



RSL Day Clubs (NSW&ACT) 36 Year History

Facts and Figures 2013

There have been three State Coordinators appointed by NSW State Council to oversee the Day Clubs in NSW - George Carver 1977-1985, Ted Richards 1986 - 2008 and Tom Barnsley 2008 - present

10 Volunteers have volunteered for 30 or more years

The Department of Veterans Affairs has supported Day Clubs over the years with:

Occupational Therapists from Concord Hospital from 1977 - 1985

11 contracted Advisers since 1985.

Day Club Information

Australia wide there are 148 Day Clubs.

69 Day Clubs in NSW sponsored by NSW sub Branches

2 Day Clubs in ACT sponsored by ACT sub Branches

9 Clubs have been restarted - Ashfield, Bundeena, Concord, Earlwood, Seven Hills, Richmond, Albury, Campbelltown, Wauchope and Tumut

8 Clubs closed permanently - Ashfield, Katoomba, Lane Cove, Liverpool, Port Macquarie, Tumut, Wentworthville, West Wyalong .

The largest Club has 140 members

The smallest Club has 14 members

18 Clubs meet in licensed Clubs

13 Clubs meet in RSL sub-Branch halls

32 Clubs meet in community halls

4 in Retirement Villages

21 Clubs are in the Sydney metropolitan area

49 Clubs meet in regional and country areas

The most geographically isolated Club is Norfolk Island

Of the total membership, 25% are men and 75% are women.

General Historical Information on RSL Day Clubs

Background

The RSL Day Club program is a joint venture between the Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) (RSL) and the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), NSW & ACT. The partnership dates back to 1977 when DVA was seeking an ex-service organisation's support and involvement in setting up volunteer community based day care centres. Agreement between the NSW RSL and DVA was reached and the first "RSL Frail Aged Centre" was established in Miranda in 1977.

The First Club:

August 1977 saw the formation of the **Captain Cook Club** at Miranda.

Over the years, other RSL sub-Branches arranged to set up Day Clubs in their area. Auburn/Lidcombe **Gumbuya Club** was the second Club to open in May 1978.

Between 1980-81, eight new Clubs were established. They included the **Yaralla Club**, Concord, **Parramatta RSL Community Club**, Parramatta, **Bundeena Village Club**, Bundeena.

The Dubbo Orana Club established itself as the first country club in August, 1981. This was the sixth Day Club.

In October 1981, **Tom Thumb Club** at Wollongong commenced. It was the first on the South Coast and the seventh Club in NSW.

In November 1981, **the Sir Henry Parkes Club** was established at Ashfield.

5 more Day Clubs were established in 1982.

RSL Day Clubs Today:

- As of July 2013 there are Sixty nine (69) sponsored by NSW RSL sub-Branches,
- The RSL Day Club Committee consists of RSL State Councillors, the State Coordinator of RSL Day Clubs and representatives from Day Clubs and from DVA. The Committee meets 4 times a year to address issues regarding the administration of all the Day Clubs.
- In 1978, the name official name for the program was changed to "RSL Day Care Centres", and later to RSL Day Care Clubs. In 2006 the name was officially changed to RSL Day Clubs.
- The program, which celebrates 36 years in 2013, is regarded as highly successful by the RSL and the veteran community in terms of its ability to provide health promotion activities, social contact and carer relief for the veterans and war widows.