



RETURNED and SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
EPHING RSL SUB-BRANCH
ROUTINE ORDERS



Vol 27 No 1

President: Brian Swan AM
45-47 Rawson Street, Epping 2121

Treasurer: Les Rowe
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January-March 2024
Secretary: John Prestidge RFD ED
Telephone 02 9868 3272

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I trust that each and every member of our sub-Branch enjoyed a Merry Christmas and is looking forward to wonderful 2024. May this new year bring you happiness, health and moments to cherish. As we reflect on life, surviving another orbit around the Sun on this magnificent planet it is a reminder of the enduring resilience of Earth. Amidst our transient existence in this vast universe, we find our sub-Branch in good health having lost some members and gained more than have passed.

Reconnecting with older and new members is a primary benefit of our sub-Branch; a sub-Branch which is now coming up to 105 years old.

Whilst it is all too easy to feel glum about world events and despite mainstream media narratives suggesting otherwise, there are significant changes on the horizon for certain professional fields like law, accounting, climate change and administration due to advancements in AI and a more mature understanding of power options. Perhaps there will be a shift in influence over the next decade., challenging established norms held by the "suits".

As we commence 2024, I take this opportunity to wish you, your families and friends every best wish for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Brian Swan AM
President
Epping RSL Sub-Branch

COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS 2024

SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2024

ANZAC SUNDAY

Service at 1400 in Grand Ballroom at The Epping Club, followed by wreath-laying at Boronia Park Cenotaph.

THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024

ANZAC DAY

**Dawn Service at Forest Park, Epping.
Assemble at 0545 for service to commence at 0600.**

SUNDAY 11 AUGUST 2024

VP SUNDAY

Service at 1400 in Grand Ballroom at The Epping Club, followed by wreath-laying at Boronia Park Cenotaph.

THURSDAY 15 AUGUST 2024

**VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC (VP)
DAY**

**Wreath-laying service at Boronia Park Cenotaph.
Assemble at 1030 for service commencing at 1045.**

MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024

REMEMBRANCE DAY

**Wreath-laying service at Boronia Park Cenotaph.
Assemble at 1030 for service commencing at 1045.**

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

VALE

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

During the months of October 2023- January 2024, no advice has been received of the passing of service members.

SENIOR MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

President: Merril Prestidge

Vice President: Les Rowe

Secretary: Margaret Cummins

Treasurer: Gavin Nell has been appointed as Acting Treasurer until the AGM in March.

Committee Members: Don Greentree, Brenda Greentree

A big welcome back to all our members for 2024.

We received some sad news that former committee member, Gerard Landon, passed away very suddenly on Saturday 6 January 2024, and we are therefore appealing to anyone who feels able to offer themselves for the committee to please make contact.

We have regrettably accepted the resignation of Deirdre Curdie as Treasurer, following many years of loyal service. Deirdre is experiencing some health concerns and is not able to continue in this role. Gavin Nell has expertise in this area and so at our AGM on 5 March he will be standing for election as the new Treasurer.

We encourage all of you to help us in recruiting some new members, which is going to be vital if we are to remain a viable outreach of Epping RSL sub-Branch.

We wish you all the very best of health and happiness for the year ahead, and look forward to welcoming you to the first meeting for the year on Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 2 p.m.

Merril Prestidge

President

AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS N.S.W. LTD

Coordinator: Heather Gillam 9876 3588

Treasurer: Heather Gillam

Meetings: First Monday in month at 10.30 a.m.

Monday 5 February 2024

Monday 4 March 2024

Monday 8 April 2024 Note that 1 April is Easter Monday

STAND EASY

The meetings are between 1300 and 1500 hours on the third Wednesday of the month in 45 on Rawson at the Epping Club.

It is a warm and relaxed camaraderie meeting. Drinks and snacks are provided. These monthly casual meetings are designed for all Members of the sub-Branch to join and enjoy a friendly atmosphere to laugh and share their experiences with each other. They will also be informed about the current and future events and activities of the sub-Branch. All Members are welcome and warmly encouraged to attend.

The next meetings will be on:

Wednesday 17 January 2024

Wednesday 21 February 2024

Wednesday 20 March 2023

Wednesday 17 April 2024

Allan Lotfizadeh, Secretary

EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: JANUARY 2024 – APRIL 2024

JANUARY 2024

Monday 08	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Wednesday 17	Stand Easy	1300
Monday 29	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930
Tuesday 30	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030

FEBRUARY 2024

Monday 05	Australian War Widows NSW Ltd	1030
Tuesday 06	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting	1400
Tuesday 06	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Wednesday 21	Stand Easy	1300
Monday 26	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting + AGM	1930
Tuesday 27	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030

MARCH 2024

Monday 04	Australian War Widows NSW Ltd	1030
Tuesday 05	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting + AGM	1400
Monday 11	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Tuesday 12	RSL Senior Members Association Luncheon	1215
Wednesday 20	Stand Easy	1300
Monday 25	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930
Tuesday 26	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030
FRIDAY 29	GOOD FRIDAY	
SUNDAY 31	EASTER SUNDAY	

APRIL 2024

MONDAY 01	EASTER MONDAY	
Tuesday 02	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting	1400
Monday 08	Australian War Widows NSW Ltd	1030
Monday 08	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Wednesday 17	Stand Easy	1300
Sunday 21	Anzac Sunday Service	1400
Thursday 25	Anzac Day Dawn Service	0600
Monday 29	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930
Tuesday 30	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030

THANK YOU, ROBIN

After twenty-four years of service as Welfare Officer, Robin Cummins will retire from this role at the February Annual General Meeting of the sub-Branch.

Robin Cummins commenced service to the sub-Branch as a Day Club volunteer in 1995. In 2000 he was elected to the sub-Branch Committee of Management.

Robin qualified as a Welfare Officer under the Department of Veterans' Affairs Training and Information Program (TIP) in 2000 and assisted Ken Wighton in this role until Ken retired in 2014. Since that time, Robin Cummins has been the sole Welfare Officer.

He conducts RSL Tributes at funerals, liaising with the families and funeral directors both prior to and following the funerals. Researching the veteran's service history can be a time-consuming task. This service is provided to all members of the veteran community, not just sub-Branch members.

Until COVID 19 struck, Robin managed the roster for volunteer hospital visitors to ensure that veterans in nursing homes, aged care facilities and hospitals were visited on a weekly basis. Since COVID, visiting has been suspended due to restrictions imposed by the facilities.

He has also served the sub-Branch as Assistant Treasurer and Day Club Administrator.

In 2012, Robin Cummins was made a Life Member of the RSL of Australia.

Robin remains in service as a Trustee for Epping RSL sub-Branch.

Thank you, Robin, for your service over many years.

Barry Hoschke

A polar bear walked into a bar and said "I'd like a gin andtonic".

The bartender said "Why such big pause?"

The polar bear replied "I don't know. I was born that way."

New Wellbeing Support Officer

My name is MAJ (Retd) Andrew Brayshaw, Andy for short, and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all as the new Wellbeing Support Officer (WSO) for the Epping RSL sub-Branch. I have taken over this role from Robin Cummins who has been undertaking this position for many years. During this period Robin has worked extremely hard and devoted a lot of his time to undertaking the various services that are required to be provided by the WSO to ensure that the welfare needs of the sub-Branch members are catered for.

The types of services provided by the WSOs include, among other things:

- visits to home, hospital and aged care facilities;
- providing simple services such as driving, shopping trips etc;
- arranging for simple domestic assistance or home maintenance services;
- organising and conducting social, family and sporting activities; and
- providing support to veteran's families during time of grief, loss and bereavement (serious illness or death of a veteran or war widow/er).

During the next couple of months, I will arrange to visit all the local aged care facilities where members of the Epping RSL sub-Branch currently reside to personally introduce myself to members and the facility staff. It is also my intention to make myself available at the sub-Branch office on a weekly basis (day to be arranged) to assist with the provision of services as and when required. I will also be contactable anytime either via the below email or mobile number.

My contact details are as follows:

Email: brayshaw_andy@hotmail.com

Mobile: 0435 879 258

I hope that I will be able to provide sub-Branch members with the same level of support that Robin has provided you all over the years.

Andy Brayshaw



Queen Dunbar, State President of War Widows NSW Ltd, with Heather Gillam

Epping Social Club Meeting

During the last Epping Social Club gathering in October, our President, Queen Dunbar, presented Heather Gillam with her Life Membership awarded at the AGM in August.

Queen also shared some words regarding Heather's commitment to war widows and veterans, having supported so many people for so many years.

The members were very happy to see Heather being recognised for her dedication. It was also an opportunity for our staff and for Queen to talk with the members about their connection to war widows and to War Widows Day.

The Digest, Australian War Widows NSW Ltd, Spring 2023

War Widows Day around Australia New South Wales

This year, Australian War Widows NSW (AWW-NSW) partnered with Sydney Legacy to mark War Widows Day. This partnership is more than symbolic: it is a commitment to war widows and the families of veterans that our two organisations will stand together supporting our shared community. Together, AWW-NSW and Sydney Legacy support more than 4,500 widows in NSW.

A service was held in the afternoon at The Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney. The focus was on war widows past and present, with widows holding a floral tribute of their own: one by one, they stood at The Cenotaph to lay a branch of wattle, in remembrance of each other's, and indeed their own, sacrifices and in acknowledging their priceless contribution to our nation.

Prior to this service, NSW war widows were hosted by the Governor General and Mrs Hurley at Admiralty House for morning tea, which was followed by a lunch at the Fullerton Hotel. At the service, we had the privilege to hear from the great niece of Jessie Vasey, Ms Pru Bennett, who shared the experiences of her great aunt and how and why she established the Australian War Widows organisation.

The service featured a War Widows Day

address given by Afghanistan war widow Bree Till who spoke of the harsh reality of being left behind and raising a family following the passing of her husband, Brett Till. She spoke of her heartbreak when sitting with a friend on her first wedding anniversary after Brett had been killed.

In NSW, the day had traditionally been observed as Founders' Day and used to feature war widows walking through Hyde Park en masse to be seen and heard. To see it now turn into a formal day recognised by the NSW Government makes it a priority for the people of the state on that day. It is our honour to provide the platform for our widows to tell their stories in the most public way possible. To be seen and be heard.

War Widows NSW Ltd

VETAFFAIRS Vol.39 No.3 December 2023 p16

Australian War Widows is happy to announce that we are planning a National War Widows Day for 19 October 2024. This will ensure that all war widows in Australia can be part of this day to recognise and honour their sacrifices and the grief they faced due to the loss of their loved ones in the name of our country.



Remembrance Day 11th
November 2023
Cenotaph , Boronia Park

Photos: Irene Rowe

Arr: John Curdie



**BRANCH CHRISTMAS
LUNCH DECEMBER
2023**

Photos: Irene Rowe and Barry Hoschke

Arr: John Curdie

DEFENCE RESUMES REGIONAL PRESENCE DEPLOYMENTS IN 2024

Defence Media, 25 January 2024

The Australian Defence Force has deployed a Royal Australian Navy warship to conduct the first regional presence deployment for 2024.

The Anzac class frigate HMAS Warramunga departed its homeport of Sydney on 23 January for a three-month deployment through South and Southeast Asia.

The ship's embarked MH-60R Seahawk helicopter and the 200-strong ship's company will participate in a range of exercises, cooperative activities and joint patrols with partner navies.

HMAS Warramunga will also undertake various navy-to-navy engagements during exercises and port visits.

Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Chris Smith, AM, CSM, RAN, said the resumption of regional presence deployments in 2024 continued a long history of successful deployments in support of Indo-Pacific security and relationship building.

"Indo-Pacific deployments demonstrate the Australian Defence Force's ability to maintain a near continuous presence in the region to support regional security and stability," Rear Admiral Smith said.

"Australia has maintained a robust program of international engagement with regional nations for decades and these routine deployments demonstrate our resolve for a peaceful, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific."

This regional presence deployment will conclude in late April.

Since commissioning in 2001, HMAS Warramunga's combat capabilities, sensors, weapons systems communications technologies and crew facilities have been progressively upgraded to keep pace with rapidly advancing naval technologies and enable interoperability with partner navies.

8RAR - Long Hai Commemoration

A wreath laying to honour the service and sacrifice of 8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

Date: Wednesday, 28 February 2024 10:00 am

Location: Boronia Park Cenotaph Off Victoria Street, Epping

8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (8RAR) was raised in July 1966 as part of the expansion of the Australian Army. They served in Vietnam from November 1969 until November 1970 and were based at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy province.

Although mainly involved in pacification operations, 8RAR was also involved in the reconnaissance operation Hammersley. On 18 February 1970, 8RAR uncovered an enemy bunker system that had been evacuated as a result of air raids. The battalion spent the rest of the operation patrolling the area to engage the enemy, primarily through ambushes.

This operation earned 8RAR a Meritorious Unit Commendation from the government of South Vietnam. It was also during this operation that 8RAR sustained most of its fatal casualties, including eight on a single day. In the year they were deployed, 18 members of 8RAR lost their lives.

DAD JOKES

Thanks for explaining the word "many" to me.
It means a lot.

I saw an advert that read:
"Television for sale, \$1, volume stuck on full."
I thought "I can't turn that down."

What's the problem with eating a clock?
It's very time consuming.

ANZAC Spirit Award – Eastwood Public School

by Andy Brayshaw

On Tuesday 12th December 2023 I had the pleasure of being invited to the Eastwood Public School's Year 6 Presentation to present the ANZAC Spirit Award to this year's recipient. I felt extremely honoured to be invited to the presentation ceremony as the ANZAC Spirit Award was an award that I had presented to the school in 2019 whilst still serving in the ADF. The vision of the award was to help foster the ANZAC spirit amongst the children of today so that the spirit will live on long after the old ANZACs are gone.

The ANZAC Spirit Award is a bronze sculpture depicting one of the many heroes from the Gallipoli Campaign where the spirit of the ANZACs was born, Simpson and his Donkey. The award is initially designed to be presented on an annual basis over 20 years and was accompanied with 20 Simpson and his Donkey Challenge Coins so each recipient would have a lasting reminder of the award they had received.

The Spirit of the ANZAC Award is presented to the year 6 student who has most displayed the values of the ANZAC's during their final year at Eastwood Public. Such values as:

- Service: The selflessness of character to place interests of the school and its students ahead of their own.
- Courage: The strength of character to say and do the right thing, always.
- Respect: To respect both teachers and fellow students.
- Integrity: Having the character to align one's thoughts, words, and actions to do what is right.
- Excellence: The willingness of character to strive each day to be the best they can at school.

In previous years the ANZAC Spirit Award was awarded to a female Year 6 student, this year however it was awarded to a boy. All recipients of the award have their names engraved on the award and each also received a Simpson and his Donkey Challenge Coin and a certificate.



AWARD A SURPRISE FOR BOMBARDIER

By Corporal Michael Rogers, Defence Media,
26 January 2024

Bombardier Adam Davies-Moore, from 16 Regiment, The Royal Australian Artillery has been awarded a Conspicuous Service Medal this Australia Day.

When Bombardier Adam Davies-Moore was given a counter-unmanned aerial system (CUAS) role at 16 Regiment, he recognised development was needed to keep up with the rapidly evolving modern battlespace.

“When my colleague and I took over the capability, it really sparked our interest, because it was something different and new,” he said.

“We just tried to keep it alive, because it’s a very unique capability and very relevant for this day and age, and it wasn’t getting the limelight it deserved.”

They developed training and standard operating procedures for 16 Regt, but transformed it to an all-corps package, as they believed other units needed to know how to combat UAS threats.

“The training is important because it’s the way the world is going; everything is becoming more unmanned, especially if you look at what’s happening in Ukraine - it’s like drone city over there,” Bombardier Davies-Moore said.

Along with delivering training, he was responsible for field-testing the equipment and SOPs as they were developed, to ensure they were practical and effective.

They would test either in a controlled range environment or on exercises where they would be told the enemy had drones and would respond to the threat.

He took over the CUAS role in 2019, and worked on the SOPs and training alongside his main role as an air defence operator until mid-2023, because of the introduction of new equipment and increased tempo in the unit.

“The CUAS was almost a side job or a hobby; we had to concentrate mainly on our jobs as air defence as well as caretaking the CUAS capability,” Bombardier Davis-Moore said.

Bombardier Davies-Moore was born in

England and emigrated with his family to Australia in 2007.

He wanted to join the Army at 17, but was discouraged by his father, who was a mental health nurse in the UK and had seen the toll military service can have, but Bombardier Davies-Moore eventually joined in 2017 aged 23.

Being told he was going to receive a Conspicuous Service Medal as part of the 2024 Australia Day Honours came as a bit of a shock, not only to him but his unit as well.

“My rank originally put me forward for a commendation, so when it came back to the unit as a CSM it was a surprise for everyone,” Bombardier Davies-Moore said.

“When I was talking to the secretary from the Governor-General’s office, I made her second guess who she was talking to and ask her work colleague to make sure she had the right person.

“We were just caretaking the equipment, doing the best with what we had to do, and someone higher up decided it deserved recognition.”

Australia and Japan sign research agreement for undersea warfare

Defence Media 23 January 2024

Australia and Japan have signed an agreement to enhance strategic capabilities in robotic and autonomous systems for undersea warfare.

The research project between Defence Science and Technology Group and Japan’s Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency is the first under a bilateral research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) arrangement signed in June 2023.

The inaugural research project will contribute to strategic capabilities in undersea communication and interoperability between Australia and Japan.

Australia and Japan share an increasingly strong Defence science and technology relationship underpinned by the Special Strategic Partnership and the updated Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, signed by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and His Excellency Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, in 2022.

If you're not familiar with the work of Steven Wright, he's the famous Erudite (comic) scientist who once said: "I woke up one morning, and all of my stuff had been stolen and replaced by exact duplicates."

His mind sees things differently than most of us do. . . here are some of his gems:

- 1 - I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2 - Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- 3 - Half the people you know are below average.
- 4 - 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5 - 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6 - A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8 - If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain.
- 9 - All those who believe in psycho kinesis, raise my hand.
- 10 - The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 11 - I almost had a psychic girlfriend, But she left me before we met.
- 12 - OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- 13 - How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- 14 - If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- 15 - Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- 16 - When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 17 - Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- 18 - Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.
- 19 - I intend to live forever... So far, so good.

20 - If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?

21 - Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

22 - What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

23 - My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."

24 - Why do psychics have to ask you for your name.

25 - If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

26 - A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

27 - Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

28 - The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.

29 - To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

30 - The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.

31 - The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

32 - The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.

33 - Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.

34 - If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

And the all-time favorite -

35 - If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?

Contributed by David Taylor

EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY 2024*

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE	Sub-Branch Office	9868 3272
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	President	Brian Swan
	Vice-Presidents	John Curdie
		David Taylor
	Secretary	John Prestidge
	Treasurer	Les Rowe
	Wellbeing Support Officer	Andrew Brayshaw
	Pensions Officer	Barry Hoschke
	Membership Co-Ord.	Alan Sullivan
	Ceremonial	Mark Hoare
	Memorabilia	Allan Lotfizadeh
	Committee	David Ng
		Andrew Brayshaw
		Mark Hoare
	Trustees	John Goddard
		Andrew Brayshaw
		Robin Cummins
	Routine Orders Editor	Barry Hoschke
SENIOR MEMBERS ASSN.	President	Merril Prestidge
	Vice President	Les Rowe
	Secretary	Margaret Cummins
	Treasurer	Gavin Nell (Acting)
	Committee	Don Greentree
		Brenda Greentree

*Sub-Branch election 3-year cycle 2026

Seniors Association annual election at AGM 5 March 2024

ROUTINE ORDERS is issued 5 times per year, in January, April, June, August and October.

Contributions for inclusion in ROUTINE ORDERS, such as forward activities, interesting personal notes etc. are always welcome. Items for the next issue on Monday 25 March 2024 are required before Wednesday 13 March 2024.

Earlier would be appreciated. Electronic copy preferred if possible. *Routine Orders* editor Barry Hoschke bhoschke@tpg.com.au.