



Pittwater RSL

Sub-Branch Newsletter

April 2018



President's Report

It is with great sadness that I start my report with informing you that we have lost two more of our valuable WW2 Veterans, LAC Jack Mullins (RAAF), WOFF William (Bill) Nichols (ARMY).

Bill was one of our "Living Treasures" and a previous Vice President of Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch. Bill was well known for the fabulous bus trips he used to organise. Both Jack and Bill were in failing health, and no longer attended our Sub-Branch meetings.

There are still a lot of changes occurring in RSL State HQ. One disturbing change involved Anzac Day, where it was reported that our elderly Veterans from War Vets would ride in Manly Cabs to the march and be transferred to golf carts for the parade. Apart from being a logistical nightmare, it was giving way to 60 years of tradition. Fortunately, this decision has been reversed and our veterans' will remain in the cabs for the entire

parade!

As Anzac Day approaches it is a good opportunity to let you know what your Sub-Branch has organised. Detailed timings of all our commemorations are on page 5 of this Newsletter. Ticket sales are open to the Sub-Branch on 8 April; \$35 for members, and \$45 for non-members. Sales open to the general public on 15 April.

The Sub-Branch also sends delegates to various community events, and this includes school visits to Mona Vale Public School, Pittwater High School, North Narrabeen Public School, Minkara Nursing Home and Furlough House in Narrabeen.

There will be an Extraordinary Meeting (EM) of Pittwater RSL Club Ltd on Sunday 8 April at 1130hrs. This will follow our April General meeting. Your Executive is not happy with all the resolutions proposed, and you can either attend the April meeting to hear our opinions, or ring the Sub-Branch on a Monday

between 1100hrs and 1730hrs to speak to a Sub-Branch Executive. Pittwater RSL Club Ltd AGM will be on Sunday 27 May.

On May 20-22, Vice President Michael Carrodus and myself will be attending State Congress in Albury. I will include a report of the congress in the July Newsletter.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our ANZAC Day Sunday March on the 22nd, and at the Dawn Service on the 25th. Don't forget to attend our Anzac Day afternoon drinks at the Club at 1630hrs.

Stop Press: We have just been notified that Brian Strawbridge has been named a Life Member of the League. On behalf of Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch, hearty congratulations!!!



Regards,
Lest We Forget

Deborah Carter

Deborah Carter
President

The History of The Ode *by Sandra May*

Being intrigued as to the origins of The Ode, my online search has revealed the following. I know this is published in our diaries, but I thought you may like to know more about this wonderful poem.

The Ode is the fourth stanza from "For the Fallen", a poem by the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon (1869-1943).

He composed his best known poem mid September 1914 while sitting on the cliff-top looking out to sea from the dramatic scenery of the north Cornish coastline. A plaque marks the location at Pentire Point, north of Polzeath. However, there is also a small plaque on the East Cliff north of Portreath, further south on the same north Cornwall coast, which also claims to be the place where the poem was written.

The poem was published in London in the 'Winnowing Fan; Poems of the Great War' in 1914. It was published in The Times newspaper on 21 September 1914.

The verse, which became the League Ode, was already used in association with commemoration services in Australia in 1921.

*"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them. Lest We Forget"*

If you don't use the Sub-Branch diary, you can read the full poem online at: <http://www.greatwar.co.uk/poems/laurence-binyon-for-the-fallen.htm>

Tip: Hold down the Control key while you click the link.

*Robert Laurence Binyon
by artist, William Strang*



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Meeting date change and Services date

Pittwater Sub-Branch August meeting will now be on Sunday 12 August at 10:30am.

- Two separate Services will be held on Saturday 18 August at 10:30am, for Vietnam Veteran's Day
- (Long Tan) will hold their Service at the Manly Cenotaph.
 - (Northern Group) will now meet at Palm Beach RSL Club for a Service at their memorial, with drinks to follow. There will not be a march this year.



Sam Steel
Service No. 8108314

I was born on 5 August 1978 and grew up in Melbourne.

I joined the Navy as a Combat Systems Operator in 1997. On completion of initial training at South Head in Watsons Bay, I posted onto the destroyer HMAS Brisbane in 1998. I served in Brisbane until she decommissioned in 2001. After Brisbane I was posted onto the auxiliary ship HMAS Success. It

was during my time on Success that I qualified as an Anti-Submarine Aircraft Controller.

In 2004 I was posted from Success to the frigate HMAS Newcastle as an Aircraft Controller, remaining there until 2005, at which time I was promoted to Petty Officer. After nine months ashore I was posted to the frigate Darwin as an Operations Room Supervisor where we conducted several Border Protection deployments in the northern waters around Christmas Island and Ashmore Reef.

In 2008 I was promoted to Chief Petty Officer and left

Darwin to take up the role as the School Sergeant Major at the Defence Force School of Languages in Melbourne.

In mid-2010 I posted onto the Frigate HMAS Melbourne as the Operations Room Manager. During my time in Melbourne I would deploy twice to the Middle East Area of Operations. In 2012 I posted to Fleet Headquarters' and since that time I have held a variety of training roles within Training Force, the last being at HMAS Watson in 2017.

In June 2017 I commissioned as a Lieutenant and began training to become a Maritime Warfare Officer.

As I write this I am currently deployed in HMAS Darwin, which is making her way north as a part of an Australian Task Group.

For my service I have been awarded the Australian Active Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Operational Service Medal (Border Protection), Defence Force Long Service Medal and the Australian Defence Medal.

My wife, Jacquie, and I live in Warriewood with our two sons, Alexander and Maximus. We both enjoy getting out as much as we can with the boys around the Northern Beaches.



At our regular RSL Sub-Branch meeting and AGM on Sunday 11 February, Deborah Carter welcomed Beryl Clarke as a new member. After our meeting, the Sub-Branch provided lunch at Little Bok Choy for all members, along with some of our visiting guests, Drew Martin, Mark Ferguson and Bill Hardman.

Darren Crabb thanked Adrian and his team for a wonderful lunch, and Deborah Carter thanked all our attending visitors. Words and Photos: Sandra May

This Day In History - April, May, June by Darren Crabb, Vice-President



April

- 04, 1918 **First action at Villers-Bretonneux.** Villers-Bretonneux, overlooking the Somme and within artillery range of Amiens, was a principal objective when the German Spring Offensive was in its dying stages in early April. They were repulsed by the 9th Brigade from the 3rd Australian Division and some British units.
- 18, 1943 **Admiral Yamamoto, Imperial Japanese Navy, killed.** American Intelligence decoded signals that provided the timetable for Yamamoto's flight. His aircraft was intercepted and shot down near Bougainville by American Lightnings from Guadalcanal. Yamamoto, Commander of the Japanese Combined Fleet, was the architect of the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- 29, 1915 **HMA Submarine AE2 sunk in the Sea of Marmara.** AE2 was the first submarine to penetrate the Dardanelles. For five days the AE2 carried out orders to disrupt Turkish shipping. When her torpedoes were exhausted and she was attacked by Turkish gunboats the submarine was scuttled and her crew captured.

May

- 07, 1945 **Germany surrenders.** Germany's surrender, signed at the French city of Reims, ended the Second World War in Europe.
- 16, 1943 **Dam Busters raid.** No. 617 Squadron carry out the Dam Busters raid against targets in the Ruhr Valley, Germany. A significant number of Australians took part in the raid.
- 31, 1942 **Japanese midget submarines raid Sydney Harbour.** Of the three Japanese submarines that attacked Sydney Harbour, two were destroyed or disabled during the raid; the third disappeared and was located off Sydney's northern beaches by a group of amateur divers in November 2006. Little material damage was caused by the attack, but 21 sailors were killed when the depot ship HMAS Kuttabul was torpedoed.

June

- 01, 1918 **RAN aircraft first used in combat.** First use of aircraft in combat by ships of the Royal Australian Navy in the Heligoland Bight. Aircraft were launched from HMAS Sydney and Melbourne to intercept two German aircraft.
- 10, 1944 **Last Japanese aircraft shot down shot down in New Guinea campaign.** Flight Lieutenant Baker pursued and shot down a Japanese dive bomber, making it the last Japanese aircraft shot down by the RAAF in the New Guinea campaign.
- 18, 1943 **Australian government announces that Australia is no longer threatened with invasion.** By 1943 it was clear that the Japanese no longer had the capacity to threaten Australia with invasion (though it later emerged that no such invasion was ever planned by the Japanese).



Celebrating Birthdays in April, May, June

Bobby Squire	02 Apr	Peter Myers	02 May	Leslie Beers	02 Jun
Lavinia Waller	02 Apr	Stan Juracich	02 May	Graeme Keats	05 Jun
Sandra May	04 Apr	Kerry Poha	16 May	Jeff Brown	06 Jun
Lucy Williams	06 Apr	Sue Everitt	21 May	Terry Jones	11 Jun
Frances Watkins	08 Apr	Brian Birch	23 May	Matthew Hill	13 Jun
Bob Stanbridge	14 Apr	George Parsons	23 May	Gwenyth Sneesby	17 Jun
Joan Wood	15 Apr	Todar Krstanovic	25 May	Graeme Lee	17 Jun
Joy Williams	20 Apr	Leigh Arnold	25 May	Kel Dwyer	18 Jun
David Fairweather	30 Apr	Gwynneth Ross	27 May	Gerald Bird	18 Jun
Noala De Silva	30 Apr	Brad Lewis	27 May	Beryl Clarke	21 Jun
Emma Woods	30 Apr	Mark Cooper	28 May	Stephen Mahoney	28 Jun



Beryl Clarke, Affiliate Member

Interviewed by Sandra May

I was born Beryl Byron at Cottage Hospital in Collaroy on 21 June 1931. My first home was at 73 Park Street, Mona Vale for many years, and now I live around the corner in Kunari Place.

My father, Richard Paul Byron was born near a fallen tree near Bungenore, as his birth certificate states. Paul, as he was known, was in the Light Horse Regiment in WW1. He met Ida Johnson at a picnic spot west of the Mona Vale Cemetery, known as Dead Horse Hill. Ida was a midwife in the area, and they were married soon after meeting. They had nine children between 1919 and 1931. I was the youngest child.

My four brothers, Frank (AKA Johnny), Neil (Ned), Roy (Tichy), and the youngest Henry, all served and fought in the Australian Army during WW2. My eldest sister, Burnice, was in the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during WW2. They all came home alive, albeit with varying forms of PTSD.

Frank and Roy were prisoners in Changi for about four years, and Roy was also forced to work on the Thai-Burma Railway.

Collectively, my father and my four brothers worked for the Warringah Council for a combined total of 130 years.

My first job at age 16 years was at Barnes Leather factory in Dee Why making the iconic military watch bands with covers for the Forces.

My first husband, Alan Grant, and I had two sons, Paul and Glenn. My second husband was Harold Clarke, and we had one son, Robert. Harold was a member of the Pittwater RSL Club, and was often called 'H'. He coached the RSL junior boys in Cricket and Rugby League.

I have been a member of the Pittwater RSL Club for many years, but only joined the Sub-Branch as an Affiliate in December 2017. I volunteered at the Pittwater Day Club from the beginning in 1983; we made all the sandwiches for lunch, and sold raffle tickets.

I was a founding member of the former Women's Auxiliary. The Auxiliary performed shows for the Pittwater RSL Club and we were invited to perform at Legacy House, and the War Vets at Collaroy. In the good ol' days the Women's Auxiliary also prepared all the meals for ANZAC Day. From about 1990, I volunteered at the Mona Vale Hospital kiosk, and because of health reasons, I had to end my service in early 2000.

For years, Wal Williams fought to get the Mona Vale War Memorial restored. I supported Wal quite strongly, and wrote to the Manly Daily in praise of what he was trying to achieve. This restoration was finally installed at Village Park, corner of Pittwater and Barrenjoey, on ANZAC Day, 25 April 1996.

Book Review *by Bob Wood, Sub-Branch Librarian*

"IN GOOD COMPANY", Gary McKay, Allen & Unwin, 1987. *One man's war in Vietnam*

This book is an autobiographical account of a young man who was called up for national service, trained as an officer and led his platoon in Vietnam. He was wounded in action, decorated and subsequently made a career in the army.

The above precis sounds pretty straightforward but the story is anything but that. It is written in an attractive, well-paced style that is both easy to read and brings the action to life for the reader. I think that there is a wee bit of larrikin in Gary McKay and this comes through in the writing style, making the read even more rollicking and also impressively real.

We get a vivid account of what it was like to be called up, a very colourful (and accurate) description of the officer training course at O.T.U. Scheyville (a.k.a the "pressure cooker course") and some of the best descriptions that I have seen of service in Vietnam at sub-unit and platoon level. Whilst on the subject of O.T.U., Gary makes very clear what most of the men who went through that course felt very keenly. *You didn't graduate from Scheyville, you survived it.*

Gary's platoon, 11 platoon, D Company, 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrived in Vietnam in 1971, served in Phuoc Tuy province and fought in the last major battle, involving Australians, of the war. The battle of Nui Le took place in September 1971 and, although the ANZACS (they had a company of Kiwis with them) were successful in driving off the enemy, D company, and especially 11 platoon copped a heavy hammering from the North Vietnamese and sustained casualties, including the platoon commander who collected two sniper's bullets in the left shoulder. The last Australian officer wounded in Vietnam. He was evacuated to Australia for repairs.

The story ends about there, but the book concludes with some well-considered thoughts and analysis of the Vietnam War period.

There are a few things that are not included in the book but which are well worth noting. Firstly, for his actions at Nui Le, Gary was awarded the Military Cross for his courage, example and inspiring leadership. Secondly, after Vietnam, he signed on for long service in the army and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Thirdly, after twelve months of surgery, reconstruction and rehabilitation, his shoulder was operational again. Twelve months after that he took his rebuilt shoulder back to his beloved rugby, packing down at his favourite position of tight head prop.

Tough bugger that bloke, eh?



By Sandra May; reproduced from the DVA website.

Background of the word 'Anzac'

Historically, ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) was an acronym devised by Major General William Birdwood's staff in Cairo in early 1915. It was used for registering correspondence for the new corps. After the landing at Gallipoli, General Birdwood requested that the position held by the Australians and New Zealanders on the peninsula be called 'Anzac' to distinguish it from the British position at Helles. Not surprisingly, the word was soon applied to the men of the corps who became 'Anzacs'.

'Anzac' or 'ANZAC'?

It is generally advised that 'ANZAC' should be used when referring to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. For other, more modern usages of the word (Anzac Day, Anzac Spirit, Anzac Centenary etc.), DVA recommends 'Anzac'. Most organisations have a preference for one or the other.

For more information:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves/protecting-word-anzac>

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 9997 3833, or send an email to: pittwater_rslsubbranch@gmail.com

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.



VALE - LEST WE FORGET

With great sadness, we report the passing of two Sub-Branch Members:

VALE Jack Mullins,

LAC Jack Philip Mullins
WW2 RAAF Service No. 131324
B: 20 Dec 1924 D: 02 Mar 2018

VALE William (Bill) Nichols

WW2 Army Service No. NX121025
A valued Living Treasure Sub-Branch Member
B: 13 Jul 1922 D: 22 Mar 2018

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.

We Need Your Profile

Instead of having that extra glass of beer or wine, how about writing 250 - 300 words about your career, and share your story with other Sub-Branch members.

Your mates might know what you've been up to for the past 100 years, but many others do not!

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

On the Horizon...

Sun 8 Apr	10:30am	Meeting
Sun 8 Apr	11:00am	Extra Ordinary Meeting - Club Ltd
Sun 22 Apr	12:20pm	ANZAC Sunday March
Sun 22 Apr	1:00pm	ANZAC Service, Village Park
Sun 22 Apr	1:30pm	ANZAC Sunday Lunch
Wed 25 Apr	5.20am	ANZAC Day Dawn Service
Wed 25 Apr	7:00am	ANZAC Day Breakfast, Glass House
Wed 25 Apr	4.30pm	ANZAC Day Drinks, The Distillery
Sun 6 May	10:30am	Meeting
Sun 27 May	TBA	Pittwater RSL Club Ltd AGM
Sun 10 Jun	10:30am	Meeting

ANZAC Sunday March

Form up next to BP Service Station, Vineyard Street

ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Assemble lower car park



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



PITTVATER RSL SUB-BRANCH

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Produced by Sandra May, Editor - 0417 944 244. smay44@bigpond.net.au

Submissions by Deborah Carter, Darren Crabb, Sandra May, Bob Wood

The next Newsletter will be published early July.

Current Membership: 129

Lest We Forget

