



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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APRIL 2024 ANZAC NEWSLETTER

PRE ANZAC COMMEMORATION CENOTAPH SERVICE FRIDAY 19th APRIL 2024 AT 6.20 PM

Sub-Branch, Club Members, and other participants are welcome. This is also an opportunity for others (including city workers and Club members) to participate in a commemoration at the Cenotaph in Sydney at the time. Bring your friends.

Medals may be worn.



We will form up in Barrack Street outside the Club (Barracks on Barrack) at 6.20 pm. We will be supported by the Burwood RSL sub-Branch Pipes and Drums with their magnificent bagpipe music. We will march down Barrack Street to the Cenotaph in Martin Place for a short commemoration service and placing of wreaths. The Service will be conducted by Bishop Grant Dibden, coming from Canberra, who is Anglican Bishop to the ADF. We then march back to the Club premises in Barrack Street. Afterwards, a light supper, refreshments and camaraderie will be held in the Barrack Street Restaurant afterwards around 7 pm.

Further enquiries and bookings for the light supper: Kim Metra 02 9287 6465.

**Note: Our Chaplain, Andrew Nixon, is away on 19th April but kindly arranged for Bishop Dibden to conduct the Service.*

COMBINED SERVICES RSL SUB-BRANCH
PRE-ANZAC COMMEMORATION SERVICE 2024

PROGRAMME

MARCH ON TO THE CENOTAPH.

WELCOME BY PRESIDENT.

Hymn played – ROCK OF AGES (first verse and chorus). (Burwood Pipes and Drums)

PRAYER: For all men and women serving in our armed forces. (Bishop)

PRAYER: for PEACE (Bishop)

LORD's PRAYER (traditional – led by Bishop)

ADDRESS: Bishop Grant Dibden

WREATH LAYING

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE (President 2 verses)

THE LAST POST (Bugler) Flags lowered gradually.

Period of Silence

THE ROUSE (Bugler) Flags raised gradually.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (with Burwood Pipes and Drums)

PREPARE TO MARCH OFF THE CENOTAPH

ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS
THURSDAY 25th APRIL 2024

Barracks on Barrack will be open from 5.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Patrons wearing medals, service jackets or uniforms will be provided with a 15% discount on all food and refreshment purchases during the day.

In the morning until 9.00 am complimentary coffee and tea for all patrons will be provided.

Also, sub-Branch members and those on our Partners and associates mailing list will be entitled to a complimentary egg and bacon roll between 5.30 am and 9.00 am. Visit the Committee member on duty in the Club (Kim Metra or other) who will have a list of those members and friends to be given a voucher for the complimentary breakfast!

AN ANZAC MESSAGE ON SERVICE AND SACRIFICE
FROM OUR CHAPLAIN, REVEREND ANDREW NIXON (RAN)



ANZAC day is a very special day for Australians. It has seen something of a renaissance over recent years with more people than ever – especially school kids and young adults – getting involved. For a growing number, this commitment extends to overseas travel – to Anzac Cove and ANZAC services at key battle sites in Europe. And I can't see this as anything other than absolutely brilliant!

I recently spoke to a colleague who works helping veterans. She shared a very significant experience that she had recently. She was able to make the trek to a special ANZAC service at a “sacred site” and with the help of online tools was able to locate the grave of her relative who fought and died in that very place a century ago. He was just 15 years old – yes, fifteen – when he died. He was an orphan leaving just his sister of a similar age surviving him. It defies imagining. My friend is confident that she is the only descendant, the sole family member, who has ever – ever – visited that grave. What a moment. What do you say? What do you do? There are just no words.

At the other end of the age scale, I recently had the enormous privilege of conducting the funeral for RADM Guy Griffiths, AO DSO, DSC, RAN (Rtd), a veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, who died just a few weeks ago aged 101. In almost every way, these 2 stories could not be more different. 15 years old: 101 years old. A soldier: a sailor. A boy in his youth: a man who has lived more than a century. A battlefield grave: someone who survived a ship sinking beneath him, and numerous significant battles, to become a beloved father, and grandfather. I could go on.

But what they have in common outweighs all: service. They were prepared to risk their own life to serve others. To serve their comrades, their mates, their families and their nation. Service and also sacrifice. The sacrifice of the one is so abundantly clear. A life cut painfully and tragically short. For the other, and for many who returned, and who have returned from many wars and conflicts to this very day, the sacrifice is carried in life. Wounds visible and also invisible.

To all who have served. Those who have not returned, and those who have. We remember you, and we thank you. Lest we forget.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 16th MAY 2024 TO BE HELD AT 11.00 AM
ON LEVEL 2, 5-7 BARRACK STREET, SYDNEY
(Light luncheon and refreshments served afterwards)

OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS DEBORAH SHEPHERD



Deborah is a Clinical Psychologist at the National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare at Concord Hospital. She has worked in past positions with the Rural Fire Service and the Police Force. She was also a Psych Officer in the Army Reserve for five years. She is currently President, of Burwood RSL sub-Branch.

Deborah will be speaking on the challenges of mental health for veterans.

LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21st MARCH 2024

The last Annual General Meeting was successful.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented in front of the members, visitors, and guests to Elizabeth Watts, OAM on behalf of members by Ron Hack (President) and Geoff Graham (Vice President and Trustee) with Doc Ian Cameron, OAM playing piobaireachd during the presentation.



Unfortunately, Keith Payne VC was unable to attend the AGM due to health reasons as instructed by his doctor. However, we presented a short video of his documentary during the AGM.

In case you are interested, you can watch his full documentary by following the link below:

<https://vimeo.com/439847870>



THANK YOU to everyone who attended and sent their apologies for the AGM.

EDITORIAL:

Ron Hack, PRESIDENT

Kimberly Metra, BUSINESS SUPPORT MANAGER

10 April 2024