

# Merrylands RSL sub-Branch Member's Newsletter

June 2023  
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## President's Word

Being our first newsletter, I welcome all members of the sub-Branch. The aim of the newsletter is provide you an opportunity to keep in touch with what is happening within the Merrylands RSL sub-Branch.

In keeping with recruitment and retention of our membership, we have decided to create this newsletter as a form of communication to sub-Branch members. The newsletter will contain stories on current and future events happening within the sub-Branch, topics of interests and any updates from Anzac House relating to our membership.

In our effort in keeping you informed, there is also the opportunity for you to respond to the executive committee on issues you may have for consideration.

I look forward in hearing from you either in writing or in person at one of our monthly meetings .

David Czerkies OAM, CStJ.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Executives Committee .....	2
Anzac Day Service 2023 .....	2
Anzac Day Service 2023 .....	3
National Service Memorial .....	3
Certificate of Appreciation .....	4
New Members .....	6

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- New sub-Branch executive Committee for the next 3 years.
- Anzac Day Dawn Service 2023 at Charles Mance Reserve
- National Serviceman Memorial Plaque presented to sub-Branch
- Certificate of Appreciation to worthy members and organisations

## MERRYLANDS SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE

March this year all executive positions were open for elections for the next three years. The following were elected as sub-Branch executive committee:

### **President**

David Czerkies OAM, CStJ

### **Vice President**

Michael Smith

Robin Grimley

### **Honorary Secretary**

Frank Vella

### **Honorary Treasurer**

Ken Moyle

Following members are sub-Branch committee members:

### **Welfare Officer**

Darrell Maher

### **FWDC Delegates**

Kevin Loudon & David Williams

### **Committee**

Kevin Loudon

Stan Thomas

Darrell Maher

Roger Ford (Umina)

Terry Forbes (Umina)

### 2023 ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

With the end of Covid restrictions Merrylands Dawn service has commenced with a large crowd attending the Dawn service.

This year the service was in respect to the veterans and turning point of the 55th Anniversary of Vietnam War.

The story captures the reflection given by a School Captain from Cerdon College of a veteran who is a member of her family.

## ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2023

On a mild Anzac Day morning Merrylands RSL Club in conjunction with MRSL sub-Branch conducted 2023 Anzac Day Dawn Service at Charles Mance Reserve. The morning commenced with early morning activity setting up chairs, marquee, large screens, official stage and cenotaph in readiness for the Dawn service.

At 0515, under the Parade Commander of CUO Edward Bennett veterans, official guests and members of the public were called to form up for the parade. Prior to march off, laying of a wreath was conducted by both David Czerkies (President sub-Branch) and Ron Hand (President of MRSL) in recognition of all service personnel. Under the command of the Parade Commander the march proceeded with the Holroyd Band and the Army Cadets from 204 Cadet Unit leading.

A short march around Merrylands CBD that also included a stop outside Cumberland Council Chambers where a wreath laying was conducted by the two Presidents at the memorial outside council chambers. Then marched to Charles Mance Reserve for the Dawn service.

In recognition of the 55th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, this years Dawn Service paid tribute to those who served during this conflict.

The service attracted a large number of community participants, patrons and veterans. In attendance were also invited guests from State Parliament, Council, local schools and guest speaker for the service Colonel Jodie Lording CSM—Headquarters 8 Brigade.



*Anzac Day Dawn Service*

## **ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2023**

The service format comprised of the Hymns, chaplain's prayers laying of wreaths and speeches. Cerdon College School Captains delivered the Dawn Service Reflection. What a delivery? They were amazing with the speech detailing family connection to service during WW II. Adding a personal tribute in honor of their family member. Guest speaker Colonel Jodie Lord- ing delivered a speech reflecting the service of the past but also added the service of those who are serving today. Portraying the changing world of military service.

The Dawn Service concluded with the Ode being read, the playing of the Last Post, Reveille and the National anthem of both New Zealand and Australian, after which the Cadets dis- mounted the cenotaph.

Ron Hand concluded the Dawn Service by thanking all in attendance and extended invitation to all members of the public, veterans and guests to breakfast in the RSL.

This being our first year without Covid restrictions the number of community members who attended the service was very welcoming. It anticipated the crowd numbers at this year's ser- vice may have been between 2—3000 people.

Next year's Dawn service may even be bigger.

## NATIONAL SERVICEMEN MEMORIAL PLAQUE

National Servicemen Plaque.

Merrylands RSL sub-Branch receives from National Servicemen Association plaque in recognition of veterans who served as National Servicemen during the Vietnam era.

## NATIONAL SERVICEMAN MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Merrylands RSL sub-Branch received a letter from the National Servicemen Association with respect to the recognition of those veterans who served this nation as National Servicemen. In receipt of this correspondence, the association explained whether the sub-Branch would be interested in accepting a plaque which recognizes the service of these veterans.

In showing our recognition, Merrylands RSL sub-Branch has received the plaque where it is currently being displayed in our memorabilia cabinets. Plans are underway with Cumberland Council to place the plaque in a fitting position at the Charles Mance Reserve.

Placing the plaque at the Reserve, will show to the community of Merrylands

Australia's service in defending this country during period of uncertainty.

Currently, Merrylands RSL sub-Branch is investigating grants to assist with the project of work to place the plaque in its pride of place in Charles Mance Reserve.



*Exec Committee with National Serviceman*

## SUB-BRANCH EXECUTIVE'S CALENDAR

The following calendar events represented by the sub-Branch executives:

3 April—Greystanes Public School Anzac Day Ceremony

5 April—Hilltop Public School Anzac Day Ceremony

2 May—Guilford West Public School Anzac Day Ceremony

4 May—Gallipoli Scholarship Luncheon

## SUB-BRANCH UP AND COMING EVENTS

Merrylands RSL sub-Branch meetings:

June—11 June 23 Merrylands RSL Club

July— 9 July Umina RSL Bowling Club

Aug—13 Aug Merrylands RSL Club

### Commemorative Events

Remembrance Day Sunday—5 November 2023

Remembrance Day Saturday 11 November 2023



## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION PRESENTATION

In recognition of service to Merrylands RSL sub-Branch a number of Certificate of Appreciations were presented this year to worthy members of the sub-Branch and to organisations who have supported Merrylands sub-Branch.

The first of the presentations were conducted on Anzac Sunday 22 April 23 during morning team after the service.

First Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Merrylands RSL Club Ltd. The citation reads: support Merrylands RSL Club has provided to the sub-Branch. Whether this has been its contribution towards the upkeep of Charles Mance Reserve or assistance towards commemorative service events. Merrylands RSL Club has always been supportive of veterans and there families.

The next Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Cumberland Council. The citation reads; the support Council has given to Merrylands RSL sub-Branch from the construction of the Seafarers Memorial to the continued support in the readiness of Charles Mance Reserve for commemorative services held in the reserve.

The second lot of the presentations were conducted during the May sub-Branch meeting recognising two members of the executive committee for their outstanding service to the RSL and Merrylands sub-Branch.

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### *“Certificate of Appreciations presented to worthy sub-Branch members and organisations.*

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Mr Frank Vella Honorary Secretary received Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication and contribution to Merrylands RSL sub-Branch as Honorary Secretary and service to the local community he supports—schools and youth groups.

Mr Ken Moyle Honorary Treasurer received Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication and contribution to Merrylands RSL sub-Branch as Honorary Treasurer, plus his contribution to the RSL for his involvement in supporting rural local community at Trangie NSW in the conduct of Anzac Day service for the community.



*Frank receiving certificate*



*Ken receiving certificate*

## MERRYLANDS RSL SUB-BRANCH NEW MEMBERS

Merrylands RSL sub-Branch welcomes the following new members:

MAJ David Newman—current serving officer with the Australian Army.

Neal Johnson—transfer from Canley Heights

Jeff Lee's— Ex Army 10 Terminal Regiment

Michael Moore— Ex Navy

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*Memorabilia cabinet*