



Terrigal Wamberal RSL sub Branch

# NEWSLETTER

## President's Message

The rules around COVID 19 compliance continues to restrict sub-Branch activities and commemorative events in the short term.

Our monthly sub-Branch meetings recommenced in September. We are planning to hold Remembrance Day ceremonies at Breakers and the Terrigal Foreshore War Memorial on 11 November. We are not sure what the rules will allow at this stage and we will be in a better position to confirm details by mid-October.

Voting for the election of RSL NSW President and Board members will commence on 5 October. Service members can vote online or cast their vote using ballot papers to be circulated in the October issue of Reveille. All members will receive a voting information pack.

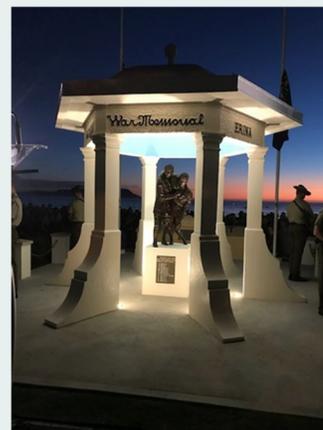
This new system of voting was introduced with the enactment of the RSL NSW Act and subsequent changes to the Constitution allowing every service member to vote independently.

The list of candidates and voting details can be located at <https://www.rslnsw.org.au/members-suite/2020-board-election/>

The newly elected Board will be confirmed at the State Congress in early December. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on numbers, the Congress this year will be conducted online.

We congratulate sub-Branch members George Craven and John Peninton on their 50-year membership of the RSL.

Terry Saxby



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Veterans' Health Day 29 October
- Sub-Branch meeting 10 October
- Remembrance Day 11 November
- RSL State Congress (Online) 7-8 December
- Sub-Branch meeting 12 December
- Christmas Luncheon 15 December

## Meet the Members

### George William Craven



George was 16 at the start of WW2. Wanting to serve and too young to enlist, he joined the National Emergency Service and was trained in first aid and how to extinguish incendiary bombs with a bucket of sand.

When he turned 18, he applied for leave of absence to enlist but this was denied as he was employed in a protected industry, training as a draughtsman. After weeks of protest, he was eventually given the necessary clearance.

With his parents' permission, he enlisted for military service in 1943. He commenced training at Kapooka as a sapper and after completing basic training he was posted to 2/11 Australian Army Troops Coy (RAE). With the threat of invasion by Japan, his Unit was moved to North Queensland and then to Morotai Island

(Netherland East Indies), now part of Indonesia. He served there until Japan surrendered in August 1945.

After returning to Australia, he extended his military service until discharge in 1948

George built a holiday house in Terrigal in 1956 and moved there permanently in 1975.

He retired in 1980 and commenced voluntary work with Rotary, Red Cross and the Smith Family. He was recognised for his community service.

George is a 50-year member of the RSL (NSW Branch) of Australia and a respected member of the Terrigal Wamberal RSL sub-Branch.



## BREAKERS COUNTRY CLUB

### Home of the Terrigal Wamberal RSL Sub Branch

Congratulations Breakers on your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Club, originally owned by the sub-Branch, was incorporated under the Companies Act and registered as the **Terrigal Memorial Country Club** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1970. The sub-Branch sold its assets to the Club in 1983. The name was changed to Breakers Country Club in 2008.

We appreciate the ongoing recognition and understanding by CEO Ken Pearson and the Breakers Board of our historical connection to the Club. This has resulted in an excellent rapport over many years and the considerable assistance that we receive with commemorative events, especially on Anzac Day, is indicative of this relationship.

The Australian and RSL flags are raised at the Club every morning.

The crossed rifles statue and memorial wall at the entrance to the Club show respect for our military history.

## Military Humour

### Royal Australian Corps of Transport



During training exercises, the Lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered

another car stuck in the mud with a red-faced Colonel Peter White at the wheel.

"Your car stuck, sir?" asked the Lieutenant as he pulled alongside. "Nope," replied the Colonel, coming over and handing him the keys. "Yours is."

And the same to you.

A general and a captain walking down the street passed a number of soldiers, and each time one of them saluted the officers, the captain saluted back and said, "The same to you." "Why do you always say that?" the general asked the captain, "I used to be a private, too," said the captain "and I know just what they are thinking."

## TERRIGAL FORESHORE WAR MEMORIAL



A War Memorial was constructed in Erina District, NSW to commemorate the memory of service personnel lost in WWI from the Erina, Terrigal, Wamberal and Matcham areas. It was constructed on the junction of The Entrance Road and Terrigal Drive after the war and unveiled on Armistice Day, 11 November 1923, (pictured). Owing to the reconstruction of the road junction, the Memorial was relocated to the Salvation Army's Woodport property in 1985 and re-dedicated on 6 August 1986 to commemorate those lost in all conflicts up to the Vietnam War. The chosen site, at the time of its relocation, was an open area and readily visible to the public. Subsequent construction on the site and tree growth had dwarfed the Memorial and lost its visibility to the general public. It became a forgotten memorial except to the Salvation Army who continued its use for their commemorative services. The site was required for the construction of a new church and needed relocation in 2018.

### “The rebirth of Central Coast WWI War Memorial”

At the request of the Salvation Army, Terrigal Wamberal RSL Sub-branch was approached to relocate the Memorial. A project team was formed to manage the relocation and reconstruction.

In concert with the Central Coast Council, a new site was selected at Terrigal Beach where the Terrigal Beach RSL War Memorial was located. After a heritage study, it was decided to collocate the two memorials on a single reconstructed site. A design was produced by local architect, Howard Leslie. Thanks to the contribution of services and materials by local construction contractors and the financial support of the Federal, State and local government the project proceeded on time and on budget.

The relocation of the Erina District War Memorial involved considerable muscle power and delicate handling to dismantle the rotunda, lift off the reinforced concrete cupola, remove the six concrete columns and transport them to the Terrigal foreshore

Final reconstruction involved the repositioning of the Terrigal War Memorial Obelisk, reconstruction of the Lest We Forget Wall and installation of two flagpoles. The finishing touches involved

the reconstruction of a plinth and plaques under the cupola, repainting, and a rosemary garden on each side of the memorial bordered by sandstone piers connected by linked chains.

The original Erina Memorial centre-piece of a cross mounted with two .303in rifles and a tin helmet was badly corroded and could not be re-conditioned to withstand the salt air environment. The Terrigal Wamberal RSL Sub Branch commissioned local artist, Leasha Craig, to sculpture a new centre piece entitled ‘Brothers in Arms’. It depicts two soldiers of the Great War assisting one another in combat. It is symbolic of the unique bond of mateship and teamwork between those that serve together in times of conflict and in peace. It is also symbolic of the brothers from the local community who lost their lives in battle during WWI as mentioned in the War Memorial Honour Roll.

The ‘new’ memorial was rededicated at our ANZAC Day Dawn Service on 25 April 2019, known as the Terrigal Foreshore War Memorial. It was rededicated in memory of all men and women, and their families, who have dedicated their lives to serve Australia in conflict and in peace.



# HUNTER VALLEY EXCURSION



A group of our COVID stir-crazy members recently travelled to the Hunter Valley for fun and relaxation and of course to sample the local product.

First stop was the Hunter Valley Gardens and what was on display there didn't disappoint. There was no motorised transport available and this was a challenge for some of our senior citizens. The Mega Creatures exhibit was interesting but noisy. The ongoing 100 plus decibels sound of the woolly mammoth could not be ignored and this gave us a good reason to leave the Gardens to find a quieter venue that served cool beverages.

Accommodation for the night was at Estate Tuscany where we enjoyed dinner with our partners.

After breakfast, it was free time to explore before the journey home.

This trip provided a great environment for us all to relax and enjoy each other's company.

SUPPORTERS OF THE  
Terrigal Wamberal RSL sub-Branch

