



# Pittwater RSL sub-Branch Newsletter



January 2019

Number 16

## Pittwater RSL sub-Branch

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## Pittwater RSL Club

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Current Membership: 117

The next Newsletter will be  
published in April 2019



In this Issue	Page
President's Report	1
On the Horizon	2
Remembrance Day "In Flanders Fields"	3
Warbirds Downunder	4
Christmas Lunch	5
This Day in History	6
Presentations	7
Birthdays	8
General	8
Memorabilia	8
Vale	8
Executive Committee	8

## President's Report

Dear sub-Branch Member,

Welcome to the January 2019 Newsletter.

I hope your Christmas was an enjoyable one, and I wish you Good Health for 2019.

2018 was again a very busy year with some very important events taking place.

On Friday 26 October 2018, I attended the Invictus Games and participated in a Medal Presentation. This honour was possible because Lavinia and Rowley Waller had nominated me, and I was only one of two sub-Branch members who presented. The other presenters were high profiled business men and women, State and Federal Politicians, David Beckham, Prince Frederik of Denmark and Prince Harry, of course! *This was very thoughtful of Lavinia and Rowley.*

The other major event was the Extraordinary Meeting for the voting on the proposed new RSL NSW Constitution, held Tuesday 4 December 2018. The Constitution was rejected by 68% No, versus 32% Yes. James Brown stated he would take on board all the concerns stated by sub-Branches, and hopes to address the Albury State Congress in May 2019, where we will again vote on constitutional change!

On 31 December 2018, NSW Parliament will enact the proposed RSL Act from 26 September, and our current Constitution is in breach of this Act. It is imperative to achieve a new RSL Constitution early in 2019.

Originally, my report to you was going to be a review on what a community Occupational Therapist (OT) does, and how they can be of assistance to Veterans and their families. However, a difficult matter arose at the end of 2018 that needs to be explained!

In October 2018, the Club told us that in future we were to take charge of our own sub-Branch renewals. Let me publicly state now, that prior to this date, I had asked that the sub-Branch take control of New Memberships, as both tasks were previously administered via Pittwater RSL Club Ltd. This renewal task has been very difficult, and taken up valuable time that was needed elsewhere. Any change always meets with resistance and, unfortunately, that resistance has impacted negatively on the sub-Branch.

The major criticisms stem from the fact that some Members don't actually understand the difference between Pittwater RSL sub-Branch and Pittwater RSL Club Ltd.

Here is your history lesson:

In 1973, the Pittwater RSL sub-Branch voted to hand over the rights and facilities of the Club at Foley Street Mona Vale to Pittwater RSL Club Ltd.

To put things in perspective, Dee Why RSL sub-Branch *sold* their Club assets to Dee Why RSL Club Ltd for \$11 million dollars about five years ago. In fact, only two sub-Branches in the Northern Beaches District Council still own their Club's premises (Palm Beach and Narrabeen).

The Pittwater RSL sub-Branch assets were given away free. As I was still in school in 1973, I can't say firsthand what happened in that meeting, but I have heard some controversial recounts!

In November 2012, I attended a Mentoring Day at Forestville. One of the things I learnt was that Forestville sub-Branch had a "Deed of Accommodation". This is what the sub-Branch received (as well as payment) as an ongoing commitment when they sold their premises to Forestville RSL Club Limited.

With my new knowledge I promptly went back to our Club President, Harry Crampton, to ask him what our Deed contained, and he did not know! This set off a chain of events.

Three years later, after support and legal guidance from RSL NSW, Bill Harman President of Northern Beaches District Council, together with countless hours of negotiation with Pittwater RSL Club Ltd, and various Pittwater RSL sub-Branch Executives, our "Deed of Accommodation and Administrative Services" was then struck!

Our Deed is in place for 15 years implemented in April 2016, and good for a further 15 years as long as Pittwater RSL Club Ltd remains solvent. Any sub-Branch member is welcome to come to the sub-Branch office to view the Deed in its entirety. The important points are that we now receive \$48,000.00 per annum to operate. Previously it was \$10,500 per annum. I can tell you that our sub-Branch contributes \$1,000 each month to Pittwater RSL Club Ltd, and even more on Remembrance Day and Christmas Lunch.

Of interest, you should view what other Sub-Clubs, Bowling, Soccer, Fishing, etc. currently, and have previously received, and how much they contribute towards the Pittwater RSL Club Ltd.

Other benefits of the Deed are that we now have a sub-Branch office which is the large demountable building in the carpark. Club Ltd supports us with ANZAC Day Sunday and ANZAC Day Dawn Service. The Club has pledged to maintain a Memorabilia display in the Club, and they respect the Ode at 6pm every evening. We are also entitled to some secretarial services.

I would also like to remind you that your sub-Branch Executives are all volunteers, and several of us still work in paid employment. The sub-Branch has now employed an Office Manager, Linda McLean, who will work only every Monday in 2019, with myself and other Executives in attendance. I personally work a minimum of 16 volunteer hours per week, and it was a lot more prior to hiring Linda McLean.

More wealthier sub-Branches employ either full-time Office Managers, or have a stronger Volunteer Executive management team. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers to assist the effective operation of the sub-Branch!

I hope this has given you an insight into our difficulties. I know a number of sub-Branch Members are adverse to change, but the realisation is either "evolve or perish". Volunteer, and be part of the solution to improve our sub-Branch for all Members.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my Executive Staff - Senior Vice President Michael Carrodus; Vice President Darren Crabb; Treasurer, John Ward; Assistant Treasurer, Bob Wood; newly appointed Secretary, Graeme Lee, and Joan Wood, Pastoral Care Officer. Thank you for your assistance and support during 2018.

Also, a big thank you to our Newsletter Editor, Sandra May.



**Lest We Forget**  
Regards,

**Deborah Carter**  
President



*Michael Carrodus and I attended the Northern Beaches District Council Extraordinary State Congress and General Meeting on Tuesday 4 December 2018.*

## On the Horizon

January 2019	No Meeting
Sun 10 Feb	10:30am Meeting Venue to be decided
Sun 10 Mar	10:30am Meeting Venue to be decided

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



# Remembrance Day - Armistice, Sunday 11 November 2018



*Pittwater sub-Branch Members attend the Remembrance Day service.*



*Photographs courtesy of Michael Mannington, Volunteer Photography*



In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



On Sunday 11 November 2018, we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, ending World War 1. We wanted to share with you the history of who wrote "In Flanders Fields", and who suggested the use of the poppy as the official symbol of Remembrance. *You can read more on Wikipedia.*

"Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (November 30, 1872 – January 28, 1918) was a Canadian poet, physician, author, artist and soldier during World War I, and a surgeon during the Second Battle of Ypres, in Belgium. He is best known for writing the famous war memorial poem "In Flanders Fields".

"In Flanders Fields" is a war poem in the form of a rondeau, written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres. According to legend, fellow soldiers retrieved the poem after McCrae, initially dissatisfied with his work, discarded it. "In Flanders Fields" was first published on December 8 of that year in the London magazine *Punch*.

It is one of the most quoted poems from the war. As a result of its immediate popularity, parts of the poem were used in efforts and appeals to recruit soldiers and raise money selling war bonds. Its references to the red poppies that grew over the graves of fallen soldiers resulted in the remembrance poppy becoming one of the world's most recognized memorial symbols for soldiers who have died in conflict. The poem and poppy are prominent Remembrance Day symbols throughout the Commonwealth of Nations, particularly in Canada, where "In Flanders Fields" is one of the nation's best-known literary works. The poem is also widely known in the United States, where it is associated with Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

John McCrae was promoted to the acting rank of Colonel on January 13, 1918 and named Consulting Physician to the British Armies in France. The years of war had worn McCrae down, he contracted pneumonia that day and later came down with cerebral meningitis.

On January 28, 1918, he died at the military hospital in Wimereux and was buried there with full military honours. A book of his works, featuring "In Flanders Fields", was published the following year.

The red poppies that McCrae referred to had been associated with conflict since the Napoleonic Wars when a writer of that time first noted how the poppies grew over the graves of soldiers. The damage done to the landscape in Flanders during the battle greatly increased the lime content in the surface soil, leaving the poppy as one of the few plants able to grow in the region.

Inspired by "In Flanders Fields", American professor Moina Michael resolved at the war's conclusion in 1918 to wear a red poppy year-round to honour the soldiers who had died in the war. She also wrote a poem in response called "We Shall Keep the Faith". She distributed silk poppies to her peers and campaigned to have them adopted as an official symbol of remembrance by the American Legion.

Madame E. Guérin attended the 1920 convention where the Legion supported Michael's proposal, and was inspired to sell poppies in her native France to raise money for the war's orphans. In 1921, Guérin sent poppy sellers to London ahead of Armistice Day, attracting the attention of Field Marshal Douglas Haig. A co-founder of The Royal British Legion, Haig supported and encouraged the sale. The practice quickly spread throughout the British Empire.

The wearing of poppies in the days leading up to Remembrance Day remains popular in many areas of the Commonwealth of Nations, particularly Great Britain, Canada and South Africa, and in the days leading up to ANZAC Day in Australia and New Zealand.



I think most of you know that Darren Crabb, sub-Branch Vice President, is also a Pilot. Darren's aviation career has spanned 37 years of multi-national military and civilian flying on 37 different types of aircraft.

Darren started as a Canadian military jet instructor and has been fortunate to have served as an F/A-18 Hornet fighter pilot in both the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) for a total of 18 years.

Since retiring from the RAAF in December 1999, Darren has served as a full-time corporate pilot for the Lowy Family Group Aviation (LFG), and is qualified on the Gulfstream 550 and Gulfstream 650 in worldwide aviation operations.

Within LFG, his major responsibilities are to David Lowy, President and Founder of Temora Aviation Museum (TAM). When Darren joined in 1999, David Lowy appointed Darren the Director of Flight Operations for all of their twice monthly airshows between 1999 and 2014. In 2014, Darren stepped aside as DFO only to let someone else enjoy this responsibility. Darren is a regular air show display pilot for the Museum's Vampire, Meteor, Canberra, A-37B Dragonfly and Sabre.

Since 2011, TAM have presented four Warbirds Downunder air shows, a two day event. This has often been referred to as "the best air show in the Southern Hemisphere". Darren has had the honour of being appointed Display Coordinator and Air Boss for all four Warbirds Downunder air shows to date - 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2018.

Last October, 22,000+ people enjoyed this special two day magnificent air show in Temora, NSW (one hour's drive from Wagga Wagga). Darren coordinated all participating aircraft, and also flew the Warbird, Cessna A-37B Dragonfly, on both days.

Participating aircraft in 2018 were the Spitfire Mk XVI, Spitfire Mk VIII, Cessna A-37B Dragonfly, Lockheed Hudson, CA-13 Boomerang, DH-82A Tiger Moth, Ryan STM, Ryan PT-22, CA-16 Wirraway, Gloster Meteor, Cessna O-2A, Hurricane, P-51 Mustangs, P-40 Kittyhawks, Cessna O-1 Birddogs, Winjeels, CT-4s, T-28

Trojans, Southern Knights Aerobatic Team, Harvards, Catalina, Caribou, Russian Roolettes, Yaks, Nanchangs, TBM Grumman Avenger, Boeing Stearmans, Avro Cadet, Austers, Cessna 190, Cessna 195, Twin Pioneer, Bell 47 helicopter, RAAF Roulettes Demonstration Team, RAAF Hawks, RAAF F/A-18 Hornets, RAAF C-17A Globemaster, RAAF C-130J Hercules, and RAAF E-7A Wedgetail.

As Air Boss, Darren was totally in charge of 61 aircraft, and 222 aircraft movements over the two day event.

For those who are interested, we are providing everyone with a video link to Warbirds Downunder 2018. As this link is non-copyrighted, you may share with your friends. *It is not to be used for commercial use nor profit.* It should **NOT** be uploaded to any social media.

[https://player.vimeo.com/external/305309815.hd.mp4?s=5b18e6a35a062e0dcca58328252adcbdc06e711&pro\\_file\\_id=175](https://player.vimeo.com/external/305309815.hd.mp4?s=5b18e6a35a062e0dcca58328252adcbdc06e711&pro_file_id=175)

This video was produced by Malcolm Clement and Fletcher McKenzie, [www.leadingedgedmedia.tv](http://www.leadingedgedmedia.tv)

If you are keen to attend regular Temora Aircraft Showcases, or the next Warbirds Downunder 2020, then check the Temora Aviation Museum website for all details: <https://aviationmuseum.com.au/>



Sandra and Darren



Darren displays the A-37B Dragonfly. Photo, Gavin Conroy





# Christmas Lunch

Photographs by Sandra May and Darren Crabb

We enjoyed a lovely Christmas celebration on Sunday 9 December 2018 in the Auditorium. As usual, RSL Club looked us very well, and we were thoroughly entertained by Davey T and the Aces. A big thank you to Anna, Melanie, Narelle, Irene, David and Konrad, the sound guy!

Our special guest on this day was Natalie Manning, and her "plus 1", CEO, Jason Manning! A lot of preparation goes into organising this day, so thanks to everyone involved who made this a fabulous occasion. *Just a few of our guests who looked like they were having a nice time...*



Bert Brownlie, Brian Strawbridge



Sue and Gary Everitt



Anna Gebels, Rowley Waller



Kosta and Milly Coric



Ann Lovett, Harry Crampton



Terry Jones, Deborah Carter



Michael and Inese Carrodus



Angela and Peter Williams



Ted Blackwood and Bill Underwood



Anna, Darren Crabb, Melanie, Narelle



Gwen Sneesby, Gwynneth,



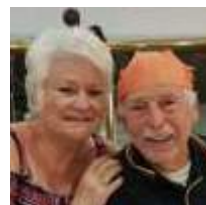
Deborah Carter, Natalie Manning, Odette, Zamri, Kate, Livia Burns



Wal Nicholls, John Roxburgh



Dorothy Clark, Beryl Clarke



Lavinia Waller, David Fairweather



Bobby Squire, Julian Vanslambrouk



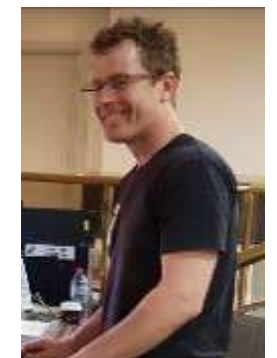
Joan and Bob Wood



Irene, John Ward



Davey T and the Aces: Melanie, Anna, David, Narelle and Irene



Konrad, the sound guy!

## January

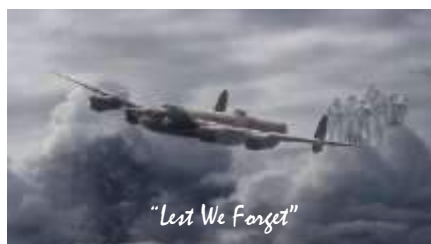
- 05, 1945 **HMAS Australia damaged by Kamikaze aircraft.** Australian ships were operating in support of United States amphibious landings in the Lingayen Gulf, Philippines when the Australia, for the second time in the war, became one of seven Allied ships to be struck by Kamikaze aircraft. 25 of her crew were killed and 30 wounded.
- 17, 1917 **4 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps sail for France.** No. 4 Squadron was the final Australian Flying Corps squadron formed in the First World War. Its pilots flew Sopwith Camels over the Western Front beginning their active service in the battle of Cambrai.
- 20, 1942 **Wirraways engage Japanese fighter and bomber formations over Rabaul.** In the days before the fall of Rabaul, Japanese aircraft conducted a series of raids on the town. In an engagement lasting less than ten minutes three of 24 Squadron's eight Wirraways were shot down, one crashed on take-off and two were damaged in crash-landings.

## February

- 15, 1942 **Fall of Singapore.** Over 15,000 Australians taken prisoner by the Japanese on Singapore. For both Britain and Australia this was a terrible military defeat.
- 23, 1956 **1 Squadron RAAF bomb Communist camps near Kuala Lumpur during the Malayan Emergency.** 1 Squadron flew Lincoln bombers during the Malayan Emergency.
- 29, 1972 **HMAS Sydney arrives at Vung Tau.** On this voyage Sydney embarked 457 soldiers. HMAS Sydney made 21 voyages to Vietnam during the war.

## March

- 02, 1943 **Battle of Bismarck Sea begins.** A Japanese convoy of eight transport ships and eight escorting destroyers was almost annihilated by Allied air attacks as they attempted to reinforce the garrison at Lae. Of the 6,000 Japanese troops bound for Lae only 2,890 survived.
- 26, 1917 **First Battle of Gaza begins.** This was the first Allied attempt to capture this major Turkish centre lying 32 kilometres inside the border of Palestine. The Allied strength included two Australian Light Horse Brigades and the ANZAC Mounted Division under Major General Harry Chauvel.
- 27, 1953 **Last engagement between Meteors and MIGS in the Korean War.** Meteors had been found to be inferior to MIGS in air to air combat in Korea and were transferred to ground attack duties.



## Presentations

Words and photos, Sandra May

On Wednesday 07 November, Darren Crabb presented to the Aviation Historical Society of Australia (AHSA) at the North Ryde RSL. Darren was the keynote speaker at the 36th annual Arthur Butler Lecture, attended by thirty Members. The presentation was very well received, and concentrated on Darren's 37 year aviation career.

In fact, one member commented: "His talk was brilliant. I thought it was one of the most interesting, humble and inspiring presentations I have ever been to".  
*She obviously doesn't get out very much! Ha-ha, Editor's comment.*

Darren Crabb with Paul Ewoldt, President AHSA



Paul Simadas, VP Communications of The Australian Society WWI Aero Historians, asked their Patron, Mark Binskin and Darren Crabb to present to their Members on Sunday 18 November at the Roseville RSL.

Mark Binskin, AC, former Chief of Defence, currently Deputy Chair, Airservices Australia, stressed the importance of history, and commended the Society Members on the quality of their articles and research. Darren's presentation was on WW1 Royal Flying Corp Gallantry Medals.

It was rather nice for Darren to present with Mark, who is a good friend and his former Commanding Officer, 77 Squadron RAAF Base, Williamstown, 1998-1999.



Mark Binskin, AC

Darren Crabb and Paul Simadas



## Birthdays, General, Vale

### January, February, March

by Sandra May

Harry Crampton	13 Jan	Donald Newport	18 Feb
Rainer Noble	13 Jan	Kosta Coric	19 Feb
Inese Carrodus	14 Jan	Gary Everitt	23 Feb
Jack Snowden	14 Jan	Allan Croft	26 Feb
Rob Stokes, MP	17 Jan	Michael Carrodus	27 Feb
Ron Douglas	21 Jan	John Parnell	02 Mar
Wayne Broun	23 Jan	Peter Newman	04 Mar
David Onslow	25 Jan	Roger Williams	05 Mar
Thomas Betts	28 Jan	Brian Leary	06 Mar
Frank Best	03 Feb	Ross Wagland	09 Mar
John Sturzaker	08 Feb	Theo Chere	11 Mar
Tommy Knox	09 Feb	Pamela Ward	14 Mar
Norman Townsend	09 Feb	Alan Crow	25 Mar
Rowland Waller	10 Feb		
Richard Ling	11 Feb		
John Ward	14 Feb		



### Memorabilia

by Sandra May and Darren Crabb

Sub-Branch member, Brian Leary, has very kindly donated the following WW2 artefacts to our Memorabilia Cabinet - one set of binoculars, one metal matchbox cover and two leather flying helmets.

As a child in the early forties, Brian used to play with these items; they were given to him by servicemen who frequented his parent's hotel, The Westminster, in Temora, NSW. *This is very much appreciated. Thank you, Brian.*



### Lest We Forget - Don Chessell



The celebration of Don Chessell's life was held in the Club's Distillery on Tue 23 Oct 2018.

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

Don will be missed.

### 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](mailto:pittwaterssubbranch@gmail.com)

### 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.

### We Need Your Profile

A New Year's Resolution - Be a Doer, Not a Gunna!  
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](mailto:smay44@bigpond.net.au) Thank you.

### VALE LEST WE FORGET



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

#### Don Chessell

B: 27 Feb 1937 D: 16 Oct 2018  
Funeral held on 23 Oct 2018

#### Howard Clarence Lockwood

B: 01 Sep 1918 D: 12 Nov 2018  
Service No. NX57095

### 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

