



Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch Newsletter

January 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2018.

During the last few months of 2017, the Sub-Branch Office was busier than usual, so it was appropriate that we had appointed Natalie Manning as Office Manager.

Natalie's main task has been updating the main computer in the Sub-Branch Office with information that had previously been stored on Executive members' individual computers. The importance of this is that the Sub-Branch computer is protected on the main club's system, and all our information will be stored at the Sub-Branch office with upgraded security.

On Wednesday 4 October, we had a fabulous excursion to RAAF Base Richmond. Thanks to FLTLT Emma Woods for arranging the visit, and you can see a report on page 2.

Remembrance Day was a huge success due to thorough planning and the support of our local schools, Pittwater House, Pittwater High, Sacred Heart Primary and Mona Vale Public School.

Mona Vale Public School choir sang the moving song "Always Remember" and there was hardly a dry eye in the audience.

In 2018 we intend to engage with our school children on a higher level so that we forge a stronger bond with these wonderful young Australians!

On Sunday 12 November I attended the inaugural "Northern Beaches Veterans' and Community Day at Dunbar Park Avalon which showcased various veterans organisations with the aim to teach our young students about the veteran community.

Christmas lunch on Sunday 10 December was another beautiful day, with the wonderful "Davey T and the Aces" performing, and superb Christmas fare!

Our final excursion for the year was to HMAS Penguin on Tuesday 12 December, and thanks to PO Zamri Burns for organising the event. Zamri's report can be read on page 6.

Sadly, we lost CPL Lily Randall nee Harvey on 28 November. Lily was our

eldest member of the Sub-Branch aged 104 years. I spoke to Lily in September on her 104th birthday and she was still positive and upbeat. Lily will be sadly missed!

The update from James Brown (RSL State President) on 20 December wished us all a very Merry Christmas. He also reported that the Charitable Fundraising Inquiry and the conclusion of the ACNC's investigations expect to be available in February 2018.

Finally, a big thank you to the Executive Committee for their ongoing support in 2017. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas, and we wish you and your families Good Health and Happiness for the New Year!



Regards,
Lest We Forget

Deborah Carter

Deborah Carter
President

Remembrance Day 2017



A young Cadet from Pittwater House; Darren Crabb, Jason Falinski, Deborah Carter and The Hon. Rob Stokes MP with students from Mona Vale Public School, Sacred Heart Primary and Pittwater House; Joe Crumlin OAM delivers his Address. Photographs courtesy of Michael Mannington, Volunteer Photography.

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WELCOME TO OUR RECENTLY JOINED SUB-BRANCH MEMBERS

Joan Wood, Affiliate
Jack Snowden, A Class Honorary
John Davies, A Class Honorary

We look forward to your participation and support.



Zamri has just completed his Graduate Diploma in Advanced Paramedicine (Advanced Care Paramedic Practitioner). **Congratulations, Zamri.**

Thanks also to Zamri for organising our excursion to HMAS Penguin on Tuesday 12 December for a fascinating two hour tour. Lunch was enjoyed back at our Club, courtesy of the Sub-Branch, and fourteen members enjoyed the day. Read more about this event on page 6.

Christmas Lunch

Judging by some of the photographs taken on Sunday 10 December, Christmas Lunch was a big success! Wonderful food from the Club, and we had a great day of entertainment by Davey T and the Aces. A big thank you to Anna, Mel, Milly, Irene and Michael, and Konrad, their roadie and sound guy!



Christmas photographs by Sandra May

RAAF Base Richmond Tour - 04 Oct 2017

Twelve Members departed Pittwater RSL Club at 8.30am to visit the RAAF Base Richmond.

Attendees: Deborah Carter, Tommy Knox, Graeme Lee, Sandra May, Rowley Waller, Harry Crampton, Don Chessell, Donald Tierney, Carolyn Noble, Lavinia Waller and Colin Peterson.

Sub-Branch member, FLT/LT Emma Woods met us at the Pass Office, boarded our bus and gave us the History of RAAF Richmond.

Morning tea was enjoyed in the Officers' Mess followed by a viewing of the memorabilia display cabinets. Photos were taken, including one of Tommy Knox in front of the Bomber Command display.

We then visited 35 Squadron and went onboard the new Spartan Aircraft. We have seven of this aircraft, and expect to have three more in coming years. The Spartan Aircraft is adaptable, and fondly described as a "fixed wing Chinook". It has the ability to perform like a Hercules aircraft, but land on smaller airfields, still enabling troop carrying air medivac evacuation and small craft transport.

Following that we saw a display of the fire trucks and the firefighting capabilities for protection of the aerodrome.



Lunch was in the Sergeants' Mess. We departed the RAAF Base at 1300 hours, and returned to the RSL Club for a celebration drink, as the Sergeants' Mess was a "dry bar". Thanks to Deb and the Sub-Branch.

Many thanks to Deb and Emma for a wonderful day, and also to Jason Manning who organised the bus at an enormous discount.

Article written by Deborah Carter. Photo by Emma Woods

Christmas Lunch photos...



Rowley Waller
Service Number 23637783

I was born in Sunderland, England on 10 February 1938. I left school at the age of 15 and served a 5 year apprenticeship as a boilermaker/welder.

At the age of 21, I was conscripted into the Army as one of the last National Servicemen in Britain.

Although both my father and brother had been Coldstream Guardsmen, I went against family tradition and joined 112 Company Royal Army Service Corps and commenced training in Somerset. It was the first time I had been away from home, and I remember grown young men crying like babies on their first night in camp. After a few weeks we were sent to Verden, Germany for the rest of the two years of service. I reached the rank of corporal and learned to drive in the huge army trucks in Germany.

On return to Sunderland I resumed my trade, married Lavinia Scott in 1965 and had two sons. My father-in-

law, a great mate of mine, was an ex-RSM in the Durham Light Infantry and was one of the first troops into Belsen at the end of the war.

We emigrated to South Africa in 1974, living in Durban where I worked first in the shipyards then in Hulets Sugar Refinery. After approximately 4 years Lavinia was homesick, and we returned to our home town and our home, which had been rented whilst we were away.

Unfortunately, our home town was unchanged but we had become used to a different way of life, mainly dictated by the weather. Our boys also missed the life we had experienced in South Africa. My brother was in Australia, so we made the big decision to sell up and move to Sydney - the best move of our lives.

I worked in my trade and was promoted to factory superintendent/manager, then had a complete change with a courier run, delivering text books to universities and stores.

I experienced health problems and retired in 1995.

We have lived in our Mona Vale home since 1981 and have been married for almost 53 years.



Deborah Carter presented Brian Heal with his 50 Year Certificate on 12 Nov 2017.
Photo by Sandra May



Your Newsletter Editor received a Certificate of Appreciation from Deborah Carter for contribution to the Sub-Branch during the past three years.

As said on the day, I love producing the Newsletter for you, and will continue to do so. *Sandra May*
Photo by Darren Crabb

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 for longer than 50 years, continuously of any Branch, could you please contact Deborah as soon as possible.

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.



Peter Williams
Service Number 2796713

I was born in Cootamundra NSW and moved to Sydney in 1960 with secondary education being at North Sydney Technical High School – now the Greenwood Hotel (missed opportunities there!!).

Post high school, whilst working at the Reserve Bank in 1970, I won the lottery with the prize being two years of National Service. I was selected for officer training at Schevville, graduating as a Second Lieutenant in 1971 and served as a Platoon Commander, training both regular army and national service recruits for initial employment.

Towards the end of my National Service commitment, I signed on as a Regular Army Officer and, in early 1975, whilst posted to 1 Field Engineer Regiment, I married Angela Johnston. I was subsequently posted as Officer Commanding the Supply Platoon supporting the Second Pacific Island Regiment in Wewak, PNG, during that country's independence. Subsequent postings included

Squadron Commander at the Australian Defence Force Academy, prior to its opening, and for the first two years of that institutions operation.

I attended the Army Command and Staff College in 1988 and, on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, I was tasked with the design and implementation of Army's commercial vehicle fleet program across Australia. I was posted as Commanding Officer, Base Administrative Support Centre – Albury/Wodonga for two years, and then served the next three years working in Washington DC, USA.

I served for 28 years before resigning my Army commission in 1999 and, after living in 16 houses, Angela and I moved to Mona Vale, and remain in that same house today – enough houses!! Post military, I worked in logistic related roles and most recently served for 13 years as the Secretary/Manager of The Cabbage Tree Club, Manager of Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club and Manager of The Pacific Club – all located at Palm Beach, resigning from these positions in 2015.

Angela and I have been married for 42 years, have two adult children and, to date, two granddaughters.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY *Compiled by Darren Crabb, Vice President*

January

08, 1952

RAAF launch first Meteor rocket attack against ground forces. Meteors proved unsuitable in air-to-air combat against the superior MIGs and were reassigned to ground attack duties.

10, 1942

Japanese air raid on Singapore. After their rapid advance through Malaya, Japanese forces paved the way for their invasion of Singapore with a series of air raids against the island.

26, 1945

Beginning of Sandakan death march, Borneo. Sandakan prisoner of war camp was established by the Japanese in July 1942. Fearing invasion from Allied forces, Japanese troops marched the prisoners inland to Ranau in January 1945. Many of the prisoners died of malnutrition, exhaustion, disease and ill-treatment and the survivors were shot when they reached their destination. Only six out of 2,500 Australian and British prisoners sent to Sandakan survived.

February

13, 1965

First Australian SAS Squadron advance party departs for Borneo. The SAS served in Borneo during Confrontation to gather intelligence, conduct reconnaissance patrols and collect information on topography.

16, 1942

Banka Island massacre. Twenty two members of the Australian Army Nursing Service and other survivors of the sinking of the SS Vyner Brooke massacred on Banka Island. The only survivor from this party of Australian nurses was Sister Vivian Bullwinkel.

21, 1916

Verdun, Western Front. A bitter battle between the French and the Germans lasting nine months and costing over a million men killed and wounded. French losses at Verdun meant that for the remainder of the war British forces had to bear much of the burden of the fighting on the Western Front.

March

1, 1942

HMAS Perth sunk in Sunda Strait. Having survived the battle of the Java Sea HMAS Perth and the United States Cruiser Houston were sunk in a battle against overwhelming Japanese forces off the western tip of Java. 353 of Perth's 680 crew were killed in the battle.



20, 1916

ANZAC Corps land in France. With Gallipoli behind them the bulk of Australia's forces were now sent to France where the terrible fighting on the Western Front awaited.

22, 1942

Japanese aircraft bomb Katherine. This was the only air raid against Katherine in the Second World War, one man was killed.

BOOK REVIEW by Bob Wood, Sub-Branch Librarian

“COCKLESHELL HEROES”

Author: C. E. Lucas PHILLIPS
William Heinemann Ltd, 1956

I first read this book (and saw the film) in the late 1950's and hadn't really thought about it again until 2003.

This book gives a beautiful and detailed account of the planning, preparation and execution of Operation Frankton. The operation was an attack on enemy shipping in Bordeaux Harbour which was being used by "blockade runners" trying to get supplies into occupied Europe. As with so many aspects of combined (and special) operations, it was necessary to start from scratch with the development of techniques and equipment capable of doing the job. This was a new kind of warfare and it was very much a case of learning on the run. The results of such research and experimentation are the present day Special Air Service and, in this case, the Special Boat Service.

The carrying out of the operation by marine commandos under the command of Major Hasler, is a gripping story, beautifully told by Phillips, and impossible to put down. The courage, dedication and discipline of these men was outstanding. They set out with six collapsible canoes, each carrying two men and eight limpet mines. One was damaged at launching from their support submarine, five set out, two made it to Bordeaux and six ships were attacked with limpet mines. The Germans were astounded, frustrated and angry. Only two men, Hasler and Sparks, made it back to England.

Major Herbert "Blondie" Hasler was the brains and the

motivation behind the operation and is a fascinating person in every sense of the word. We learn, from the book, of his lifelong love of small boats and sailing and how the knowledge that he gained from this was applied to his career as an officer in HM Royal Marines (affectionately known as the "Jollies"). A bit of biographical research also reveals that Hasler was an extremely competent "lone" sailor who competed in trans-Atlantic yacht races and invented the first successful self-steering gear for sailing boats.

I can strongly recommend this book to any reader who enjoys a story about a true-life adventure which comes close to creating amazement at the commitment of the people involved.

In 2003 my wife, Joan, and I were travelling in south western France. We came to a small town and decided to find somewhere to stay the night. We booked into a small Hotel/Restaurant, stashed our bags and went down to the restaurant to order dinner. While we were waiting for our dinner I noticed that the walls of the restaurant were papered with newspaper articles. Dredging deep into my memory I started trying to use my schoolboy French and began to discern that the articles were about two British Royal Marines who were there during the German occupation. The name of the town was **Ruffec** and the hotel was **La Toque Blanche** where Major Herbert "Blondie" Hasler and his crewman, Marine Bill Sparks, made contact with the French underground during their escape after Operation Frankton in December 1942.



The library will be open for one hour (0930 - 1030) before each monthly Sub-Branch meeting for any member to borrow or return books, or simply pop in for a look around. This will begin with the February 2018 meeting day.

Celebrating Birthdays in January, February, March

Harry Crampton	13 Jan	John Ward	14 Feb	John Parnell	02 Mar
Rainer Noble	13 Jan	Donald Newport	18 Feb	Peter Newman	04 Mar
Inese Carrodus	14 Jan	Kosta Coric	19 Feb	John Dunbar	05 Mar
Jack Snowden	14 Jan	Barry Taylor	21 Feb	Roger Williams	05 Mar
Rob Stokes	17 Jan			Brian Leary	06 Mar
John Gordon	19 Jan			Bill Birch	07 Mar
Ron Douglas	21 Jan			Ross Wagland	09 Mar
David Onslow	25 Jan			Theo Chere	11 Mar
Thomas Betts	28 Jan			Jim Harrison	12 Mar
Frank Best	03 Feb			Cecil Robinson	25 Mar
John Sturzaker	08 Feb	Gary Everitt	23 Feb	Alan Craw	25 Mar
Tommy Knox	09 Feb	Michael Carrodus	23 Feb	Brin Franklin	30 Mar
Norman Townsend	09 Feb	Glen Cuthbertson	25 Feb		
Rowley Waller	10 Feb	Allan Croft	26 Feb		
Richard Ling	11 Feb	Don Chessell	27 Feb		



PAST AND FUTURE EXCURSIONS

This year we commenced our Excursions with visits to some interesting places. Members who participated, all agree, they were very worthwhile. Transport, tours and lunches are by courtesy of the Sub-Branch.

- 20 Jun Darren Crabb organised a tour of the Anzac Village War Vets Museum, Narrabeen. (See July 2017 issue)
- 04 Oct Deborah Carter and Emma Woods organised a tour of the RAAF Base, Richmond. (See page 2)
- 12 Dec Zamri Burns organised a tour of HMAS Penguin, Balmoral. (See page 6)

Thank you to Darren, Deborah, Emma and Zamri for arranging these tours.

In 2018 we intend having more excursions, and have also been invited by Dee Why RSL to join them for some of their excursions, so watch this space!

HMAS PENGUIN - 12 Dec 2017

RAN hosts for the day, Rob Schwartz and Zamri Burns.



Attendees: Deb Carter, Michael Carrodus, Darren Crabb, Sandra May, Peter Carrodus, Bill Mackay, Rowley and Lavinia Waller, Ted Blackwood, Tommy Knox, Graeme Lee, Donny Tierney, Noala and Dennis de Silva.

On 12 December the weather was absolutely glorious for a tour of the Naval Base HMAS Penguin in Balmoral by fourteen Sub-Branch members. We started the tour with a visit to the Sir David Martin Combined Officers and Senior Sailors mess. The combining of messes is happening to many bases around Australia. We had coffee, tea and biscuits overlooking the sparkling Middle Harbour with magnificent views extending from the Spit Bridge to Manly. We were greeted by the Executive Officer LCDR Peter Thompson, who gave us a bit of history of Penguin and welcomed us onboard. It was also noted that where the bus was parked on the old parade ground, a few of our members had been made to march around that on many occasions.

It was then onto the RAN Medical School simulation centre that is located in the old Balmoral Naval Hospital's operating

theatre complex. We were shown around by LEUT Steven Grosser and his team of medical sailors. They briefed us on how technology and simulation enables the training of medical sailors, doctors and nurses to occur in a safe and holistic manner, and how this contributes to these people providing care to our fighting forces in the best possible way. We also had the opportunity to have a group photo next to the MRH-90 helicopter simulator.

The final leg of the tour was to the Submarine and Underwater Medicine unit to tour the recompression chamber facility. We were shown the various chambers by POMED(U) Burns and POMED(U) Schwartz, and briefed on the types of injuries which are expected to be treated inside the chamber, and how they are used to keep many clearance divers in top physical condition.

A successful tour, enjoyed by everyone.



Article submitted by Zamri Burns.

Photos by Sandra May



ON THE HORIZON...

January		No Meeting
Sun 11 Feb	10:30am	Meeting, Auditorium
Sun 11 Feb	11:00am	AGM, Auditorium (No Voting Required)
Sun 11 Mar	10:30am	Meeting, TBA



VALE - LEST WE FORGET

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

Lily Randall, Service No. 106064
WAAAF CPL (WAAAF)
Born: 12 Sep 1913 Died: 28 Nov 2017

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - CONTACT NUMBERS

Deborah Carter	President	0414 470 913
Allan Croft	Secretary	0418 162 786
John Ward	Treasurer	0408 236 628
Michael Carrodus	Snr Vice President	0414 669 190
Darren Crabb	Vice President	0407 042 547
Bob Wood	Assistant Treasurer	0409 712 349



PITTWATER RSL SUB-BRANCH

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Submissions by Deborah Carter, Darren Crabb, Sandra May, Bob Wood
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Current Membership: 131