



RSL
NSW

Pittwater RSL sub-Branch Newsletter



July 2025 - Number 48

Pittwater RSL sub-Branch

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Current Membership: 106

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The next Newsletter will be
published in October 2025.



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President's Report

VALE sub-Branch Members

It was my sad duty to report that we have lost four members since February.

Leslie Beers

Leslie passed on 06 February 2025, aged 87 years. The family advised us in writing on 16 June.

Gwenyth Sneesby - Member

Gwen passed on 10 April 2025, aged 100 years, just 9 weeks before her 101st birthday. Her funeral was on Monday 28 April, and I conducted the RSL Tribute.

Brian Sargeson - Member

Brian passed on 03 May 2025, aged 94 years. His funeral was held at the Uniting Church Warriewood on Wednesday 21 May, and I conducted the RSL Tribute.

Don Tierney - Member

Don passed on 04 May 2025, aged 88 years. The family did not require an RSL Tribute. Terry Jones and I attended his funeral on 12 May.

Peter Flaherty - Friend

Peter was not a sub-Branch member. Peter passed on 03 June 2025, 78 years. He was a Signaller and served in Vietnam 24 May 1966 to 13 May 1967.

ANZAC DAY SERVICES

Thank you to WO2 Shane Fender, Guest Speaker at Pittwater High School on Monday 07 April.

I attended the Pittwater House Service on Friday 11 April at 09:30am. Later that day, at 12pm, Beryl Clarke and I attended the Mona Vale Public School as Guest Speakers.

I am proud to say ten sub-Branch members placed flags on our veterans graves at Mona Vale Cemetery on Thursday 17 April for ANZAC Day.

I represented Pittwater sub-Branch at RSL LifeCare ANZAC March and Service on 23 April, and I laid a wreath on behalf of NBDC.

ANZAC DAY WAS VERY BUSY

Our ANZAC Day Dawn Service was held despite the unexpected downpour. The Pittwater Club worked tirelessly to relocate everything to the under cover carpark. Many of the community attended, and thank you to WO2 Shane Fender, Guest Speaker. See page 4.

AVALON ANZAC DAY SERVICE

I attended the 11:00 am Avalon march and delivered the Ode at their Service. I also attended Palm Beach service and Collaroy sub-Branch sunset service.

ANZAC DAY MARCH IN SYDNEY

Vice President, Terry Jones, marched with 9RAR for the first time on ANZAC Day following our Dawn Service. He was photographed with General Sir Peter John Cosgrove, AK, CVO, MC. See page 4.

On Friday 06 June, the Defence of Sydney service was held at North Head Manly. See page 2.

Peter Flaherty - Vietnam Veteran

In February 2025, the Sub-Branch office was contacted by Bruce Collins, Welfare Advocate for Vietnam Veterans regarding Vietnam Veteran, Peter Flaherty.

On the same day, I was contacted by Lea Lennon who lives in Queensland regarding her uncle, Peter Flaherty.

Lea requested that someone from our sub-Branch visit Peter at his Narrabeen Glades nursing home.

Vietnam Veteran, Rodney Alexander, agreed to be Peter's visitor. He visited Peter on a fortnightly basis until Peter became unwell and was transferred to the Northern Beaches Hospital. Peter died on 03 June 2025. I conducted the RSL Tribute at his funeral on 11 June at Northern Suburbs Crematorium.

A big thank you to Rod Alexander for his time and commitment to Peter.



Lest We Forget
Regards,

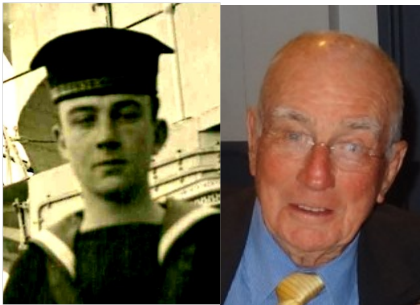
Deborah Carter

Deborah Carter
President

For those who didn't know Brian, or the extent of his involvement with the Pittwater RSL Club...

- ♦ Brian joined the Pittwater RSL Club in 1968
- ♦ Board Director from 1990 until 2020
- ♦ Became a sub-Branch member on 04 Jan 1990
- ♦ Pittwater RSL Club President from 1996 to 2016
- ♦ Made a Life Member in 2001 of the Pittwater RSL Club Limited, as well as a Life Member of Clubs NSW.

Brian will be missed by many, and his legacy will live on in the Pittwater RSL Club.



Brian wrote his profile for the **Living Treasures Souvenir**; produced by Sandra May on 09 October 2016.

Service Number: PX 853619
Defence Medal
1939-1945 War Medal
NGSM, Minesweeper Clasp
1953 Coronation Medal

I was born in Accrington UK on 15 December 1930. I enlisted on 3 January 1945, at HMS St. George, on the Isle of Mann. Following my initial training, I went to sea at age 15 as a Boy Seaman and subsequently became a qualified Leading Electrician's Mate.

My main WW2 area of operations was the Irish Sea. My

Ship, HMS Ben Hallam, was a minesweeper and I remember that we blew up a mine 4 days before the end of the War. There was such a destructive force in the blast that the sea was covered in fish. I was tasked to collect as many fish as possible to share with the other five "Sweepers" in our flotilla. It was quite a feast.

Our normal routine consisted of 3 day sea patrols, however, without shower facilities onboard you can imagine the state of the crew on return to port. The routine was that six ship's crews would then avail themselves to a mass shower facility, and as a youngster, it was daunting amongst the crusty, hairy old salts. Needless to say, I never removed my 'bonds' during this exercise.

On Christmas Day 1949, I was on Board the HMS "Illustrious".

We were supporting the launch of the new Ark Royal at Birkenhead. To mark this occasion, we were inspected by Queen Elizabeth 1.

I was demobilised at Portsmouth in December 1955.

Image: Darren Crabb



VALE - LEST WE FORGET

With great sadness, we report the passing of our sub-Branch Members and friends

Gwenyth Sneesby
 Service No. WR/379
 Women's Royal Australian Naval Service
 17 June 1924 - 10 April 2025

Brian Sargeson
 Service No. PX 853619
 Royal Navy - Leading Electrician's Mate
 15 December 1930 - 03 May 2025

Don Tierney
 Service No. 2/744459
 Army, National Service
 08 July 1936 - 04 May 2025

Peter Flaherty
 Service No. 216283
 Army - Vietnam
 29 June 1946 - 03 June 2025



Defence of Sydney - Friday 06 June 2025

The 83rd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Sydney Harbour during WW2 was remembered by the Defence of Sydney Commemoration Service at North Head, Manly on Friday 06 June.

The service was jointly coordinated by the Australia Remembers Northern Beaches and North Shore Committee and the office of Manly MP James Griffin.



Col John Platt CSC was the MC, and Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC Governor of NSW was the Guest Speaker.

Sub-Branch Members attended were Deborah Carter, Roberta Conroy OAM, John Boland, Michael and Inese Carrodus.

Deborah Carter, Roberta Conroy OAM
 Image: Maryann Heffernan

Congratulations to Deborah Carter

Sandra

On Tuesday 20 May 2025 at the NBDC Meeting held at Forestville RSL sub-Branch, Pauline James OAM, presented this beautiful handmade Quilt and Certificate to Deborah Carter. The quilt was made by the RSL NSW Auxiliary. A well-deserved recognition.



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

In recognition of your valued service to supporting veterans and their families, RSL NSW and RSL NSW Auxiliaries award this quilt to

Deborah Carter
Pittwater RSL sub-Branch

Pauline James OAM
RSL NSW AUXILIARIES STATE CO-ORDINATOR

Welcome to new sub-Branch members

Rod Alexander
Service Member, Army

Jenny Oliphant
Affiliate Member

Wayne Simmons
Service Member, Navy

Thomas Loricco
Service Member, Army

Gail Dunne OAM
Affiliate Member

Graham Stenner
Service Member, Army

James Bell
Service Member, Army



At the June General Meeting, we presented the RSL Badge and Card to new Affiliate Member, Gail Dunne OAM.

John Boland gave an interesting presentation on The Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) an Australian based aircraft restoration group.



ANZAC DAY - Friday 25 April 2025



Thank you to the ANZAC Day participants

Deborah Carter, President, Pittwater RSL sub-Branch; **WO2 Shane Fender**, on behalf of current serving members; **Leigh Arnold**, President, Pittwater RSL Club; **Jason Manning**, CEO, Pittwater RSL Club; **The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop AO**, Patron; **Jacqui Scruby MP** Member for Pittwater; **Guy Glenny**, representing Dr Sophie Scamps MP, Member for Mackellar; **Garry Maurer**, President, Narrabeen sub-Branch; **Barry Andrews**, President, Sydney Northern Beaches; National Servicemen sub-Branch; **Kylie Adams-Collier**, representing the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society; **Garren Moran**, NSW Fire and Rescue, Mona Vale Fire Station; **Geoff Vallender**, Vice President, Pittwater Men's Bowling Club; and **Sue Brandenburg**, President, Pittwater Women's Bowling Club.



Local Schools: Mona Vale Public; Sacred Heart Primary; St Luke's Grammar, Bayview Campus; Narrabeen North Public; Pittwater High; Mater Maria Catholic.

The Pittwater RSL Club - Directors and Staff; Ben Riley and Jason, Riley, Pipers; SQDLDR Dr Anna Williams, Vocalist; Dr Harriet Channon, Bugler; Michael Mannington OAM Community Photographer; Jeff Brown, Parade Commander; Matthew Hill, Catafalque Party Guard Commander; Pastor Michael Hubbard.

And a big thank you to our Women Bowlers who assisted with breakfast.

Thank you to everyone else who participated.



Congratulations to Vice President, Terry Jones, who marched with 9RAR in the city march on ANZAC Day following our Dawn Service.

This was the first time Terry marched with 9RAR.

Terry with General Sir Peter Cosgrove.



- July**
03, 1950 **Pilots of No. 77 Squadron involved in friendly fire incident.** Pilots of No. 77 Squadron, RAAF, accidentally destroy a train carrying American and Republic of Korea soldiers having been assured by the United States 5th Air Force Tactical Control Centre that the area under attack was in North Korean hands.
- 05, 1945** **Death of Prime Minister Curtin.** Prime Minister John Curtin led Australia through the darkest period of the Second World War when the threat from Japan was at its greatest. He died in office in 1945.
- 10, 1941** **Private J.H. Gordon VC.** Private J.H. Gordon, 2/31st Battalion, originally from Rockingham, Western Australia, was awarded the Victoria Cross near Jezzine, Lebanon.
- August**
09, 1915 **Private J. Hamilton, VC.** Private J. Hamilton, 3rd Battalion, originally from Orange, New South Wales, was awarded the Victoria Cross at Lone Pine, Gallipoli.
- 08, 1918** **Battle for Amiens begins.** In thick fog on the morning of 8 August the battle of Amiens began. It delivered a devastating blow to the enemy. By nightfall all the allied objectives had been gained; the Germans suffered 27,000 casualties and 450 of their guns were captured. So successful was "8 August" that General Ludendorff referred to it as "the black day of the German Army in this war". The Germans now believed that they would inevitably lose the war.
- 14, 1900** **Boxer rebellion in China ends.** Some 460 Australians served in China and six were killed.
- September**
15, 1939 **Australian Government announces mobilisation of the militia and the establishment of the second AIF for service abroad.** Australia needed to raise a volunteer force for overseas service in the Second World War while the militia were only allowed to serve in Australian territories.
- 19, 1918** **5th Light Horse Brigade capture Nablus.** Nablus fell to the Australians during the final period of the war against Turkey. British Empire troops also made impressive advances and destroyed several Turkish armies between the Mediterranean coast and the Jordan River.
- 23, 1942** **General Blamey appointed Commander in Chief of Allied land forces in New Guinea.** Blamey came into conflict with his commander, the American General MacArthur, who had become Prime Minister Curtin's principle military advisor. The United States forces were kept out of the Australian land commanders hands throughout the war in the Pacific. However, one historian wrote that Blamey's career was marked by "year upon year of wise decisions, stubborn determination to further the interests of Australia, and a deep concern for the well-being of his soldiers".

AWM Profile of Private J, Hamilton, VC.

Sandra



Service No. NX150350

Born in Orange, New South Wales, in January 1896, John Hamilton was working as a butcher near Lithgow when he enlisted in the AIF in September 1914. He was posted to the 3rd Battalion and after training in Egypt, took part in the landing on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

On 9 August, during the battle of Lone Pine, the

Turks launched a violent assault with intense rifle and machine-gun fire. Hamilton, together with several other men, was ordered out of the trenches onto the parapet,

in order to halt the enemy advance. For six hours he lay in the open, protected only by a few sandbags, telling those in the trenches where to throw their bombs, while keeping up constant sniper fire.

For his "coolness and daring example" Hamilton received the Victoria Cross, the only one awarded to his unit during the war. Hamilton later served in France, and he was eventually commissioned as a second lieutenant after the Armistice. During the Second World War he again served in the army, attaining the rank of captain. Hamilton died in Sydney in February 1961.

Citation (abridged):

During a heavy bomb attack by the enemy on the newly-captured position at Lone Pine, Private Hamilton, with utter disregard of personal safety, exposed himself under heavy fire on the parapets in order to secure a better firing position against the enemy's bomb-throwers. His coolness and daring example had an immediate effect. The defence was encouraged and the enemy driven off with heavy loss.

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, 0414 470 913 or email pittwaterrslsubbranch@gmail.com

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: Many 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

General links: [RSL NSW](#) - Member Portal is Live! [Australian War Memorial](#); [Vet Affairs News](#); [Scamwatch](#)

MEMBERS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY

JULY

Thomas Lorizzo	08
Andrew Thomson-Ko	09
Dorothy Clark	20
Jim Colbeck	21
Deborah Carter	23
John Kaye	25

AUGUST

Sam Steel	05
Walter Nicholls	14
Brian Heal	16
Geoffrey Jones	16
Kim Brownlie	26
Jason Becker	27
Bernard O'Neill	27
Chris Dunne OAM	31

SEPTEMBER

Cliff Gravenor	02
Michael Mannington OAM	16
Darren Crabb	17
Robert Crowe	18
Ryan Ockerby	21
Gail Dunne OAM	21
Roberta Conroy OAM	22

ON THE HORIZON July August September (Subject to change)

Sunday 06 July	10:30 am	General Meeting	Mainsail Room
Sunday 03 August	10:30 am	General Meeting	Mainsail Room
Friday 15 August	11:30 am	Victory in the Pacific Day	Avalon Beach RSL
Sunday 07 September	10:30 am	General Meeting	Mainsail Room



Executive Committee

Deborah Carter	President, Welfare Officer	0414 470 913
Terry Jones	Vice President	0466 892 771
Sandra May	Secretary, Newsletter Editor	0417 944 244
Acting Treasurer	Gail Dunne OAM	0439 491 155

Office: Monday (10:00 - 16:30)
Email: pittwaterrslsubbranch@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.pittwaterrsl.com.au/sub-branch>

The sub-Branch office is now located in the RSL Club, near reception. If urgent, please call any member of the Executive.

