



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL sub-Branch

Through an active membership we keep the ANZAC spirit alive and growing

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DISPATCHES

Bumper Issue May & June

“The price of Liberty is eternal Vigilance”

The President's Message

Our Annual General Meeting was reasonably well attended by both sub-Branch members and visitors from members of sub-Branches in the Northern Beaches District. We were pleased to have our Village CEO, Laurie Leigh address us. In particular Laurie spoke to the topic of the *Homes for Heroes* program and its future. We were pleased to hear of its continuation. More details will be made available once EOI's have been received and considered.

Our ANZAC Day March and Service were held on Wednesday 17th and I was pleased that so many could attend. Once again, and with the aid of the broader staff membership, our wonderful Residential Care Staff went above and beyond in bringing residents from across the Village. The weather held and the service certainly lived up to one of our mottos, *“Continuing in the ANZAC Spirit”*. Our thanks to the organisers for a wonderful effort.

Our sub-Branch was also represented at some of the local schools and it was my privilege to address the students of Cromer Public School. The service was led by the students and it was a credit to them.

As I write we are preparing for ANZAC Day. The Today Show banners are in place; the BBQs are ready; and the programs are all printed. As with our Wednesday Village ANZAC March and Service I am confident that our Service on ANZAC morning will provide the venue and occasion for each of us to give thanks and remember those who have and continue to serve our great nation.

Whatever you did on ANZAC Day, I do hope it was all you had hoped for. Whether you marched, went to a service, stood on the side of a road or watched on TV, I do hope you were able to say your thank you's, as well as receive them.

Lest We Forget
Bob Durbin
President

New Trustee

Members endorsed the appointment of a new Trustee at our April General Meeting, to replace Sam Beattie who recently passed away. We welcome John Hillard our new Trustee.



Attention - Must read
General Meeting is on
Thursday 9th May at 9.30am
Montgomery Theatre
Guest Speakers: four Cadets from
Pittwater House Cadet Unit
'What being a cadet means to me'
and
'What is the meaning of ANZAC
to me'

ABC Production – refer February “Dispatches” “Old Peoples Homes’ for four year olds”

The Producers have advised Stuart Doyle that the showing of this production will start to be screened during the month of May. No date could be given. Keep an eye out for it being listed in your TV programme guide.

Editor. Thank you Stuart for your follow up.

MAD HATTERS MORNING TEA

Lone Pine Lookout - Gallipoli Building
Wednesday 22nd May 2019
10.15am to 12 noon



Dress in keeping with the theme and please wear a Hat that will steal the Show

Tickets \$10 per person
Envelopes are now available at the sub-Branch Office and will also be at the 9th May General Meeting
Ticket sales close Wednesday 15 May 2019

ANZAC Service Cromer Public School

The War Veterans Village (Narrabeen) sub-Branch received an invitation from the Principal of Cromer Public School to attend an ANZAC Assembly at the school on 9th April 2019.

Bob Durbin, Roy Parkinson, Denise Kuessner and Horst Kuessner attended on behalf of our members together with representatives from Dee Why RSL.

It was apparent from the outset that both the academic staff and the senior students had put a great deal of work into their preparations for the Assembly and the format which the service followed was both thoughtful and respectful.

The musical accompaniments associated with the service were first class.

This is a primary school and the level of knowledge displayed by the students and their teachers as

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regards the history of the ANZAC tradition and the events that occurred on the Gallipoli Peninsular and in other theatres of war was very apparent.



Bob Durbin delivered the address during the assembly, emphasising the importance of teamwork in life as well as during stressful periods in one's life. The address was well received.

Following the service, senior students, staff members and the invited guests attended a short gathering at the external memorial that the school has constructed using a grant from Dee Why RSL.



Lunch was provided in the company of the senior students and staff and this resulted in many conversations with the students that resulted in admiration from the guests as to the level of knowledge of the reasons for having an ANZAC Assembly and for the effort that had been put into the arrangements.

Roy Parkinson
Vice President

Editor: Thank you Roy for this report.

ANZAC Service Narrabeen Public School

Your Editor had the privilege to attend the ANZAC Service. Students took part and sang the following lyrics.

The Last ANZAC

Every year we remember,
In April and November,
The boats on the water, carrying the brave
They heard the deadly order to run through
the water

It's time for you to jump boys
You're fighting to be free

And with every year a passing
Our nation's soul's been marching
Through country towns and city streets
Their memory lives on,

And when peaceful rays of sunlight
My face shine upon

I'm feeling somehow different cos'
The Last ANZAC's gone

If we need to solve a problem,
Can we talk it through?

Cos' water looks much better, better when
it's blue

Remember the Last ANZAC
And how he cried for peace
Forever under gum trees
Blue skies over me

I ask myself the question
Time and time again,
The world is so much different
But some things stay the same,
May our hearts calm the seas
As we ride treacherous waters
Will we hold the ANZAC courage
And join our hands in peace

Where is this memorial in Australia?



VISIT TO THE ANZAC MEMORIAL HYDE PARK



After arriving at the Liverpool Street (southern) entrance to this heritage-listed war memorial, museum and monument, our group walked past the cascading water feature which is the external evidence of the recently completed \$40 million upgrade. This feature was part of the original design but the official opening in 1934 came during the Great Depression and funding ran out before it could be completed.

Once inside at the entrance level, we were warmly welcomed by our guide, who outlined the structure of our visit. We commenced by congregating on the lower level - with some members travelling down via a new open elevator/inclinorator – to the education and interpretation centre. This renovation is the most significant change to the memorial since 1934. One could spend days on this level, especially in the Hall of Service, where the three armed and women's services are represented with both interactive and well narrated historical displays and artefacts.



Decorating the square outside the Hall of Service were several particularly attractive vases etched with New South Wales flora like wattle, eucalypt, waratah, etc.

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We made sure we were on the upper level at the Wall of Contemplation for the 11 o'clock service of remembrance, where following the last post, reveille and the ode, some visitors dropped paper gold stars over the wall to the Hall of Silence below, where the central "Sacrifice" sculpture is quite poignant in representing not only those who go to fight but also those who are left behind.

The sculpture shows a soldier's body being held aloft by his mother, his wife, his sister.

Following lunch in the lower level conference room, we had free time to explore areas of particular interest to individuals and we also noted there was a special exhibition area on the entrance level.

Editor: Many thanks to John Sowden our Vice President who submitted this report and to Denise Kuessner our Secretary for the photos.

Issues of "Dispatches for 2019

A reminder that our next issue will be for July / August. Another **Bumper Issue** for publication on Thursday 27th June.

Diary Dates to Remember

- ** Tuesday, 7th May, Committee Meeting at 9am, in the Amy Taylor Room.
- ** Thursday, 9th May, General Meeting at 9.30am, in the Montgomery Centre.
- ** Wednesday, 22nd May, at 10.15am, Mad Hatters Morning Tea, in the Lone Pine Lookout.
- ** Tuesday, 11th June, Committee Meeting at 9am, in the Amy Taylor Room.
- ** Thursday, 13th June, General Meeting at 9.30am, in the Montgomery Centre.
- ** Tuesday, 9th July, 9am, Committee Meeting, in the Amy Taylor Room.
- ** Thursday, 11th July, General Meeting 10.15am, in the Montgomery Centre, followed by Christmas in July Luncheon, 12.00pm, in the Lone Pine Lookout

Note your diary NOW for the June General Meeting so you can be sure to be there



Attention - Must read
June General Meeting is on
Thursday 13th June at 9.30am
Montgomery Theatre

Around Australia

It was appreciated that I (Editor) was granted leave of absence from the sub-Branch for our cruise around our great continent onboard the Sea Princess. With perfect weather at each of the 12 ports of call and amazingly calm seas how else couldn't you 'come back new'.

Some people fear sailing across the exposed Great Australian Bight and even more when cyclones are predicted up the top end. The ship sailed on almost mill pond waters across the Bight and Gulf of Carpentaria and missed by a day or two, the two cyclones 'Veronica' (moving inland over Port Headland) and 'Trevor' (moving inland over Coen).

Besides the food and entertainment the other opportunities that are offered onboard, one of the things most enjoyed was attending the Lectures presented by Peter Sweeney RFD MA (Mil Hist), Grad Dip Mgt (Def Studies), Dip Acc. Who owns the Company – 'Battle Honour Australia'.

Peter ran a series of lectures when the ship was at sea. Topics covered were: Attack on Sydney Harbour, The Kokoda Campaign, The Gallipoli Campaign, The Malaya Singapore Campaign, RAN Losses near Australia in WWII, The Bombing of Northern Australia.

Each lecture was supported by visual pictures and great military tactical maps. Peter has a captivating voice and a sense of humour to boot!

Sailing into international waters from Cairns, so that duty free goods could be purchased!! Taking passengers to the port of Alotau in Milne Bay, PNG.



Answer these questions by emailing the Editor or putting your answers in an envelope addressed to the Editor. Win a surprise prize.

What was the name of the famous donkey in World War 1?

What was his owner's full name and known by name?

Nobody, Yes Nobody won the prize!!

Why? Nobody answered the questions!!!!

Try this one.

Where are the following images located?

Email the Editor or put your answer in an envelope addressed to the Editor.



Proudly our own sub-Branch Polo Shirts

A motion was passed at our General Meeting on the 14th February, "That the War Veterans Village (Narrabeen) RSL sub-Branch fund approx 50% of the cost of new polo shirts, to an amount of \$26, for all those that want to purchase one". The cost to members has been determined as \$28.00.

The material is 65% poly and 35% cotton. It is a Raglan Contrast Pique – Colour Royal Blue with Yellow trim. A gusset runs down each side to allow for comfort wear.

A pocket will be on the left breast and the RSL logo on the left sleeve and wording on the right breast.

The Polo Shirt may be worn by Committee members, Volunteers and Members, (Service, Affiliate and Associates).

A selection of Shirts (without the embroidery) will be available for members to try on for sizing at the May General Meeting. Bring your \$28 to the meeting so your order can be placed.



War Veterans Village
(Narrabeen)
RSL sub-Branch

On the right breast



On left
Sleeve

Pocket on
the Left
Breast (not
shown)

SIZES ADULT	14/S	16/M	18/L	20/XL	22/2XL	24/3XL
to fit chest (cm)	90	95	100	105	110	115

Your order form: Name: _____

Please order me one polo shirt: Size: _____

Cost = \$28.00. (A subsidy of \$26 is being made by your sub-Branch as approved unanimously at the April General Meeting)

Cut off this slip and return it in an envelope with your payment to the sub-Branch Office. No order accepted unless payment is made. \$28.

Order required by 5pm Friday 10th May.

ANZAC Appeal 2019

On behalf of the Committee we wish to thank our Volunteers for their support, participating in this Appeal.



The object of the Appeal is so that Veterans and Veterans' Families, may be provided by that much needed support.

Our sub-Branch volunteers, during this campaign, participated in raising funds, to date (24th April) \$6,200.00 has been raised by selling ANZAC Badges from the 1st April 2019 and will continued to the 26th April 2019, at which time we will reconcile badge sales and the remaining stock.

There were some challenges, (mainly auto bank teller machines), together with public requests for favourite products like 'pens' and 'poppies'. Also keeping up with our much dedicated volunteer Alf Murray, in company with Patti Page, at their favourite shopping distribution outlets, Bunnings and Warriewood Square was a challenge.



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Reconciliation instruction was that the monies were to be banked daily. This became almost a daily routine. However, our office was usually manned daily with either myself or Horst or sometimes both or sometimes assisting Alf with his display.

Personally, I enjoyed the experience and satisfaction of knowing that our Veteran Community was able to contribute to this fundraising ANZAC Appeal.

It is at this juncture I would like to mention the support from the Staff of RSL LifeCare, who were able to occasionally book the 'small meeting room' for the sub-Branch and relay messages.

I would also like to extend our appreciation to the Volunteers for their time and dedication for this ANZAC Appeal and wish to thank the following;

Alf Murray, Patti Page, John Sowden, John Nihill, Kerry Morris, Irene Axton, Shirley Beggs, Michelle Lanighan, Horst Kuessner, Denise Kuessner, Sharon Habres

You might also like to know, that Horst was the fund raising Manager for this Anzac Appeal and appreciated the valued contribution from the volunteers.

Denise Kuessner
Hon Secretary

Having the last word

A very self-important university student attending a recent football match, took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation.

'You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one,' the student said, loud enough for many of those nearby to hear. 'The young people of today are much more advanced than people your age. We grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon and the internet. We have mobile phones, nuclear energy, electric and hydrogen cars, computers, automated manufacturing, amazing technologies,and pausing to take another drink of beer.

The senior took advantage of the break in the student's Litany and said. 'You're right son. We didn't have those things when we were young so we invented them.

Now tell me young man, what are YOU doing for the next generation?

The applause was resounding.

A Song of Grace

I was a girl of thirteen when my three brothers
went to the war
Martin, Robert and Jack, and as I waved from
the door

I thought: 'Who in the world could have
brothers as handsome as they?
Three Australian light Horsemen, I see their
proud figures today.

Our parents were Irish, with no love for
England at all,

But their sons were Australians and each
bravely answered the call,

In their turned-up slouch hats, and their
feathers, and leggings, and spurs,

The Empire, as much as their mother, knew these sons
were hers.

The mailman brought cards from Colombo,
then from Port Said

Here's a photo of Jack, in Egypt, his first
camel ride

And look at young Bobby, in London here,
crossing The Strand

And Martin writes: 'Mum and Dad, life in the
army is grand'.

The same mailman brought us the news about
our darling Jack,

'Regret to inform you your son John will never
come back

He died of his wounds at Gallipoli, so brave
was he

He's awarded the Military Medal-
posthumously.'

Well, Robert was gassed, and he always had
pains in his head

Martin was shell-shocked and he'd have been
better off dead

And I – I'm just an old lady who watched
them all go

But I am the one you should ask about war for
I know

All of these years have gone by, and I know
the grief yet,

Yes I will remember them – I can't forget.

And at the going down of the sun
And in the morning

We will remember them
Lest we forget

*This was sung by The Veterans' Voices, accompanied
by Colin Bright., at the Village ANZAC Service on
Wednesday, 17th April 2019*

Editor: Thank your Jeannie Sellers for the Lyrics.

Welfare Report

The ANZAC spirit, I see it so much in our sub-Branch Members, no matter how ill they might be. The statement I hear is “I want to be well enough to attend The Village March and Service and The Village Dawn Service”, if I can do that I will be happy.

This last month we have had three of our lady members unwell, two have been in hospital and one very ill with a severe Asthma attack, one of our Vietnam Veterans has been in and out of hospital many times, even though he is doing it tough he still remains positive. I have spent time with my regular members, coffee and a chat seems to be the most popular, followed by a visit or a phone call. I remind members again if you know or hear of anyone who would benefit from some support, please advise me via the sub-Branch Office.

Warm regards to all.

Patti Page.

Mob: 0402 542 534

Membership Report

Membership Status:

Life Members - 2, Life Subscribers - 2, Service Members - 47, Associate Members - 22, Affiliate Members - 20

Total Membership = 93

Prospective Members Pending:

Service –

Bruce Houghton

John Jackson

Ron Newman

Affiliate –

Pamela Boyle

Lynn Hillard

Name Tags

It's always nice to put a name to a face.

Life members, Service members, Affiliates, Associates, please wear your name badge.

All name tags will be on the table in the foyer for you to collect at meetings and functions.

Please return it to the tray when you leave.

It's called “Name Tag Recycling”.

Your feedback is appreciated.

We recently received a note from two sub-Branch members, who moved out of the Village to be close to family and friends.

Thank you Elva Batt, Ken and Joan Walters.

It's appreciated to hear you like to receive “Dispatches” and other communications, as it helps to keep you up to date.

Chaplains Corner

Easter has come and gone. The season of Lent is a journey for Christians, which leads them to the cross. A time when we recognise the great sacrifices made for Christianity (and humankind), first by Jesus Christ and then ever since through his faithful disciples.

We often don't see these sacrifices as the same as the first generations of Christians, so how devastating has it been to see the tragedy unfold in Sri Lanka. The terrible loss of human life for no reason other than a false sense of revenge is too difficult to comprehend.

Our prayers go out to all who have suffered and felt the loss of loved ones including our brothers and sisters in Christ.

These same prayers go out to those who have suffered in the same way through service to our country in times of war and peace.

ANZAC Day has also come and gone. Let our prayers be for the peace Christ came to bring, so that our sons and daughters may not have to suffer the same pain as the generations before them.

Yours in Christ

Bob Durbin

Chaplain

Members can log-in directly to the RSL NSW web site: rslnsw.org.au with the following log-in details. Please note the password is case sensitive and must be entered in lower case.

Username: rslmember

Password: rslnsw2018

“An Experience I will never forget”

THE BATTLE OF INGLEBURN

You learn very early in the services that the first rule is “never volunteer for anything”.

So when it comes to kitchen patrol (KP) obviously nobody is going to put their hand up.

No problem. Sarge picks the volunteers for the dreaded kitchen duties, the only thing worse in camp being latrine patrol duties.

You're a young recruit, wet behind the ears, still at uni, professional student as they say, never done a days work in your life, certainly not household chores and domestic duties.

But now you're volunteered and the daunting prospect of KP looms before you.

So off you go, duly as ordered, to report to “Cookie” in the kitchen along with maybe half a dozen fellow volunteers sharing the same enthusiasm.

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The kitchen - summer time – is unbearably hot and Cookie, all 5' 1" of him, is demonstrably aggressive toward weak, undisciplined uni student conscripts. Straight to work.

Your first chore is to scrub out all the stainless steel “dixies”. They seem huge to me and some stand tall on a kind of swivel. So to clean out the bottom of this one, I have to get my head down into it with my feet in the air. To much amusement.

I was just a little fellow - not much over 9 stone – and it wasn't long before I was pretty exhausted, what with the heat, the dixies, peeling potatoes and other chores.

Dishwashing next. Then disaster struck!

The dishwasher, an open sort of contraption powered I know not how, broke down.

Enough for me to let out a loud expletive starting with “F”.

My worst of many mistakes.

Cookie, standing nearby, as I said was not tolerant to this sort of behaviour in his domain.

“OK soldier- this kind of obscenity cannot go unpunished – you are now on special duties.

Come with me. See these 2 cooler rooms”? I did see.

How could I not. They were each surely bigger than my bedroom at home and taller and laden with full shelves and stuff on the floor too.

“You soldier, will remove, in sequence, everything from each of these rooms and scrub down the lot – walls, shelves and floor and return everything to where it was”.

A lifetime later I was nearly finished and whilst longer not as hot, I was now, to coin a phrase, totally buggered.

To put back there were, amongst others, large dixies full of jelly on the floor and trays of meat to go on the shelves.

Some of the shelves were high – way above my height – and in lifting one tray onto a top shelf, the edge of it caught on the shelf. The tray flipped and meat flew every where. Rapid heartbeat bordering on panic. Please don't let Cookie arrive right now.

Thank goodness, no sign of him.

Scrape everything up quickly and put it back.

Oh no!

Half of the meat has gone into the dixie of red jelly. Pull it out quickly, wipe off as much jelly as you can, with whatever you can and carry on. Thank goodness the jelly is red like the meat.

So far so good. Thank heaven Cookie didn't appear immediately.

When Cookie duly arrived, I reported “all done sir “ (OK, the SIR was superfluous but I thought a bit of grovelling might be an insurance).

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“OK soldier you can go now”. All the other “volunteers” were long gone by this time.

Back to barracks for a very quick respite before parade ground drill.

Dinner in the mess hall that night inevitably arrived as I feared it would.

I think the main course was a stew concoction of some sort with heaps of mashed potato.

No problems there.

But when it came to dessert, my hopes of escaping discovery came crashing down.

There was a large queue as usual for dessert. But I heard the murmurings being passed down the line – Don't have the jelly. Don't have the jelly.

Great alarm coursed through me.

They say there are no bones in jelly. Don't you believe it. Not on this day anyway.

When I was a kid there was a comic strip featuring a dog called Pluto and my vivid memory of Pluto is the bone which he seemed to perpetually carry – a large femur, bulbous on each end.



Well I don't know if the army would ever have admitted to serving horse meat but when I got to the head of the queue – there visible through the translucent bottom half of this huge dixie of red jelly was the biggest femur you ever saw.

There was no prospect of me choosing another dessert even if there was one on offer.

Fearing I wouldn't even make it out of the door, I silently glided out of the mess hall back to barracks.

I made myself scarce for the rest of the evening, sweating it out, fearing the inevitable.

Could you be court martialled for jelly- maundering? What horrible retribution would Cookie dream up?

Miracle of miracles nothing happened. I didn't hear a word.

To this day I don't know how I survived this battle of Ingleburn.

Someone was looking after me – make no bones about it.

Peter Yardley

Editor: Thank you Peter, you have a way with words.