to the water under high pressure so it does not boil. This water is pumped through the steam generators and back into the reactor for reheating.

In the secondary system, the steam flows from the steam generators to drive a turbine and generators that supply the vessel with electricity and to the main propulsion turbines that drive the propeller. After passing through the turbines, the steam is condensed into water that is fed back to the steam generators by the feed pumps. Thus, both the primary and secondary systems are closed systems where water is recirculated and reused.

There is no step in the generation of this power that requires the presence of air or oxygen. This allows the vessel to operate completely independent from the earth's atmosphere for extended periods of time.

## **What does this mean?**

In simplistic terms the power plant is a large kettle used to heat water to create high pressure steam that drives the propulsion system and turns the propeller. This concept has been in use for hundreds of years and the steam powered locomotive is perhaps the most recognisable form of transport, that most would be familiar with, that burnt coal in a furnace as a source to create energy.

Ships too have made use of steam for more than a hundred years. The first of these were themselves powered by coal and it was the lament of many a sailor involved in the backbreaking and dirty work of coaling ship.

Later, furnace fuel oil and diesel oil were used as a cleaner alternate energy source to heat boilers and create steam, resulting in greater range, speed and efficiency.

Today of course many of our ships use diesel engines and gas turbine propulsion systems.



# Feature Navy Exhibition ANZAC MEMORIAL

HYDE PARK SOUTH, SYDNEY

1913 the Royal Australian Navy's brand-new fleet sailed through the Heads and into Sydney Harbour. Since then the RAN has served on all the world's oceans in times of peace and war.

During the Second World War, the RAN reached its maximum strength. Approximately 37,000 men and women wore a RAN uniform. The war inflicted a heavy toll on ships and personnel. Thirty-eight cruisers, destroyers, sloops and smaller vessels were sunk and almost 2,200 sailors died on active service.

Since the end of the Second World War, the RAN's fortunes have fluctuated dramatically between lavish acquisitions and slashed defence budgets.

The RAN has sent ships and service personnel to war in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. The service has participated in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations all over the globe, at sea, on remote islands and in tri-service deployments. It has played a vital role in protecting our borders and interrupting the international drug trade.

Today the RAN is a highly technical force of state-of-the-art equipment staffed by skilled and dedicated people serving the white ensign in the best traditions of Francis Drake and Horatio Nelson.

To recognise the generations of Australians who have gone to war on great waters the Anzac Memorial will open a year-long exhibition on the Royal Australian Navy on the anniversary of the Battle of Cape Matapan, 27 March 2023.



*HMAS Rankin and the Los Angeles Class fast attack submarine USS Albuquerque operating together in Australian waters.*

## Range and Endurance of Nuclear Powered Submarines

Submarines powered by nuclear propulsion enjoy almost unlimited range and endurance meaning they can deploy for long periods of time over great distances.

They can attain speeds in excess of 25 knots, which is comparable to many surface ships, enabling them to steam many hundreds of nautical miles in a 24 hour period. They are stealthy and unhindered by the need to replenish at sea or in port as their reactors have a 30-year life span.

This makes this option particularly attractive to Australia. As a nation that sits between two of the world's great oceans, the Indian and Pacific, in which it is invested in contributing to and maintaining regional maritime security interests.

In order for future Royal Australian Navy submarines to be effective, they will need to have the 'legs' to travel vast distances to get to where they are needed most, the endurance to remain deployed for many months at a time, and be able to carry a payload commensurate with the mission. This is something that is infinitely harder to achieve in conventionally powered diesel-electric submarines.

## Conclusion

This paper is not intended to provide a deep understanding of the workings of a modern nuclear powered submarine. It is, however, hoped that it will take some of the mystery out of what makes them work and what the benefits of adopting this class of vessel will be to Australia's future maritime security interests.

JP

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Cumberland

# **BAREFOOT BOWLING**

## **CUMBERLAND**

# **CHALLENGE MATCH**

**12 pm Friday 24 March 2023**  
**CONCORD BOWLING CLUB**

Lunch & Refreshments provided  
\$10 per person - Cash on day

### **BOOKINGS**

Cumberland Sec - Thursday 16 March  
M. 0432 - 475 744.

E. [secretary@cumberlandrslsb.com.au](mailto:secretary@cumberlandrslsb.com.au)

### **MINI - BUS**

Departing Auburn Tennis Club 11.45am



# GOLDEN DAY

For Our Man David



**RSL NSW** Cumberland President, Greg Read, presented member David Manning with a certificate acknowledging David's 50 years of RSL membership of the Auburn/Cumberland at this years first members meeting held at Dooleys, Lidcombe.

David Manning is Auburn born and bred. He attended Marist Brothers Auburn (*now Trinity Catholic College*) then went to work as a teller with the Commonwealth Bank.

Deciding on a change of career, David completed a Chemistry Certificate course at TAFE and took a position in the research laboratory of CSR in Rhodes.

David was with CSR when called up for National Service in 1968. He completed recruit training at 1 RTB Kapooka (*Wagga*) and was allocated to the Australian Medical Corps. Following corps training at Healesville in Victoria and jungle training at Canungra in Queensland, David was posted as a medic to the First Australian Field Hospital, Vietnam.

Returning to Australia, David went back to his employment with CSR but shortly afterwards took a position of chemical technician with Sydney Water. Here he remained until to retirement.

David joined the Auburn sub-Branch in 1973 and has been an active, involved member ever since.



# RSL AND SCHOOLS REMEMBER ANZAC ART COMPETITION 2024

**"WHY LEST WE FORGET"**



**RSL**  
NSW



CUMBERLAND

Your artwork could be featured on the cover of the 2024 RSL and Schools Remember ANZAC Service Program.

All finalists will be invited to an exhibition of artwork at the Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, Sydney.

## KEY DATES

- **1 February 2023** – Competition opens
- **22 September 2023** – Submissions close
- **3 November 2023** – Finalists notified
- **30 November 2023** – Winners announced

For full details on the competition including important submission criteria please visit [rslnsw.org.au/artcompetition](https://rslnsw.org.au/artcompetition)



**Catholic  
Schools**  
NSW





# RSL ANZAC ART EXHIBITION

## Anzac Memorial Hyde Park

**This** exhibition is a showcase of the 2023 finalists' artwork submitted to the RSL and Schools Remember ANZAC Art Competition with entries from students in years 4 to 9 across NSW. The artwork will be displayed from 3-30 April at Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney.

The competition aims to educate and encourage younger Australians to learn about Australia's military history, whilst paying respect to the service and sacrifice of servicemen and servicewomen.

RSL NSW has invited all NSW school students to enter the 2024 competition by submitting a maximum of two artworks per school for judging by a panel of representatives from the NSW Education Standards Authority, Art Gallery of

NSW, RSL NSW, and the ANZAC Memorial Veteran Artist in Residence.

ANZAC House encourages sub-Branches to promote the competition to local schools – this will assist in building relationships with schools and will elevate the RSL's purpose outside of prominent commemorations, such as ANZAC Day.

The competition closes to schools on 22 September 2023 and all NSW school students are eligible to submit an entry.

For more information including the guidelines, how to submit artwork, judging, promotional collateral and FAQs please visit [www.rslnsw.org.au/artcompetition/](http://www.rslnsw.org.au/artcompetition/), call 1300 679 775 or email [support@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:support@rslnsw.org.au).



**Service Dogs** – Year 8,  
Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College Berkeley  
Vale Campus (Highly Recommended)



**Our Unsung Heros** – Year 7, Tuggerah  
Lakes Secondary College Berkeley Vale  
Campus (Secondary School Winner)



# NOTICE TO MEMBERS

## 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4.30pm Tuesday 16 May 2023  
Dooleys Catholic Club, Lidcombe, NSW

*Election of Committee & Trustees  
Three Year Term*

*Nominations Open Early April*

# TRIBUTE to TURKIYE

## Narrabeen War Vets Anzac Village

**War Veterans Village** RSL sub-Branch conducted a special commemorative service recently at the 'Simpson of Gallipoli Memorial' ANZAC Village, Narrabeen.

The commemoration recognised the links between Australia and Turkiye, with the dedication address and unveiling of new dedication plaques by the Republic of Turkiye Consul General, Mr. Ali Sevim.

The dedication prayer was presented by War Vets Chaplain, Pastor Bob Durbin with RSL NSW

President Ray James, reading 'Act of Remembrance' and the recitation of 'The Ode'.

The raising of a new Turkish flag alongside the current flagpole flying the Australian flag, was the new symbol for the Village on this very special occasion.

RSL NSW Cumberland Turkish Chapter Coordinator, Mehmet Evin, attended the event and read the words of 'Atatürk to the ANZACS' and laid a wreath on the Simpson of Gallipoli Memorial.







*SPUR Ranch - Manager Max Steeter, Cumberland VP James Batkin, President Greg Read and SPUR coordinator Penny Looker meet up for a grand tour of the Spur property recently.*

# SPUR RANCH

## Cumberland's Autumn Breakout Project



***The recent Cumberland committee ‘Strategic Planning Meeting’, members were firmly committed to support resources, energy and time towards the RSL LifeCare SPUR project at Picton on Sydney’s southern rural outskirts.***

*Cumberland President Greg Read said*

*“This is the type of getaway project that our members can embrace; break out of city life, smell the green grass and the clear country air, best of all, meet some new people with some very friendly horses.*

***Recent story on SPUR RANCH - Published with permission from NSW racing authority***

**When Max Steeter** floated the idea of teaching veterans how to ride, train and care for off the track thoroughbreds in just eight months, many people said it couldn’t be done ... some laughed.

The more polite ones smiled gently and wished him luck.

Undeterred, Max approached Racing NSW and RSL LifeCare with his pitch, and the executives decided to give it a chance, and now the first round of participants in the Spur equine therapy program are celebrating their graduation.

Racing NSW has long been involved in providing horse handling courses for veterans and first responders with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health issues.

The benefits of equine therapy are well documented and Max himself can attest to its effectiveness. As a former soldier and Federal Police Officer, he had participated in several short courses but felt there was something missing.

“I spoke to my fellow veterans who had also done introductory horse handling courses and most wanted to learn to ride,” Max said.

*" With the impending Kosciuszko trail ride front of mind,  
they rode whenever they could and by August they were cruising  
out of the round yards and around the property "*



*Former RAAF member Penny Looker found a new love in horses.  
Penny is one of many dedicated volunteers at SPUR Ranch.*



*continued ...*

"They didn't aspire to be great horseman, just competent and safe, and they wanted to trail ride through an iconic landscape.

"I thought the Snowy Mountains was the perfect place and setting a goal of riding through Kosciuszko National Park at the end of the course would be a great motivator for veterans."

When expressions of interest for the inaugural Spur equine therapy course opened, Max was flooded with applications from people wanting to be part of it.

He spent weeks considering every hopeful and eventually settled on a group of eight men and women ranging from 21 to 60 who had given 147 years of service between them.

In March, 10 retired racehorses from Racing NSW's equine welfare department, Team Thoroughbred NSW, arrived at RSL LifeCare's 300- acre facility at Picton.

Former Petty Officer, Leanne Hinton, recalled the day: "We were told to go out into the wide-open paddock and bring back a horse," she said.

"I thought it was a joke and we didn't have a chance, but we did eventually manage to catch a few. It certainly brought the group together quickly."

Over the eight months that followed the group was given expert tuition, led by renowned stunt man and former Army Sergeant Andy Clark.

They learned the basics of horse care including feeding, grooming, picking hooves and rugging.

They learned to tack up a horse which was an achievement in

itself because most of the course participants didn't even know how to put on a head collar when they arrived.

They learned to lead, lunge and join up, then they spent three months perfecting their ground work before they were allowed to even think about throwing a leg over their horse, which was frustrating at times, but essential to ensure the safety of both horses and humans.

"I'll never forget the first time I stepped up on the block and climbed onto Sahara Strike's back," Leanne said, grinning from ear to ear.

"It was equal parts thrilling and terrifying. Here I was sitting on this giant retired racehorse trusting him to do what I ask and him trusting me to lead the way.

"When I think about it, it was the first time I had really pushed myself since my discharge. I was previously very confident but that had slipped away."

Officially, the Spur ran two days per week but most of the participants were so

eager to spend time with the horses they volunteered daily.

With the impending Kosciuszko trail ride front of mind, they rode whenever they could and by August they were cruising out of the round yards and around the property.

"It's truly been amazing to watch the changes in the veterans as the course progressed," Max said.

"Some of them were very withdrawn when they started and you see them today and they are excited, they're pumped and they're confident."

"It was rewarding to see the horses increasingly do what we asked of them," Leanne said.



**Max Streeter - Enjoying his work challenge**



*Leanne Hinton has formed a close bond with her retired racehorse, Sahara Strike*

**“Some were only a matter of months off the track. Like us, they have good and bad days, but we learn off each other.”**

**By the end of October, the Spur participants were ready to put everything they had learned into practice in one final test of courage, initiative and teamwork.**

**Before the sun rose, two horse trucks and a float were loaded up and took off down the Hume Highway towards Wares Yards Campground near Adaminaby.**

**The participants were responsible for almost everything including designing and constructing pens to keep the horses in, providing feed and collecting water for them and of course cleaning up.**

**They couldn’t wait get out on the trails and Max was surprised by their stamina.**

**“On the first day I was doubtful the veterans or the horses would be able to do more than a few hours of trekking, but I was overjoyed to see them out for the full day,” he said.**

**“They came back tired and sore but happy and ready to go the next day.**

**“It just goes to show veterans with a purpose can focus and achieve.**

**“A lot of good horse people said it was a big ask and doubted whether the Thoroughbreds would be ready in time, let alone veterans with no horse experience, but it was the greatest pleasure to prove them all wrong.”**

*continued ...*

Leanne said: "It was a bucket list experience. I loved moving through the different terrain and couldn't believe how quickly it would change from marshy plains to dense White Gums to wild scrub.

"I enjoyed the chats around the campfire at night and came home with renewed faith in my own ability to handle life's challenges."

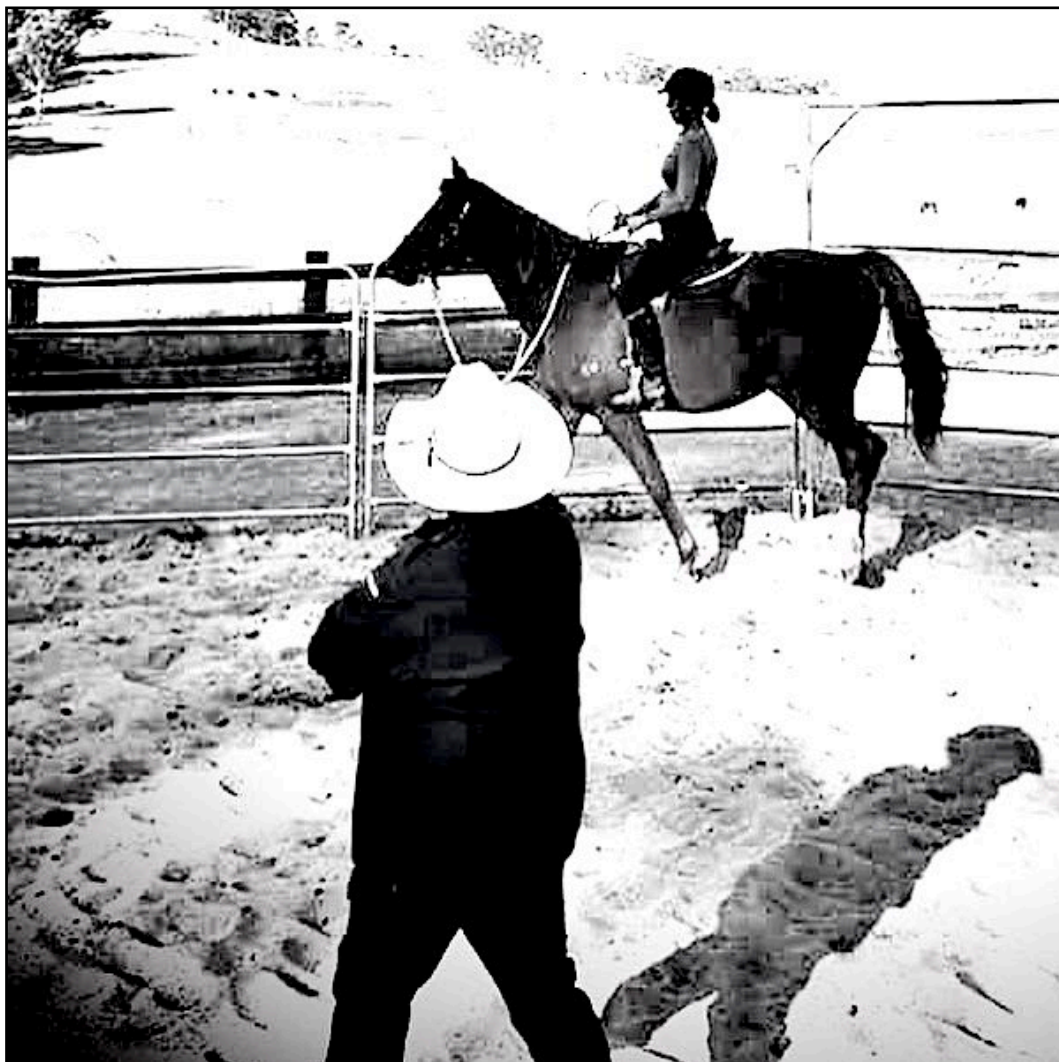
While the inaugural Spur program is finished for now and the new intake of participants won't arrive until next year, the graduates are still actively caring for the retired racehorses they've be working with.

"I will continue to volunteer with Spur and will soon officially be adopting Sahara Strike," Leanne said. "He brings me so much joy."

Find out more about Racing NSW's equine welfare department and its programs at - [www.teamthoroughbred.com.au](http://www.teamthoroughbred.com.au)

Course manager, Max Streeter, checking on the horses before a Remembrance Day Service

Hundreds of hours were spent practicing drill to ensure safety on the trail ride.



*SPUR Ranch Manager, Max Streeter, checking on the horses before a Remembrance Day Service. Hundreds of hours were also spent practicing drill to ensure safety on the trail rides.*





## WHY SPUR WORKS...

*Spur is designed to promote mindfulness and wellbeing, helping wounded, injured and ill veterans with their recovery. This is done by introducing participants to various aspects of horse handling, educating them on how to care for the horse, and providing a safe space for them to focus and heal.*

*If you are a veteran affected by your service, then our friendly and supportive team are here to help you with your recovery. All we ask from you is to commit to the tasks and we will help you overcome any physical, psychological or emotional barriers.*

*This is an opportunity to learn new skills that will also help your physical and mental health, build self-confidence, resilience and improved social interaction.*





ADF & VETERAN  
COMMUNITIES



RSL NSW  
Cumberland

# CUMBERLAND

Day Tour No. 1 2023

## RSL NSW LifeCare SPUR RANCH PICTON

**MONDAY 27th MARCH 2023**

RANCH TOUR  
GROOMING LESSONS  
RIDING SESSION  
LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS

BUS DEPARTS  
AUBURN TENNIS CLUB 0900  
RETURNS 1600

DRESS  
BOOTS - JEANS - JACKET - HAT

RSL  
**LifeCare**  
VETERAN SERVICES

**BOOKINGS - Limit 40**

**CUMBERLAND SECRETARY - By Monday 20 MARCH**

EMAIL: [Secretary@cumberlandrslsb.com.au](mailto:Secretary@cumberlandrslsb.com.au)

MOB PHONE: 0432 - 475 744

**COST \$10 per person - Cash upon bus entry**





*Major General Paul Irving  
Patron, National Servicemen's Association*



# NSW

## NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

### Cumberland Hosts Nashos

**Sunday 19 February** - RSL NSW Cumberland RSL, in collaboration with the National Servicemen's Association, hosted an event in Lidcombe Remembrance Park commemorating the service and sacrifice of thousands of national servicemen, men conscripted into the defence forces of our country at various times in our history.

The event, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the last national service scheme, was addressed by Major General Paul Irving and by Mr Greg Mawson, NSW President of the National Servicemen's Association.

Conscription has long been a contentious issue in Australia. During the First World War Prime Minister Billy Hughes tried twice to bring in conscription by

referendums put to the people. On both occasions the YES vote was narrowly defeated. Thus, the First AIF remained one of the few all-volunteer forces in the First World War.

The conscription debates in Australia during the First World War stand today as the most acrimonious public debates the nation has ever seen - bitterness, abuse, misrepresentation, anger, hatred, evil accusations, inflamed passions. A social media pile-on today is hard pressed to match the abuse people threw at each other during the conscription debates.

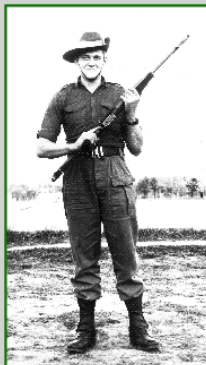
Conscription was introduced in Australia during the Second World War for home defence, that home defence including Australia and nearby Australian territories such as Papua New Guinea.



*RAAF Cadets from No3 Squadron, at the Lidcombe service*



*" The conscription debates in Australia during the First World War stand today as the most acrimonious public debates the nation has ever seen - bitterness, abuse, misrepresentation, anger, hatred, evil accusations, inflamed passions"*



*Cumberland Nasho members  
James Batkin, Alan Chapple, Ron Inglis, Chris Edwards, David Manning & Chris Hurley*





*RSL NSW Cumberland members  
Ross Baker, Greg Read  
and Kwang Ho Kim*



*Local RAAF cadets with Major General  
Paul Irving and members of the  
NSW National Serviceman's Association*

The first post war conscription scheme was introduced in 1951 and ran to 1959. All 18-year-old males had to undertake 176 days of military training followed by some years in the reserves (Citizens Military Force). 52 intakes were organised and 227,000 men trained.

According to the Australian War Memorial, the scheme was criticised as being irrelevant to modern defence needs, with skill becoming more important than numbers. The scheme was also costly for the Regular Army, as manpower resources and funding had to be diverted from ongoing operational requirements to support the recruitment and training of short-term personnel.

The next period of National Service ran from 1964 to 1972. The initial purpose was to bolster numbers in the Army, then fighting a war in Vietnam. In this scheme all 20-year-old males had to register but only a smaller number were required. The choice was made with a 'birthday ballot' and those selected had

to serve two years in the Australian Army followed by some years in the reserves. Some 63,000 men were

conscripted and around 19,000 served in Vietnam. Three hundred conscripted teachers were sent to Papua New Guinea as instructors in the Pacific Islands Regiment

Over the two schemes, National Servicemen served in Australia, Korea, Monte Bello, Malaya, Vietnam, Borneo and Papua New Guinea. More than 200 National Servicemen died while serving, most in Vietnam.

Building greatly to the sense of occasion were the Hills District Pipe Band and the local 307th squadron of RAAF Air Cadets, who yet again provided a first class catafalque party.

Dooleys Catholic Club, Lidcombe, provided logistic service support for the ceremony, followed by an after service luncheon for members and guests at their club, a perfect Sunday for all.







# VETERANS

Welcome New CEO

**JANET MUIR**

**RSL LifeCare** has welcomed a new CEO recently, with the appointment of experienced and entrepreneurial business leader, Janet Muir.

Janet joins one of the leading aged care and veteran services organisations in NSW and the ACT having spent her career to date in senior roles across human services and healthcare sectors.

RSL LifeCare Interim Chair, Ms Sangeeta Venkatesan congratulated Janet on her appointment and looks forward to working with her and RSL LifeCare's Executive in continuing to elevate the level of support and services offered to seniors and veterans alike.

"This is an incredibly important time to continue to deliver a high level of care for our seniors and veterans and I'm delighted that Janet has accepted the opportunity to be part of the RSL LifeCare team," Ms Sangeeta said.

"Our purpose as an organisation is to enrich the lives of Veterans and Seniors by creating connected, supportive and vibrant communities. I know that Janet shares this vision and I, along with the board, look forward to seeing her skills and strengths on display across our organisation."

Janet said she was honoured to be appointed CEO of RSL LifeCare and pledged to use her experience to build on the strong reputation of the organisation.

"I am thrilled to be joining RSL LifeCare at this time of transformation and growth, and to be part of a highly committed team that is focussed on delivering market leading care for all veterans and seniors within the community," Janet said.

"My father was in the Navy, I was a member of our Army Reserves, and I have a son who was a cadet at high school – so I have a strong affinity and connection to the service and sacrifice of past and present members of our defence force.

"My intention is to continue to deliver the positive and proactive support and services that RSL LifeCare has

developed over decades, whilst leaning on my personal and professional experience to ensure that we listen to those in our care and deliver for them."

Janet's most recent role was as Managing Director across Australia and New Zealand for global hearing health care provider, Audika.

Prior to that, Janet held senior roles across human services and healthcare sectors, with responsibilities across finance, strategy, operations and management.

Janet is a Chartered Accountant, holds a Master of Business Administration, is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, has a Graduate Diploma of Applied Corporate Governance and a Bachelor of Business.

Janet resides in Sydney with her family.

***Experienced and  
entrepreneurial business  
leader, Janet Muir***



**RSL LifeCare Veteran Services**

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

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LifeCare**  
VETERAN SERVICES

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Ph. 02 - 8088 0388



RSL NSW  
Cumberland

# MEMBERS EVENTS

## BAREFOOT BOWLING

Friday 24 March - 12 pm Concord Bowling Club

### CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE

Mini Bus - Departing Auburn Tennis Club 11.45 am

## SPUR RANCH TOUR

Monday 27 March

### PICTON

Tour Coach - Departing Auburn Tennis Club 9.30 am

#### NEXT MEETING COMMITTEE

*Monthly Status*

**Tuesday 11 April 6 pm**  
Dooleys, Lidcombe

#### NEXT MEETING MEMBERS

*Tea Party*

**Tuesday 18 April 4.30 pm**  
Dooleys, Lidcombe

#### NEXT MEETING AUXILIARY

*Luncheon*

**Wednesday 22 March 12 pm**  
Dooleys, Regents Park

#### NEXT MEETING TRUSTEES

*Annual Status*

**Tuesday 8 March 10 am**  
Sydney





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