



Pittwater RSL sub-Branch Newsletter



October 2025 - Number 49

Remembrance Day - Tuesday 11 November

Pittwater RSL sub-Branch

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The next Newsletter will be
published in January 2026.



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DAYLIGHT SAVING

Sunday 05 October.

**At 2am, clocks will leap
forward by one hour!**

Deborah Carter - Congratulations!

**President for 10 years, 2015 - 2025. Life Member of the League.
Thank you for your dedicated Service and Leadership.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Commemorative Services in August

I attended RSL LifeCare's commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War on Thursday 14 August 2025 from 10:30am to 11:30am. Guest speaker was David Anderson, Executive General Manager Veteran Services, RSL LifeCare.

The Master of Ceremonies was Stephanie Stoddard. Stephanie interviewed a resident of the RSL Village; Arthur Johnson, 101 years. Arthur related his history, in particular, his early years as a naval cadet which helped in the transition to serving in the Royal Australian Navy in WW2.

On completion, all attendees were invited to lay a poppy tribute outside of the Dugout at the Memorial Cascade. The beautifully knitted poppies were made by residents of the RSL village, and the residents hosted their very own memorabilia style of Australian food, including Vegemite sandwiches, meat pies and Arnott's Iced Vo-Vos.

Victory in Pacific – Friday 15 August. I attended the NBDC Commemorative Service hosted at Avalon Beach RSL sub-Branch commencing at 11:30am, at the Club's Cenotaph with Tamara Sloper-Harding OAM as the MC. The guest speaker was LCDR Shaun Mendez RAN, HMAS Waterhen. Lunch followed. Sub-Branch members, Terry Jones, Darren Crabb and Sandra May also attended.

Thank you to Chris and Gail Dunne OAM who represented our sub-Branch at the Northern Beaches Council and Northern Beaches NASHOS service for Vietnam Veterans Day 2025. This Memorial Service was held at the Manly War Memorial, The Corso, on Monday 18 August 2025 at 11:00am.

Chris Dunne OAM marched on parade with the National Servicemen and laid a book on behalf of Pittwater RSL sub-Branch.

I attended The Vietnam Veterans Day Service held at the Collaroy RSL sub-Branch on Monday 18 August at 10:45.

Thank you to Vietnam Veteran sub-Branch member, John Cicolini, who laid a wreath on behalf of our sub-Branch. Other Vietnam Veterans in attendance were Richard Ling, Stan Juracich and Frank Best. Unfortunately, Gary Everitt was unable to attend due to recent surgery. Other sub-Branch members present were Terry Jones, Coral Cicolini, Darren Crabb and Sandra May. Thank you to John Fairless and Collaroy sub-Branch for hosting this very special event.

In the afternoon, I attended the Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Service at the War Vets Chapel Narrabeen starting at 2pm. The Guest Speaker was Col. David Wilkins OAM Rtd. Terry Jones and Roberta Conroy OAM were also present.

Everyone at this service were invited to place a poppy in a circle at the Memorial table; a very respectful and inclusive service. Thank you to Narrabeen sub-Branch who paid for the afternoon tea.

On Sunday 24 August, I was present at Palm Beach Club RSL sub-Branch for the Vietnam Veterans Northern Group Service and luncheon. I laid a wreath on behalf of our sub-Branch. The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop AO and Patron of the Vietnam Veterans Northern Group gave a very inspiring address. Thank you, Mark Ferguson OAM, for the invitation.

A big thank you to Michael Mannington OAM who photographed most of the above Services.

On Monday 25 August, I attended Pittwater House for the Prize Giving and passing out Parade. Col. Matt Stephens was guest speaker and Reviewing Officer.



Lest We Forget
Regards,

Deborah Carter

Deborah Carter
President

Deborah Carter, President and Life Member - Profile

Deborah

In 1958, I was born at St George Hospital, Kogarah, the third child of Sylvia and Maurie Carter.

My primary school years were at Carlton South Public School, followed by Moorefield Girls High School. I was the first person in my family to complete Year 12 which made my father very proud. During year 12, I was halfway through completing my Queens Scout Award, and due to the demands of study, this had to be abandoned. I had obtained my Queens Guide Award two years earlier. Had I completed my Queens Scout, I would have been the first person in my district to do both.



In 1978, I started my Hospital based Nurses training at St George Hospital, Kogarah (where I was born). This was a three year training course which I absolutely adored and excelled at in the clinical arena. Hospital-based training set me up for a career in the Military as you learned from the bottom up how to take orders and to give orders.

In 1981, I started my post-graduate training at Concord Repatriation Hospital. I was also accepted to start at Westmead Hospital where a Yugoslavian cleaner mistakenly took me for Molly, a TV character from A Country Practice! (These were the early 80's with crazy perms being very popular, and I could not convince the cleaner that I was not Molly, and that I was a nurse!)

Luckily, I took the Concord position as I met my future husband, Ian Hendy, there. Concord was a great hospital to work at and in typical military style, Vietnam Veteran nurse who allocated placements, put me in medical nursing rotation instead of surgical, so typical of those older nurses!

In 1983, I was accepted for my hospital-based Midwifery training at the Royal Hospital for Women in Paddington. Once again, a fabulous training scheme. As a pupil midwife, you had to deliver twenty normal births. My claim to fame was that I delivered Doc Neeson's (of the Angels rock band) child. Somewhere in their family archive is a photograph of a very young me, aged 24, and the Sri Lankan midwife who was my supervisor.

I completed my midwifery training in 1984 and then I back-packed around Europe.

In 1985, I returned to Concord Hospital working in the Coronary Care Unit, and this is when I met my husband, Ian. During that time, I studied at the NSW College of Nursing, and completed my Coronary Care certificate.

A long-term burning passion of mine was to join the Military; initially I considered the Army but after meeting some friends in the Air Force, I decided to become a RAAF Nursing Officer. This was September 1986. Interestingly, during my recruitment interview, the Officer said "the thing about you that impressed us the most, was that you were a Queens Guide".

They say things happen for a reason. I completed my Officer's training at Point Cook Victoria and was posted to 3 RAAF Richmond and totally unexpectedly, I fell pregnant. This did not fit into our 4 year plan for parenthood. Instead of age 32, I had my first child at 29. This severely effected my Air Force career. After maternity leave, I transferred from the Permanent Air Force (PAF) to the Active Reserve.

My second daughter was born just before my 31st birthday in 1989. In 1990, when she was 8 months of age I started my three year Degree at the Australian Catholic University obtaining a Bachelor of Health Science (Nursing). In 1993, I completed my Degree, and resigned from my Air Force commission, just before my 5 year old daughter started school.

My nursing career continued in Cardiology where I worked for over 35 years, and I reached the level of clinical nurse consultant which is the second highest position in clinical nursing. During my time in Cardiac Rehabilitation, I held several Board positions of the Australian Cardiac Rehabilitation Association of NSW and ACT.

I joined Pittwater RSL sub-Branch in 2003, but did not become active in the sub-Branch until 2011, when both daughters had finished High School. Training courses and positions held within the sub-Branch consisted of Welfare, Legacy, War Widows, Tri-Service Advocacy and Pensions and Funerals. The Executive positions then held were Welfare and Membership, Vice-President and President. I have also been Secretary and Vice President of the Northern Beaches District Council.

The pinnacle of my sub-Branch career was to create the Living Treasures of WW2 with my good friend, Vietnam Veteran, Gary Everitt, in 2012. This category recognised the seventeen WW2 Veterans who supported our sub-Branch. Sadly, they have all passed away.

In 2017, Rob Stokes MP chose me as Pittwater Women of the Year "in recognition of outstanding contribution to the Pittwater Community".

In 2023, I was awarded Life Membership of the League due to my work for the Veterans Community at large.

Deborah Carter Images



Deborah's Graduation,
Bachelor of Health
Science (Nursing),
Australian Catholic
University, 1993

Maurice and Sylvia,
parents;
Josephine and
Philippa, her young
daughters

Ian Hendy, husband



**As most of you know, at
our General Meeting on
07 September, we
presented Deborah with
a photo book
celebrating her
10 years as our President!
2015 - 2025**

The young nurse

Daughters,
Josephine and Philippa
25 April 2016

ANZAC Sunday
18 April 2021

Sylvia, her Mother
22 April 2018

Dedication of the
Cenotaph
31 March 2017

Josephine, Ian and Deborah
14 February 2025

Dedication of Plaques
Service
02 September 2020



General Meeting - Sunday 07 September

Sandra

Our Patron, Bronwyn Bishop AO, attended our meeting and spoke about the importance of the sub-Branch and the ongoing work that we do. Deborah presented Bronwyn with a framed Certificate of Appreciation, and a bouquet of white tulips.

We also welcomed our newest Affiliate Member, Maryan "Heffie" Heffernan, Community Photographer.

At the meeting closure, we had two surprises for Deborah. Bronwyn presented Deborah with a framed Certificate of Appreciation, and I presented Deborah with a 146 page photo book, to celebrate her 10 years as our President. The photo book idea was born early February, when Michael Mannington OAM suggested this as a fitting memento. Michael knew that I made photo books, and I was happy to produce this for Deborah.



Images: Deborah Carter, Bronwyn Bishop AO, Michael Mannington OAM, Sandra May



After our meeting, we had lunch in the Distillery;
Roberta Conroy OAM, Sandra May, Darren Crabb, Deborah Carter, Bronwyn Bishop AO.

Welcome to new Affiliate sub-Branch Member,
Maryan "Heffie" Heffernan



Congratulations to Service Member, Brian Heal. Brian celebrated his 100th birthday on 16 August 2025. His daughter, Sally, organised a special family lunch at The Basin, Mona Vale, and provided this image.

On the following Tuesday, the sub-Branch Executive had lunch with Brian and Sally in the Glasshouse.

During the week leading up to his 100th birthday, Brian received congratulation cards and letters from King Charles III and Queen Camilla; Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Australia; Samantha Mostyn AC, Governor General of Australia; Mayor Sue Heins and the offices of Dr Sophie Scamps MP and Jacqui Scruby MP.

Brian thanked us for organising his congratulation cards.



Brian Heal

JX732140

**S/Lt Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve
March 1944 - December 1946**

**1939/45 Star; France and Germany Star; War Medal
1939-45; Atlantic Clasp**

General on HMS DIOMEDE as ordinary seaman, involved in operation overload (the invasion of France).

Served on HMS SPEEDY as Able Seaman minesweeping in English Channel and North Sea in support of invasion forces.

Served at HMS LOCHINVAR as Sub Lieutenant based at Edinburgh and being second in command of Mater Minesweeper.

HMS MMS 1061 clearing mines in North Sea and Norwegian waters and developing minesweeping technologies. Highlights were captive of a two-man German mini submarine in the North Sea and the rescue of two RAF flying crew who had crashed in the North Sea.

Brian joined the RSL in December 1956.

Thank you, Sally, for providing this wonderful 1946 Image.



- October**
- 05, 1951** **HMAS Sydney in Korean waters.** The commencement of the aircraft carrier, HMAS Sydney's, first patrol off Korea's west coast made Australia the third country (after the USA and Britain) to operate a carrier in the Korean War. The carrier operated Firefly and Sea Fury aircraft (both types can be seen in the Memorial's Aircraft Hall).
- 08, 1942** **Templeton's Crossing.** 25th Brigade, 7th Division, contacts Japanese rear-guard at Templeton's Crossing. The pursuit of the Japanese retreating along the Kokoda Trail involved hard fights. Templeton's Crossing was named after an officer of the 39th Battalion, lost without trace in the retreat from Kokoda.
- 21, 1915** **Australian Red Cross Missing and Wounded Enquiry Bureau established.** Miss Vera Deakin, daughter of ex-Prime Minister Alfred Deakin, establishes the Australian Red Cross Missing and Wounded Enquiry Bureau in Cairo. The Missing and Wounded Enquiry Bureau handled many thousands of enquiries from Australian families seeking information on wounded and missing soldiers during the First World War.
- November**
- 01, 1989** **National Army Memorial dedicated.** Dedication of the National Army Memorial in Anzac Parade, Canberra, by the Governor General, The Hon. Bill Hayden. The memorial commemorates the service of Australians as members of the Australian Army in all wars.
- 18, 1942** **Popondetta captured by Australians.** Popondetta, on the steamy kunai plains north of the Owen Stanley Range, became a major Allied base for the attack on the Japanese-held beachheads in Papua.
- 27, 1941** **HMAS Parramatta sunk.** HMAS Parramatta was sunk by a German submarine in the Mediterranean near Tobruk. The Parramatta was part of the navy's "Tobruk ferry service", whose destroyers and sloops kept the besieged port supplied.
- December**
- 20, 1917** **Second conscription referendum held in Australia.** With the AIF further weakened by the losses of 1917, W.M. Hughes again asked Australians to vote for conscription for overseas service. The proposal was again defeated.
- 23, 1916** **Battle of Magdhaba, northern Sinai.** The capture of Magdhaba by Chauvel's Mounted Brigade and the Imperial Camel Corps helped open the way for the successful Allied campaign in Palestine.
- 31, 1967** **3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment arrives in South Vietnam.** The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, sailed to Vietnam on HMAS Sydney.

NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards

Sandra

On Friday 29 August, Deborah and I attended the annual NSW Volunteer Awards at Dee Why RSL. Deborah was my nominator; and a Nominee Certificate was presented to me by Dr Sophie Scamps MP.

Gemma Rygate is the CEO of The Centre for Volunteering. Other VIPs present were Jacqui Scruby MP and James Griffin MP.

Images: Mayor Sue Heins, Dr Sophie Scamps MP, Gemma Rygate, Stuart Habelthwaite, Max, Jen Reynolds and Lynleigh Greig OAM.

I think Deborah enjoyed entering me in the Seniors Category!!!



