



Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch Newsletter



April 2022 - Number 30

Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch

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Current Membership: 110

The next Newsletter will be published in July 2022



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

History of Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch and Club

The Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch was established in 1934 by WW1 Veterans and their meetings were held at the Village Park Mona Vale. The first President was T.H. Bimson, who was also club Secretary from 1935-1947.

The club was formed on 8th August 1958. Initially the Sub-Branch and Club used a sports pavilion near where the Community Hall is currently situated. There was an area of land owned by the Council in Huxley Street, Mona Vale which was given to the Sub-Branch and Club and this became the first permanent site owned by us. A WW2 surplus army hut was bought from RGHC (the Repatriation and General Hospital, Concord).

The decoration of the club house consisted of army boots, painted red with flowers planted in them. The Club house facilities were a dance floor, small kitchen and a room at the back of the building which housed the only billiards table as well as one poker machine.

In 1960 the Council compulsorily acquired the land where our club house stood for a major development which was to become Winji-Jimmi Bay area. Club President Bill MacKenzie convinced Warringah Council to pay the Sub-Branch two thousand pounds compensation.

The search was then on for a new Sub-Branch and club premises and every time an inquiry on land was made the price went up. Bill MacKenzie found the current Foley Street location (previously known as Herbert Street) and pretended the land was for his personal use when purchasing the site from a local farmer.

The Sub-Branch's two thousand pounds was not enough to pay for the land so the Sub-Branch asked RSL NSW for a loan which was rejected, as they had already lent money to Dee Why RSL. The Harbord Diggers' was a very financially successful club and they

loaned Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch the balance of the 13,000 pounds for the land.

At this time Miller's Brewery were trying to establish the sale of their beer and were financing Clubs who would sell their beer exclusively. This deal was upheld until Millers Brewery were bought out by Tooheys and then other brands of beer were introduced.

Money was fundraised by selling debentures to enable the initial building of the club. The Womens' Auxiliary continued with fundraising and worked in the kitchen to provide meals and entertainment on special occasions such as ANZAC Day.

The official opening of the Club was on 2nd July 1966, by Sir Roden Cutler V.C. K.M.C.G. C.B.E.

On 16th August 1972, Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch held their monthly meeting, 89 members were in attendance when normally only 18 members attended meetings. The next phase of our history is too controversial to list, but the outcome was that the Assets and Liabilities of Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch were transferred to Pittwater RSL Club Ltd on the 23rd October 1972. There is no record of any monies changing hands.

Finally, the financial stability of the Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch came on the 23rd March 2016 when our "Deed of Accommodation and Administrative Services" was ratified.

Over the years, Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch has supported its local community with Commemorative Services as well as supporting its veterans.



Regards,

Deborah Carter

Deborah Carter
President

Lest We Forget

New Sub-Branch Members - We look forward to your participation and support.



Derek Savage,
Service Member

Coral May, Affiliate
Deborah's sister

Michael Mannington
OAM, Affiliate

Roberta Conroy,
Affiliate

Rory Amon,
Affiliate

Kim Brownlie,
Affiliate

Brett Mace's request to transfer from Narrabri Sub-Branch has been finalised this week. Welcome to you all.

ANZAC SERVICES 2022

Anzac Sunday Parade and Service - Mona Vale Memorial Park, Sunday 10 April

12:30pm: Anzac Parade. Form up in Vineyard Street, next to BP Service Station

1:00pm: Anzac Service, Mona Vale Village Park

2:00pm: Lunch, Rock Lilly Auditorium

Lunch, \$35.00 per person includes a 3 course meal, wine, beer and entertainment from Anna Williams & Co performing 60's, 70's and 80's music. Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.

At our Meeting on Sunday 03 April, Bob Wood will take cash only, or you can direct debit. BSB: 062 205. Account Number: 2802 1111. Account Name: Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch The depositor's name must be shown as the deposit reference.

Anzac Dawn Service - Pittwater RSL Club, Lower Cenotaph, Monday 25 April

5:20am: Form up in the lower car park

5:30am: Service at Lower Cenotaph

7:00am: Breakfast, Glasshouse Grill

4:30pm: Drinks in The Distillery

Congratulations Squadron Leader Williams!



Anna Williams from Company B, has been our vocalist since Remembrance Day 2016.

In December 2021, Anna was appointed Squadron Leader, and has commenced work with History and Heritage Branch Air Force as the Community Engagement and Community Liaison Lead.

Another new Sub-Branch Member also finalised this week.



Special guests with Ross Wagland, Shane Fender, Matthew Hill

Extra photos from Purple Poppy Day, 24 February 2022



Dog Handlers - CPL Adam Thomlinson and SPR James Hayes, enjoying a well deserved beer!



Left to right: Leigh Arnold, Inese Carrodus, Graeme Lee, Joan Wood, John Roxburgh

April

- 03, 1885 **Tamai.** Tamai was the largest and most significant engagement in which the 770-man New South Wales contingent to the Sudan were involved. In comparison with the British units involved in the battle, Australian involvement was minimal.
- 10, 1941 **6th Division engage the Germans in Greece.** The Greek campaign, involving forces from Greece, Britain, New Zealand, and Australia, resulted in heavy losses to the 6th Australian Division and ultimately an evacuation of Allied forces from beaches in southern Greece.
- 13, 1941 **Corporal J.H. Edmondson, VC.** Corporal J.H. Edmondson, 2/17th Battalion, AIF, originally from Wagga Wagga, NSW, wins the Victoria Cross at Tobruk. It was a posthumous award.

May

- 10, 1900 **Zand River.** New South Wales Mounted Rifles in action at Zand River, South Africa.
- 13, 1943 **Axis forces surrender in Tunisia.** The Surrender of Axis forces in Tunisia meant the end of the three year long North African campaign.
- 16, 1968 **Fire Support Base Coral attacked for a second time.** An attack on the base by a North Vietnamese Army force estimated at three battalions was repelled by APCs and soldiers from 1st battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Five Australians were killed and 19 wounded. Thirty-four enemy bodies were found.

June

- 10, 1940 **Italy declares war on the Allies.** Hoping to profit from the German successes early in the war, the Italian dictator Mussolini declared war on the Allies in June 1940, by which time the most vocal Italian dissidents were in exile or in prison.
- 12, 1901 **Williamsrust, South Africa.** Victorians trapped in a surprise attack at Williamsrust; 18 were killed and 42 wounded in a five-minute-long engagement.
- 18, 1953 **Australian prisoners of war of the Korean War released at Panmunjon.** Thirty Australians were taken prisoner in Korea; one of these died while in captivity.



Fire Support Base Coral, 1968

The Boer Wars - transports crossing the Zand River, 1900



Corporal J.H. Edmondson, VC.
Born: 08 Oct 1914, Wagga Wagga
Died: 14 Apr 1941, Tobruk, Libya

This painting by Joshua Smith is in the War Memorial Canberra.

John H Edmondson, VC, 2/17 Battalion, AIF, was in a small group that attacked with the bayonet, a party of Germans which had broken through a point of the Tobruk defences in April 1941. During the counter-attack Edmondson was severely wounded but carried on, saved the life of his officer and personally accounted for several of the enemy soldiers. The survivors were put to flight and one prisoner was taken. Edmondson died from his wounds shortly after the fight. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross - the first such award to Australian forces in the Second World War.

National Boer War Memorial, Canberra.

Recently, Bob Wood brought this Memorial to my attention.

On 31 May 2017, His Excellency, General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, dedicated a memorial to those Australians who volunteered and fought in the nation's first war.



Like most wars our nation has been involved in, it happened in a place far away.

- ◆ An economic war with little impact on Australia
- ◆ Our citizens volunteered - between 16,000 and 21,000 took part
- ◆ Between 500 and 1,000 paid the ultimate price

ROUSE AND **REVEILLE** - they are bugle calls played to signify different parts of the day.

Rouse is the call used in conjunction with the Last Post at commemorative services such as **Remembrance Day**, at dedication services and at military funerals. The Rouse is a short bugle call that was also used to call soldiers to their duties. After the one minute silence, the Rouse is sounded during which flags are raised from half mast to the masthead.

Reveille, from the French word 'reveillez', meaning to 'wake-up', was originally played as a drum beat just prior to daybreak. Its purpose is to wake up the sleeping soldiers and to let the sentries know that they could cease challenging. It was also a signal to open the town gates and let out the horse guard, allowing them to do a reconnaissance of the immediate area beyond the walls. During the **ANZAC Day Dawn Service**, the Last Post is sounded followed by a minute of silence. The silence is broken by the Reveille. Today, the Reveille is only performed on the various Dawn services or as the first call of the day in Barracks.



Two Sub-Branch members - Coral May and partner, John Cicolini, Vietnam Veteran.

Congratulations to Coral and John - they recently announced their engagement.

Deborah officially welcomed Michael Mannington OAM to the Sub-Branch at the General Meeting, 13 March 2022



DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS - CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS THE NIGHT BEFORE



Please remember that Daylight Saving **ENDS** on
Sunday 03 April 2022 at 03:00am.
Clocks will be turned **BACK** one hour.

We would hate for you to miss our General Meeting
on Sunday 03 April at 10:30am!



Michael Mannington OAM - Profile



My career has been bookended as a photographer.

At 22, I worked with the legendary Henry Manney III of the leading American motoring magazine Road and Track, photographing every F1 and major motor race in Europe.

In a fortuitous change of direction, I decided to leave the glamour and excitement of the race tracks and try the Australian Outback. Arriving safely in Sydney in 1968, my luggage was not so lucky travelling on another flight, the infamous BOAC 712. This aircraft suffered an engine failure on takeoff from Heathrow that quickly led to a major fire. The engine fell off the aircraft in flight. All luggage was lost, and so there was no alternative but to make an unconditional fresh start in my new country.

This commenced with driving coaches operating outback camping tours, travelling extensively throughout the country. In the 1960's there were no grey nomads, few sealed roads and every trip was an adventure. After 3 years and 150,000 kilometres, I hung up my swag before settling on Sydney's Northern Beaches.



Crossing the Nullarbor 1968.
Road stop on the Eyre Highway.

I spent 30 years running an inbound tourism company based in Sydney. During this time I was also Chairman of the Inbound Tourism Organisation Association for 4 years, as well as 12 years as Chair of the Industry Advisory Committee at UTS. I also spent two terms as member of the Service Industries panel at the CSIRO.

On retirement, the time seemed right to return to photography, just as a hobby. I stumbled across an opportunity to provide local volunteer groups with professional quality photographs for their organisations and their volunteers.

This led to starting Community Photography in 2009. The organisation has some ex-professional photographers and experienced hobbyists. In 12 years, the organisation has worked with hundreds of clients, and completed over 1,000 shoots for hundreds of community and Not for Profit (NFP) organisations.

We have also provided professional images to support their activities, and for the enjoyment of the individual volunteers. In excess of 100,000 images have been delivered in client galleries.

I will always value the working relationships that have developed. I am proud that the images have been frequently used in media, as large prints for advertising and photographic exhibitions, including Parliament House.

I have been humbled to have received NSW State Government's awards for Heritage, and Pittwater Citizen of the Year in 2015.

In January 2020, I was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for my contribution to the community through my Community Photography organisation.

Since January 2014, we have published 44 Member Profiles - 13 in the "Living Treasures Souvenir" Oct 2016, and 31 in our regular quarterly Newsletters.
I would still like more, please!



April - May - June

Sandra May-Crabb



APRIL

Lavinia Waller	02
Sandra May-Crabb	04
David Schwebel	05
Frances Watkins	08
Bob Stanbridge	14
Joan Wood	15
John Chambers	21
David Fairweather	30
Noala De Silva	30
Emma Woods	30

MAY

Ted Curtis	12
Kerry Poha	16
Sue Everitt	21
Leigh Arnold	25
Brad Lewis	27
Derek Savage	29

JUNE

Leslie Beers	02
John Cicolini	03
Graeme Keats	05
Jeff Brown	06
Lindsay Jordan	09
Terry Jones	11
Matthew Hill	13
Gwenyth Sneesby	17
Graeme Lee	17
Peter Icely	19
Beryl Clarke	21

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.

Some helpful website links...

If you are feeling stressed and need someone to talk to, we highly recommend:

<https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/suicide-intervention>

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

<https://www.ruok.org.au/>

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: pittwaterrslsubbranch@gmail.com

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

We Would Like Your Profile

Many members have already provided their profiles. 300+ words about your career would make your Editor very happy! Please email your copy to Sandra. smay44@bigpond.net.au Thank you.

Australian War Memorial - from their email 30 March

Anzac Day, 25 April, is a day of national remembrance; it is the day on which we remember all Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzac) who served and died in war. This year, in collaboration with the Returned Services League of Australia ACT, the Australian War Memorial will mark the 107th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings with a Dawn Service, Veterans' March and Last Post Ceremony.

If you're unable to join us in Canberra for Anzac Day, the Dawn Service will be broadcast nationally on ABC TV from 5:30am.

ON THE HORIZON April - May - June



Sunday 03 April	10:30am	General Meeting	The Meeting Place
Sunday 10 April	12:30pm	Anzac Parade	Form up next to BP Service Station (Vineyard Street)
	1:00pm	Anzac Service	Mona Vale Village Park
	2:00pm	Lunch	Rock Lilly Auditorium
Monday 25 April	5:20am	Anzac Day	Form up lower car park
	5:30am	Anzac Dawn Service	Lower Cenotaph
	7:00am	Breakfast	Glasshouse Grill
	4:30pm	Drinks	The Distillery
Sunday 15 May	11:00am	Pittwater RSL Club AGM	Rock Lilly Auditorium
Sunday 22 May	10:30am	General Meeting	The Meeting Place
Sunday 12 June	10:30am	General Meeting	The Meeting Place

Executive Committee - Contact Numbers

Deborah Carter	President	0414 470 913
Terry Jones	Vice President	0466 892 771
Graeme Lee	Secretary	0490 014 693
Bob Wood	Treasurer	0409 712 349

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