

Anzac Day 2020 Newsletter (Special)

Message from Ray James – 25 April 2020

Dear Members,

Today marks 105 years since the very first ANZACs heroically stormed the beaches of Gallipoli and the ANZAC Spirit was born.

As people across our nation, and many nations around the globe pay their respects for our brave servicemen and women, I invite you to [watch my ANZAC Day Message](#) and reflect on what ANZAC Day means to you and your family.

Lest we forget.

We gather across this great state of ours today to commemorate ANZAC Day 2020. These are unprecedented times for veterans, our community, our state, our nation and the world at large. Wherever you are this ANZAC Day, I want you to remember those who fought and died, and those who have served and continue to serve our nation today.

I wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are now on, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. I pay my respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

To all Australians, ANZAC Day is a tradition, paid for in blood and cherished in our freedom. It is a day in which not only do we salute the ANZACs, but in paying tribute to them, we also take the opportunity to invigorate our national spirit and pride.

105 years ago the ANZAC tradition was born on the shores of Gallipoli during the First World War. It was where the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps forged a legend of mateship, determination, courage and resourcefulness. In total 36,000

Australian and New Zealand soldiers were killed or wounded at Gallipoli.

Today is also about remembering all our service personnel who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the campaigns of the Boer War, First World War, Second World War, Korean War, Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation, Vietnam War, Iraq, Afghanistan and peacekeeping operations.

This year particularly we commemorate 75 years since the campaigns in Europe and the Pacific ended with the end of WWII. A war in which this whole nation rose again to the challenge and saw war come to our shores. My father, an infantryman, served in some of the ferocious battles. The physical and mental scars would haunt him for many years after the war had ended.

Still today our Australian Defence Force is involved in various operations across the world. Some of these ensuring people less fortunate than us can live in peace, others involved in providing humanitarian and aid assistance, and others who are assisting in combat operations or training every day to ensure that our citizens are kept safe abroad and at home.

Even this year we have seen our defence force members serve alongside our civil authorities during the bushfires that ravaged our state and nation, and saw the loss of brave men and women who were serving in the Rural Fire Service.

Now with the COVID-19 pandemic our defence force members have stood up to serve alongside the health workers, the doctors, nurses, paramedics and our police. There are others who the prime minister has called essential workers who are holding open our supply lines

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and stores. The community as well is doing its bit to prevent the loss of lives.

Many of you are saddened that ANZAC Day services could not be held the way they normally are.

The last time services were suspended was in 1919 when we were dealing with the last great pandemic.

I am proud of how veterans have understood what needed to be done. They have realised that the welfare and safety of the community as a whole is important. Just because we cannot gather together at our traditional ANZAC Day services, does not mean that we don't remember and commemorate those who fought and died and those who served. We are as one doing what our forefathers did on the hills at Gallipoli. We are uniting together to fight this threat.

Veterans and families across Australia have lost jobs and will find the next year so tough. Our nation will struggle, but I believe that we will recover. We will rise to rebuild and we will commemorate ANZAC Day as we always have in years to come.

Let us remember today the more than 102,000 Australians who have lost their lives whilst serving our nation.

Let us also think of those who returned from war and conflict and have battled everyday to readjust to life in our society.

I have seen the growing need to support our veterans. It is tragic that so many veterans have battled depression and post traumatic stress. We need to support all veterans who are struggling to have courage to speak up. In this time of isolation, I ask all those veterans and

families who can to make a call to a veteran and a war widow who are struggling at this time, especially being in isolation during this pandemic.

The ANZAC Spirit is one that should flow through all of us. It is one of courage and mateship. It is one that shows us that we need to look after everyone and each other. It is what is helping our nation to fight this pandemic.

What is important about commemorations like ANZAC Day is the values that we see in those who served. Listening to or watching stories of veterans you will hear the tales of friendship and mateship. The stories of good times and funny times that happened during their service. The shared experience of putting on a uniform. It is not about the glory of war. My own service was filled with some great stories of lifelong friends and mates who I served with.

ANZAC Day 2020 will be remembered in a different way for all of us. We may not be physically standing next to our mates or our family this year. But we have them in our hearts and in our thoughts. We can still commemorate the supreme sacrifice made by so many. We should also call up those who we know in our families and the community who are veterans and have a chat today. Perhaps you can even do a video call. Remember it is a time to pause and reflect together as a nation.

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The legacy of the ANZAC is with us here today. Forever we will be indebted to those who fought and served our nation. We will remember them.

Lest We Forget.

Hello to Darrell Franklin a Sub Branch Member 22 years with Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch and Dawn who have recently moved now to Warwick QLD, email: dawnfranklin@bigpond.com and mobile: 0402407452. In conversation with Dan who believes Darrell was a Medic who served in Vietnam and New Guinea. Darrell wishes to maintain his membership with us.

Anzac Day 2020 for us at Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch a closed park affair. We aligned our Memorial Service with the Radio at 06:00 am, we maintained our social spacing with 4 onsite, on the day we had our sub branch President Graham Toll, myself honorary secretary, a life member, Arthur Jervis and Gordy Wilkinson, Vietnam Vet

time with memories of his uncle Ron. We



laid two Wreaths. We all then travelled to Ingleburn Railway Station memorial when Arthur Jervis laid a Wreath, Ode of remembrance

was recited by Graeme Mossman, the Last Post and Reveille were played.



There was another memorial in the Shop up from Ingleburn Train Station we placed some poppies onto the Plaque It reads “*TO THE ETERNAL MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE STATIONED AND YTRAINED AT THE INGLEBURN MILITARY CAMP IN THE LATE 1939’S TO 1990’S AND WHO LEFT FOR SERVICE OVERSEAS AND OTHER PARTS OF AUSTRALIA*”



MANY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR THEIR COUNTRY

LEST WE FORGET”

CLR PAUL SINCLAIR (Mayor)

CRAIG KNOWLES MP MINISTER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS

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On my return from Sub branch remembrance I noted some local practices. A local fellow Mr Stephen Sole remembering his father who had served on a Corvette he believes was the Katoomba proudly wearing his dad's medals in front of his house in Macquarie Fields, Good on ya mate!!

Another neighbour around the corner and up a little further had a Lest We Forget Poster in front of their house.



"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old..

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn, at the going down of the sun and in the morning, We shall remember them.

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Lest We Forget"

Until our next Newsletter Farewell from Graeme Mossman Honorary Secretary, Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch



This year at Denham Court Anglican Church Margery Mills and her husband (the recently arrived minister) Reverend Mills had a short service, with prayers, the ode and The Last Post it went for 10 minutes and is available on their Facebook page (Denham Court Anglican Church) Hopefully next year we can all be back on site at the Anzac tree.



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