



Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch Newsletter



July 2018

Number 14

Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch

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Current Membership: 125

The next Newsletter will be
published in October.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter. A lot has happened since the April Newsletter was published, so I will bring you up to date.

Firstly, I would like to welcome three new Sub-Branch members:

1. Affiliate member Pam Ward (wife of our Treasurer John Ward). Pam is a retired Teacher and Librarian and has kindly offered her support to Bob Wood with the cataloguing of our Military library.

2. Affiliate member Kate Burns (wife of CPO Zamri Burns). Kate is a young mother of Livia and Odette as well as a High School Science teacher. Kate is our conduit to understanding the demands of being married to a current serving member with all the challenges of family isolation and deployments.

3. Service member Wayne Broun. Wayne studied at Officers' Training Unit (OTU) Scheyville. Wayne sits on many boards and is a real asset to the Sub-Branch.

April was an extremely busy month starting with the Pittwater RSL Club Limited Extraordinary meeting on 8 April when Special Resolutions 1, 2 and Members Resolution number 5 were passed.

ANZAC SERVICES:

On 12 April, Harry Crampton, Gwentyth Sneesby and I attended Mona Vale Public School's ANZAC Service where WW2 Veteran Gwentyth Sneesby was the guest of honour. Gwen's war service was presented to the school, and a booklet was given to the school library which catalogues her time on HMAS Kuttabul, and her work at Bradleys Head. See page 2.

CPO Zamri Burns gave the ANZAC Day address at Pittwater High School on 13 April, speaking on the very difficult topic of Suicide and the Military.

WW2 Veteran Bill Mackay gave the ANZAC address to North Narrabeen Public School on 13 April for the 20th time! See page 5.

The second Resilience Luncheon was also on 13 April. This was a great success raising over \$165,000.00 to assist the Veterans Centre (Northern) with their on-going work.

I attended a moving commemoration at Furlough House on 19 April.

ANZAC Sunday was a beautiful sunny day. The Pittwater Sub-Branch Service in Mona Vale Memorial Park was attended by our special guest, LT. Commander Tamara Sloper-Harding, as well as the Hon. Rob Stokes and Jason Falinski MP.

ANZAC Day Dawn Service was well supported by our local community, and many thanks to Pittwater RSL Club Ltd who continue to support the Sub-Branch with these important ceremonial occasions. Afternoon drinks were once again a most enjoyable finish to a "very long ANZAC Day!"

The final commemoration was on 27 April at Minkara Nursing Home where, once again, WW2 Veteran Bill Mackay addressed some very unwell and elderly residents.

On 2 May I accompanied Bill Mackay and his family to his Legion of Honour presentation by French President Emmanuel Macron. See page 7 for photos. I am extremely grateful to Bill and his family for including me on this auspicious occasion.

President's Report continued

At our May meeting, our esteemed Sub-Branch member Brian Strawbridge was presented with his RSL "Life Membership Award". See report on page 6.

Vice President Michael Carrodus and I attended the NSW RSL State Congress in Albury, 20-23 May. The Congress was informative and worthwhile attending.

Pittwater RSL Club Ltd held their AGM on 27 May. Our Members Resolution was passed, limiting the Directors' tenure to ten years. This ensures we have Directors with fresh ideas and skills every ten years.

The new board was elected, and Sub-Branch member Jim Colbeck was voted in as Chairman/President. Jim was elected by his fellow directors as part of the constitutional change from the Extraordinary meeting on 8 April.

Thanks to retiring Board members Michael Carrodus, Harry Crampton and Julie Hegarty. I will present a profile on the new Board in the next Newsletter.

On 1 June the Sub-Branch Executive attended the "Defence of Sydney" commemoration at North Head.

A highlight of the service was a re-enactment from a Mosman High School student portraying Jimmy Cargill, the Harbour Master who spotted the Midget Subs in the Harbour. Please Google to read more on this interesting part of our WW2 history!

We are sorry that Natalie Manning recently retired from her position as Office Manager. I would like to thank Natalie who worked tirelessly to assist me in the day to day workings of the Sub-Branch office, in particular, the ANZAC commemorations. We wish her well in future endeavours.

We welcome Allan Croft as her replacement. Allan will wear two hats, Office Manager and Hon. Secretary.



Regards,
Lest We Forget

Deborah Carter



A French thrill for Bill!

We all know that Bill Mackay received his medal in May 2017. However, the official presentation occurred in May 2018.

On Wednesday 2 May, Bill was presented with the Legion d'Honneur by French President, Emmanuel Macron, in Sydney. This special ANZAC Ceremony at Hyde Park was attended by our Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and many dignitaries.

A very special day for Bill, with about eighteen of his family attending, including his son Jim, daughter-in-law, Ruth, and his two grandsons, Brendan and Paul, and Brendan's wife, Yvonne. Deb Carter, Welfare Officer, also attended. *By Sandra May. More photos by Michael Mannington on page 7.*

Welcome to new Members

We extend a warm welcome to three new Sub-Branch Members - Pam Ward, Kate Burns and Wayne Broun.

We look forward to your participation and support.

Photos by Sandra May



Gwenyth Sneesby - Guest of Honour



Harry Crampton, Gwenyth Sneesby and Deborah Carter with school students.

On 12 April, Deborah Carter presented Gwenyth Sneesby's War Service to the Mona Vale Public School.

Gwenyth signed up at the Recruiting Office in Circular Quay, and went into the Navy. Gwen was eighteen.

After basic training at HMAS Penguin, Gwen spent the next three years at Bradley's Head Degaussing Range.

Gwen was one of eight WRANS who operated the instruments used for the testing of the ship's Magnetic Field; essential for the Electrical Officers to calculate settings required to repel magnetic mines. Fatefully, Gwen was off duty when the steam ferry, HMAS Kuttabul, was sunk while docked at Garden Island during the Japanese Midget Submarine attack on Sydney Harbour at 2:30am on 01 June 1942.

ANZAC Sunday March and Lunch - Sunday 22 April



Our ANZAC Sunday March and Service at Village Park was held on 22 April. The service was attended by special guests, Sub-Branch members and members of the public. Lunch followed at the Club. We were well entertained by Davey T and the Aces, and the Sydney Thistle Highland Pipe Band. Words and Photos: Sandra May

ANZAC DAY Dawn Service Commemoration — Wednesday 25 April



The Pittwater ANZAC Dawn Service was commemorated on Wednesday 25 April at 6am. Special thanks to Deborah Carter and Michael Carrodus for the presentation, and to Joe Crumlin, OAM for his moving commemoration. Thanks also to our special guests and members of the public. Photos: Michael Mannington, Volunteer Photography





THIS DAY IN HISTORY - July, August, September by Darren Crabb, Vice President

July

- 02, 1993 **Death of Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop.** Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop gained fame for the medical services he rendered to his fellow prisoners of the Japanese on the Burma-Thailand railway during the Second World War.
- 10, 1911 **Formation of the RAN.** In its original form, the Royal Australian Navy consisted of the battlecruiser Australia and several cruisers, destroyers and submarines. When the new fleet arrived in Australia on 4 October 1913 the day was declared a public holiday and was described in the press as the greatest day in Australia's history.
- 10, 1940 **Beginning of the Battle of Britain.** The Battle of Britain was an aerial battle between the Royal Air Force and the German Luftwaffe for control of the skies over southern Britain, a necessary prerequisite for the planned German invasion of the island. After some three months of intensive aerial operations both sides had lost heavily but the Germans were forced to abandon their plans for a cross-channel invasion of England.

August

- 04, 1914 **Great Britain declares war on Germany.** Australia pledged a force of 20,000, to be placed at Britain's disposal, but by the end of the war over 400,000 Australians were in uniform.
- 06, 1945 **First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.** Hiroshima was chosen as the target for the dropping of the first atomic bomb as, to that point, it had not been subjected to US air raids. It was believed that attacking a hitherto untouched city would demonstrate the awesome power of atomic weapons. The bomb was dropped by a US B29 bomber nicknamed "Enola Gay"; it was estimated to have killed some 140,000 people by August 1946.
- 18, 1966 **Battle of Long Tan, South Vietnam.** Amid a tropical downpour, 108 men of D Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, supported by artillery and a timely resupply by the RAAF, fought off an attack by an enemy force of more than 2,000 in a rubber plantation near the abandoned village of Long Tan. The arrival of Armoured Personnel Carriers carrying reinforcements brought the action to an end. Seventeen Australians were killed, one died of wounds, and 24 were wounded. More than 245 enemy bodies were later counted, but many more had been taken away.

September

- 08, 1951 **Peace treaty (Second World War) signed with Japan.** The peace treaty signalled the formal end of hostilities with Japan, though the fighting had ended some six years before.
- 21, 1918 **Australian Flying Corps at Wadi Fara.** Australian and British airmen of the Australian Flying Corps and Royal Flying Corps attack retreating Turkish troops in the Wadi Fara, Palestine. Turkish troops suffered about 10,000 casualties.
- 26–27, 1943 **Operation Jaywick destroys Japanese shipping.** An Australian Special Operations Australia Unit operating from the former fishing vessel, Krait, mines Japanese ships in Singapore Harbour. Seven ships were sank or badly damaged.

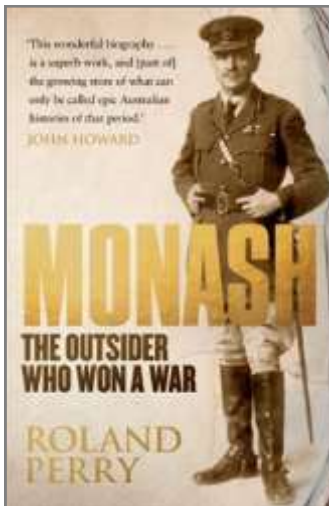


“Monash: The Outsider Who Won a War”, Roland Perry, a William Heinemann Book, Published by Random House Australia Pty Ltd, 2014.

“Monash & Chauvel: How Australia’s two greatest Generals changed the course of world history”, Roland Perry, Allen & Unwin, 2017.

In this review, I feature two books by the same author, Professor Roland Perry. Both books are about Australia’s participation in World War 1 (WW1), and which overlap to a significant extent.

This year, 2018, is the year in which it is hoped that General Sir John Monash will be posthumously promoted to Field Marshal, this event to be in place by Remembrance Day, 11 November. It is, therefore, fitting that we look at some of the recent literature regarding Monash, all of which is aimed at throwing a lot more light on Australia’s contribution to winning the war, than was provided by contemporary history at the time.



“Monash: The Outsider Who Won a War” is a very detailed biography of John Monash including family history, early years, business career before 1914, military service during WW1 and life in Australia from the end of the war until his death in 1931. Anyone who wants to know the man and the soldier better could not have a better source of information.

Why is he referred to as an ‘outsider’? Perry points out that he had three attributes

working against his ‘acceptance’ by his contemporaries, particularly during the war and after it. Firstly, his parents were naturalised Germans (John was born in Australia). Secondly, he was not a career army officer, he was a citizen soldier. Thirdly, he and his family were Jews. As if these were not handicap enough in the second decade of the twentieth century, Keith Murdoch and Charles Bean (journalists who were self-appointed ‘military advisers’ to Billy Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia) conspired with Hughes at every opportunity to ‘bring down’ Monash, fortunately without much success.

Why is he described as the man ‘who won a war’?

Without wanting to spoil a reader’s enjoyment of the book, I would like to make three points:

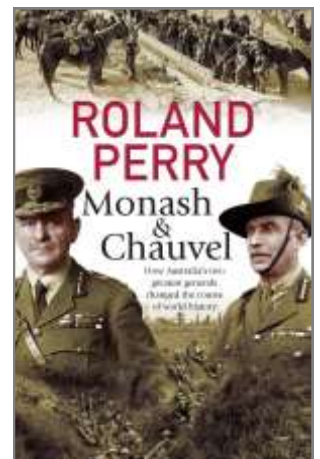
1. Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, who fought through both world wars, has written “I would name Sir John Monash as the best general on the western front in Europe; he possessed real creative originality, and the war might well have been over sooner, and certainly with fewer casualties, had Haig been relieved of his command and Monash appointed to command the British armies in his place.”

2. David Lloyd George, British wartime Prime Minister, is quoted as saying “Monash was, according to the testimony of those who knew well his genius for war and what he accomplished by it, the most resourceful General in the whole of the British Army.”

3. King George V knighted him, twice.

“Monash & Chauvel: How Australia’s two greatest Generals changed the course of history” focuses almost entirely on WW1.

It lifts huge slabs from the first book on Monash, and also traces the parallel military activities of Lieutenant-General Harry Chauvel. The two men served together at Gallipoli, following which, while Monash was gradually having more and more effective influence on progress during 1917 and 1918 on the western front, the other theatre of war involving Australian soldiers was Palestine.



In the Middle East, Chauvel led the Desert Mounted Column of some 34,000 men and had spectacular results as the Turkish Army was systematically driven out of Sinai, Palestine and Syria. As in France, these victories were reported and claimed as “British” but the truth was that the impact of Chauvel and the Australian Light Horse (which made up about 75% of the column) was crucial to the ultimate victory, which forced Turkey to capitulate.

Both men made massive contributions to the victories in their respective theatres. After reading the book, the reader is left with no doubt that they significantly “...changed the course of history”.

Bill Mackay’s ANZAC Presentation

Words and Photos by Sandra May



On Friday 13 April, Bill Mackay presented to about 700 school children, teachers and parents, at the North Narrabeen Primary School, on what ANZAC Day means.

His address was full of praise for the many who fought in two World Wars.

Bill’s strong message was “no-one wins a war, and future generations should avoid war altogether.” Needless to say, Bill’s address was warmly received.



It was our pleasure to recommend Brian Strawbridge, member of the Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch, for Life Membership of the Returned and Services League of Australia in recognition of service to the Members and Committee of the Sub-Branch. The nomination was approved at a monthly General Meeting of Members held on 8 October 2017.

Brian has been a member of the Pittwater Sub-Branch for 18 years, joining on 6 September 1999.

In February 2002, he joined the Sub-Branch Committee as Assistant Secretary, a position he held until February 2013. In February 2003 he was appointed Vice President and Trustee, both positions he held until February 2013. He was a member of the Sub-Branch Committee for 11 years and received a Certificate of Appreciation for his commitment to the Sub-Branch on 9 December 2012.

Since 2002 in his position as Assistant Secretary, Vice President and Trustee, he carried out his duties, in a competent and efficient manner. He has represented the Sub-Branch on ceremonial occasions and community events. He participated in organising the ANZAC and Remembrance Day commemoration events and arranging the various Sub-Branch functions with other members of the committee.

Brian was available to assist members in welfare matters and making hospital visitations when called upon to do so. As Vice President/Trustee he was a mentor to the junior trustees.



Brian's enthusiasm, work ethic, reliability and ability to work with others, was of great benefit to the RSL organisation. His input was highly valued, and his concern for the welfare of our members is a reflection of his character. He was held in high esteem by members of the Sub-Branch for his integrity, professionalism and management skills, which contributed to sound governance practices. As a long standing member of the Committee he was always there to assist others during those very busy periods throughout the year.

A well-deserved recognition!

PROFILE Terry Jones - Regimental Number 2795904



I was born on 11 June 1950 at the Mater Hospital Crows Nest in Sydney. I grew up in Naremburn.

I attended Naremburn Primary School and Crows Nest Boys High School. After school I worked in a number of jobs, one of which was a trainee insurance investigator.

whenever I could.

At the completion of core training, I was posted to 9 RAR at Enoggera, Brisbane, the next regiment scheduled to go to Vietnam. I found nearby accommodation for my wife and settled into life as a rifleman. Having received my warning order for active service, I participated in all the training required. Following presentation of our colours, a change of Government decided to withdraw Australia's commitment to the war. Sometime later, I transferred to 5 RAR at Ingleburn in Sydney. Having found a home in Dee Why, meant quite a commute each day for me.

After discharge, we built our home in Mona Vale and I Joined the then CMF. We have a beautiful daughter and successful son who have given us five wonderful grandchildren between them. We have lived in Mona Vale for the past 40 years, and have been members of the Pittwater RSL Club for most of that time.

I held a number of jobs over the years, most notably with the NSW Police, including a secondment with the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and later Local Government, where I remained until retirement.

In July 1970 I was called up for National Service and found myself at 2 RTB Puckapunyal for recruit training, followed by Core training at the Infantry Training Centre Singleton. The Army decided to bus us to Singleton. As we were only 20 years old, and the Law at the time was that you had to be 21 to enter an RSL Club, meant we were fed "hot box" meals at the side of the road, or in a Scout Hall for the duration of the trip.

During all this time my fiancée was planning our wedding, and we were married in October that year. *The Army kindly granted me three days leave to get married and have a honeymoon!* I was able to extend that time by a few days with some "creative" mechanical repairs to the Holden I owned at that time! We found a small flat in East Maitland and my wife moved in, and I came home

Bill Mackay received the Legion d'Honneur from French President, Emmanuel Macron - 2 May



A special thank you to Michael Mannington, Volunteer Photography.

Over 140 photos were taken; these few capture many happy moments!

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY - July, August, September

Compiled by Sandra May

Peter Rumble 03 Jul
 Christopher Bedwell 07 Jul
 Shane Fender 07 Jul
 Don Tierney 08 Jul
 Jack Evans 10 Jul
 Dorothy Clark 20 Jul
 Jim Colbeck 21 Jul
 Colin Peterson 23 Jul
 Deborah Carter 23 Jul
 Julian Vanslambrouck 27 Jul
 Peter Whipp 31 Jul

Simon Eden 03 Aug
 Sam Steel 05 Aug
 Cecil Capon 06 Aug
 John Davies 10 Aug
 Walter Nicholls 14 Aug
 Brian Heal 16 Aug
 Geoffrey Jones 16 Aug
 Bernard O'Neill 27 Aug



Howard Lockwood 01 Sep
 Cliff Gravenor 02 Sep
 Barry McFarland 08 Sep
 Darren Crabb 17 Sep
 Bill Mackay 18 Sep
 Robert Crowe 18 Sep
 Shane Jones 21 Sep
 Brian Strawbridge 25 Sep
 Evan Williams 26 Sep
 John Vandyke 28 Sep

PITTWATER RSL MEMORIALS

by Sandra May

At our June meeting, I conducted a PowerPoint presentation of the Memorials located in Pittwater. You can view these Memorials on the Monument Australia website at: www.monumentaaustralia.org.au

- Click on their SEARCH button at the top of page.
- State: Select NSW
- Town: Type M and scroll down, select Mona Vale
- Theme: Select All Themes
- Select: Search

For each entry, click on the small photograph or More Information and Images. This will open a new page with more detail.

GENERAL

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_rsl_subbranch@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

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!

In October 2016, we published 13 profiles of our "Living Treasures" in a special souvenir. To date, we have received only 20 profiles from other members. These have already been published (or soon to be) in our regular Newsletters.

Clearly, a lot of other members could write a few words and share your experiences with us.

If you have any questions, please call Sandra on 0417 944 244.

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

If you prefer, you can mail your copy to Deborah Carter at the Sub-Branch office, or bring it to the next meeting. Thank you.

ON THE HORIZON

Sun 08 Jul	10:30am	Meeting
Sun 12 Aug	10:30am	Meeting
Fri 17 Aug	10:30am	Vietnam Veteran's Day Long Tan, Manly Cenotaph
Sat 18 Aug	10:30am	Vietnam Veteran's Day Northern Group, Palm Beach RSL Club
Sun 09 Sep	10:30am	Meeting. Christmas tickets on sale.
Sun 14 Oct	10:30am	Meeting
Sun 04 Nov	10:30am	Meeting
Sun 11 Nov	10:15am	Remembrance Day. Form up in lower carpark for Service.
Sun 11 Nov	12:00noon	Lunch, Distillery
Sun 09 Dec	10:30am	Meeting
Sun 09 Dec	12:00noon	Christmas Lunch, Auditorium

Date Changes

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

Two separate Services will be held for
Vietnam Veteran's Day.

Friday 17 August at 10:30am

- (Long Tan) will hold their Service at the Manly Cenotaph.

Saturday 18 August at 10.30am

- (Northern Group) will now meet at Palm Beach RSL Club for their Service, with drinks to follow. There will not be a march this year.

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

