



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
(NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH INCORPORATED)
"The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance"

Combined Services RSL sub-Branch

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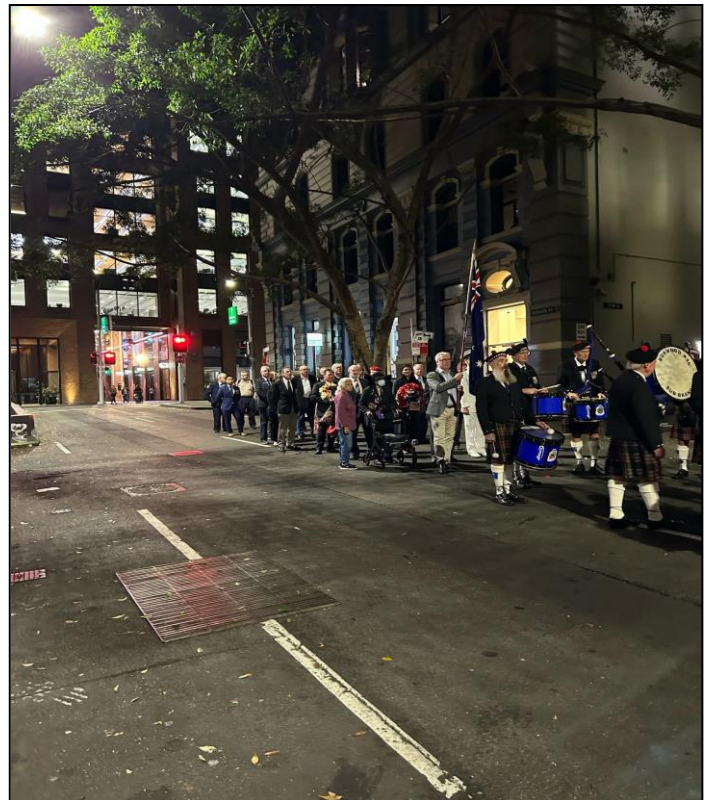
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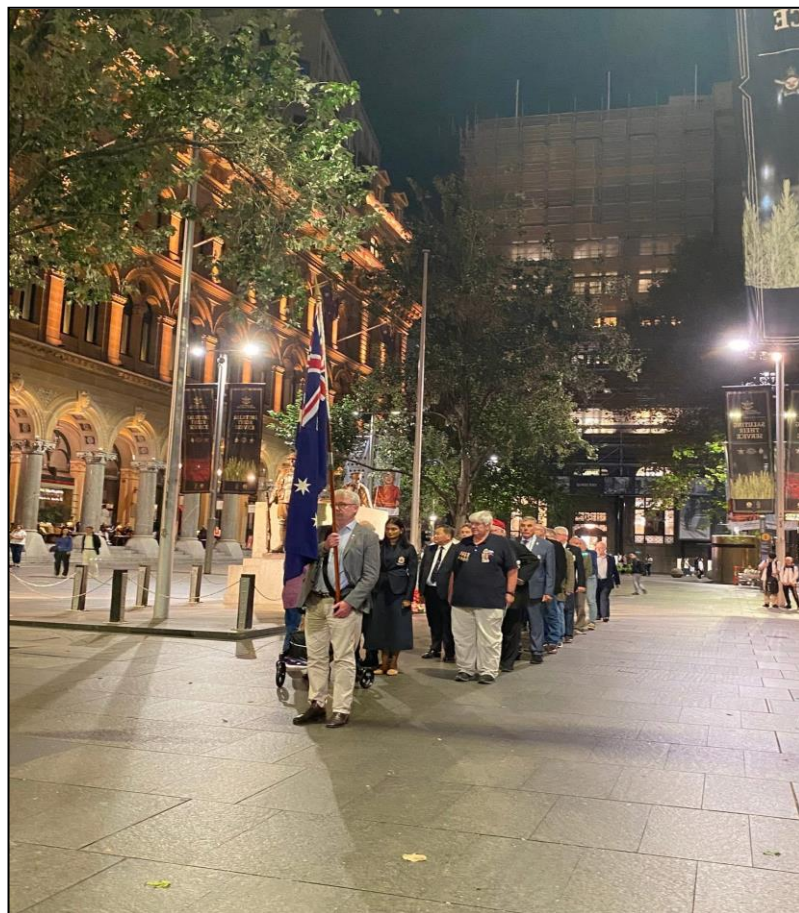
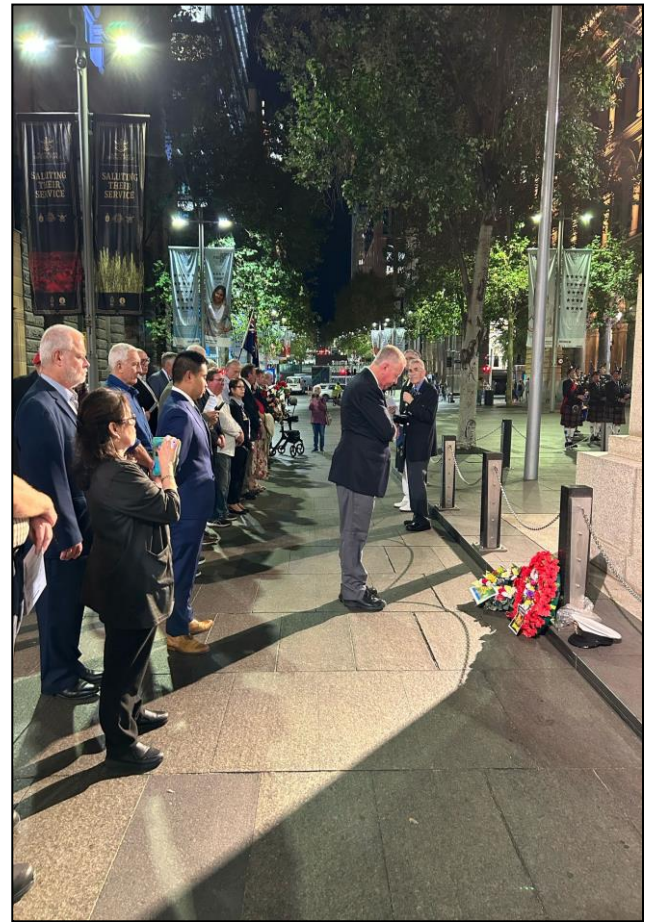
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MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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PRE ANZAC COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT THE CENOTAPH







This was held on Friday evening 11 April. The weather was kind to us, and around 25 members and friends turned up at just after six to attend the parade. The Burwood Pipes and Drums prepared themselves in preparation of the March. Our Chaplain, the Reverend Andrew Nixon, looked splendid in his Navy uniform, Summer Ceremonial, (white). The police stopped the York Street traffic, and we marched towards the Cenotaph.

Photos are included and are also available on the FACEBOOK page.

The PRE ANZAC Commemoration Service was conducted at the Cenotaph by the Chaplain and our President. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the Combined Services RSL sub-Branch, the City of Sydney RSL Chapter, the Masonic RSL sub-Branch, the Chatswood RSL sub-Branch and the City Tattersalls Group. Afterwards, we marched back to the Barracks Club for a light supper and refreshments. The Burwood Pipes and Drums also played a musical rendition during the supper.

The Service was a great opportunity for us to get together (before ANZAC Day itself) and commemorate the service and sacrifice of our predecessors (as well as our own service) and also to enjoy some camaraderie afterwards. Andrew's address at the Service is included in this Newsletter.

PRE ANZAC SERVICE 2025 – CHAPLAIN'S ADDRESS

I'd like to add my welcome to that of the President – thank you all for being here this evening. It's an important occasion for all of us – and indeed for all Australians.

Anzac Day is a seminal day for our nation – we honour the Anzacs, we remember their sacrifice. Not just the first Anzacs who landed on the Gallipoli peninsular, but also those who went before – to the Boer War – and the many who have followed them – not only to the expanding war on the Western front and the middle east. 416,000 went of a population of 4 million. More than 1 in 10. Over 60,000 did not return.

And also, all those who followed – to WWII, to Korea, Vietnam, to Malaya, Indonesia, Iraq and Afghanistan. We remember them all today. We honour the service and the sacrifice of all Australians.

Things are not so different today, 110 years on from those infamous landings at Anzac Cove. This past year Australians have been engaged in ongoing operations in Sinai, South Sudan, UK, Germany, Syria, Japan and others. HMAS Hobart recently returned from a significant regional deployment, HMAS Sydney just left for 3 months on task.

Young Aussies putting their shoulder to the wheel, taking seriously our responsibilities as part of the global community – far from home – and close to home. Helping our allies, as they have helped us – standing up for what is right, in the face of tyranny and oppression. Protecting our borders.

The spirit of Anzac lives on – it is a great legacy.

But some question Anzac Day, and I welcome their questions! We need to be ready with answers. I met a man recently who arrived here from Jordan as a young man and made Australia his home. He started a family, now runs 2 small businesses. He loves Australia, but he says he doesn't understand Anzac Day. He questions why we celebrate war.

I read the academics and historians who point to the military failure or question the real strategic value of the Dardenelles – who question the loss of so many lives.

They are all good questions. I want to say to my new friend from Jordan, that we don't celebrate war on Anzac Day. And to the academics, nor do we celebrate a great strategic victory on Anzac day. It wasn't.

On Anzac Day we remember. We remember, and we give honour and respect – and thanks – to those who served and especially those who paid the ultimate price. If we celebrate anything – and I doubt celebrate is the right word to use – but if we celebrate anything, we celebrate sacrifice. We remember, and we give thanks for those who were prepared to sacrifice their bodies, their minds, their mates. For the unprecedented numbers – for such a young and fledgling nation – who sacrificed their lives for us.

In the Gospel of John – chapter 15 verse 13 the Lord Jesus Christ says:
“No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friends.”

This year as we mark the 110th anniversary of the landings at Anzac Cove – we will hear much of the Anzac Legend. There is indeed a measure of legend, and even a certain amount of mythology.

Does it matter what actually happened? Yes, I believe it does. It does very much. Actions do matter. Truth matters. The Anzacs weren't perfect – they were human. They made their

share of mistakes – like we all do. What makes them special is not who they were, but what they did. Their sacrifice – for us all. The same goes for all who have followed them – on to the Western front – right through to those deployed this very day.

“No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” These are words we may know well.

You know, prior to Jesus of Nazareth, no-one celebrated sacrifice? Not for a moment. It was no virtue in any way. Conquering victory was celebrated – but sacrifice was despised – it was for the weak, for losers.

But this strange man, Jesus – this controversial figure – turned all that upside down. He washed his disciples feet. He sacrificed his own life for others.

Whether we realize it or not, he impacted Western culture so much, that 2000 years on from his great sacrifice for us – we as a nation take it for granted that good leaders serve, and the great ones give their lives for others. We believe that sacrifice ought to be revered!

The first Anzacs – they understood sacrifice. And they have taught it to us by what they did.

How did they know about sacrifice? Why did they write home about the sacrifice they and their mates were making for family back home?

Well, you can’t escape this, because it’s true... They understood it because that generation knew their Bibles, they knew the teachings of the Lord Jesus. That fact has been overlooked by the historians – perhaps it doesn’t fit the myth? But huge numbers of the Anzacs were regular church-goers, choir members, evangelical Christians, even clergymen – some who joined as chaplains – some who just went as diggers.

Some of our greatest Anzac heroes, who were loved by their mates, may not be what we expect at all – they were non-drinking, non-smoking men who never swore and never missed chapel services.

They say there are no atheists in foxholes – that is true to this very day – but the soldiers that volunteered in the first world war really were God-fearers. They went to serve God, King and country – in that order mostly. The letters that went home (you can read them for yourself!) were often punctuated with verses of Scripture.

One legendary VC winner famously refused to salute or be saluted – not because he was an irreverent larrikin, but because of his conviction that all men were equal in the sight of God.

These soldiers – Aussies and Kiwis alike, I might add – understood service and sacrifice – they knew what it meant. And they were prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for one another, and for their nation, just like the Lord Jesus did for them, and for us.

Today, we honour them – and all who have followed them in that finest Anzac tradition of service and sacrifice.

“No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”



ANZAC Day was very successful. Many thanks to the Committee Members who were at the Barracks Club to ensure that sub-Branch members and friends were provided with a complimentary breakfast and refreshments from after the Dawn Service to the commencement of the March.

There was a large crowd at the Dawn Service at 4.20 am at the Cenotaph. And many of our members marched with their respective units. However, City of Sydney retained the right to head the March, even though they are now a Chapter this year.

The picture above shows their new banner being held by our Committee members, Daniel Caffery and Bill Forsbey. Ian Burt is in the centre. (Also, good advertising for our sub-Branch!!)

Our President, Ron Hack, pictured below in the centre with the Commandos.



NOTICE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 29 MAY 2025 TO BE HELD AT 11.00 AM
ON LEVEL 2, 5-7 BARRACK STREET, SYDNEY
(Light luncheon and refreshments served afterwards)

Normal Agenda Items plus:

By Election for two Trustees, an overview of options to date for Barrack Street property development, and the outlook for our tenancy.

NOTE: Two of our Trustees have retired. Geoffrey Graham remains a Trustee.

Appointed Trustees are required to read Section 15 on sub-Branch Property Dealings and Section 16 on Requirements for Trustees in the RSL NSW Constitution (available on the RSL Website). Trustees should be readily available to attend General Meetings each year (at least an absolute minimum of three).

NOTE: The Trustees have ready access to our sub-Branch solicitor, who has the specialised legal expertise on property and tenancy matters relating to the Trustees role.

VISIT TO STATE PARLIAMENT, MACQUARIE STREET, SYDNEY
MONDAY 19 MAY 2025

This is being organised by the Masonic RSL sub-Branch.

We are meeting at 11.15 am in the main foyer.

A tour of the House will be conducted at 11.30 am, and then at 12.30 pm we will have lunch in the Strangers Restaurant. Those interested should phone Kim Metra (9287 6465) or email Combined-ServicesSB@rslnsw.org.au no later than Friday morning, 16 May 2025.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

General Meeting, Thursday 17 July

Guest Speaker: LT COL John Moore AM RFD (retd)

Topic: The development of the RSL Movement in Sydney

General Meeting TBA

Guest Speaker: LT COL Andrew Lam

Topic: Cyber Security and threats posing your laptops and mobile phones.

CITY TATTERSALLS GROUP

Notice of AGM to be held on Friday, 30 May 2025.

Gold and Life members only allowed.

6.00 pm on Level 1 in the Restaurant.

**Birthday
Celebration
for the month
of March 2025**



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Mr. Bright, OAM

Mr. Dumbrell

Mr. Hailwood

Mr. Honner

Mr. Lummis

Mr. Murans

Mr. Overduin

Mr. Roberts

Mr. Sutton

Mr. Tscherne

Mr. Van Munster



**Birthday
Celebration
for the month
of April 2025**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Mr.	Andrew
Miss	Bakes
Mr.	Bates
Mr.	Leatham
Mr.	Linton
Mr.	Lloyd-Thomas
Mr.	Moseley
Mr.	Murray
Mr.	Shen
Ms.	Valentine Flint
Mr.	Whittaker
Mr.	Lane



Birthday Celebration

for the month of May 2025

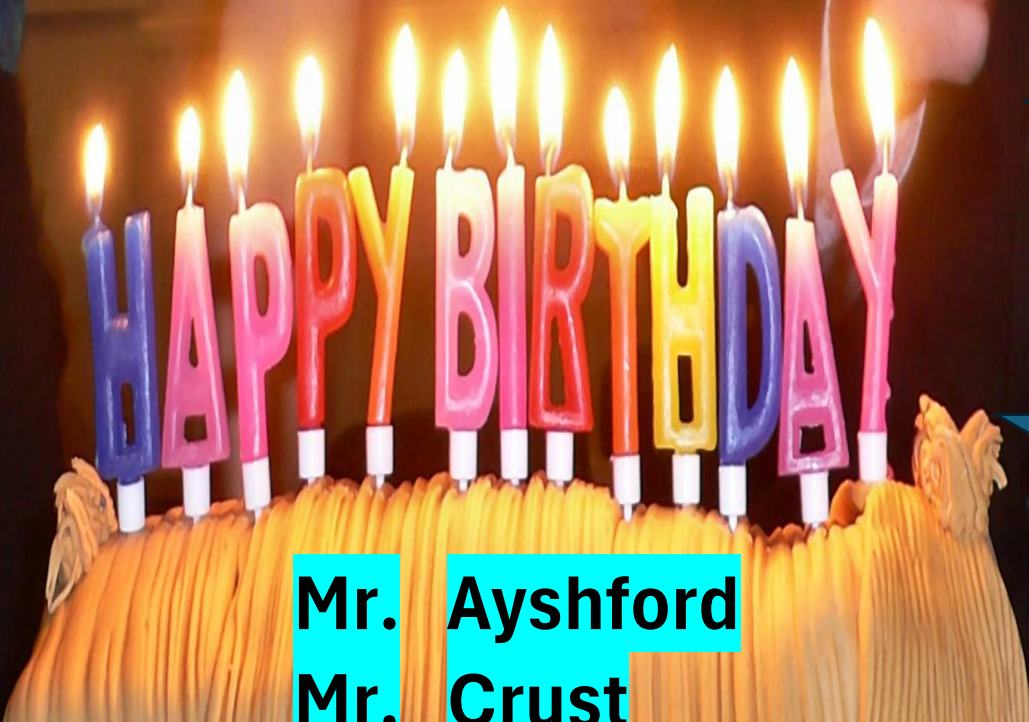


**Mr. Burette
Mr. Cumines
Mr. Gillies
Mr. Hill
Mr. Lawrence
Mr. McDonald
Mrs. Niblett
Mr. Rowley
Mr. Sykes
Ms Valdehueva
Mr. Whitty**

Birthday

Celebration for the

month of June 2025



Mr. Ayshford

Mr. Crust

Mr. Hayes- Williams

Mr. James

Mr. Kovacs

Mr. Lucas

Mr. Miller

Mr. Plant

Mr. Steel

Mr. Swain, AM

**Birthday
Celebration for
the month of
July 2025**

Mr. Best
Mr. Bull
Mr. Case
Mr. Fitsimmons
Mr. Liston
Miss Manning
Mr. McLean
Mr. Mynott
Mr. Payton
Mr. Perrott
Mr. Renwick
Mr. Stephen Esq
Mr. Strachan
Mr. Webb
Mrs. Welsh

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

VALE

Mr. David John Blackwood

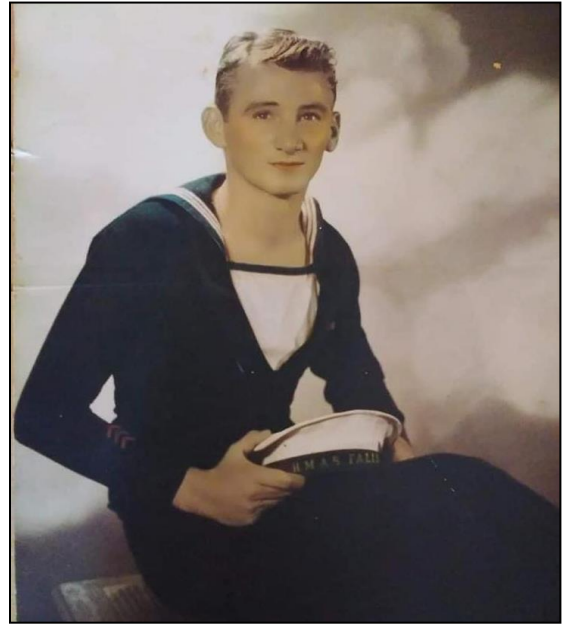
Last week of April/early this month, we were informed by his daughter that his father passed away on 20/02/2025.

David John Blackwood was born on 09/01/1926 and has been a member of our sub-Branch since 13/05/2008.

On his service, he was enlisted on 27/04/1943 and discharged on 05/04/1946.

He was in the service in the Royal Australian Navy and was discharged as an Able Seaman.

He was posted in HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Penguin, HMAS Goolgwai, HMAS Warrnambool, HMAS Falie, HMAS Madang, HMAS Kuranda, HMAS Moreton, and HMAS Rushcutter.



He did receive a service medal of 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal 1939-45, Australian Service Medal 1939-45 and returned from active Service Badge.

Mr. Bruce Bacon

We knew his passing through our sub-Branch portal.

Mr. Bruce Bacon was a chapter member of our sub-Branch from the City of Sydney sub-Branch.

He was born on 16/11/1926, and his membership started on 07/12/1964. He was in the army, and he did receive service medals: 1939-1945 Star, Australian Service Medal and Pacific Star.

Lest We Forget

EDITORIAL:

Ron Hack, PRESIDENT

Nikhita Sahay, SECRETARY / TREASURER

Kimberly Metra, BUSINESS SUPPORT MANAGER

12 May 2025