

# PRESIDENT'S PEN



## ROLLING THUNDER THE TUNES .... of our VIETNAM

**Cumberland and Ashfield** RSL members recently made a Saturday afternoon journey to the Sydney State Theatre to view the stage musical production **Rolling Thunder Vietnam**.

An emotional, richly rewarding musical and narrative experience that takes you to the heart of the highly divisive Vietnam War. Featuring 20 of the most affecting songs of the era, Rolling Thunder Vietnam open the hopes and fears of the young soldiers who went into battle. It also looks at the impact on their loved ones left behind and the reception the troops received upon their return home.

Writer Bryce Hallett conducted extensive research, including numerous interviews with veterans and family members, as well as relying upon many letters exchanged. Supported by video footage, this was a power-packed show, which cuts to the quick. The protest songs and potent rock anthems presented were masterfully packaged into a searing reminder of the conflict.

The musical numbers of Steppenwolf, The Rolling Stones, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Gladys Knight, Billy Thorpe, Paul

Simon and many more legendary artists. Think Magic Carpet Ride, The Real Thing, Fortunate Son, The Letter, Black Magic Woman, Help Me Make it Through the Night, War and Bridge Over Troubled Water had many in the audience singing from their seats,

Tom Oliver plays larrikin country soldier Johnny and Brittanie Shipway his girlfriend, Sarah. Jerrod Smith is cast as duty-bound American marine Thomas and Christian Charisiou the conscripted Aussie, Andy. Rounding out the cast are Imogen Moore and Sam Richardson, both of whom appeared in Frozen The Musical. The five-piece band (drums, keyboards, two guitarists and a bass) under musical director Chong Lim was inspiring. Directed by David Berthold, Rolling Thunder Vietnam was very highly received by large audiences.

Certainly a highlight for our RSL members who were just a small part of many RSL Service Veterans who witnessed this performance during its brief Sydney visit, as part of the national tour during July and August.

Big thank you to Grant Smith and Sue Roper for some very professional 'drop off and pick ups' from the tour bus on a channelling day in the central city of Sydney!



RSL LifeCare Veteran Services

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

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## COMMITTEE

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**Ann Batkin**  
**0407 - 009 724**



*Author John Jeremy at his recent book launch at Anzac Memorial*

## PRESIDENT'S DESK

### REDAY SET GO ...

*My first forty days in the Cumberland presidents desk and I can report it's 'busy' as usual.*

*Greg Read has performed the 'administration' handover at the Harrow Road office and moved on to the greener pastures of the Cumberland turf, Greg is now working part time in his family business. I am looking forward to the big farewell and official Presidents handover dinner for him at the Heritage Boutique Hotel in a few weeks time. If you have not booked a ticket and paid at yet, Secretary reports that seats are filling fast and the deadline is now extended to COB Friday July 7.*

*My first official 'Presidential' engagement was at the Anzac Memorial where we performed a short sunset commemoration with the staff of Anzac Memorial. Members of the Navy Historical Society of Australian were gathered for the book a special launch by their Vice President John Jeremy. John's book 'safe to dive' detailing the workings behind Cockatoo Island dockyard, preparing submarines fit for sea service over the later part of last century. It was also a good occasion to met with **Rear Admiral Christopher Smith**, Commander Australian Fleet and share some 'sea salt stories' passed on to me from my new friend, US Navy Captain 'Q' after my recent trip to Canberra for the Coral Sea commemoration, looking forward to the USS Canberra commissioning weekend.*

*Cumberland Trustees and Committee executive members last week met at RSL NSW HQ with discussions on 'all things RSL' with the outgoing CEO Jon Black. I also met last week with the CEO RSL LifeCare, David Anderson, to get his overview on Lifecare's future directions. From these meetings I am assisted to help our committee to make some revised plans moving forwards as the committee will take on another strategic planning meeting in early July. To 'tweak' the original plans from the January meeting will be the direction in the main, as there has been some changes and we feel many more are in the wind!*

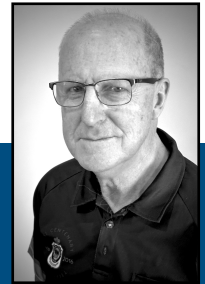
### JAMES BATKIN

President  
 RSL NSW Cumberland

## VISION PLAN BELIEVE ACT

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

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## The ROUSE Vice President - RON INGLIS



### VALE WILLIAM MACKIE

The funeral service for the late William Mackie, RSL service member Cumberland.

Mary Mother of Mercy Chapel  
Rookwood Cemetery  
11am Tuesday 11 July

Kind regards  
Christine and Denise Mackie

**Several** of our Cumberland members are, like me, a member of both the RSL and the National Servicemen's Association (Nashos), two charities dedicated to the welfare of veterans and their families.

The Charities and Not-for-profits Commission tells us that there are dozens of veteran charities across Australia. These charities have the one aim but they are competing for volunteers and donations. They provide similar services but they are wasting resources on duplication of administration and red tape.

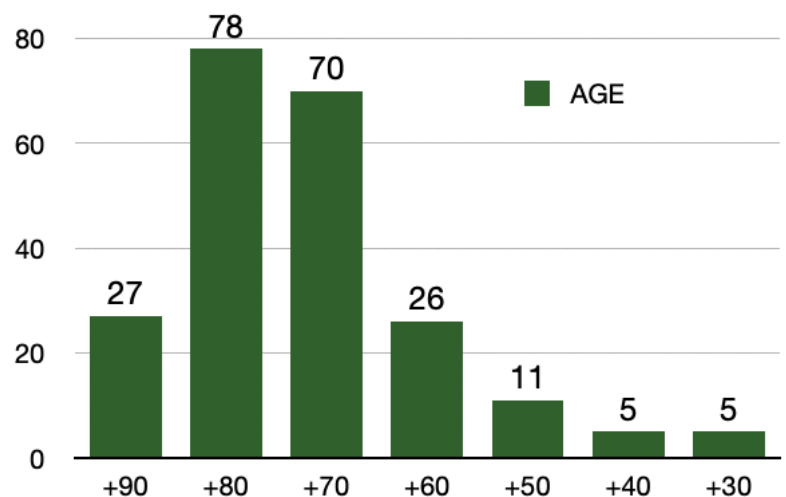
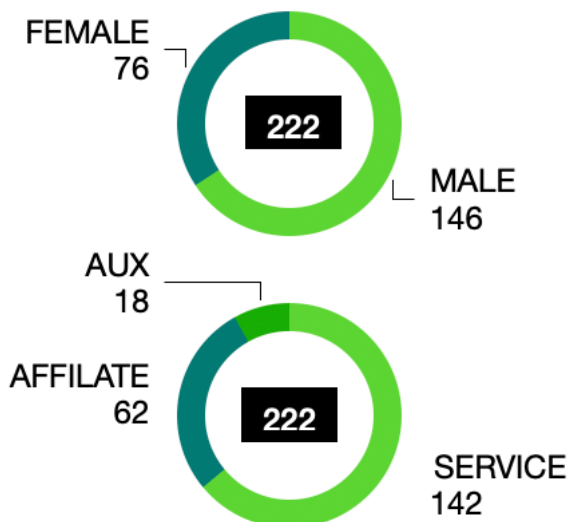
Back in the 1970s and 1980s the national RSL league was dominated by the huge numbers of Second World War ex-servicemen and women. As a body the League was not very welcoming to the younger Nashos and Vietnam veterans. Hence separate organisations emerged.

Times have now changed.

Almost all the Second World War veterans have passed away so now Nashos and Vietnam vets make up a large percentage of all ex-servicemen across Australia today. It is time for a consolidation of veterans' charities. We all have the one purpose. It is time to rethink our traditions and practices and get together for the benefit of veterans and their families.

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## CUMBERLAND MEMBERSHIP TODAY





# Around The Traps ...



Boys in the back row, Cumberland members Greg Read and Grant Smith, at the State Theatre performance of for Rolling Thunder Vietnam.



Cumberland RSL team members in the 'back row stalls' at the Rolling Thunder Vietnam concert.



Cumberland Secretary Mark Lee and President James Batkin find the 'AUBURN' dirt tag at the Anzac Memorial on a recent visit to the city.



## NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S MEMORIAL

Recently RSL NSW Cumberland vice-president Ron Inglis, attended a ceremony in Burwood Park at the National Servicemen's Memorial.

Organised by Burwood Council and supported by Burwood, Ashfield and Cumberland RSL sub-Branches. RSL NSW President, Ray James and his wife Pauline were also in attendance.

The event commemorated the service of over 60,000 Australians who served in various national service schemes between 1952 and 1972.

For many years the service of these conscripts was unrecognised but then, from the 1990s, communities across Australia erected memorials to national servicemen, especially to the some 200 who paid the supreme sacrifice.

The Burwood Memorial was unveiled in Burwood Park in June 2007. Photograph above - Ron Inglis with the new president of Burwood, Deborah Shepherd.

### NEXT MEETING COMMITTEE

Monthly Status  
Tuesday 22 August 6pm  
Dooleys, Lidcombe

### NEXT MEETING MEMBERS

Tuesday 18 July 4.30 pm  
Dooleys, Lidcombe

### NEXT MEETING AUXILIARY

Planning Meeting  
Wednesday 26 July 12 pm  
Dooleys, Regents Park



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





# CUMBERLAND PRESIDENT'S HAND OVER DINNER

DINNER & SHOW EVENT

## “Company B”

CASTLEREAGH  
BOUTIQUE HOTEL  
Pitt Street, Sydney

Saturday 22 July



## CASTLEREAGH BOUTIQUE HOTEL

**DINNER & EVENT** - Saturday 22 July - 6pm to 10.30pm

**DRESS** - Formal - Black tie - Miniature medals or ribbons

**\$50 per person**

**RSVP is by BOOKINGS and PAYMENT**

**to Secretary by Friday 7 July 2023**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED  
BOOKING WITH FUNDS  
IN BANK ACCOUNT**

**M. 0432 - 475 744 E. [secretary@cumberlandrslsb.com.au](mailto:secretary@cumberlandrslsb.com.au)**

Deposit to Cumberland Westpac account, add you surname to ref box  
**BSB - 032 070 Acct - 649 434**

**CUMBERLAND MEMBERS TRANSPORT TO CITY**  
Departure Auburn tennis Club 5 pm with return much later



# GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

RSL NSW Cumberland – General Members Meeting

**4.30pm - Tuesday 18 April 2023**

Dooleys Club, Lidcombe, NSW

**Meeting Opens:** 4.30 pm approx.

**The ODE:** Meeting Chairman

**Departed Members:**

**Apologies:**

**Business Arising:** Previous General meeting April 2023

## REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED

1. President
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Finance & Investments
5. Commemorations
6. Auxiliary Report

## GENERAL BUSINESS

*As Received to Sec by COB Friday 14 July 2023*

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