



Terrigal Wamberal RSL sub Branch

NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Dear Members,

With the easing of COVID 19 restrictions, we have resumed normal sub-Branch activities. The sub-Branch office is open for business, and our first monthly sub-Branch meeting, after four cancellations, was held on 13 November.

Now that we are back in business, the Committee can plan events with a degree of certainty.

Our Veterans Health Day at Long Jetty, sponsored by DVA, was a great success, and I thank Roger and his team of helpers for organising catering and refreshments.

We were able to commemorate Remembrance Day events at Breakers and the Terrigal Beach Memorial without limitations. The weather was kind and reasonable crowds attended to pay their respect.

We have received Commonwealth Government funding to resurrect a damaged and neglected war memorial at the Wamberal Memorial Hall. The centrepiece of the monument will be three headstones that were installed and dedicated at the site after the Great War. The sub-Branch is proud of its war memorial restoration achievements. The other memorials include the Terrigal Foreshore Memorial and at Breakers Country Club.

Breakers Country Club members voted in favour of the amalgamation with the Mouties Group at an EGM on 17 November. The MOU signed by Breakers and Mouties will ensure that our existing arrangements will continue after the amalgamation is complete.

Our sub-Branch Christmas luncheon will be held at Breakers on 14 December, commencing at 12MD. Tickets are on sale at the sub-Branch office.

The RSL NSW Board resolved on 27 September that membership for 2022 will be free. You will receive a membership badge that is recognised in communities across Australia. For details refer: <https://www.rslnsw.org.au/tag/memberships/>

As this is our last newsletter for the year, I will take this opportunity to wish you and those close to you a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Regards,

Terry Saxby



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Meet The Members 2
- Looking Back.....3-4
- Remembrance Day.....5
- Vale George Schmidt.....6
- Wamberal Memorial Hall.....7
- Veterans Health Day.....8
- Marie Nugent.....9

Upcoming Events

- Sub-Branch Meeting 11 Dec
- Xmas Luncheon 14 Dec

MEET THE MEMBERS

Michael Tabone - Sub Branch Secretary

Personal Profile

Colonel Michael Tabone, Retired, AM, CSC.

Served 30 years in the fulltime Army and retired as the Head of Corps, RAAOC, retiring in 1997. Michael's service in the Regular Army included a wide variety of command, technical and staff appointments including Commander, Bandiana Logistic Group, Commanding Officer, Broadmeadows Logistic Battalion, Officer Commanding, Proof & Experimental Establishment, Greytown, Victoria. Michael's qualifications include Ammunition Technical Officer, Technical Staff Officer (Royal Military College of Science UK), a Master of Business and a Graduate Diploma in Strategic Studies.

Michael returned to the Active Army Reserve in 2002, posted as the Senior Oral Historian with the Army History Unit. Michael conducted an Army Senior Officer Oral History Program (Army's 3 and 2 Star appointments). He also completed six tours of East Timor as part of Force Extraction Teams conducting End of Tour Interviews of Australian personnel and historical collection activities.

Until his retirement in 2013, Michael's civilian life had involved working as a business management consultant for over 16 years. He assisted public and private sector organisations with strategic planning, the formulation of business development plans, management of change, business process re-engineering, organisational management, risk management and business analysis and planning.

With retirement came the opportunity to travel extensively with wife Susan; exploring Europe, Asia and Australasia. Michael and Susan started a new chapter by relocating from Geelong to the Central Coast. Volunteering takes up much of his so-called free time. In addition to being the Honorary Secretary of this Sub Branch, Michael also manages a volunteer manufacturing workshop which makes new furniture for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society welfare recipients and for sale in their Op Shops.



LOOKING BACK—2012



Former sub-Branch President Mick Wardle and Treasurer Simon Averell at the Terrigal Surf Club after ANZAC DAY 2012. Mick was our longest serving President. He was elected for two terms totalling ten years. Simon served as Treasurer before moving to the UK to pursue a career opportunity. We look forward to Simon returning to Australia and the sub-Branch.

to

Committee meeting in progress. Yes, that's Paul Davis sitting at the Secretary's desk



This is a photo of our WW2 vintage lady members at a sub-Branch meeting in 2012. Sadly they have all passed. We miss their old world charm and companionship.

LOOKING BACK—2017



This surfboard was made and donated by a local resident to be used for fundraising. The sub-Branch, with the serious involvement of Henry and others, ran a raffle and raised in excess of \$5000. The funds were used to purchase a special purpose wheelchair for a disabled veteran competing at the INVICTUS games.

Peter White, Terry Saxby, Henry O, Peter Bates

Peter White (sub-branch President) presenting Darren McManus-Smith (then RSLNSW State Councillor) with a cheque for the purchase of the wheelchair.



Peter White, Darren McManus-Smith

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021



Sub Branch Trustee Jim Burke laying a wreath at the Breakers service



War Memorial at Breakers



Vice President Peter White at the Terrigal Beach service.

VALE GEORGE SCHMIDT

30.1.1945 - 16.9.2021

George was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1946 and migrated to Australia with his Polish mother and younger brother when he was five years old. He was an infant when his father died and had no memory of him. They settled in Melbourne, where he commenced school. These were difficult times for young George or Jürgen Schmidt as he was known then. His English was poor, and I imagine it was difficult for him to make friends.



George left school at 16 and joined the Navy at 17.

His first operational service was in 1964 aboard HMAS GULL, engaged in minesweeping operations in waters off Malaysia during the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation.

In 1965 he was part of a naval contingent that was sent to the UK for submarine training. This coincided with the rebirth of the Australian Submarine Service. The Naval board had ordered four Oberon Class submarines with construction taking place in Scotland.

He travelled to England on a commercial cruise ship, and during the journey, he met his first wife, Maureen. They married in Scotland, where George was based. Their first child Anna was born there, and at the completion of his assignment in 1969, Anna and mother returned to Sydney. George arrived later on HMAS Ovens, one of the recently commissioned submarines.

He was discharged from the Navy (or came ashore in Navy speak) in 1971.

George set up home in Sydney after discharge and later moved the family to Adelaide, where son Peter and second daughter Tina were born. Seeking a better life, they moved to Queensland in 1990.

He later moved to Terrigal and in 2015 he was diagnosed with some serious and life-threatening medical conditions. The immediate concern was a sarcoma (cancer) on his right wrist that was not responding to radiation treatment. As a result, his arm needed to be amputated to stop cancer from spreading.

He accepted the inevitability of this with remarkable bravery and calmness. George enjoyed lawn bowls, and to everyone's amazement, he turned up at the Terrigal Bowling Club just days after the amputation, ready to start bowling with his remaining arm. He loved his bowls and valued the friendship of his bowling mates.

George also enjoyed the company of his RSL friends, especially Roger and Len, who cared for him in many ways over the last nine months. It is hard to imagine anyone having better friends. He was a respected and committed member of the Terrigal Wamberal RSL sub Branch. At most RSL functions, he would inevitably ask if he could "lend a hand". He was affectionately known as "one-armed George".

It was a testament to his character how he handled his disabilities with humour and without complaint.

We meet people that you instantly like throughout our lives, and George was one of those people.

Lest we forget.

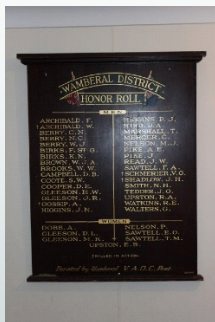
WAMBERAL MEMORIAL HALL



The Wamberal Memorial Hall was built on land donated by a Mr Edwards. Mr E Loxton KC MLA officially opened it on New Year's Day 1920. It has been used almost daily ever since.

From details recorded in local histories, the hall was the centre of life in the area. Its early use was documented in the RSL minutes and John Holt's *Early History of Wamberal*. An excerpt from Holt's book follows:

“The hall had been erected by voluntary labour under the direction of Mr Perrett. Mr Edwards had donated some land to make the building possible. The trustees were Messrs A Brown, A Campbell and W Smalley, and the Secretary was Mr ET Andrews. The Federal Member for Robertson, Mr Fleming, attended and was delighted to meet his former commanding officer, Colonel JG Tedder. Other locals present included the Gleesons, the Pikes, the Inmans, the Reads, the Ritchies, and the Archibalds. By the end of the month, Mrs A Swaddling and Mrs H Robertson of the St Stephens Women's Guild and organised a visit to the Hall of the Gosford Famous Players to present a comedy which was followed by a dance.”



Inside, there is an honour roll for the Great War and another by the Volunteer Air Observers Corp. Unfortunately, they do not appear to be complete lists. Outside, there are three small headstones or markers.”



Headstone

Source: NSW War Memorial Register

NOTE:

The headstones are in a state of disrepair and are being held in trust by a nearby resident. The SUB-BRANCH is negotiating with the Central Coast Council to have the stones refurbished and incorporated in a new memorial structure.

VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK

LONG JETTY—4 NOVEMBER

While the key focus for this year's Veterans' Health Week, was physical activity, the wellbeing of our members through social inclusion was just as important. The event was well supported and the more sprightly in our group cycled and others walked for exercise.



The day was sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The group waiting for lunch. Only healthy food and fruit juice on the menu



The cycling group at the start point—Getting ready 'TO GET MOVING'

MARIA NUGENT

Service Award

At our November Sub-Branch meeting, Maria was present with a Certificate of



Appreciation and badge issued by the Entrance Long Jetty Sub-Branch, honouring her 33 years of service as a member of the NSW RSL Women's Auxiliary (now known as the RSL NSW Auxiliary). Maria transferred to Entrance Long Jetty Auxiliary after the Terrigal Wamberal Women's Auxiliary disbanded in 1998.

Maria's affiliate membership of this sub-Branch is associated with her late husband's military service.

We appreciate her regular attendance at meetings and her willingness to participate in sub-Branch activities.

She is an independent woman with a positive view of life. Her accent has not changed since she left Bonnie Scotland all those years ago.

Maria with Sub Branch President
Terry Saxby


GREENWAY
CHAPEL & MEMORIAL GARDENS


CREIGHTONS
FUNERAL SERVICE


PALMDALE
LAWN CEMETERY & MEMORIAL PARK



OUR DISCOUNT OFFER FOR YOU

We would like to offer you

- **10% Off** Creightons Funeral Services
- **10% Off** Greenway & Palmdale Memorial Sites

We invite you to enquire about our pre-paid options, where these discounts will also apply.

Visit and explore our facilities at Greenway Chapel and Memorial Gardens, and Palmdale Memorial Park. Tour our numerous gardens, Defence Memorials and spacious chapels that are fitted with the latest in audio-visual technology, equipped for complimentary live-streaming. All facilities are located on-site at Greenway and Palmdale, including fully catered, private function rooms and a café. Feel comfortable knowing you are in safe hands with our friendly and experienced teams.

Contact our friendly team to learn more and organise a visit to one of our locations, including our newly refurbished Erina Heights Chapel (pictured below), exclusive to Creightons Funeral Service.



☎ 1300 130 955

🌐 creightonsfuneralservice.com.au