

CENTENARY OF FORMATION – INGLEBURN RSL SUB-BRANCH



NARRATOR:

45536 Peter McFarlane 47 years' service with Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch, a Life Member and a Trustee.

Peter states to the best of his ability he carried out the task set by this Sub-Branch some 12 months ago.

The task was to ascertain the correct date Ingleburn RSL was formed into a Sub Branch of NSW State Branch.

Peter stated he was unable to do so and his reasons and recommendation follow.

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To the best of my ability I have carried out the task set by this Sub-branch some 12 months ago.

That task was to ascertain the correct date Ingleburn RSL was formed into a Sub-branch of NSW State Branch.

This I was unable to do ! My reasons and recommendations follow.

My investigating capabilities are limited so I sort out people who I thought would be best able to assist, you could say, Bill Brewer, Jan Stewart, Peter Gurney, Peter Davey, Dan'I Whiddon, Harry Hawke, Old Uncle Tom Cobbly and all, plus a few others !

I sought out local authors, historians, journalists, the local Library, the State Library, desendants of local Returned Service personnel and State Branch, I have beseeched you here at our meetings, an anyone else who would listen, to give me any snippet of information they may have on the subject.

I have a letter signed by the State Branch NSW Secretary, which states that they have no idea when we were formed. That was my first port of call and I can honestly say that I was astounded by their response. I personally know of two other Sub-branches in the bush who have had the same answer. I can only wonder how many other Sub-branches where formed during this period and what they must be going through.

I have newspaper clippings, RSL brochures, Ingleburn Council meeting minutes circa 1920s , none mention the formation of a Sub-branch !

The "Office" has a beautiful wooden shield, a Charter, presented by State Branch to Ingleburn RSL Sub-branch dated 1934, one may think that may be the date ?

The "Office" also have on the wall, certificates issued by State Branch for the 80th and 90th anniversaries dated 30th April 2006 and 23rd June 2016 respectively. Those dates were arrived at by hearsay information. Plucked out of the air with no special meaning !

The Club Limited was of very little help as they have no written history available themselves. Not wishing to intrude in their affairs but that should be rectified.

The most informative piece of hearsay evidence I have uncovered is a copy of a speech given by a greatly respected, local WW1 veteran and Sub-branch member "Wack" Allen.

This speech was give in 1962 and he states that :- " a meeting was conducted after ANZAC day 1925 by the Ingleburn members of Liverpool RSL to form their own Sub-branch here at Ingleburn " He does not say that it WAS formed in 1926, one can only assume that it was ! Again though this is hearsay information and may not be accurate.

I will leave all this literature I have accumulated on this subject with The Secretary so it can be entered into the computer for posterity. Along with other pieces I consider to be remarkable, although not pertaining to our Sub-branch formation, official programmes acquired from our 2nd President Percy MacDonald , such as, the Armistice Commemoration and Dedication Service , of Ingleburn's first Soldiers Memorial Park, Memorial Ave. Ingleburn on Sunday November 12th 1933. The opening of the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park by HRH The Duke of Gloucester Saturday November 24th 1934, a luncheon for HRH The Duke of Gloucester at The Sydney Town Hall November 24th 1934. I also have uncovered the original Certificate of Title (Deeds) for Leppington RSL, at the north eastern corner of Camden Valley way and Denham Court road, which was deemed to Ingleburn Sub-branch when they amalgamated with us. I consider these items to be priceless and must be retained at all cost.

I have arrived at a decision after searching through, I wont say a treasure trove of information but a considerable amount anyway, that you the Ingleburn RSL Sub-branch will have to decide from the information currently available. If further positive information is uncovered at a later date it, of course, must be taken into account.

I recommend that the new Committee elected in 2023 form a sub committee for our Centenary celebrations.

PR.McFarlane

Life Member and Trustee

4-12-22



RSL
NSW

18 May 2022

Mr Graeme Mossman
Secretary
Ingleburn sub Branch

Email ingleburnSB@rslnsw.org.au

Dear Mr Mossman

Thank you for your letter dated 20 March 2022 requesting clarification as to the Charter date of membership for Ingleburn RSL sub Branch.

Unfortunately, without documented evidence we are unable to give an exact date of commencement for Ingleburn RSL sub Branch or Ingleburn Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia as it would have been known at the time.

However, I have recovered a letter dated 18 July 2006 addressed to the National Secretary RSL Australia, indicating that the sub Branch provided copies of a history indicating that they were formed out of the Liverpool sub Branch in 1926 and that the Honour Board lists Presidents from 1926.

The letter states that the date of sub Branch commencement is 30 April 1926. Without any documented evidence to the contrary, this date is as definitive as we can be.

I hope that this has answered your question.

Kind regards

Jeff O'Brien
State Secretary