



# War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL sub-Branch

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

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## DISPATCHES

APRIL 2020 COVID-19  
SPECIAL EDITION

### PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Welcome to another special edition of Dispatches. In some ways there is nothing new to report but in others there is. You have previously been advised that all meetings have been cancelled but I wish to inform you that your Executive and Committee are monitoring all correspondence and RSL associated activities very closely. You will certainly be advised if there are any major concerns of which we feel you need to be aware of.

ANZAC Day will be a very surreal experience for all Australians but as proud Australians we will need to observe some of the tradition. It is my understanding that each area rep will be asked to coordinate their own 'driveway' style of commemoration. This will include the recitation of The Ode of Remembrance, the playing of the Last Post and Reveille (being ANZAC Day) and possibly to singing of the National Anthem of Australia and if possible New Zealand. We encourage you to participate as best you can. Some of you may have received a call from Patti Page – others will soon. Please remain connected in some way and don't hesitate to call your Committee even if just for a chat. WE need it too! Stay safe, and together we will get through this most difficult time.

***Lest We Forget, Bob Durbin - President***

Wheeler Heights Public School asked if we could provide service members names (no individual addresses) as their year 5 and 6 children had indicated they would like somehow to make contact with that member and say thank you for their service or something similar.

If you receive something in the mail from a student at Wheeler Heights Public School please reply as it would be great for them to receive a thank you and some comments back from you here in Anzac Village. Please use your journalistic skills.

*Need any support or assistance, please call any one of your sub-Branch Committee members:*

*Bob Durbin-Mob: 0458 005 280,*

*John Sowden-Mob: 0427259419 or 9982 1274*

*Doug Smyth-Mob: 0429 988 880 or 9984 1442*

*John Hillard-9982 4499, Jan Slater-9981 2918*

*Pattie Page-Mob: 0402 542 534 or 9981 1623*

*Peter Yardley-9981 2918*

*Norm Zieqler-9981 5162*

### SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

#### How You Can Commemorate ANZAC DAY



There's no doubt that ANZAC Day 2020 will be very different to ANZAC Days of previous years. While we will not be gathering at services or marches, there are still ways to acknowledge ANZAC Day and ensure Australian servicemen and women are appropriately remembered.

**Recite the Ode of Remembrance or share a message of support for veterans.**

**Light up the dawn.** At 6am go to the end of your driveway or stand on your balcony holding a candle – the morning light.



At the U-block configuration where Elizabeth and I live in the Dardanelles, we plan to have residents standing outside their residences. Someone will say the Ode of Remembrance and another is recording the last post and Reveille to play on the day. We will be planting some of the red poppies on the grass near our residences as well.

**Tune into live services and virtual commemorative services.** The ABC will be broadcasting a 5.30am service from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

• For returned Veterans and Peacekeepers, DVA are offering a 12month health and fitness program called "Heart Health Program". DVA funded, no white or gold card required.

Google - [hearthealth@chm.com.au](mailto:hearthealth@chm.com.au).

- We will in future receive invitations to the Military History Society lectures. Anyone interested in receiving these please let the secretary know.
- Veterans or dependents who receive income support or compensation benefits through DVA will have received the one-off payment of \$750 tax free paid into your bank account around 3 April. This will also apply to pensioners on a Centrelink pension benefit.
- The sub-Branch executive team is “meeting” via phone, email, zoom, each month to handle anything urgent and the secretary is clearing mail and phone messages.
- VP Doug, Publicity Officer has prepared this special issue of “Dispatches” which you should receive before ANZAC day.
- The next issue bi-monthly, May-June, issue of “Dispatches will be delayed. Another special issue will be issued on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> May. Copy is required by Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- On the basis of no badge selling this year for Anzac Day. Why not avail yourself of the Anzac wrapped chocolate bars on sale in the Dugout - \$4 per block. Money in the honesty box please.

### ***I'm normally a social girl***

I love to meet my mates  
 But lately with the virus here  
 We can't go out the gates.  
 You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
 We need to stay inside  
 If they haven't seen us for a while  
 They'll think we've upped and died.  
 They'll never know the things we did  
 Before we got this old  
 There wasn't any Facebook  
 So not everything was told.  
 We may seem sweet old ladies  
 Who would never be uncouth!  
 But we grew up in the 50s -  
 If you only knew the truth!  
 There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
 The pill and miniskirts  
 We smoked, we drank, we partied  
 And were quite outrageous flirts.  
 Then we settled down, got married  
 And turned into someone's mum,  
 Somebody's wife, then nana,  
 Who on earth did we become?  
 We didn't mind the change of pace  
 Because our lives were full  
 But to bury us before we're dead  
 Is like red rag to a bull! *Continued next column>>*

So, here you find me stuck inside  
 For 4 weeks, maybe more  
 I finally found myself again  
 Then I had to close the door

It didn't really bother me  
 I'd while away the hour  
 I'd bake for all the family  
 But I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful  
 I like a gutsy thriller  
 I'm swooning over Idris  
 Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze  
 For when I'm being idle  
 There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
 If I'm feeling suicidal!

So, let's all drink to lockdown  
 To recovery and health  
 And hope this bloody virus  
 Doesn't decimate our wealth

We'll all get through the crisis  
 And be back to join our mates  
 Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
 To fit through the flaming gates!

### **A message from your Editor**

With the current Government and State restriction your Committee has reviewed our years activities. Listed below are changes to our Events program for the next six months.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - ANZAC March & Service.

**Cancelled**

Live streaming of a Service, is being organised by the Village.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Village ANZAC Dawn Service.

**Cancelled**

It is suggested you observe the day by watching the variety of services being screened on Television Channels.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May - Bus trip to War Memorial Hyde Park South. **Cancelled**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July -Christmas in July Luncheon, Waterview Restaurant, Berowra Waters. **Cancelled**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August - VP Day Lunch, Lone Pine Lounge. **Cancelled**

Wednesday & Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> September - Bus Trip and Overnight in Bowral for Tulip Festival. **Cancelled**

**Especially Note:** General Meetings, that is for May, June, July **are cancelled.**

Regarding the General Meeting for August and beyond - **The holding of these will be advised.**

### **SOMETHING EXCITING AND NEW !!**

We are on the INTERNET with our own website, to be launched on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Check it out.  
[www.WARVETSRSLsub-Branch.org.au](http://www.WARVETSRSLsub-Branch.org.au)