



CASTLE HILL RSL SUB BRANCH



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ANZAC DAY 2017



"Lest We Forget"

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well it's been a busy couple of months as always around the ANZAC Commemoration activities.

Firstly, together with the Club, we conducted the ANZAC Day Educational Kit Launch and Announcement of the Primary School ANZAC Ambassadors in the RSL Club on Tuesday 4 April. Our Primary School Ambassadors, James Childs (Dural Public School)



and Grace Anderson (Oakhill Drive Public School),



spoke very well on what ANZAC Day meant for them.

Sub-Branch member, Jan-Maree Ball, OAM was the guest speaker and spoke about the organisation she founded, Aussie Hero Quilts.



The event was well attended by sub-Branch members and from the local schools, with Don Tait taking the School Captains from Samuel Gilbert Primary School around the Club for the ANZAC tour which was much appreciated.

Four highly capable young representatives from our community were selected for our Secondary School ANZAC Ambassadors being Hannah Barrett (Castle Hill High), Caitlin McDonald (Marian College), Lauren Leaver (Crestwood High) and Will Sampson (Hills Grammar). They underwent training with Gareth McCray at 2CH on 1 April in public speaking followed by a casual lunch at Sydney Fish Market.

Our Ambassadors spoke at both the ANZAC Sunday Service and the ANZAC Dawn Service on the theme of Australia's greatest military commander, General Sir John Monash GCMG KCB VD, each regaling us with an aspect of the great man's life.

For the first time our Ambassadors attended the ANZAC Sunday Lunch where they were presented with a Centenary of ANZAC pin



but, more importantly, they had an opportunity to speak to our members. My thanks to Bryan Mullan, Gareth McCray, Bev Jordan, and Don Tait for their involvement in this important initiative.

ANZAC Sunday was held earlier this year on Sunday 9 April at the start of School Holidays. A wonderful day with solid representation from the youth of the community. Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Greg Evans DSC AM provided the thoughtful address. The morning tea at the Club was a crowded and hospitable event with a fine music accompaniment from the RSL Youth Wind Orchestra.



Thereafter followed our sub-Branch ANZAC Lunch which was, as usual, a wonderfully convivial affair amongst friends.

AVM Evans' oration on Monash and his achievements was excellent and very well received by the audience.

Attendance from six of our WW2 veterans representing Navy, Army, Air Force, and Merchant Navy



and two of our Korean War veterans including Olwyn Green OAM, the widow of Lt-Col Charlie Green DSO, was particularly memorable.



We had an opportunity to call out two long serving supporters of the sub-Branch being our Flag Bearers, Bill Driver and Warren Randle. Of course, the performance of the Castle Hill RSL Pipe Band was, as always, a highlight. An excellent day.

The ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Centenary of ANZAC Reserve was a suitably solemn and appropriate event attended by over 15,000 members of the community. Group Captain Don Sutherland's stimulating address was on the general theme of ANZAC but also covered the service of the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) and RAAF including the Victoria Cross events of Frank McNamara in WW1 and Rawdon Middleton in WW2.

The layout was changed slightly this year including the use of a multi-media screen for the order of service and the ANZAC breakfast at the Club was more focussed on service personnel than previous years but worked well. There are too many people to thank individually for their support and/or hard work in making the various events of ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Day work as well as they did and we thanked them at the time. External to the sub-Branch there was the RSL Club, NSW Police,

SES, NSW and St John Ambulance, 1st/15th Royal NSW Lancers, 322 Squadron RAAF Cadets, the Castle Hill Baptist Singers and David Sanders, Abe Ziedan's media company, our various Local, State, and Federal politicians, and, many others. Of course, none of this would be possible without the magnificent planning, administration, and boots on the ground efforts by many members of our sub-Branch. I thank them all on your behalf.

A stirring event just prior to ANZAC Day was the presentation of medals to a WW2 Signals Corps veteran, at the Uniting Wirreanda West Nursing Home by Mike Lee and myself. The need identified and mounted medals organised by the Team for one of our older veterans. A tiny example of the great work your Welfare and Pensions Officers do every day.

Finally, just before printing, Alain Dunand, Mike Yeo and Brian Walters attended the RSL NSW Congress in Albury which saw James Brown elected as State President. I congratulate him and the new State Council and look forward to supporting the State Team in their efforts to reclaim the reputation of the RSL State Branch as the premier support organisation for service men and women. There is a lot of work for the State Council to do and we keenly await the results of the various investigations and the positive implementation of their recommendations.

All the best,

"Lest We Forget"

Brigadier Phillip K.H. Bridie, AM

SECRETARY'S REPORT



State Congress – Review and recap

Castle Hill & District RSL sub-Branch nominated three delegates to attend the State Congress this year to be held in Albury. Due to the Governance issues raised at State Branch Headquarters and appointment of a Caretaker Management Team, there was some doubt as to whether Congress would go ahead this year. So, it was right up to

the last minute before we were able to commit to sending our delegates to represent the members of the sub-Branch. The delegates were Brian Walters (Delegate) Mike Yeo (Alternate Delegate) and me as Observer.

I will provide a brief account from my viewpoint for your benefit. These are my views and observations and should not be taken as committee views or policy.

This was my first Congress, which provided an interesting and controversial insight into the overarching organisation and associated organisations of the RSL in NSW. I went in with an open mind and whilst aware of the many instances of negative publicity through the media, feedback from FWMDC meetings and our own sub-Branch meetings, I tried to remain objective and removed from the negativity as I needed to work with the State Branch Executive on a regular basis across a number of responsibilities on behalf of the sub-Branch and other organisations I belong to.

From very early at Congress, I got the feeling there was substantial support for the President at the time (Mr John Haines) and other members of the Council. There was also a groundswell of dissatisfaction in the reputational damage that had been done to the RSL and I believed there would be some very robust, if not agitated, discussions to take place over the three days of Congress.

Media were present during Day 2 and Day 3 of the Congress and as a group, we were reminded to remain respectful in our discussions and to stay within our lane both inside and outside of Congress in order to manage the image of the RSL.

The opening address by Mr John Haines came across as defensive and a justification of his past actions. It was interesting to listen to, given the amount of negative publicity and allegations that have been made. I did not get a sense of any contrition or acceptance of the allegations. If anything, it was a sense of denial. What I was expecting was an acknowledgement of problems and a commitment to identifying and rectifying any practices that did not meet the constitutional or governance standards of the State Branch organisation.

The next to speak were the Caretaker Management Team (CMT), put in place on 24 February 2017 as part of the 7-point plan with RSL National HQ. It was made clear that the Executive had stood aside rather than stood down. This meant that they would still be able to act in specific roles to continue the day to day function of the organisation. For example, Mr Haines was still able to act as an officer (Chairman, director, or office holder) on 6 key committees including:

1. Finance (audits, payments & investments)
2. Congress Agenda Committee
3. ANZAC House Trust Management
4. Australian Forces Overseas Fund
5. RSL Benevolent Fund (RSL WBI I think)
6. RSL Custodian

I found this rather unusual as I felt that was what the CMT should have been doing or was to be their responsibility.

The CMT continued their report on the state of affairs since 24 February to the current day. This included the progress on the Board of Inquiry (BOI), selection of an inquiry officer, progress of the Korda Mentha inquiry, Ernst & Young Audit, and the completion of the Grant Thornton audit of the Annual Financial Report of State Branch.

There were many explanations and reasons for delay or interdependencies which have yet to have any finalisation. In some cases, blame was placed with the National President, Mr Bob Dick, as reason for the lack of outcomes. We were advised that legal costs to date were considerable and continuing to grow.

Following these reports was an open forum where I expected much of the angst to be vented but there were few answers that could be provided but I noted the following was stated:

- The budget for the Ernst & Young audit was \$180,000 but current expenditure was \$400,000
- No fraud had been identified in the Ernst & Young audit, only risk of fraud.

- There were 55 recommendations made in the report.
- Only one specific situation had been referred for criminal investigation and that was ongoing after three months.

As the State Branch did not provide an audited financial report in accordance with the constitution (6 weeks prior to Congress) does that render State Branch un-financial and unable to participate in Congress as would be the case for any sub-Branch. A motion came from the floor to “note with concern” the lack of an audited financial report but to allow Congress to proceed to a conclusion regardless. This was carried and enabled Congress to proceed with a vote on councillors and motions.

It was also identified that the Chairman (John Brien) was not a delegate and was ineligible to act in that role and was replaced by Warren Thompson (a delegate) at short notice.

There were various presentations and forums involving DVA, RSL Welfare & Benevolent Institution, Invictus Games, commemorative presentations and guest speakers throughout which I will not detail separately. Suffice to say they were informative and enlightening to the delegates as a whole.

Congress officially commenced on Tuesday morning with a ceremonial wreath laying by the Governor, His Excellency General David Hurley, and the official opening addresses. The Governor stated it quite directly and simply. The RSL as an organisation was wounded and needs a change in direction. This must start here. It was up to all the delegates assembled at Congress to fix it here and now.

In the afternoon session, the Motions were debated and voted upon. The results are given in the table below. 18 Motions were taken to Congress and a 19th was presented and accepted at Congress. A summary of the motions is available on the coversheet that came with the previous edition of Reveille.

1	Annual fees for membership are set at \$35.00 (\$22 capitation to national, \$5 capitation to State and \$8 to sub-branch)	Carried
2	Audit requirement lifted from \$100,000 to \$250,000	Carried
3	\$5,000 excluded from Tier system	Carried
4	Definition of Officer	Carried
5	Payment of Psych services >= Medicare	Carried
6	Travel concessions for Disability	Carried
7	3 & 5 year memberships	Lost
8	National Database of Banned members	Lost
9	Ways & Means Committee	Lost
10	Accounting for expenses of State Councillors	Carried
11	Develop a strategic Plan	Carried
12	Constitution updated	Carried
13	Develop a Recruiting Policy/Plan	Carried
14	NSW Branch to review the State-wide organisation	Lost
15	September 11 used as a commemoration day for post Gulf War 1 veterans	Lost
16	Federal & State support to ANZAC Day march security	Carried
17	Desecration of ANF to be a criminal offence	Carried
18	Desecration of ANF to be a criminal offence	Carried
19	State Council prevent corporatisation of RSL WBI	Carried

During the voting on motions, the electoral results for State Council were released which are summarised in the result below:

RSL NSW State Council results:

Mr J. Brown – State President

Mr R. R. James – State Councillor – Metropolitan

Mr B. R. Copelin – State Councillor – Metropolitan

Mr W T Harrigan – State Councillor – Metropolitan

Mr D. J. McManus-Smith – State Councillor – Metropolitan

Mr G. S. Makutu – State Councillor – Metropolitan

Mr B. L. Slattery – State Councillor – Metropolitan

Mr B. Metcalfe – State Councillor – Northern Country

Mrs S. Lambkin – State Councillor – Northern Country

Mr L. Seccombe – State Councillor – Northern Country

Mr M. D. Bainbridge – State Councillor – Southern Country

Mr A. G. Hutchings – State Councillor – Southern Country

Mr A. A. Toussaint – State Councillor – Southern Country

In summary, a very interesting and controversial 3 days in Albury which is just the beginning of a new era in the RSL in NSW.

ANZAC Day washup – new format and possible review of dates

Following our successful season of commemorative events around ANZAC Day I would like to thank all the sub-Branch members who assisted with our major tasks at ANZAC Reserve and all the supporting activities at local schools and community groups in the Hills area.

This year we saw some modifications to our commemorative events that built on past experience and took into consideration feedback from a number of stakeholders and new directions. This will be something we will carry forward into next year with how we will conduct and commemorate our remembrance activities.

Planning for those events isn't going to be that far off so keep April 2018 free.

Alain Dunand

NAMBUS

As a community service to our local Year 10 high school students, a team of sub-Branch members joined with a group of Vietnam Veterans from the Central Coast branch of the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association to present the NAMBUS, a travelling museum covering the Vietnam War to students.



Approximately 800 students from Hills-based high schools attended the presentations during the week of 1-5 May. Presentations included an introduction on why war was declared and how Australia offered support to the USA and introduced conscription to boost our military strength. This was followed by a role play on Conscription. Veterans were also invited to address the students on their military experiences.

The groups were then divided into three groups to have a guided tour of the bus, an explanation of the content of static displays and, have a hands-on experience with equipment from that era including the chance to dress up in army clothing.

The students were particularly interested in the contents of the museum in the bus and the chance

to dress up and be able to handle some of the equipment used by the Army in Vietnam.



The talks by the veterans were listened to with great interest by the students who were learning history from the original source. These talks are a highlight of the presentation.

Thanks will be expressed to Castle Hill High School for offering us their school hall to conduct the week's activities as well as Novotel Norwest for providing accommodation to the team from the Central Coast and a HUGE "Thanks" to Bryan Mullan for his tireless efforts to coordinate the schools on behalf of the sub-Branch.

Of course, the event could not occur without the enthusiastic support provided each year from the NAMBUS Team. Final thanks go to the small group of sub-Branch members who put their hands up to assist with the presentations.

Phill Evenden
Nambus Coordinator

WALKING FOR GOOD CAUSES

2017 Relay For Life

Despite predictions of inclement weather, this year's walk started under blue skies. This was the 16th year of the event which has raised over \$4million during that time. This year's target was \$330,000.

Members of your sub-Branch answered the call and made a significant contribution to the funds raised over the 24-hour event. Despite attendance numbers being lower than in previous years, we raised nearly \$7,500.

For those who have never attended this fundraiser to support research into a cure for all Cancers, I commend the event to you.

It is very professionally run and there are attractions for all ages. There is no necessity to walk if you don't want to, but there is plenty to see and do to get you mobile if you choose to.

A special thanks to those who gave up their time and dollars to participate in this sub-Branch supported event.

2017 Homes For Heroes Walk

The theme for this year's walk to raise funds to house homeless veterans was "Honour Our Heroes". Your sub-Branch entered a team under the sub-Branch name and stepped off at 10.15 in glorious sunlight in Parramatta Park.



The intent of the walk was to raise funds to assist in finding accommodation for homeless veterans

LUCKY STARR

Vietnam Entertainers

As a result of a referral from the Vietnam Veterans P&P Central Coast sub-Branch, with whom I have an association through the NAMBUS, I was referred to the President of the Central Coast Cancer Foundation, Radiology Department. The Foundation had organised a fundraising concert using two of the Australian entertainers from the Vietnam era, Lucky Starr and Roland Storm. Lucky is a supporter of the Foundation and regularly assists them to raise funds through his performances.

Lucky Starr was the first Australian entertainer to travel to Vietnam to entertain the troops and did six tours during the period of the war entertaining Australian and American troops.

I mentioned to the President that I had photos of Lucky performing at Nui Dat on Boxing Day 1967 and she asked if I could present these photos to him during the concert as he was not a collector of memorabilia during that period. The attached photo was taken at Ettalong Diggers Club during the interval at the 3-hour concert.

To anyone fortunate enough to see Australian entertainers during their tour of duty, I'm sure that you would agree with me that such shows created an enormous lift in morale.

suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues and was structured for each team to have 14 participants walking the three-kilometre course to represent a total of 42km, the number of troops killed in Afghanistan. Once again, I pass on my appreciation to the hardy group who supported such a great cause. The social chat and coffee with the team after the walk was an additional highlight of the day.

Whilst walking for good causes takes place on a limited number of occasions, don't forget that you can join our Gym Group twice a week at C2K. We meet on Mondays and Thursdays to undertake a moderate exercise program with some of our fellow sub-Branch members.

If you are curious, or would like to check out what we do before signing up to join us, please ring me and I will arrange to meet you at the gym on a Monday and I'll show you what we do. You can even meet the team if time permits.

Phill Evenden
Gym Coordinator
0413 715 622



It was an honour to be wearing two hats at the presentation, on behalf of your sub-Branch and the Vietnam Vets.

Phill Evenden

DAY CLUB



It has been a busy few months at Day Club with many varied activities. We have had some great entertainment, especially when the Rookwood Rockers performed some energetic and lively songs and tap dances. Then on another day one of our volunteers performed a Tongan/Hawaiian dance in the costume of the Islands.

Our guest speaker in March was Bill Strutton who gave a talk on the work of Legacy and in April we had a presentation on Reminiscing -- bringing back lots of memories of days past. Our ANZAC service was held later in April, ably led by Chas Naylor.

We held two raffles this year and raised \$300 for our club, and recently we had lunch out at the Tavern in Castle Hill.

During each Monday we have gentle exercises, quizzes, song time, card games, and various board games.

We always welcome new members along to our club on Mondays. We also provide transport.

Further information about the Club can be obtained from Bill Driver (Assistant Coordinator) on 0413 455 526 or myself on 0420 440 095.

Jenny Kington
Day Club Coordinator

SOCIAL SECRETARY



On Tuesday 9 May, we had coachload of sub-Branch members and partners enjoy a day out, including a Pittwater cruise.



During the cruise, we enjoyed an interesting commentary about the history and lifestyle of Scotland Island.

We then drove up to Palm Beach before adjourning for lunch at Pittwater RSL, where a highlight for some was watching the live video feed of the staff working in the kitchen preparing our meals.

Our June commemorative lunch brings us to the half way point of this year's social events.

Our next event is our Christmas in July lunch on Tuesday 18 July. We have a bus organised to take us from the Club to the Burning Log Restaurant at



the Windsor Conference Centre, where we will be entertained while we have an enjoyable Christmas meal. It should be a great day out. Cost is \$40 per person.

On 19/20 September, we will have an overnight trip to Port Stephens. Along the way we'll visit a war museum at Gosford and Fighter World at Williamstown before heading to our overnight accommodation at Port Stephens. The following morning we'll set out in search of dolphins before heading home. With all meals and accommodation, together with all entry fees, this promises to be a brilliant couple of days. Cost is \$170 per person.

On 4 October, sub-Branch members are invited to a very special one-day bus trip to visit the AWM

warehouses where we'll have the opportunity to view a lot of historical equipment that is not open to the general public. In the late afternoon, we will visit the AWM where we'll attend the Last Post ceremony before heading home. Lunch and a light evening meal is included. Cost per member is just \$20.

Our last 'not to be missed' event is our Christmas Lunch which will be held at our club on Sunday 26 November. Cost; just \$20 per person for an excellent three-course meal, drinks, and entertainment.

I encourage all members to attend the above events, which are subsidised by your sub-Branch.

Regards – Barry Pareezer
Social Secretary

HIGH SCHOOL AMBASSADORS

The High School ANZAC Ambassadors for 2017 are Caitlin McDonald (Marian College), Hannah Barrett (Castle Hill High), Lauren Leaver (Crestwood High), and Will Sampson (Hills Grammar).

They have each spoken at both the ANZAC Sunday Service and the ANZAC Day Dawn Service on different aspects of General Sir John Monash's life and service to Australia.

Caitlin McDonald

The Anzac legend is defined by courage, innovation, mate-ship and above all else a love for Australia. These are qualities that define General Sir John Monash's military leadership on the Western Front. He revolutionised warfare, breaking away from traditional idea of infantry.

Monash believed that, *"... the true role of infantry was not to expend itself upon heroic physical effort, not to wither away under merciless machine-gun fire... but on the contrary, to advance under the maximum possible protection of the maximum possible array of mechanical resources"*

It was the co-ordination of infantry and modern weaponry behind a creeping barrage that effectively broke the stalemate, disabling the German Trench Network, and forcing German retreat to the Hindenburg line. His tactics of simultaneous integration of all front-line resources, in a combined method of advance, were later published by the British General Headquarters as guide for modern warfare, setting an international precedent that continues to be observed.

Monash's meticulous planning and use of elaborate decoys allowed the success of all military

engagements, reaching all objectives within hours. He accomplished the seemingly impossible. 120 minutes for the Battle of Amiens, 93 for the battle of Hamel. He drew international commendation from all major leaders, revolutionising opinion of Australia into that of a super-power.

Monash was pivotal in the allied success with Somme Commander General Henry Rawlinson stating Monash "altered the course of the war". It was his innovation and care for his soldiers that epitomises the reason we celebrate Anzac Day. It is to remember those who fought valiantly and selflessly for freedom and for Australia.
"Lest We Forget"

Caitlin McDonald

Hannah Barrett

From the far-off years in 1914, when the call first came, until the last shot was fired, every day was filled with loathing, horror, and distress... the thought always uppermost was the earnest prayer that Australia might forever be spared such a horror on her own soil.

General Sir John Monash is ranked alongside Napoleon and Rommel as one of the finest military brains in history.

Born into a Prussian-Jewish family in Melbourne on the 27 June 1865, in an era of Anti-Semitism, Monash's difficulties only grew from here.

First born, Monash was pushed extremely hard, earning multiple duxes in high school. This early educational success led him to engineering at Melbourne University.

His meticulous character was vital for engineering and also proved valuable during WW1 and his management of his troops.

While at University, Monash joined the army reserves, where he quickly rose to Colonel. As a reservist, he continued working in civilian life.

At the outbreak of WW1, Monash became a full-time army officer. He did not enjoy the job, preferring field tactics. When the Australian Imperial Force was formed, Monash was appointed Commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade.

He proved to be meek and humble. Monash always aimed to preserve life, even though he was prepared to take considerable risks and be audacious in battle. Perhaps this was because he had been a reservist.

In 1916, Monash ran the first ANZAC Day service, in the field. This encouraged and reinvigorated the soldiers. Monash had the ability to think outside the square and had a remarkable understanding of the modern battlefield, all of which were lacking in the European command. Due to his unique way of looking at a battlefield, Monash was alienated by his fellow commanders.

Monash was a creative thinker, who was continually learning, specifically from the poor decision making of other commanders in the Gallipoli Campaign. He applied the lessons he learnt in Gallipoli to the battlefields of the Western Front, to better protect and serve his men.

"Lest We Forget"

Lauren Leaver

"There can be no satisfaction, in the end, in a life wholly spent in the pursuit of selfish ends". These were the words spoken by Australia's war hero, John Monash.

General Sir John Monash demonstrated extremely selfless qualities through his compassion for his troops, his role in repatriation and his desire to minimise harm, trauma, and loss.

Monash consistently put his troops before himself. This was evident in his tactical plans of putting the tanks in front of his troops to minimise the casualties. Monash's tactics gave the allied army a method suitable for attacking any enemy position no matter how wide its front or how complex its defence system.

In September 1914, Monash was promoted to Commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade. Monash's promotion was met by prejudice due to his German and Jewish ancestry.

Charles Bean, Australia's principal war

historian, and Keith Murdoch, an influential war correspondent, plotted to replace Monash in May 1918. However, as a result of Monash's outstanding intellectual and competence, he was able to rise above prejudice and harsh judgement.

Due to Monash's leadership, compassion and close relationship with his troops and fellow officers, Monash remained in command.

Throughout key battles such as the battle of Hamel, Monash's skills of leadership, planning and his background knowledge of civil engineering enabled success.

Monash's selflessness was also displayed throughout this battle as he ensured hot meals were delivered to the men in the trenches. This simple act of kindness illustrated Monash's compassion and care towards his men.

With the conclusion of the war, Monash became Director-General of Repatriation and Demobilisation with the responsibility for arranging the return of Australian troops from Europe. Monash was able to return two hundred thousand men to civilian life in less than one year which truly illustrates his compassion and selflessness.

"Lest We Forget"

Lauren Leaver

Will Sampson

A quote from General Sir John Monash:

"Equip yourself for life – not solely for your own benefit – but for the benefit of the whole community".

We have heard this morning how Monash equipped himself for the arduous task of war - and how those under his command - and ultimately the entire allied community - benefited from his remarkable skills.

Post war, Monash continued to apply his skills for the benefit of the whole community.

He resumed his engineering career, becoming Chairman of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria. Under his leadership their coal reserves were developed as an electricity source - and their power grid extended across the State.

He was closely associated with building Melbourne's "Shrine of Remembrance", supervising construction and public appeal for funds.

He also successfully promoted establishment of the Anzac Day Dawn Services.

Later as Vice Chancellor of Melbourne University numerous scholarships were awarded in his name.

At the time, he was considered to be one of our “greatest living Australians”. Monash died on the 8 October 1931; he was given a state funeral with 300,000 mourners attending – our nation’s largest funeral to that time. In a final sign of humility, despite all his achievements, honours, and titles, he instructed that his tombstone simply bear the words “John Monash”.

He has been immortalised with:

- a University named after him,
- a city and suburb named after him,
- even a freeway bears his name.

Andhis face appears on our \$100 note.

Monash left a legacy for all of us to admire and benefit from. He engendered inspiration in our fledgling nation and helped change the course of history.

He helped define who we are as a people, our ANZAC tradition and how Australia is perceived as a country.

Monash - true to his quote - had indeed not acted solely for himself.....but acted for the benefit of all mankind. A truly amazing Australian.

“Lest We Forget”

Will Sampson



ANZAC SUNDAY 2017

This year's ANZAC Sunday service was held on 9 April at Centenary of ANZAC Reserve at Kellyville.



ANZAC SUNDAY 2017



ANZAC SUNDAY LUNCH 2017

Held in the Phoenix Room at Castle Hill RSL Club



ANZAC SUNDAY LUNCH 2017



ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2017

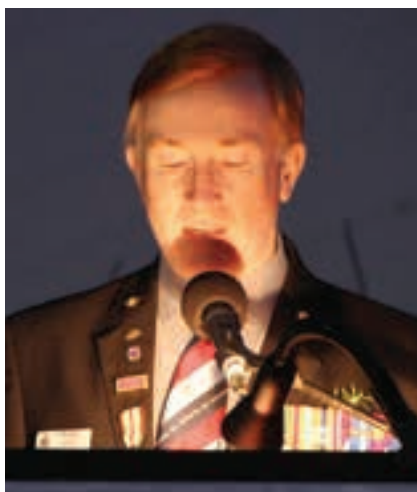
This year's ANZAC Day Dawn Service was held at Centenary of ANZAC Reserve at Kellyville.



ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2017



ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2017



ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2017



ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE ADDRESS – Group Captain Don Sutherland

We are gathered here to honour the memory of gallant men and women who sacrificed their lives in service to their country. By your presence here I know there is no doubt in your hearts and your minds that today is significant.

I am sure that you are all aware that the term ANZAC comes from words Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. We are all taught this from the earliest days of primary school.

However, I feel the term ANZAC has transcended the physical meaning to become something else. It is not a specific place, nor is it a campaign or even a war. It is not a ceremony, nor is it a parade. Anzac is an inspiration - it embodies the qualities of courage, discipline, sacrifice, self-reliance and in Australian terms, that of mateship and a fair go. That, to me, is what 'ANZAC' really means.

We do not commemorate Anzac Day to glorify war. War is not a thing to be celebrated. Anzac Day is the simple recognition of the sacrifice, commitment and unselfish devotion by young men and women of the Defence Forces in times of conflict.

The spirit of Anzac, forged on the beaches of Gallipoli, has been passed from generation to generation of Defence Force personnel. Our history is filled with amazing stories of courage and devotion to duty.

Australian airmen served overseas from the earliest days of WW1. In 1915 Australian airmen operated with the Royal Flying Corps in the Middle East in a British campaign against the Turks. Here the Australian Flying Corps suffered its first casualties and losses of men who were taken prisoner.

In addition to numerous Australian airmen flying with the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Navy Air Service, four Australian Flying Corps squadrons flew operationally in WW1. The first complete Australian Squadron, No 1 Squadron AFC, left for Egypt in early 1916 and served in the Sinai, Palestine, and Syria where its airmen undertook reconnaissance and bombing and were often drawn into aerial combat.

Nos 2, 3 and 4 Squadrons arrived in England in 1917 and flew in single seaters over France and Belgium where they undertook reconnaissance and observation, photography, aerial combat, bombing and ground attack.

It was in the Middle East, a young Australian Flying Corps pilot named Frank McNamara was carrying out bombing raids against Turkish targets. During the battle, a member of McNamara's squadron was forced to land after being hit by enemy fire. A large

group of enemy cavalry started to gallop towards the downed airman. In similar circumstances, pilots had been hacked to death or, at best, taken prisoner, so McNamara knew his friend was in grave danger.

When he saw the situation, and despite sustaining serious injuries himself, McNamara landed his single seated aircraft next to his friend. Together, the two men tried to escape in McNamara's aircraft, but the excess weight and rough ground made it impossible to take off. With bullets flying around them, the two pilots instead ran to the downed dual seat aircraft. With one of them swinging the propeller and the other firing at the enemy with his revolver, they managed to restart the engine and take off.

Despite being close to unconsciousness due to loss of blood, McNamara flew more than 100 kilometres back to his home base.

McNamara was the first Australian airman to win a Victoria Cross and the only one to do so during World War 1. His heroic feats demonstrated the best of Australian ingenuity, courage and fierce loyalty and mateship to his friend.

Being shot down was not the only danger experienced by our early aviators. During WW1 planes were fragile and highly flammable, and parachutes were not provided. In the Australian Flying Corps one in five, I will say that again, one in five pilots and observers were killed in training, air crashes or air combat – a sobering statistic.

Despite the excellent service and significant operational and expeditionary experience during World War 1, at the end of the war the Australian Government disbanded the AFC squadrons. Nevertheless, the Government remained committed to preserving some form of aviation element within the defence forces and through a combination of aircraft purchases and gifting of 100 aircraft and support equipment from the British Government Australia obtained the means to continue military aviation post WW1.

In this period both the Navy and the Army attempted to win government approval for the formation of their own independent air service. By late 1918, the government accepted that a single air service meeting the needs of both Navy and Army represented the only viable way forward with the Royal Australian Air Force being formally established on 31 March 1921, making the RAAF the second oldest Air Force in the world, behind that of the RAF.

Inter-service rivalry, the Great Depression, and a

dependence on the British Empire for defence of Australia limited the growth of the RAAF between the wars. At the start of World War 2, the RAAF had only 27 flying instructors and 200 mainly obsolete aircraft. By war's end, the RAAF was the fourth largest air force in the world with over 130,000 personnel and 6,200 aircraft and had distinguished itself in all theatres.

In particular the members of Bomber Command bore the brunt of the fighting in Europe. Approximately 10,000 Australian personnel joined Bomber Command. Of these men 3,486 died as a result of their service – that is one in three of Australian aircrew who served in Bomber Command were killed during their service. Just over one per cent of all the Australians in uniform during World War 2 served in Bomber Command; however, as a group, they formed over eight per cent of Australia's war dead. As a group, few Australians from any Service did more to help win World War 2 than the men who fought in Bomber Command.

One such member was Flight Sergeant Ron Middleton, a jackaroo who found himself piloting a bomber aircraft during World War 2. It was a cold November evening over Italy; despite running low on fuel, he brought his aircraft down to 2,000 feet for three runs through heavy flak to identify and successfully attack an enemy factory. It was not an easy task. An anti-aircraft shell exploded in the cockpit, seriously wounding Middleton, his co-pilot, and radio operator. Middleton was hit in the head and knocked unconscious. When he came to, he was weak and had trouble seeing and speaking.

The aircraft was severely damaged and icy wind lashed his face through the damaged windscreen. They could have bailed out over Italy, but Middleton was determined to get his crew safely back to England. He knew what fate awaited them if they were captured over enemy territory.

Against all odds and under heavy fire, Middleton and his crew finally made it to the English Channel. Then their fuel ran out.

As they limped over the English coastline, Middleton ordered his crew to bail out. Five bailed out and were rescued. Two refused to leave their captain and friend. Middleton then piloted the aircraft away from the populated villages and attempted to ditch in the English Channel. The aircraft crashed into the sea, killing all three men.

Middleton's devotion to duty and his crew saw him promoted to Pilot Officer and posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, the first member of the RAAF to receive this award. He was 26.

Middleton, and so many like him, fought valiantly for our country and for what they believed in. And like

him, many knowingly went to their deaths. For they knew that freedom comes from courage and sacrifice.

From the humble Australian Flying Corp beginnings, through World Wars 1 and 2 the RAAF grew to what is arguably the best small air force in the world. Today, a new generation of our airmen now operate some of the most sophisticated equipment in existence and while leading edge technology and equipment is great, it is people's professional mastery of the technology that is vital to its effective employment in operations.

I am confident that whilst today's technology and equipment are new, infinitely more capable than that of our predecessors and may not be familiar to airmen of World Wars 1 or 2, the soldiers, airmen and sailors of old would recognise the values we continue to hold dear – those of courage, respect, mateship, sacrifice and teamwork.

So today we remember and honour those who served and fell in both world wars, in conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, and Vietnam, and more recently in the Middle East.

We give our thanks to those men and women of the Australian and New Zealand Defence Forces who continue to serve on the numerous deployments around the world. We remember their families, for whom today is particularly potent reminder of the sacrifice they may be called to make.

The men who originally forged the ANZAC spirit understood the values of independence, freedom, and fairness. And they possessed a willingness to defend these things with their lives. Because freedom only survives as long as people are willing to defend it.

That is the spirit handed down to us. If we lose the ANZAC spirit, we lose all.

So here we stand today, along with thousands of others in cities and townships throughout New Zealand and Australia, to honour great men and women and a great tradition. We gather - and we shall always gather - not to celebrate a war, but to remind ourselves that we value who we are and the freedoms we have been given. We acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who contributed so much in shaping the identity of this proud nation, and those that continue to serve.

Lest We Forget

Editor's Note. This address inspired me to undertake a quick piece of research on the AWM website, where I found photographs and text about Frank McNamara and Rawdon Middleton:



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

SW2814

Portrait of Lieutenant (later Captain) Frank Hubert McNamara of No 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. With his wife and son on 1 May 1945 after receiving a Companion of the Order of the Bath at an investiture at Buckingham Palace is Air Vice Marshal Frank Hubert McNamara VC CB CBE, RAF.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ROBERT



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

SUN10498

Portrait of Flight Sergeant Rawdon Hume Middleton VC, RAAF, attached to No. 149 Squadron RAF. He was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for action in the raid on Turin, Italy, on the night of 28/29 November 1942. Flight Sergeant Rawdon Hume Middleton, the RAAF's first VC winner in WW2, was buried with full military honours on 5 February 1943 in a country churchyard near his station in England.

PENSIONS

It is timely, I believe, to raise some issues which come within the scope of the Pensions Officer's responsibilities – but are not 'mainstream' pension matters! I am pleased to summarise hereunder the several issues to which I refer.

Health Care for Cancer (Malignant Neoplasm) and Tuberculosis: DVA Application Form D9215 covers this issue. This application enables a speedy resolution and issuance of a White Card for persons who have just been diagnosed with cancer (malignant neoplasm) or tuberculosis and who have service during WWII, on operational service (incl war-like and non-war-like since 1 July 2004), on peacekeeping service, on hazardous service, British Nuclear Test defence service or some peacekeeping service between 7 December 1972 and 6 April 1994. If not previously provided to DVA, proof of identity documents will need to accompany the claim. (A very recent D9215 application submitted to DVA took eight days from signing by applicant until the applicant had his White Card in his hands.)

Should a member receive such a diagnosis (CANCER OR TUBERCULOSIS) please contact me asap.

There is no need, in respect of a D9215 application, for any of the factors in the relevant Statement of Principles to be related to service in order to access the White Card. Any subsequent pension claim for the condition would however need to have a relationship established between service and the condition.

Health Care for Certain Mental Health Conditions: DVA Application Form D9213 covers this issue. This form enables an application for health care if treatment is sought for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety disorder, depressive disorder, alcohol use disorder or substance use disorder. All current and former members of the Australian Defence Force who have any period of continuous full-time service are eligible for treatment of these health conditions. No diagnosis is required for initial treatment of mental health conditions. However, diagnosis is required within six months after commencement to ensure continuation of treatment. If not previously provided to DVA, Proof of Identity documents will need to accompany the claim.

Like the situation outlined under the previous sub-heading there is no need at this stage, to relate the relative SoP provisions to the health issue involved however a relationship between service and the factors of the relevant SoP would be needed to sustain a pension claim.

Crisis Type Issues: DVA also provides support in some other important areas as I have outlined hereunder. The circumstances outlined will, unfortunately, have relevance to some persons within the Defence Force Community. Should any of the three issues have application to your circumstances please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance. With these issues, it is difficult to summarise what is quite a complex area – however I will endeavour to cover the main and pertinent points.

Application for Crisis Payment – Extreme Circumstances and Domestic or Family Violence: DVA Form D0568 covers this subject. A crisis payment is a one-off payment payable to assist people in severe financial hardship. Eligibility is new or existing DVA pensioners who have claimed a service pension or income support supplement and who are in financial hardship and are forced to leave their home, being their principal place of residence, and establish a new one because of a crisis, which might include fleeing domestic violence. Or alternatively they are the victim of domestic or family violence and choose to remain in their home after the perpetrator of the violence has left or been removed from the home. The application must be lodged within seven days of the extreme circumstances or domestic or family violence occurring unless there has been some contact with the DVA – in which case there are 14 days in which to lodge the claim.

Application for Crisis Payment – prison/hospital release: DVA Form D0567 refers. Contact should be made with the undersigned should there be a need in this specific instance. Eligibility – new and existing DVA pensioners who have claimed a service pension or income support supplement and who are in financial hardship when leaving prison or a psychiatric confinement after having been in 'lawful custody' for at least 14 days.

Victims of Abuse – Claims related to sexual and physical abuse: Recent policy changes have been advised by the Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation/Compensation Commission (the Commissions) relating to the assessment of compensation claims for physical and sexual abuse. These changes have arisen from the Commissions' consideration of matters from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, covering the Australian Defence Force and recognising the evidentiary difficulties that survivors of physical and sexual abuse may experience.

Some of the issues covered are:

Ex-Service organisations have been requested to ensure that victims are made aware of the new policies and how they can access fast and free treatment through DVA's Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC) Program.

The new policy will also apply to claims that have been previously rejected by DVA to determine whether such rejections should be overturned. However, DVA is unable to identify claims made prior to 2012. The assistance of ex-Service organisations is sought in an effort to reach such previously unsuccessful claimants.

Anyone who has ever served in the permanent forces of the Australian Defence Force is now eligible for free treatment through the NLHC program, for certain conditions, without needing to prove that the condition is linked to service and without the need to lodge a compensation claim, or to complete an application form – an emailed or phoned request is all that is required. Applicants can email their request to NLHC@dva.gov.au or apply

over the phone by calling DVA on 133 254 (metro) or 1800 555 254 (regional).

The documentation covering this subject also covers matters such as 1) the acceptance of statutory declarations in the absence of contradictory evidence and the detail required in such statutory declarations, 2) corroborative evidence, 3) relevance of 11 April 2011 to the review which is the date that the Review into Defence Abuse cases was announced and, 4) the need for the privacy of claimants to be upheld throughout the claims process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish further and more detailed information on the above.

My contact details for copies of documents as mentioned above are phone 9686 3119, mobile 0427 201 541 or email Pensions@chrslsubbranch.org.au

Graeme Banks OAM
Pensions Officer

WELFARE

The month of May proved to be a very interesting and active month for the Welfare group. We have had a few resignations from the group, notably

Lance Futcher. He has served at the Norwest Private for seven years and it is now time to pass the chalice over to a younger person. A very special vote of thanks is given not only from Welfare and the sub-Branch but from his many visits to ex-service personnel over the period.

On a positive note, two old soldiers Don Tait and Graham Handley have offered their assistance as Welfare Officers for the group plus a new young veteran, Rob Bird – 18 in total. On a monthly basis, we average about 350 visits to our veterans and widows in our district covering two major hospitals and three retirement villages of which the ARV is the biggest.

Our service visits during May dropped to approximately 250 compared to our normal 350 plus. This was due to two members being on leave and two members being in hospital and recuperating – both are now well and all the team was back on deck during June.

The Welfare Team thank you all for your continuing support in our activities throughout the year.

We have approached four additional nursing home / retirement villages for permission to make Welfare visits a permanent activity. Thus far three have responded favourably and they are Aminya, Bella Vista Gardens, and Woodlands Village.

Mike Lee
Welfare Officer

VOLUNTEERS

Some of the volunteers who helped with ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Day:



From the Editor

"They" say that you shouldn't start with an apology but as my philosophy is "why be normal when you can be like me", here goes. My apologies to all of you who were expecting a range of Navy articles in this issue. However, there was so much ANZAC reporting that I have been forced to carry over the Navy items until the September issue in order to stay within my 28-page structure. Please be assured that you have some great articles coming in the September issue; and thanks in advance to Bill Dokter, Brian Walters, Cheryl Hill, Chris Bennett, Iris Fletcher, and Paul Garai.

On the subject of thanks. Recognition for our band of photographers. Once again, our friends in the Castle Hill Photography Club - Bob Cook, Margaret Fraser-Martin, Paul Milliken, Robert Shelberg, and Rosa Doric provided a brilliant array of photos for ANZAC Sunday and the ANZAC Day Dawn Service. Sub-Branch members Colin Swindells, Phill Evenden and Andrew Pursey provided photos to supplement various activity reports. Also, where would we be without that superb archive repository of text and photos at AWM; who have also launched a new website - well worth a visit.

We have our regular contributors with their various reports - thank you. I must thank our four Secondary School Ambassadors and Group Captain Don Sutherland for providing copies of their ANZAC addresses.

Final thanks to our proof-readers; Brian Walters and David Cronan. As some of you will know, as he announced it at the June General Meeting, David & Lisa are moving out of The Hills and up to the Sunshine Coast.

I've included David's departure announcement as it is worth a read:

"It is with some sadness that I announce my departure from the Hills District. My wife Lisa and I have decided to make a lifestyle change, which we are quite excited about.

We have recently sold our house in Beaumont Hills and are well under way in preparation for our upcoming move to Queensland. I am somewhat familiar with this State and what it has to offer, having served throughout Queensland during the first decade of my Air Force career.

Whilst my two adult children and their families reside in Brisbane, Lisa and I have decided to settle on the Sunshine Coast. This move will be the beginning of the next phase of our life.

I wish to thank you all for your support and encouragement over the past eleven years of my association with this sub-Branch. Five years of which I was fortunate to be your Vice-President, and during most of that period also served as a Director of the Castle Hill RSL Club Group.

My departure brings with it mixed feelings as I will miss the bond I have made with the vast majority of you. I wish to thank my peers for their friendship and camaraderie over the years; you know who you are.

The support given to Lisa during my overseas deployments was very much appreciated and will never be forgotten. With your permission, I wish to maintain my membership with the Castle Hill RSL sub-Branch for as long as you deem appropriate."

David - we'll miss you, but wish you well in your new life. David's departure does mean that I'm down one proof-reader for *The Veteran*. If you would like to volunteer to assist, that would be good. What would be great would be a younger person to start as proof-reader, but who might like to take over as The Editor in the longer term - hint, hint!

I'm always seeking articles for *The Veteran* - and have been fortunate recently to have received some unsolicited items. However, I can always take more articles and/or photos - so, not that I'm pressing you, oh gentle reader, maybe you can pass on something of interest to our readership.

If you have any reports or photos that you would like to send me, I'll be happy to include them in the September or later issues.

Please use my sub-Branch email address editor@chrslsubbranch.org.au to send me reports, or, call me on 0407 922 693 to discuss prior to submission.

Andrew Pursey