



Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Dawn Service 2023 Special Edition Newsletter



RSL
NSW

Tuesday 25 April

Including a combined march with Avalon Sub-Branch



Attendees at our Anzac Day Dawn Service:

Deborah Carter, President

Terry Jones, Vice President
Bob Wood, Treasurer, Prayer Reading
Jeff Brown, Parade Commander
Shane Fender, Guard Commander

Kylie Adams-Collier, Guest Vocalist
Ben Riley, Piper
Dr Harriet Channon, Bugler
Sub-Lieutenant Zamri Burns, Commemorative Address

Gary Everitt, John Cicolini, Vietnam Veterans; The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop AO;
Rory Amon MP, Member for Pittwater; Guy Glenny representing Dr Sophie Scamps MP;
Insp. Vanessa Robinson, Northern Beaches Police Area Command; Livia and Odette Burns;
Alex Barrell, Marine Rescue NSW Commissioner, CEO; Cr Bianca Crvelin, Northern Beaches Council;
Leigh Arnold, Pittwater RSL Club President; Jason Manning, Pittwater RSL Club CEO;
Steve Hill, Pittwater Men's Bowls Club Vice President; Sue Lewis, Pittwater Women's Bowls Club Vice President;
Catafalque Party and Members of 7 Bty 9 Regt; Mona Vale Public School, Sacred Heart Catholic School,
St Luke's Grammar School Bayview Campus; Narrabeen North Public School; Pittwater High School;
Mater Maria Catholic College; Mona Vale Surf Club, Newport Surf Club, Warriewood Surf Club,
Warringah Rugby Club and NSW Fire and Rescue.

At 11:00am, Sub-Branch Members marched with the Avalon RSL Sub-Branch and attended their Service.
Deborah Carter recited The Ode and laid a wreath on behalf of our Sub-Branch.
Rory Amon MP and Scott Johnston carried our Banner.



Anzac Day Dawn Service



President Deborah Carter's Opening Address

Good morning everyone, and welcome to Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch and Pittwater RSL Club Ltd for the ANZAC Dawn Service, in particular our school students and their teachers. Welcome to Knox old boy, Ben Riley, our Piper, and his Grandfather, Geoffrey Riley, who is a veteran.

On 11 January 2023, we acknowledged the 50th Anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in Vietnam. Long Tan Day, 18 August 1966, was one of our bloodiest battles. We have several Australian Vietnam Veterans in our Sub-Branch, as well as two American Vets, and we pay **our respect** to them today. Vietnam Veterans (Northern) will be commemorating Vietnam Veterans Day on 13 August 2023.

Another important event is happening on 14 May 2023. It is the 80th Anniversary of the sinking of the hospital ship, Centaur. There were 332 people on board this ship. The ship had a Red Cross clearly visible on its stern and was torpedoed by a Japanese Submarine I-177. This attack occurred off Moreton Bay on the east coast of Australia. There were only 64 survivors, one being Army Nurse Sister Eileen Savage who lost 11

of her nursing colleagues.

A Commemorative Service will be held at the Robert Dunn Reserve at Mona Vale Headland (Southern end) on Sunday 14 May 2023 at 3:00pm. The significance of this location is that last October a Lost At Sea Memorial was consecrated in honour of the POW's, Nurses and Civilian Internees who lost their lives in the South Pacific ocean, at the hands of the Japanese.

I will now recite The Prologue

On this day, above all days, we recall those who, in the great tragedy of war, gave their lives for Australia and for the freedom of mankind; who still sleep amid the ridges of Gallipoli and the terraced hills of Palestine; in the lovely cemeteries of France or the shimmering haze of the Libyan desert; amid the mounts and olive groves of Greece and the Middle East; the jungles of Malaya, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, in rugged Korea and the battlefields of Vietnam; in the mountains and barren fields of Afghanistan and Iraq; amid loving friends in our mother country and our own land, and in unknown resting places in every continent and every sea.

We remember those who have since fallen by our side in the wars in which we have been engaged – in the air and on the sea and land, and all our loyal friends among the people of New Guinea and elsewhere. We think of every man, woman and child who, in those crucial years, died so that the lights of freedom and humanity might continue to shine.

Deborah's perspective...

Anzac Day is not just about WW1, the War to end all Wars, but is a remembrance of all campaigns in theatres of war, and sadly many wars have followed.

In my view, the war that changed Australia was WW2 because the enemy was close on our doorstep and the Brisbane Line was proposed. With the fear of occupation of the Japanese, the Government decided that the Japanese could live North of Brisbane, and the Australians could live South of Brisbane.

I pay tribute to our WW2 veterans, the young men of the Militia of Kokoda, Templeton's Crossing, the Battle Milne Bay, Gona-Buna which broke the back of the Japanese from further aspirations to take Australia.

I also pay tribute to the 7th Division on returning from the Middle East who assisted with this triumph.

Anzac Day is not just a day we remember our Anzacs, but we salute all veterans who have put on the uniform, in particular, our current serving members and reservists, who have kept us safe during fire assist, Covid safe, floods and border control. Thanks to our Kiwi cousins.

May we and our successors prove worthy of their sacrifice. **Lest We Forget**





Kylie Adams-Collier is an award-winning vocalist whose grandfather lost his life on the ship Montevideo Maru at the hands of the Japanese.

Amazingly, four days prior to Anzac Day, the wreckage of the Montevideo Maru was found off the coast of the Philippines, almost 81 years to its sinking (it was sunk on 01 July 1942). If anyone saw the news feed of the ship's discovery, the lady interviewed is Mrs Andrea Williams, whose grandfather and uncle lost their lives. Andrea is the CEO and founding member of the Montevideo Maru Association.

Kylie sang her award-winning song "Montevideo Maru 1942", and placed flowers on the Cenotaph in honour of those who lost their lives.



Sub-Lieutenant Zamri Burns is a New Zealand born Naval Officer with a proud Australian Indigenous heritage.

Zamri gave an excellent address.

Zamri is a Navy veteran of 20+ years serving predominantly as an underwater medicine clinician. He has multiple operational deployments to his name; both seagoing and land-based, with the most recent as the NCOIC to the U.S. special operations Command Surgeon in Afghanistan. This was in support of the US-led "Operation Freedom's Sentinel" which is part of the global war against terror.

Upon his return, he commenced full-time military-sponsored postgraduate medical training at the University of Sydney.

Zamri was awarded the prestigious U.S. Defense Meritorious Service Medal, which is normally issued only to American Service personnel.



Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch joined the Avalon RSL Sub-Branch for the march, prior to their Commemorative Service



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School



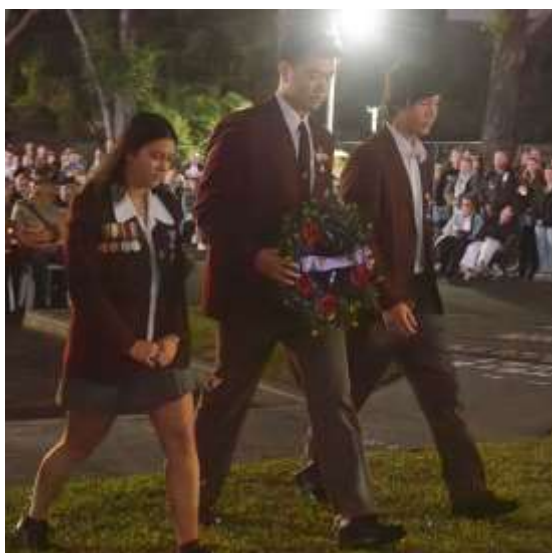
Mona Vale Public School



Mater Maria Catholic College



St Luke's Grammar School Bayview Campus



Pittwater High School



Narrabeen North Public School



Deborah also attended the Collaroy Sub-Branch Anzac Day Sunset Service.

Thank you to the Northern Beaches local community for attending our Anzac Commemorative Dawn Service, and to the following people who shared their talents during the Service, and to those who captured the memories!

Kylie Adams-Collier, Harriet Channon, Ben Riley, Bob Wood, Sub-Lieutenant Zamri Burns, Jeff Brown, Shane Fender, Rory Amon MP, Scott Johnston, and to all who were involved from the Pittwater RSL Club Ltd for their invaluable assistance. Photographs by Michael Mannington OAM and Maryann Heffernan, Community Photography; Dale Cohen, Northern Beaches Advocate; and Alison Guesdon, Pittwater Online News.