

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Thursday 13th March 2008

RSL SUB-BRANCH URGES VOTE AGAINST ANZAC CLUB DECISION

The North Sydney RSL Sub-branch believes North Sydney ANZAC Memorial Club's decision to seek an amalgamation with Ramsgate RSL Memorial Club instead of merging with a local club is not in the best interests of the local community.

The ANZAC Club has called a general meeting for 2 April for members to vote on its board's recommendation to amalgamate with the southern Sydney club.

However, RSL Sub-branch secretary Alex Wilson slammed the move and has called on members to reject it.

The Anzac Club Board and management have totally and unequivocally treated the members of the Club and the Sub-branch with utter contempt and disdain. The ANZAC Club has published on its website and I quote:

***'The Club and Ramsgate RSL Memorial Club Limited has entered into a formal Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the proposed amalgamation.'* dated 8 March 2008**

This is in total disregard and disrespect to the members of the ANZAC Club having the right to make a decision as to whether they agree with the Board's recommendation and the reason for calling the General Meeting on 2 April 2008, Mr Wilson said.

Mr Wilson said the Sub-branch believed North Sydney Leagues Club was the obvious amalgamation partner as the two clubs were situated less than a kilometer apart in Cammeray.

“Amalgamation with Norths would ensure an important community asset stays in North Sydney, but who knows what will happen when the ANZAC Club's lease on its building expires in 2011 if the club is part of a group controlled from Ramsgate?”

Mr Wilson appealed to Sub-branch members who are also members of the ANZAC Club to attend the meeting on 2 April and vote against the recommendation, which needs a simple majority of 50% plus one vote to succeed.

“We don't think amalgamation with a club on the other side of Sydney is in the best interest of returned servicemen and women of the North Sydney area or the community in general, especially when there is a very attractive alternative just down the road at North Sydney Leagues Club,” Mr Wilson said.

The ANZAC Club has cited a number of reasons for seeking amalgamation, including unprofitable trading, sale of the club's carpark, and difficult access to an unattractive building that may be demolished in three years when the club's lease expires. All of these

matters have been of the Anzac Clubs own making or alternatively they could have planned better.

Norths submitted an Expression of Interests in February when the ANZAC Club announced it was seeking an amalgamation partner.

“The Sub-branch made it quite clear in February that we considered amalgamation with Norths the best option, and nothing has happened to change that view,” Mr Wilson said. “We’re very disappointed that the ANZAC Club board as they has failed to consult us and continually ignored our views.”

He said Norths had indicated that in the event of it amalgamating with the ANZAC Club, it would ensure the Sub-branch was allocated appropriate facilities and support services to help it continue its important welfare work among veterans and their families.

Mr Wilson said the Sub-branch’s view was that amalgamation between the ANZAC Club and Norths was the best option for its welfare role in the community and would also retain community funds and assets within the North Sydney area.

“Besides, we estimate that up to 80% of ANZAC Memorial Club members are also members of Norths,” he said. “It just makes good sense for the two clubs to get together and work in the best interests of this community.”

Mr Wilson suggested that all members of the ANZAC Club and the Sub-branch should view some of the extracts of the very comprehensive and professional Expression of Interest (EOI) that Norths submitted to the ANZAC Club. For such detail connect to: www.norths.com.au

“All members should ask the ANZAC Club why Norths was not selected as the preferred amalgamation partner based on its credentials and the community support role it plays in the North Sydney area.



North Sydney RSL Sub-branch
Secretary – Alex Wilson

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For more information, contact Alex Wilson on 9487 7113 or 0405 523 128.