



Pittwater RSL sub-Branch Newsletter



April 2019

Number 17

Pittwater RSL sub-Branch

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Current Membership: 113

The next Newsletter will be published in July 2019



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President's Report

VALE BILL MACKAY

It is with great sadness that I start my report by informing you that on Friday 18 January we lost our beloved Bill Mackay.

WW2 Veteran Bill Mackay was a member of the British Paratroopers (5th Scottish Regiment). Bill was a remarkable veteran who, at the age of 16, had to have a permission note signed by his Mother so he could go to war!

Bill loved Australia and nobody sang more loudly or proudly "Advance Australia Fair". Bill's fabulous achievements included being made a "Living Treasure" of Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch, a recipient of the RSL NSW 50 Year Certificate, and last May I proudly accompanied Bill to meet President Macron when he received his "Legion of Honour Award".

Our sympathy goes to his son Jim, daughter-in-law Ruth, grandsons Brendan and Paul and Brendan's wife Yvonne.

The Northern Beaches AGM's were held in the months of February and March and your Executive tried to go to most other meetings.

The 2019 Sub-Branch renewals have been sent to RSL HQ. This is a very time consuming requirement, and we had to remind numerous members, so please have your renewals in earlier next year.

Discussions continue with RSL NSW regarding the Constitution, and the May State Congress has been postponed until late October 2019. The advisory panel has been scrapped in favour of District Council Presidents, who will continue negotiations.

On Friday 15 March, CPO Zamri Burns and I attended the "Breaking Down the Barriers" conference at the Northern Beaches Veteran Centre which focused on the veteran mental health issues of PTSD and Anger Management of

affected veterans. This event was sponsored by the Centenary of ANZAC Centre, a Practitioners Support Service, a Phoenix Australia initiative.

ANZAC Day Sunday will be on 14 April, forming up in Vineyard Street at 1220hrs, and the march will commence at 1240hrs, with a 1300hrs ceremony in Mona Vale park. The parade will be lead by the Sydney Thistle Pipe Band, and our lovely soloist Anna Gebels will sing our traditional ANZAC Day hymns. In the event of rain, the service will be held in Mona Vale Community Hall. Lunch will follow at the Pittwater RSL Club at 1400hrs, and it is essential to pre-purchase your lunch tickets. Davey T and the Aces will be entertaining us again.

ANZAC Day Dawn Service on Thursday 25 April, will be held at the Lower Cenotaph at Pittwater RSL Club. Our troops will form up at 0520hrs and marching on parade at 0530hrs. Breakfast will be available for all Sub-Branch members.

On Sunday 28 April all Sub-Branches in the NBDC will have the opportunity to supply six representatives and two flag bearers who will be on parade at the Sea Eagles ANZAC Day match at Brookie Oval. Photos of this upcoming event will be included in our next Newsletter.



Hope to see you at our ANZAC commemorative services!



Lest We Forget
Regards,

Deborah Carter
President

Reserve Forces Day Council - Open Day at Yarralumla, Canberra

The Reserve Forces Day Council were invited with 30 other Associations who have Patronage with the Governor-General, who is the Queen Elizabeth representative in Australia.

Michael and Inese Carrodus, and Harry Crampton, attended the Open Day at Government House, Yarralumla ACT.

They met with the Governor-General, His Excellency

General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) on Saturday 16 March 2019.

We also visited the Australian War Memorial on Sunday 17 March.

L-R: Lady Lynne and Sir Peter Cosgrove, Michael, Inese, Col. John Moore, Harry, and Mrs Virginia Moore.



Parliament House, Canberra

Sandra May



Last November, Darren and I were in Canberra for a weekend.

Inside Parliament House in the Marble Foyer, there was a display of 5000 poppies lovingly created by volunteers, many of whom are descendants of original Anzacs. It is a tribute to the thousands of Australians who died in the First World War.

It complemented the sea of handcrafted poppies that carpeted the Parliament House Forecourt to mark the 100th Anniversary of Armistice, 11 November 1918.

With a direct line of sight to the Australian War Memorial, the two displays connected with the 62,000 poppies installed on the Memorial's grounds, representing every Australian life lost in the First World War.

Birthdays - April, May, June

Sandra May

Bobby Squire 02 Apr
Lavinia Waller 02 Apr
Sandra May 04 Apr
David Schwebel 05 Apr
Lucy Williams 06 Apr
Frances Watkins 08 Apr
Bob Stanbridge 14 Apr
Joan Wood 15 Apr
Joy Williams 20 Apr
David Fairweather 30 Apr
Noala De Silva 30 Apr
Emma Woods 30 Apr

Stan Juracich 02 May
Kerry Poha 16 May
Geoffrey Schroeder 20 May
Sue Everitt 21 May
Brian Birch 23 May
George Parsons 23 May
Todar Krstanovic 25 May
Leigh Arnold 25 May
Gwynneth Ross 27 May
Brad Lewis 27 May

Leslie Beers 02 Jun
Graeme Keats 05 Jun
Jeff Brown 06 Jun
Terry Jones 11 Jun
Matthew Hill 13 Jun
Gwenyth Sneesby 17 Jun
Graeme Lee 17 Jun
Kel Dwyer 18 Jun
Gerald Bird 18 Jun
Beryl Clarke 21 Jun
Stephen Mahoney 28 Jun



April

- 07, 1967 **Major P J Badcoe, VC.** Major P.J. Badcoe, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally from Adelaide, SA, was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for a series of actions in South Vietnam between February and April 1967.
- 21, 1917 **Foundation of the Imperial War Graves Commission.** The Imperial War Graves Commission was later renamed the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It is responsible for erecting and maintaining war memorials and cemeteries.
- 25, 1916 **First commemoration of Anzac Day.** The first anniversary of the Gallipoli landings was widely observed in Australia. Large crowds attended church services and public ceremonies. The day was also commemorated by Australian and New Zealand servicemen in Egypt and London.

May

- 04, 1942 **Battle of Coral Sea begins.** This was the first naval engagement fought by aircraft alone. Although neither side won a clear victory, the Japanese were forced to attempt to capture Port Moresby in a ground campaign, rather than by sea as they had hoped.
- 19/20, 1915 **Lance Corporal A. Jacka, VC.** Lance Corporal A. Jacka, 14th Battalion, originally of Winchelsea, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Courtney's Post, Gallipoli. Jacka's was the first VC to be awarded to an Australian in the First World War. He also went on to win the Military Cross and Bar.
- 26, 1968 **Fire Support Base Balmoral attacked.** Fire Support Base Balmoral, just north of FSB Coral, was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army battalion. Three soldiers from 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, were killed and 14 wounded. Six enemy bodies were found.

June

- 02, 1967 **2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrives in Vietnam.** By 1967 Australia's commitment to the war in Vietnam was increasing as the Australian Task Force expanded its control over areas of Phuoc Tuy Province.
- 03, 1967 **Last major air combat by RAAF in the Second World War.** South of Biak Island 15 P-40Ns from No. 78 Squadron attacked 15 Japanese aircraft (12 fighters and three dive-bombers) and succeeded in shooting down seven fighters and all of the dive-bombers for the loss of one P-40 and pilot.
- 08, 1950 **General Sir Thomas Blamey appointed Field Marshal.** General Sir Thomas Blamey, Commander-in-Chief Allied Land Forces, South West Pacific Area, in the Second World War, promoted to the rank of Field Marshal. He remains the only Australian ever to attain this rank.



Major Peter Badcoe, VC



Lance Corporal A. Jacka, VC



General Sir Thomas Blamey

Albert Jacka, VC, MC & Bar (10 January 1893 – 17 January 1932) was an Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest decoration for gallantry "in the face of the enemy" that can be awarded to members of the British and Commonwealth armed forces. Jacka was the first Australian to be decorated with the VC during the First World War, receiving the medal for his actions during the Gallipoli Campaign. He later served on the Western Front and was twice further decorated for his bravery.

Upon the conclusion of the war, Jacka returned to Australia and entered business; establishing the electrical goods importing and exporting business *Roxburgh, Jacka & Co. Pty Ltd*. He was later elected to the local council, where he became the mayor of the City of St Kilda. Jacka never fully recovered from the multiple wounds he sustained during his war service, and died at the age of 39.

For more information, please refer to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Jacka

General

Mission

Providing for the well-being, care, compensation and commemoration of all Service personnel, especially those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

We engage with the general community promoting the patriotic spirit of ANZAC, providing information on our activities, and encouraging membership of, and interaction with, the sub-Branch and their families.

50 Year Certificate

If you have been a sub-Branch Member, continuously of any Branch, for longer than 50 years, please contact Deborah as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Welfare

Our Welfare and Membership Officer can assist you with enquiries regarding war pensions, obtaining service records, membership eligibility and any other queries you may have.

Please contact Deborah Carter on 8401 0785, or send an email to: pittwaterssubbranch@gmail.com

We Need Your Profile

Many members have already provided their profiles. If you haven't done so, how about making 2019 the year to provide 250-300 words about your career.

Please email your copy to Sandra at smay44@bigpond.net.au Thank you.

Lest We Forget - Bill Mackay



Bill Mackay's funeral was held in the Pittwater RSL Auditorium on Friday 25 Jan 2019. The celebration of his life followed in the Club's Distillery.

It was very humbling to see a large attendance of family, friends and RSL members on this occasion.

Bill is greatly missed by his family and many friends.

VALE LEST WE FORGET



With great sadness, we report the passing of our sub-Branch Member

William Mackay

Service No. 3065030
British Army, Private Battalion,
5th Scottish Parachute Regiment
B: 18 Sep 1924 D: 18 Jan 2019
Funeral held on 25 Jan 2019

On the Horizon



Sun 07 Apr	10:30am	Meeting	Viola Cafe
Sun 14 Apr	12:30pm	ANZAC Sunday March and Service	Form up next to BP Service Station, Vineyard Street.
Sun 14 Apr	1.30pm	Lunch	Auditorium
Thu 25 Apr	5.20am	ANZAC Day Dawn Service	Assemble lower car park
Thu 25 Apr	7:00am	Breakfast	The Glasshouse
Thu 25 Apr	4.30pm	Drinks	The Distillery
Sun 05 May	10:30am	Meeting	Viola Cafe
Sun 09 Jun	10:30am	Meeting	Viola Cafe

If you know of any Commonwealth service member, regardless of RSL affiliation, the sub-Branch can arrange an RSL tribute.

Executive Committee - Contact Numbers

Deborah Carter	President	0414 470 913
Michael Carrodus	Senior Vice President	0414 669 190
Darren Crabb	Vice President	0407 042 547
Graeme Lee	Secretary	0490 014 693
John Ward	Treasurer	0408 236 628
Bob Wood	Assistant Treasurer	0409 712 349
Joan Wood	Pastoral Care Officer	0407 931 987

