



RSL
NSW

Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch Newsletter

2023
HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2023 - Number 35

Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch

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Current Membership: 110

The next Newsletter will be published in April 2023.

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President's Report

One of the highlights of the last three months was the **WW2 Lost At Sea** commemorative service on Friday 14 Oct 2022 at Mona Vale Headland, Robert Dunn reserve. This was an initiative of Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch, Northern Beaches Council and NSW Government. The memorial seat and plinth were consecrated by the RFS Chaplain Wes Brown. It was well attended, and a memorial Newsletter was produced for this service.

Remembrance Day this year was our best-ever service which was supported by local school students and approximately 150 guests. Once again, thank you to the Catafalque Party from 7th BTY 9 Regt, and Mona Vale Public School choir who sang beautifully, as did our vocalist, Anna Williams and guest vocalist Kyle Adams-Collier. Our commemorative services are a collaboration with Pittwater RSL Club Ltd, and I thank them for their support.

Our Upper Cenotaph has been renovated and we thank Jason Manning for this upgrade.

The Board of Directors and the Sub-Branch have formed a working committee to beautify the Upper Cenotaph area to create a memorial garden and a place of reflection, where our Lone Pine will feature.

Sub-Branch Memberships total 110 - 86 Service Members and 24 Affiliates.

A big thank you to SGT Shane Fender of 7th BTY 9 Regt who, at our Christmas meeting, presented the Sub-Branch with a blank cartridge MK2 for 105MM HOW. This was one of the 21 rounds fired by the 9 Regt RAA to commemorate the proclamation of HRH King Charles III on 11 September 2022 at Government House, Sydney NSW. This cartridge is proudly displayed in the Memorabilia cabinet. See page 5 for a photo of the cartridge.

Purple Poppy Day will be our next commemorative event on Friday 24 February 2023 at 11:00am. We hope to have the Explosive Detection Dogs as our VIP's again. As a lead up to this important Service, Sandra has repeated a BBC report on one such animal, Rob, a dog, that was awarded the Dickin Medal for his war services in WW2. This story is on page 4.

Canine Operational Service Medal. The Medal was introduced on 8 June 2017 to recognise the contribution Military Working Dogs make whilst serving on operations. The Medal forms part of Defence's internal recognition scheme and is not part of the Australian Honours and Awards System. The Australian Defence Force is the first Defence Force to implement recognition of this nature.

The Medal will be awarded to Military Working Dogs who have 30 days service continuous or aggregated on a declared operation.

Phase one of the project will focus on identifying Military Working Dogs with service on operations from East Timor (1999) to current day. Phase two will focus on Defence conducting research to identify Military Working Dogs with service from Vietnam onwards.



Continued on Page 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

The **Sub-Branch Christmas Lunch** on Sunday 11 December in the Auditorium was enjoyed by fifty-seven people. Our guest vocalist, Anna Williams, was ably assisted by Livia and Odette Burns, Zamri's young daughters! See page 5 for photos.

The **Sub-Branch AGM** will be held on Sunday 12 March 2023. This will be a triennial AGM which means we will be voting for our Executive. Voting form including information has been emailed together with this Newsletter. Our general meeting precedes the AGM.

We wish to thank Graeme Lee, Honorary Secretary, who is retiring having served on the Committee for four years.

We have prepared our 2023 Dates for Meetings and Service for 2023. This has also been emailed with this Newsletter.

During 2022, we welcomed Zara Bennett, CEO Jason Manning's PA. I take this opportunity to thank Jason, the Board of Directors and the staff of Pittwater RSL Club Ltd for their ongoing support.

I would like to thank my Executive Committee for their hard work again throughout the year - Terry Jones, Graeme Lee and Bob Wood. I would also like to thank Sandra May-Crabb, Office Manager and Inese Carrodus, Office Assistant. Sandra produces our Newsletters; Darren Crabb and I are co-contributors.

I hope you had a very Merry Christmas. Best wishes for a safe and healthy 2023.

Thank You, Deborah

On behalf of all
Pittwater Sub-Branch members,
we thank you for your dedication
as our President during 2022

Sandra and Darren



Lest We Forget
Regards,

Deborah Carter

Deborah Carter
President

This Day in History - January, February, March

Darren and Sandra

January

- 11, 1942 Japanese captured Tarakan Island, Borneo. The success of Japan's war in South East Asia and the Pacific depended in large part upon the seizure of Borneo's oilfields, including those at Tarakan.
- 16, 1952 HMAS Sydney begins its seventh patrol in Korean waters. Sydney began its service in Korea in August 1951. This was the ship's final patrol in Korean waters.
- 17, 1991 Coalition air attacks begin against Iraqi forces in Iraq and Kuwait. The first day of the Gulf War which ended when Iraqi forces were driven from Kuwait.

February

- 09, 1943 Japanese defeat on Guadalcanal. After the ill-fated Philippines campaign, Guadalcanal was the first test of land strength between Japan and the United States in the Second World War. Japanese reverses at Guadalcanal contributed to their having to withdraw from the Kokoda Trail in 1942 when they were almost within sight of Port Moresby.
- 19, 1915 Allied warships shell Dardanelles. This was the first allied attempt to force a passage through the Dardanelles and attack the heart of the Ottoman Empire. Its failure ultimately led to the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.
- 27, 1942 Battle of Java Sea. In two separate actions off the coast of Surabaya involving heavy losses in Allied shipping. HMAS Perth was involved in the battle and was one of the few allied ships to survive. The action delayed Japanese landings in Java by only one day.

March

- 03, 1885 Sudan contingent departed Sydney. New South Wales' offer to send a contingent to the Sudan was a demonstration of the depth of imperial sentiment in colonial Australia.
- 13, 1943 Japanese reconnaissance flight over Darwin. In addition to the 64 air raids on Darwin the Japanese made numerous reconnaissance flights over northern Australia.
- 22, 1945 Corporal R.R. Rattey, VC. Corporal R.R. Rattey, 25th Battalion, originally from Barmedman, New South Wales, wins the Victoria Cross on Bougainville.



Our guests for Remembrance Day Catafalque Party

Cr Rory Amon, Northern Beaches Council
Dr Sophie Scamps, MP Member for Mackellar
The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop AO

The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP Member for Pittwater
Chief Inspector David Richards, Northern Beaches Area Command

Michael Mannington OAM, Community Photography,
Anna Williams and Kylie Adams-Collier, Vocalists,
and Harriet Channon, Bugler.

Students from the following schools:
Mona Vale Public, Narrabeen North Public, Sacred Heart Primary,
St Luke's Grammar Junior (Bayview Campus) and Pittwater High.



Mona Vale Public School Choir with Choirmaster, Annie Woods



Anna Williams



Kylie Adams-Collier



Photographs courtesy of Michael Mannington OAM, Community Photography

Dickin medal awarded to Tetchill dog smashes auction record. A medal awarded to a dog who completed 20 parachute jumps in World War II has sold for £140,000 at auction.



Basil Bayne said Rob's presence behind enemy lines saved lives which led to him getting the PDSA Dickin Medal for Gallantry

Rob was volunteered to help with the war effort by his Shropshire owners and was sent to North Africa with the SAS.

Basil Bayne, the son of Rob's owner, said his presence behind enemy lines saved lives, which led to him getting the PDSA's Dickin Medal for Gallantry.

The medal, known as Victoria Cross for animals, was sold on Wednesday along with books, photos and a collar.

The sale, through medal auctioneer Noonans of Mayfair in London, broke the previous world record for a Dickin Medal which had been awarded to a pigeon for its gallantry during D-Day.

The black and white collie-retriever was bought from a local farm for five shillings and became a family pet on Mr Bayne's parent's smallholding in Tetchill, near Ellesmere.

His parents heard a radio appeal for dogs to be "submitted to the war effort" for guard duty and they volunteered him in 1942, he said.

Rob was attached to the SAS and guarded ammunition dumps before being taken up on a plane with SAS officers practising parachute jumps.

US troops nearby were trialling jumps with dogs and the British troops borrowed a harness and tried a jump which he seemed to enjoy, Mr Bayne said.

"The unique thing about him was, most dogs the Americans tried barked all the way down," he said.

"Well, if you're looking for a dog to work behind enemy lines, there's not much point in advertising your presence by barking all the way down."

He stayed with the SAS in North Africa where he was credited with more than 20 jumps.

"The handler who jumped with Rob on three occasions said without his presence they would not have survived the forces and it was for that the dog was given the animal VC," Mr Bayne said.



After his posting in Africa, Rob became the first war dog to serve with the SAS from September 1943, parachuting in on sabotage missions in Italy

The Dickin Medal was established in 1943 by the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) founder Maria Dickin, and is the highest award an animal can receive while serving in military conflict.

The medal has been awarded 74 times since then, with dogs, pigeons, horses and a cat honoured.

Mr Bayne said he was stunned by the amount the memorabilia sold for.

"I can't believe the price, but I am so delighted that Rob's story and legacy is held in such high respect and that the important role that him and many other animals have played in conflict is being recognised," he said.

The proceeds are to be given to the Taylor McNally Foundation charity, which trains and educates on poultry husbandry.

Christopher Mellor-Hill, from Noonans, said: "Over the years books have been written about him [Rob] and he even featured on the front page of the Radio Times. We believe this to be the most important Dickin Medal to ever be sold at auction."

The following has been copied from Wikipedia. To read more: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rob_\(dog\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rob_(dog))

Following his military service, Rob returned to his owners in Tetchill, Shropshire. He died in 1952 and was buried on the family farm, marked with a stone memorial which reads: To the dear memory of Rob, war dog no 471/322, twice VC, Britain's first parachute dog, who served three and a half years in North Africa and Italy with the Second Special Air Service Regiment. Died 18th January 1952 aged 12 1/2 years. Erected by Basil and Heather Bayne in memory of a faithful friend and playmate 1939–1952.

PS: Christopher Mellor-Hill is a very good friend of Darren Crabb and Sandra May-Crabb.





January • February • March

Sandra May-Crabb



JANUARY – 11

Julie Emerson	09
Tom Wear	12
Harry Crampton	13
Rainer Noble	13
Inese Carrodus	14
Jack Snowden	14
Rob Stokes, MP	17
Gerry Faramus	20
Ron Douglas	21
Wayne Broun	23
David Onslow	25

FEBRUARY – 10

Frank Best	03
John Sturzaker	08
Konrad Gebels	10
Rowland Waller	10
John Ward	14
Kosta Coric	19
Barry Taylor	21
Zane Wilcox	22
Gary Everitt	23
Michael Carrodus	27

MARCH - 09

John Parnell	02
Rodger Williams	05
Brian Leary	06
Anna Williams	07
Ross Wagland	09
Theo Chere	11
Pamela Ward	14
Coral May	20
Alan Craw	25

“Thank You” to our President, Executive Committee, Support Team and a few Affiliate Members who assisted during 2022.

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, the Sub-Branch office Activity Time Records for administration, are required submissions to RSL NSW Head Office. The combined total for January to December 2022, was **2,334 hours!** If everyone charged an hourly rate of just \$70, the cost of doing business to the Sub-Branch would be **\$163,380!**

Thank you to everyone involved for volunteering your time in support of the Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch.



Congratulations to Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch member, John Parnell.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW presented the Lifetime Membership Certificate to John on 28 Oct 2022.

John has been a St Vincent de Paul volunteer for 63 years!

VALE in 2022

Donald Newport - 11 April
John Williams - 23 April
Walter 'Wal' Williams OAM - 04 June
Peter Whipp - 09 June
Julien Vanslambrouck - 03 July
Stanley Rogers - 23 July
Fred Smith - 10 August
HM Queen Elizabeth II - 08 September
John Moore OAM - 16 September

LEST WE FORGET

ON THE HORIZON January - February - March



A General Meeting will not be held in January

Sun 12 Feb	10:30am	Meeting	Meeting Place
Fri 24 Feb	11:00am	Purple Poppy Day Service	Lower Cenotaph
Sun 12 Mar	10:30am	Meeting and AGM	Meeting Place

The Sub-Branch AGM will be held at the March meeting, and voting to elect your Executive will be conducted.

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

Support Team

Sandra May-Crabb	Newsletter Editor, Office Manager	0417 944 244
Inese Carrodus	Office Assistant	0449 525 316

