



Pittwater RSL sub-Branch Newsletter



January 2025 - Number 46

Pittwater RSL sub-Branch

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Current Membership: 105

The next Newsletter will be
published in April 2025.

Pittwater RSL Club Ltd

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President's Report



Sadly, since our last Newsletter, we
have lost the following Service
Members:

Peter Icely - 02 October

Geoff Brown - 28 October

Christopher Bedwell - 01 November

Don Kennedy OAM - 23 November

Chris Bedwell, Pittwater sub-Branch
member, 50 year Certificate recipient,
and past President, passed away on 01
November. Our sympathy goes to his
two sons, Jason and Simon.

Don Kennedy OAM was a WW2
veteran. Don was in the Merchant Navy
and a valued member of Forestville sub-
Branch. I attended Don's funeral on 29
November.

The highlight of the last quarter of this
year was our special presentation to our
12 Vietnam Veterans where we
presented them with the Vietnam
Veterans Tri-Service Tie. A brief
biography was read out about each of
our Veterans, and for those who were
unable to attend, their ties were
presented at a later date.

I met with Jacqui Scruby on Tue 03
December to assist her in understanding
how the sub-Branches on the Northern
Beaches work. We provided her with an
RSL NSW diary.

Jacqui presented the Pittwater sub-
Branch with the Community Recognition
Statement certificate. This is the NSW
Parliament recognition of Pittwater
Electorate Remembrance Day
Celebrations. The Certificate is reprinted
on page 5. The framed copy is in the
sub-Branch office.

On Thursday 05 December, Sandra May
and I were invited by Mayor Sue Heins,
Northern Beaches Council, to attend
their 2024 End-of-Year reception at
Cromer Golf Club. We gave Sue a
'thank you' card and a copy of the RSL
NSW 2025 Diary to keep her informed of
RSL activity.

On 09 December, we also gave Dr
Sophie Scamps MP, Member for
Mackellar, a copy of the RSL NSW 2025
Diary to assist with her planning of
veteran events.

On 13 December, I attended Narrabeen
RSL sub-Branch final meeting for 2024,
and their farewell lunch, as the Club as
now been sold. They are looking for a
new sub-Branch venue.

Finally, in the Reveille December issue,
there are seven Royal Commission
recommendations to be implemented
now. Please read the current Reveille
for explanation of these points:

1. Transition Support
2. Wellbeing agency
3. National funding
4. Peak body
5. Compensation Advocacy
6. Claims reform
7. ESO Leadership

Our next Commemorative Service Purple Poppy Day - Monday 24 Feb 2024



Honouring all Animals who lost their lives in Wars

One of the most powerful monuments to
animals is located in London. It has two
inscriptions. The first reads
'This monument is dedicated to all the
animals that served and died alongside
British and Allied forces in wars and
campaigns throughout time'.

The second inscription simply says
'They had no choice'

President's Report continued

As your President, I would like to thank the following members:

The Executive: Terry Jones, Vice President; Bob Wood, Treasurer; Sandra May, Hon. Secretary.

Office: Inese Carrodus and Joan Wood for their support.

Trustees: Bernie O'Neill, Scott Johnston and Ollie Ford. Our new Trustees have been very proactive in 2024.

Memorabilia: Graeme Lee, Roberta Conroy OAM for keeping the cabinet in the foyer updated.

Community Photographer: Michael Mannington OAM who continues to support our sub-Branch and other community projects.

Newsletters: Sandra May for producing these every three months as well as Special Editions. Darren Crabb and I are co-contributors.

Everyone's support in 2024 has been invaluable!

I would also like to acknowledge Pittwater RSL Club - Leigh Arnold, President, and the Directors for their support throughout 2024.

A special thank you to Jason Manning CEO, and staff for their continued assistance in our shared commemorative events during 2024, and everything else they provide.

I hope everyone had a healthy and safe Christmas, and Happy New Year to everyone for 2025.



Lest We Forget
Regards,

Deborah Carter

Deborah Carter
President

Thank you, Deborah!

Pittwater sub-Branch is very fortunate to have you as our President.
Your continued dedication and outstanding service is greatly appreciated.

Sandra, Darren and sub-Branch Members

Vietnam Veterans



At our General Meeting on Sunday 03 November, we presented our Vietnam Veterans with special Vietnam Veteran ties.

Unfortunately, Bernie O'Neill, Graeme Keats, Richard Ling, Brian Leary and Ray Cicolini, were unable to attend; their ties have been delivered by hand.

L-R: Tony Giuffre, Dennis de Silva, John Cicolini, Theo Chere, Guy Bryant, Gary Everitt and Stan Juracich.

*Image by Michael Mannington OAM,
Community Photography*

VALE

Sadly, we need to report the passing of former sub-Branch Members and friends

Peter Icely

WW2 Army. Service No. NX168319
19 June 1924 - 02 October 2024

Geoff Brown

Died 28 October 2024, Forestville sub-Branch

Christopher Bedwell, Life Member

Army, Vietnam Veteran, Service No. 2782979
07 July 1945 - 01 November 2024

Don Kennedy OAM

Army and Merchant Navy
Died 23 November 2024, Forestville sub-Branch



LEST WE FORGET

VALE in 2024

As we commence the new year, let us pause to remember our RSL sub-Branch members and friends who passed away in 2024

Sandra Langfield - 16 January
Kosta Coric - 13 February
Aubrey 'Chip' Thompson - 11 June
Ted Blackwood OAM - 20 June
Ted Samojlowicz - 05 July
Brian Strawbridge - 14 July
John Roxburgh - 06 September
Peter Icely - 02 October
Geoff Brown - 28 October
Christopher Bedwell - 01 November
Don Kennedy OAM - 23 November

LEST WE FORGET

Remembrance Day - Monday 11 November 2024



Lest We Forget



James Brown was our Guest Speaker. This is his full biography.

James Brown is the Chairman of Invictus Australia, a veteran's charity that connects veterans to the healing power of sport through grass roots community activities, and also selects and supports Australia's teams competing in the global Invictus Games.

James was the State President of RSL NSW between 2017 and 2019 as well as a director of RSL Lifecare. He led the rebuilding and reform of both organisations through that period, as well as helping to lead the successful national campaign to establish a Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicides.

James served as an officer in the Australian Army for eight years. During that time, he served as a cavalry troop commander on combat operations in Southern Iraq, completed a second Iraq deployment at Australia's task force headquarters in Baghdad, and served his third deployment in a specialist role with coalition special forces in Afghanistan.

A national security and public policy expert, James has previously held research appointments at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, United States Studies Centre, Land Warfare Studies Centre, and as an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Sydney. He has authored two books on Australia's national security and is a regular media contributor on defence and veterans' issues. In 2021 James was appointed by the Minister of Defence to the Council of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, a national defence think tank based in Canberra.

Most recently, James was the Chief Executive Officer of the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA), representing more than 70 organisations working to enable space industry for Australia's economy, security, international partnerships, and climate future. He was appointed to the expert group developing Australia's space strategy alongside Australia's Chief Scientist, Space Agency head, and Defence Space Commander. He recently led the successful international bid to bring the world's largest global space conference, the International Astronautical Congress, to Sydney in 2025.

James lives in Great Mackerel Beach with his two young children.



James Brown, Guest Speaker
Deborah Carter, President, Pittwater RSL sub-Branch

Leigh Arnold, President, Pittwater RSL Club

Jason Manning, CEO, Pittwater RSL Club

The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop AO

Jacqui Scruby MP, Member for Pittwater

Charlotte Bonnar representing Dr Sophie Scamps MP

Inspector Maree Kiem, Northern Beaches Area Command

Cameron Edgar, Asst Commissioner ASM FACP Director of

Aeromedical and Special Operations, NSW Ambulance

Deputy Mayor Ruth Robins, representing Mayor Sue Heins,

Bob Conroy, Deputy Captain, Coal and Candle Creek, RFS

Peter Thomas President, Pittwater Memorial Men's Bowling Club

Lorraine Loftus, Treasurer, Pittwater Memorial Women's Bowling Club

SBLT Dr Zamri Burns spoke on behalf of current serving members

97 students attended from five
local schools:

Mona Vale Public School
Sacred Heart Primary School
St Luke's Grammar Junior School
(Bayview Campus)
Mater Maria College
Pittwater High School

Mona Vale Public School Choir,
led by Choirmaster, Annie Woods,
sang "The Last ANZAC"

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a special Remembrance Day Service,
particularly the Pittwater RSL Club, Jason Manning CEO and staff,
SQNLDR Dr Anna Williams, Dr Harriet Channon, Jeff Brown, SGT Shane Fender and the Catafalque Party,
and Michael Mannington OAM, Community Photography, for all images.
We appreciate everyone's attendance at our Services.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENT

NSW PARLIAMENT RECOGNITION OF PITTWATER ELECTORATE REMEMBRANCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Hansard transcript of the NSW Legislative Assembly on 12 November 2024

Ms Jacqui Scruby (Pittwater) Every year on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we pay our respects to remember the loss and the suffering of soldiers who have died fighting for our nation.

I thank the sub-Branches of Pittwater RSL, Avalon RSL, Palm Beach RSL and RSL Anzac Village, for hosting Remembrance Day services this year in Pittwater. I give special thanks to Deborah Carter from the Pittwater sub-Branch and, of course, all those in Pittwater who have served in our armed services. I attended a moving ceremony yesterday at Pittwater RSL, standing with those who have served our country and also relatives of those who have served, as well as students from local schools, including Pittwater High School, Mater Maria and Mona Vale Public School. Australia is truly fortunate to have the freedom it has today thanks to the sacrifices made by those men and women of the armed services, many of whom lost their lives. I thank our sub-Branches for ensuring that we will remember them. Lest we forget.

Jacqui Scruby MP
MEMBER FOR PITTWATER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

Frank Best	03
John Boland	03
Marcia Gravenor	06
John Sturzaker	08
Konrad Gebels	10
Rowland Waller	10
Richard Ling	11
Barry Taylor	21
Zane Wilcox	22
Gary Everitt	23
Michael Carrodus	27

MARCH

John Parnell	02
Rodger Williams	05
Brian Leary	06
Anna Williams	07
Philip Jamieson	08
Ross Wagland	09
Theo Chere	11
Coral Cicolini	20
Alan Craw	25
Margarete Douglas	25

This is the usual update. During 2024, your Executive Committee, Support Team, and a few Affiliate Members 'got the job done'.

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, the Sub-Branch office Activity Time Records for administration, are required submissions for RSL NSW Head Office. The combined total for January to December 2024, was **2132 hours!** If everyone charged an hourly rate of just \$80, the sub-Branch cost of doing business, for staff only, would be **\$170,560**. Thank you to everyone involved for volunteering your time in support of the Pittwater RSL sub-Branch.



Annual Life Member's Lunch

Deborah Carter attended the Life Member's lunch on Wednesday 20 November 2024 at Dee Why RSL Club.

Bob Lunnon, President of NBDC and President Forestville RSL sub-Branch, was a special guest speaker and addressed the lunch.

Christmas Lunch - Sunday 01 December

Our annual Christmas Lunch was celebrated in the Glasshouse Restaurant at the Club, following our last General Meeting for the year. 49 guests - many sub-Branch members, partners and carers, joined in the festivities.



- January**
19, 1951 **No. 77 Squadron raids Pyongyang.** Mustangs of No. 77 Squadron attacked a suspected Chinese headquarters with rockets.
- 23, 1942** **Japanese capture Rabaul, New Guinea.** Rabaul possessed a number of airfields and one of the best natural harbours in the south-west Pacific. Its capture gave Japan a base from which to launch air attacks towards New Guinea and north-eastern Australia as well as a strong south-eastern corner to its defensive perimeter in the Pacific.
- 23, 1952** **Death of John Treloar.** John Treloar, Director of Australian War Memorial between 1920 and 1952, was a staunch advocate of the need for a permanent building to house the vast collections of records and relics that had been collected during and after the First World War.
- February**
03, 1915 **Turkish forces attack the Suez canal.** Turkish attempts to capture the Suez canal, vital to Allied shipping, were repulsed largely by Indian troops. Australians of the 7th and 8th Infantry Battalions temporarily garrisoned the trenches after the fight.
- 05, 1917** **Captain H.W. Murray, VC.** Captain H.W. Murray, 4th Division, originally from Launceston, Tasmania, was awarded the Victoria Cross at Stormy Trench north-east of Gueudecourt, France.
- 28, 1942** **Japanese invade Java.** The Japanese invasion of Java signalled the defeat of the Netherlands East Indies and was another in the series of victories won by the Japanese in the opening six months of the Pacific war.
- March**
17, 1942 **General MacArthur flies to Darwin.** Having left the Philippines after the Japanese invasion, General MacArthur was appointed to command the newly created South West Pacific Area. Australia became the base from which he would launch offensive action against the Japanese in the Pacific.
- 18, 1915** **Allied fleet attempts to force the Dardanelles.** This was the second allied attempt to force a naval breakthrough of the Turkish defences in the Dardanelles.
- 20, 1917** **Lieutenant F.H. McNamara, VC.** Lieutenant F.H. McNamara, originally from Rushworth, Victoria, becomes the first Australian airman to win a Victoria Cross for rescuing a downed comrade in Palestine.

ADF Personnel Profile - Lieutenant Francis Hubert 'Frank' McNamara

Sandra



Frank McNamara was the first Australian airman to be awarded the Victoria Cross. He was born at Rushworth, Victoria, on 4 April 1894. Having completed his secondary schooling in Shepparton, McNamara studied teaching at the Teachers Training College and the University of Melbourne.

He taught at a number of Victorian Schools and joined the Senior Cadets in 1911. The following year

he transferred to the Brighton Rifles and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in July 1913. In the early months of the First World War he served at Queenscliff and then Point Nepean before attending the Officers Training School at Broadmeadows. Between February and May 1915 he instructed at the AIF Training Depot at Broadmeadows.

In August 1915 McNamara was selected to attend the Point Cook Flying School, graduating as a pilot in October that year. He was posted to No. 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, as an adjutant in January 1916 and sailed for Egypt. In May 1916 he left for an attachment to No. 42 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps to attend the Central Flying School at Upavon, England. Upon completing his course he was attached to No. 22 Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps as an instructor in Egypt before returning to duty with No. 1 Squadron.

By March 1917, No. 1 Squadron was making regular bombing raids against Gaza. On 20 March McNamara, flying on one such operation, saw a fellow squadron member,

Captain D. W. Rutherford, shot down. Although having just suffered a serious leg wound, McNamara landed near the stricken Rutherford who climbed aboard, but his wound prevented McNamara from taking off and his aircraft crashed. The two men made it back to Rutherford's plane which they succeeded in starting and, with McNamara at the controls, they took off just as enemy cavalry reached the scene. For this action McNamara was awarded the Victoria Cross.

He was promoted to Captain and appointed Flight Commander in April 1917, but his wound prevented further flying and he was invalided to Australia in August that year. His appointment with the Australian Flying Corps ended in January 1918 but he was reappointed in September and became an aviation instructor. In 1921 McNamara transferred to the newly established Royal Australian Air Force as a flight lieutenant. He held a number of senior RAAF appointments between the wars, and spent two years on exchange to the RAF in the mid-1920s.

At the beginning of the Second World War, McNamara was promoted to Air Commodore and, in 1942, Air Vice Marshal. Between 1942 and 1945 he served as Air Officer Commanding British Forces in Aden before returning to London as the RAAF's representative at Britain's Ministry of Defence. In July 1946 he became Director of Education at the headquarters of the British Occupation Administration in Germany.

McNamara retired in England and died in London on 02 November 1961.

Image and profile obtained from Australian War Memorial.

General Information

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.

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 email pittwaterrslsubbranch@gmail.com

General links

[RSL NSW](#) - RSL NSW Member Portal is Live!

[Australian War Memorial](#); [Vet Affairs News](#);

[Scamwatch](#)

RSL Funeral Tribute - If you know of any service member, regardless of RSL affiliation, our sub-Branch will provide a Tribute for Commonwealth Nations and our Allies.

50 Year Certificate - If you have been a sub-Branch Member, continuously of any Branch, for longer than 50 years, please contact Deborah Carter.

Cyber Crime - Report to 1800 595 160.
Or call Snr Constable Matt Cain at Dee Why Police Station, 02 9971 3399.

Previous Newsletters - Jan 2022 to Jul 2024, can be viewed on our web page on the Pittwater RSL Club's website. [Sub-Branch Newsletters](#); scroll to bottom.

Helpful website links and telephone numbers:

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

[Open Arms](#) - 1800 011 046 (24/7)

[Beyond Blue](#) - 1300 224 636 (24/7)

[Women's Resilience Centre](#) - 1300 895 991

The History of The Ode

Sandra



The Ode is published in RSL NSW diaries, and has also appeared in previous Newsletters.

Wanting to know the origins of The Ode, my online search revealed the following.

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

Laurence composed his best known poem 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 where the poem was written.

The poem was published in London in the 'Winnowing Fan; Poems of the Great War' in 1914. It was also 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> Hold down the Control key while you click the link.

ON THE HORIZON January - March 2025 (Subject to change)

No Meeting in January

Sunday 02 February	10:30 am	General Meeting	Mainsail Room
Monday 24 February	11:00 am	Purple Poppy Day Service	Lower Cenotaph
Sunday 02 March	10:30 am	General Meeting	Mainsail Room
Sunday 02 March	11:30 am	sub-Branch AGM	Mainsail Room



Executive Committee and Support

Deborah Carter	President, Welfare Officer	0414 470 913
Terry Jones	Vice President	0466 892 771
Sandra May	Secretary, Newsletter Editor	0417 944 244
Bob Wood	Treasurer	0409 712 349

Support

Inese Carrodus	Office Assistant	0449 525 316
Joan Wood	Assistant Treasurer	0407 931 987

Office:	Monday (10:30 - 16:30)	02 8401 0785
Email:	pittwaterrslsubbranch@gmail.com	
Website:	https://www.pittwaterrsl.com.au/sub-branch	

If urgent, please call any member of the Executive.



**The sub-Branch office
re-opens on Monday
20 January 2025, 10:30 am**