



TOUKLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH

Newsletter



Issue 111 – December 2025

NEW SUB-BRANCH MEMBERS

Vale
NIL

Welcome to the following new sub-Branch Members:

Service
Renee McBride

Auxiliary

NIL

Sub-Else
NIL

Internment of Ashes

John Carruthers – Sunday 7th December 10.30am

Lest We Forget



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Sub-Branch General Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month,
At 10.30am, upstairs in Club Toukley RSL, with the exception of January.
All Members are invited to attend.**

Auxiliary Cruise	Wednesday 3rd December – Bus 8am
CCVC BBQ – 203 Main Road	Friday 5th December – 11am – 1pm
Merchant Mariners Day – Norah Head	Saturday 6th December – 10.15am
John Carruthers Internment	Sunday 7th December – 10.30am
Nasho's Xmas Party – The Ary	Sunday 7th December – 11.30am
Sub-Branch Christmas Party	Sunday 14th December – 11am
Sub-Branch Committee Meeting	Monday 15th December – 10.30am
Reminder – There is no General	Meeting in January 2026



Presidents Report:

It has been a rather busy year with the Committee working hard on the general day-to-day running of the Sub-Branch, for the benefit of the members and veterans in the area.

One project that was completed was the drainage work around the Cenotaph and the upgrade of the lighting at the Cenotaph to ensure the peripheral lighting at the Cenotaph will be more failsafe and reliable.

On the Committee front it was very pleasing to welcome two new Committee members – Mick Henly and Marie Berry. Both have quickly become very welcome

additions to the team. Mick took on the vacant vice-President role and has also just qualified as an ATDP Level 1 advocate. Mick has also qualified as a JP, so we again have a JP available in the sub-Branch. Marie Berry came on board and has seamlessly moved into the Membership team with Roy Norman. Marie has also been a great support to me with other administrative tasks I have thrown her way which has lightened my workload.

Also worthy of special mention is Alan Thiele. Alan moved into the Secretary's role at the start of the year and despite the absence of any handover to the position has performed well.

Thanks also to the Auxiliary team of Christine Sellers and Bev Pritchatt. The Auxiliary have taken over the job of planning the bus trips and Christine did an excellent job this year scheduling and planning an overnight trip to Young. Christine Sellers and Angie Murphy have also been of assistance to Roy Norman in the Welfare space and I know Roy has appreciated their help a great deal.

On a sadder note, on the Committee Roy Norman has indicated that he will not be a member of the next committee. Roy told me over two years ago that he would not be around in 2026. He has recently bought himself a new caravan and has plans to travel. Roy's assistance has been invaluable - his work as membership officer and Welfare officer has kept him very busy. Roy did not enjoy going into Aged Care Facilities but realised it was all part of the job. He found it hard when Veterans he had formed a rapport with passed away, but still continued to do the job. Roy also spent a lot of extra hours in the lead-up to Anzac Day to ensure his role as MC at the Dawn Service was faultless. He used to drive me mad reading his MC notes to me "over and over again", to make sure everything was perfect. However, I am sure I will miss that in 2026.

Steve Edmunds also deserves special mention for his work at Diggers Inn. Steve has taken on the role at 203 Main Road Toukley, and the place now looks immaculate, and I no longer receive complaints from the tenants.

One highlight for the sub-Branch was the two Commemorative services on Anzac Day. Both services were very well attended, and we only received positive feedback.

The Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day Commemorative services both continue to grow in numbers year by year.

The Remembrance Day Commemoration service at the cenotaph was well attended by members, partners, invited guests and members of the public. The Warnervale Public School choir, bugler Lyndon Ainsworth from the Wallarah Community Band and two pipers from the Toukley RSL Pipes and Drums, performed at the service and did a great job. We also had the support of 236 Army Cadets for the catafalque party and the Australian Cadet Corps for the flag party. It was an honour to have all these groups take part in this special Commemoration Service. A letter of thanks has been sent to each group. Ron Whitby also did a great job on the day – acting as both bus driver and Parade Commander – thank you Ron.

Tickets are on sale today for the Annual Christmas Party and Monster Raffle on 14 December. Normal price - \$20 per ticket member and partner. Last tickets will be available on Thursday 4 December.

A reminder once again to members of our next Annual General Meeting which will be held on Sunday 15 February 2026. At this AGM all positions will be declared vacant. Please consider volunteering to serve on the Committee. Nominations open four (4) weeks prior to the AGM, on 18 January and must be lodged with the Secretary seven (7) days before the AGM. If you wish to nominate for a position on the Committee, please contact The Secretary for a Nomination Form.

This is your Sub-Branch: have a say in ensuring that we have a future and leave a legacy. Elections are held every three years. I am more than happy, at any time, to answer any questions or concerns that you may have, or to explain what is involved.

This is an important AGM as you will be voting for a new sub-Branch Committee. Just a reminder that for those members who may be interested in volunteering on the Committee, Duties and Responsibilities for ALL positions can be downloaded from the RSL NSW website.

With the AGM coming up on Sunday 15 February 2026, notification letters will be posted to all members this week. Please be aware that it is a requirement to show your Sub-Branch membership card to gain entry to the AGM. No membership card, or arriving after 10.30 am, means that you will not be permitted entry.

Sadly, this year we have lost 10 sub-Branch members and my condolences go out to the families and friends of these members.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members, partners and families a very happy and safe Christmas and 2026. I know that it has been a difficult year for many, especially those who have lost loved ones. At this time, we also remember those members of the Armed Forces who are currently serving overseas, or are on duty in various parts of the country and unable to make it home to be with their families for Christmas. Please raise a glass to them on Christmas Day.



Ian Collier
President

Auxiliary Report – November 2025

WELFARE & WELLNESS BUS TRIPS – PROPOSED

Summer Tour

The Auxiliary has organised a Summer Tour scheduled for 27th February, which will take participants to Dangar Island in the Hawkesbury. The day will begin with morning tea at a local café, followed by lunch at a site to be decided.

Autumn Tour

A trip has been planned for the autumn season. On 21st March, is a visit to the Quarantine Station. This includes a one-hour guided tour, morning tea, and lunch at the Manly RSL Club.

Winter Tour

The winter bus trip is scheduled for 26th June and will be a visit to the Rookwood Military Cemetery. Details for morning tea and lunch will be finalised, at a later date.

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES

Auxiliary members actively participated in supporting the Sub-Branch during the Remembrance Day Service at the Toukley Cenotaph on 11th November. Additionally, Auxiliary members attended and actively participated at the Arcare Remembrance Day Service, held on 10th November at Arcare's aged care facility in Kanwal.

MILITARY MEMORABILIA REMEMBRANCE DAY SALES

From Thursday, 6th November to Monday, 10th November, a stall was set up in the ARY foyer area for the sale of military memorabilia. Auxiliary members who had volunteered to staff the stall throughout the five-day period, successfully raised a total of \$1,312.90.

Jenny Leach, an Auxiliary member, recommended donating some leftover military badges from the former Toukley Sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary to the Entrance & Long Jetty Sub-Branch so they could sell the badges. This was agreed too, and the badges were presented to them the following day.

DONATION OF A QUILT

The Sub-Branch presented a quilt to Reverend Canon Alan Kelb OAM to acknowledge his continued support and engagement with the Army Apprentices Scheme. The gift also recognised his assistance to emergency services and police in the Riverina region during critical incidents.

RECOGNITION

The Auxiliary wishes to extend its gratitude to several Sub-Branch members for their ongoing support throughout the year. Special thanks go to Shirley Shepherd for her regular attendance at Auxiliary meetings and her willingness to volunteer for Auxiliary activities. John Tyson is recognised for his efforts in finalising the Remembrance Day memorabilia (Poppies), and Ron Whitby is thanked for his safe and professional driving of the Sub-Branch bus during Wellbeing and Wellness Trips. The Executive Team is also acknowledged for their unwavering support of the Auxiliary.

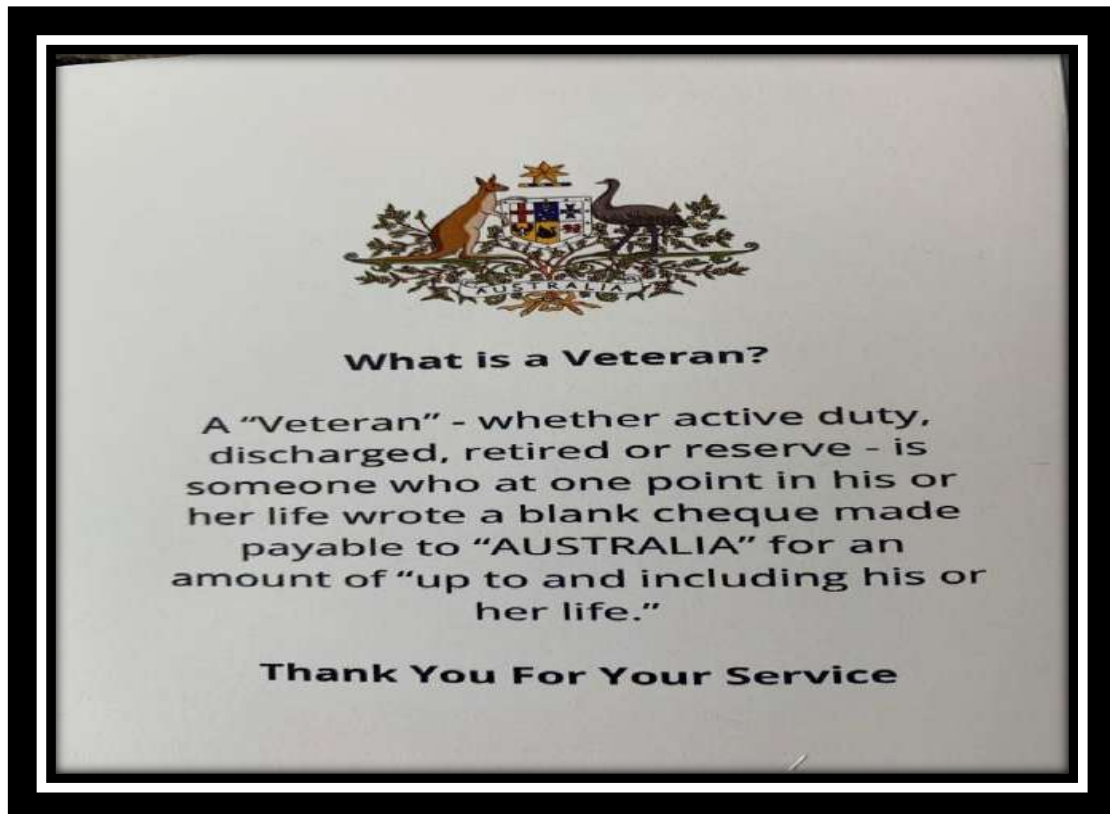
Thank you to Auxiliary member Denise Humphries for continuously supporting the Sub-Branch by selling raffle tickets at general meetings.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be held on Wednesday, 11th February 2026, at 11.00am.

Christine Sellers

Auxiliary Co-ordinator



Keeping your Sub-Branch Details Up to Date

If you have recently moved, or your details have changed, please let the Sub-Branch Office know so that we can update your address and contact details.

This information is required so that we can send any correspondence to the correct address.

Also, if you know of a member who has moved, either to another area or to an Aged Care Facility, please notify the Sub-Branch Office.



WANTED NEW MEMBERS National Servicemen's Association Central Coast Sub-Branch Toukley - monthly meetings held 3rd Sunday every month except December, regular social luncheons for members, family and friends, BBQ's, Bus trips to places of interest. Membership forms available from our Membership Officer Bobby Byrnes on 0400 352 811 or email robertbyrnes7@bigpond.com

Volunteers required for Vietnam Veterans Park at Gorokan. The Vietnam Veterans Park located on the left-hand side of Wallarah Road just as you drive over the Toukley Bridge towards Gorokan is maintained by the Vietnam Veterans group. The group would appreciate some assistance if anyone has a few hours to spare. They meet on a Wednesday at 9.30 every five weeks in winter and about every 2 weeks in growing season. If anyone has some spare time please contact Steve Edmunds on 0428 093 726 or email at sheenasteve21@gmail.com



Birthdays this month & January 2026

Kevin Clarke - 1st December

David Carrigan – 7th December

Noel Cannard – 8th December

Glen Webster – 11th December

William Chipp – 12th December

Graham Hooper – 15th December

Geoffrey Davidson – 18th December

Allan Moss – 18th December

Tom Hobbs – 20th December

Steve Edmunds – 21st December

Raymond Sutton 22nd December

Steve Buckingham – 28th December

Beverley Pritchatt – 28th December

Bruce Howitt – 3rd January

Shirley Shepherd – 6th January

Stan Cameron – 9th January

Grant Smith – 9th January

Bob Swift – 9th January

Alf Schembri – 14th January

Tiffany Kelly – 17th January

John Sorrenson – 21st January

Ron Gall – 22nd January

Phil Davies – 25th January

Alan Smith – 25th January

Tommy Smith – 26th January

Neil White – 26th January

Ray Butterfield – 29th January

Nashos's Lunch - Royal Hotel Wyong.

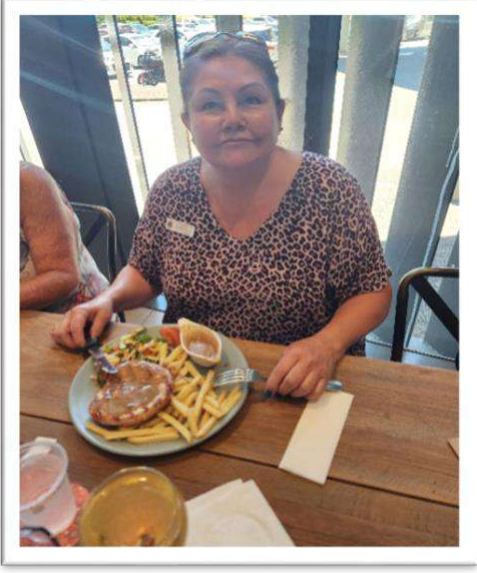
Great lunch John and Sid enjoyed the famous Rissoles!!

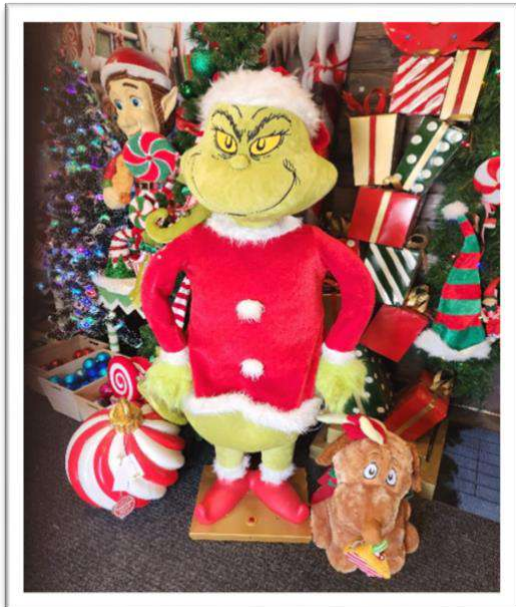


Bus Trip to Morpeth last Friday.

Had a nice Lunch at Maitland Bowling Club, after a trip to the Christmas shop and an antique shop in Morpeth.



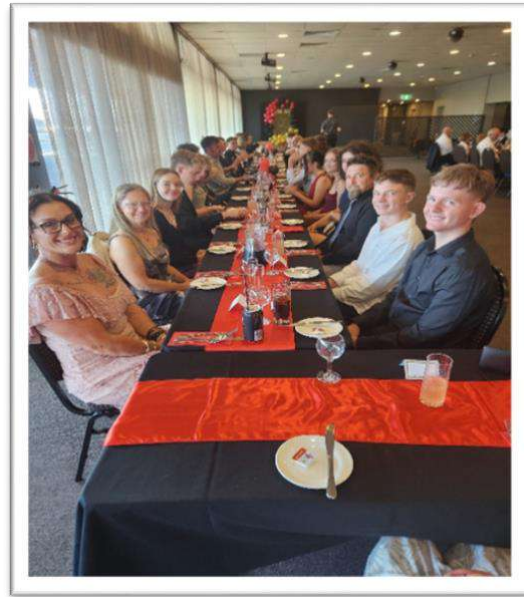
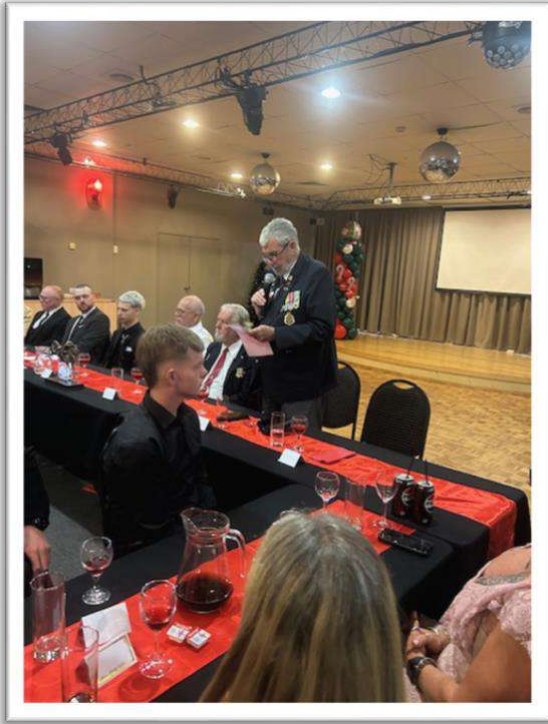




236 Army Cadets Dinner and Presentation night.

A very enjoyable night attended by Mike and Denise Humphries representing the sub-Branch on Saturday night. Mike accepted a presentation to the sub-Branch by the Cadets for our participation. Mike presented the Cadet of the year award to the winner.





Puzzle Corner



Trivia Questions:

- 1. How many nations are part of the Commonwealth?**

- 2. Excluding India, which nation in the Commonwealth has the largest population: Bangladesh, Pakistan or Nigeria?**

- 3. Prior to the Belfour Declaration being signed in 1926, what was The British Commonwealth of Nations previously known as?**

- 4. Which is the only South American Commonwealth member state?**

- 5. Where were 2022 Commonwealth Games played?**

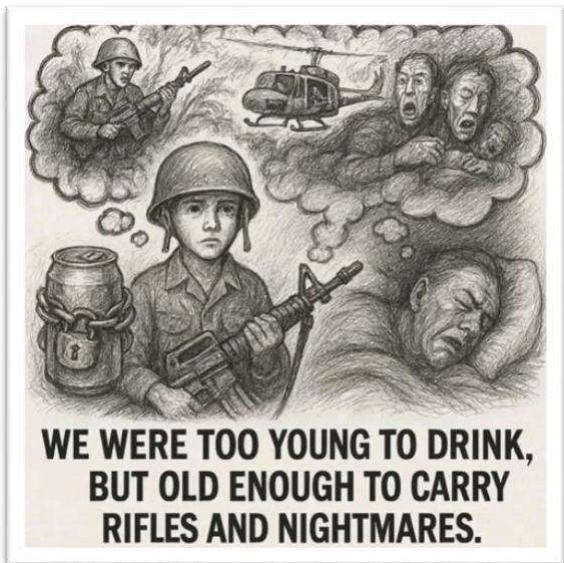
- 6. Where in the Commonwealth is the Milford Sound?**

- 7. Where in the Commonwealth is the CN Tower?**

- 8. What year did Australia last host the Commonwealth Games?**

- 9. The British Empire Games was first held in 1930 at a place called Hamilton. In which country is this particular host?**

- 10. The Queen's Baton Relay travels around the world prior to the Commonwealth Games. What is held in the Baton?**



CENTRAL COAST VETERANS CENTRE Inc

ABN 90 141 703 076

President:

Graham Kerle JP

Secretary:

Danny Chouffot

Treasurer:

Kelly Gray



Address:

203 Main Road

Toukley

NSW 2263

Ph 02 4353 1297

Helping Veterans and Their Families

We are located at 203 Main Road, Toukley. We are available at Toukley on Tuesday morning from 08.00 till midday by appointment, and on Thursdays from 08.00 till midday for interviews and as a drop in, coffee centre to meet others and relax.

We are available to assist serving and ex serving veterans and their families in their interaction with DVA as Advocates. We have available;

- **Four Advocates to assist with claims advice and general advice on DVA requirements.**
- **Wellness officers to assist with,**
 - **Counselling**
 - **Mental health contacts**
 - **Seeking appointments with Medical Practitioners**
 - **Homelessness**
 - **Widow and widower rights and entitlements.**

If you have worn the ADF uniform for more than one day, or are the family of such a person, you may have entitlements that you do not know about. Drop in and let us help you.

We look forward to meeting you.

Emergencies	000
Open Arms	1800 011 046
Lifeline	13 11 44
Kids Helpline	1300 224 636

Welfare Report November 2025



TOUKLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH

WELLBEING/VISITATION OFFICERS' MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE SUB-BRANCH

OFFICER	NUMBER OF VETERANS/FAMILY VISITS	HOURS	KILOMETRES TRAVELLED	PHONE CALLS	TRAINING HOURS	FUNERALS Interments
Michael Humphries	6	15	33	2	0	0
Roy Norman	13	21	26	17	0	0
Christine Sellers	1	8.3	0	12	0	0
Angie Murphy	1	2	70	3	0	0
TOTALS	21	46.3	59	34	0	0



Puzzle Corner Answers



- 1. 54.**
- 2. Pakistan.**
- 3. The British Empire.**
- 4. Guyana.**
- 5. Birmingham, UK.**
- 6. South Island, New Zealand.**
- 7. The Statue of David.**
- 8. 2018, Gold Coast.**
- 9. Canada, Ontario.**
- 10. A message from the head of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II, to read at the opening.**

TOUKLEY RSL SUB-BRANCH

Friend of:	David Harris MP
President:	Ian Collier
Vice President:	Mike Humphries Mick Henly
Secretary:	Alan Thiele
Treasurer:	Terry Murray
Committee:	Allan Love John Tyson Roy Norman Robert Sellers Steve Edmunds Marie Berry
Telephone:	(02) 4396 4855
Telephone:	(02) 4353 1297 (Diggers Inn)
Pensions:	Mick Henly 0417 223 164
Welfare:	Roy Norman 0409 845 856
Trustees:	Milton Porter, Steve Edmunds, Ian Collier
Newsletter Co-ordinator	Mike Humphries
Phone:	0414 693 481
Email:	mikehumphries@toukleyrslsb.org.au mikeh@bigpond.net.au