

ANZAC TRADITIONS



The Dawn Service

The Dawn Service observed on ANZAC Day has its origins in an operational routine which is still performed by the Australian Army today.

The half light of dawn can play tricks on one's eyes. The half hour before dawn, with its grey and misty shadows, became one of the most favoured times for an attack. Soldiers in defensive positions were therefore woken before dawn, so by the time first light crept across the battlefield they were awake, alert, and manning their weapons. This was and is still known as "stand-to." The operation was also repeated at sunset.

After World War I, returned soldiers sought the comradeship they felt in those quiet, peaceful moments before dawn. With symbolic links to the dawn landing at Gallipoli, a dawn stand-to or ceremony became a common form of ANZAC Day remembrance during the 1920s. The first official Dawn Service was held at the Sydney Cenotaph in 1927.

Poppies

Red poppies were the first signs of life in the fields of northern France and Belgium after World War I. Arising from the blood drenched ground, bright red poppies grew where four years of war led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of soldiers, including 45,000 Australians.

The poppy has enabled Australians to show they have not forgotten the 102,867 Australian servicemen and women who have given their lives in wars and conflicts.



Rosemary

The Ancient Greeks believed that rosemary made their memories stronger.

This idea continues today as people wear sprigs of rosemary symbolising remembrance for those who have died in war.

The ANZAC Biscuit

Previously known as an ANZAC wafer or ANZAC tile, the ANZAC biscuit we know and love today is a far cry from what the ANZACs ate ninety years ago. The ANZAC biscuit was originally intended as a bread substitute for soldiers fighting in hostile conditions. The biscuit was made to have long shelf life, meaning it was notoriously hard; in fact, they often adopted the affectionate nickname of 'bullet-proof' biscuits!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of traditional rolled oats
- 1 cup of sifted plain flour
- 1 cup of caster sugar
- 3/4 cup of desiccated coconut
- 125 grams of butter
- 1 tablespoon of golden syrup
- 2 tablespoons of boiling water
- 1 teaspoon of bicarbonate soda

Directions:

- Combine rolled oats, sifted plain flour, caster sugar and desiccated coconut in a bowl.
- Heat butter and golden syrup over a low heat until butter is melted.
- Mix boiling water with bicarbonate soda and add to the butter mixture.
- Stir into the dry ingredients.
- Form the mixture into balls on a greased oven tray.
- Press the balls flat and bake in a slow oven (150°) for twenty minutes or until golden brown.
- Loosen the biscuits while still warm.
- Allow to cool on tray.

ANZAC DAY Traditions and Symbols

The Ode

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 will remember them.

The Last Post

The Last Post historically has been used to signify the end of the day.

It is played during commemorative ceremonies to serve as a tribute to the dead.

Minute's Silence

One (or two) minute's silence is held to reflect on the significance of the day and as a sign of respect.

Reveille and Rouse

In major ceremonies, the Last Post is normally followed by Rouse except at the Dawn Service when Reveille is played. Historically Reveille woke the soldiers at dawn.

ANZAC Day Services

ANZAC Day services have been cancelled this year due to restrictions as a result of the Coronavirus but tune in to your radio or TV, and if you wish, observe a minutes silence from the end of your driveway at 6am.

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For The Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children
England mourns for her dead across the sea,
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

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 will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again,
They sit no more at familiar tables of home,
They have no lot in our labour of the daytime,
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires and hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known.

As the stars are known to the night,
As the stars shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

In 1914 Laurence Binyon wrote "For the Fallen" in honour of the many British troops who had already lost their lives on the Western Front of World War I. The fourth verse of the poem has long been used as a tribute to all casualties of war regardless of nation. It is known as the "Ode of Remembrance".

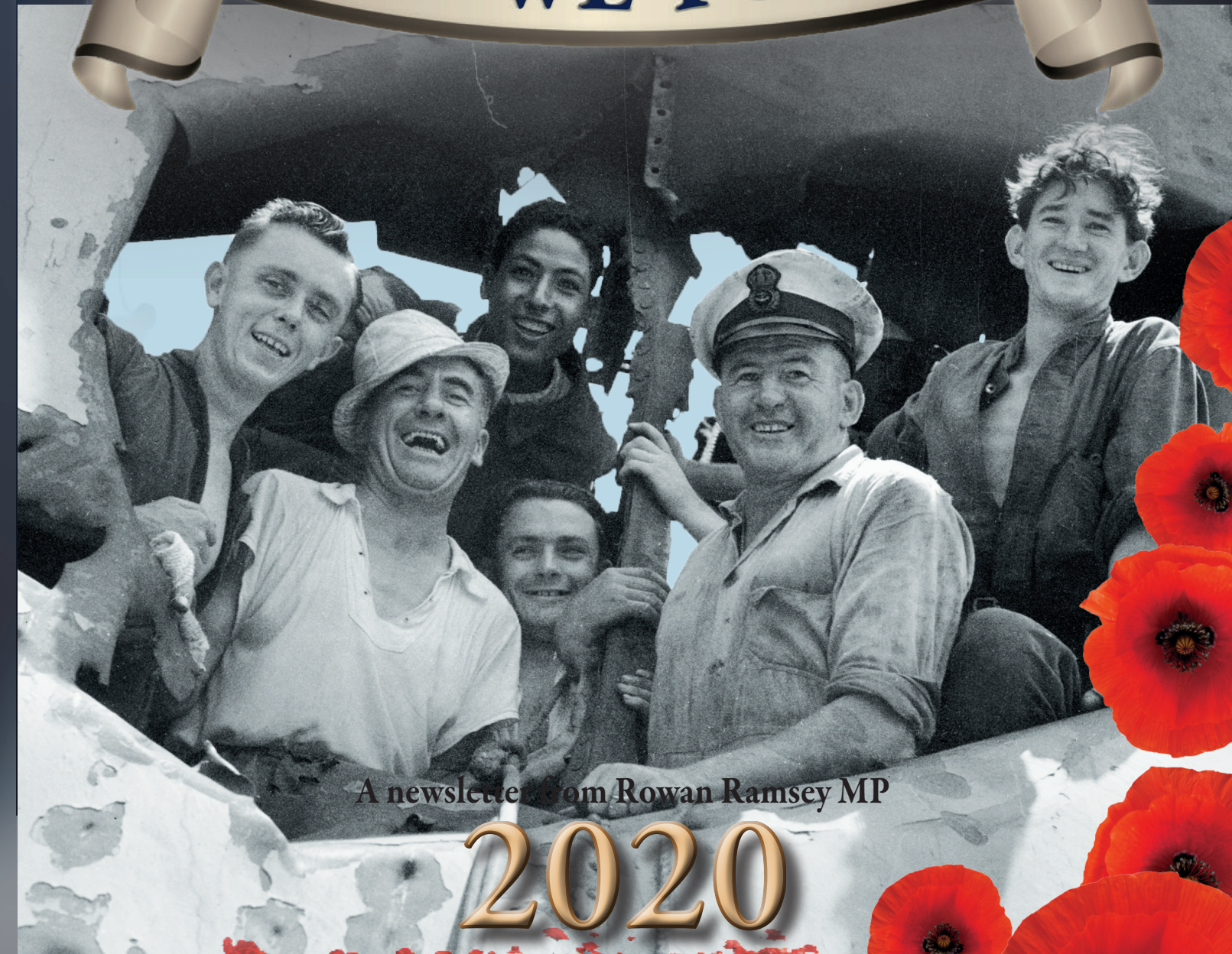


Watervale - ANZAC Day Twilight Service



ANZAC DAY

LEST WE FORGET



A newsletter from Rowan Ramsey MP

2020



Photo left: *Two Wells – A sobering memorial to 23yr old Private Robert Poate gunned down by a rogue Afghan soldier at Patrol Base Wabab, Afghanistan, on August 28, 2012. Lest We Forget.*

A MESSAGE

from Rowan Ramsey MP

Federal Member for Grey



Rowan , Minister Stephan Knoll and Squadron Leader David Bynater at Wasleys ANZAC Day service 2019

ANZAC Day will be very different this year with the abandonment of services around the nation as a result of the Coronavirus. At 6am ANZAC morning I am urging participation in the “observe a minute’s silence at the end of your driveway” campaign and through the day tune into the commemorative programs broadcast on our televisions. ANZAC Day is perhaps our most important national day as we remember the sacrifice of our forebears. It comes this year when we are locked in battle with another implacable foe, the Coronavirus. Obviously it is a very different war and heaven forbid that our losses should ever rise to challenge our wartime losses, but they could. We will overcome this new enemy and what is required is the same national resolve, the same team spirit, the same commitment to each other as that which founded the ANZAC tradition. There has rarely been a time when we should have been more grateful to live in Australia with our first class democracy, health and education systems but we should all take time on April the 25th to reflect on how our nation has arrived at this point. Take time to remember those who fought for our rights and freedoms, those who lost their lives fighting for those principles and others who to this day volunteer to guard our freedoms wherever that may take them in the world. Let us also re-commit ourselves to assisting those in our midst who have served and been damaged by the process. Together we can all make a difference.

Photo Front Cover: AWM 002435 Sailors from the HMAS Sydney II celebrate the ships return to Alexandria from the battle in which it sank the Bartolomeo Colleoni. Crew posing for a photo through the damaged funnel.

World War 1 (1914-1918)

The assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria sparked the outbreak of war in 1914 following four decades of diplomatic clashes between various European countries. 421,809 Australians enlisted between 1914 and 1918. Over 60,000 lost their lives and over 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.

In September 1917, Australian forces fought in thick mud and under heavy shell and machine gun fire, near the town of Ypres, Belgium, in what became known as the Battle of Passchendaele. The objectives of the battle were achieved but at great cost-in just over a week there were almost 11,000 Australian casualties.



AWM P09291.036 Twenty year old Private Ralph Ashton Lindsay, 50th Battalion from Mallala, was killed in action on 25 April 1918. His grave could not be located and he is now commemorated on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, France with others who have no known grave.

Capt. Reg Saunders MBE



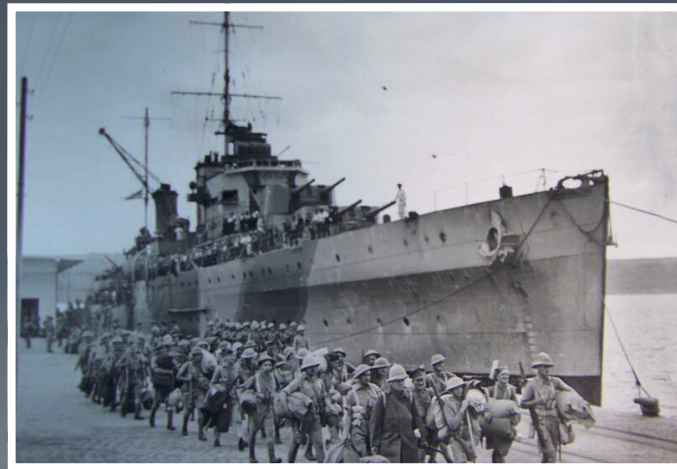
Lieutenants Reg W. Saunders (left) and Tom C. (Driver) Derrick VC DCM congratulate each other on receiving their commissions in November 1944. The two men shared a tent during their officer training.

Reg Saunders was a remarkable individual; he enlisted in 1940, and holds the distinction of being the first aboriginal commissioned officer. Sadly at a time when he was not even considered a citizen. Lieutenant Saunders served in the Mediterranean and then New Guinea. He was rejected from serving in the Occupation Force in Japan at the war's end on racial grounds. Remarkably he signed up and served his country again in the Korean campaign and was promoted to Captain leading C Company, 3 RAR in the Battle of Kapyong. He rejected further honours and worked in the Public Service with distinction, he was awarded the MBE in 1971.

AUSTRALIA'S ROLE

In Various Conflicts

Mystery of HMAS Sydney II



The loss of the Sydney in 1941 with all 645 hands shocked the nation. A tragic loss of young life it became one of the great mysteries of WWII, with its whereabouts undiscovered until 2008.

The Sydney was a 'state of the art' Light Cruiser, delivered new in 1934 and its crew was ready and well trained for active service when war broke out in 1939. The Sydney joined the British Fleet in Alexandria, Egypt on May 26th, 1940 and soon saw intense action with its sinking of the Italian heavy cruiser Espero. Over the next six months she was involved in repeated action and is credited with sinking the Bartolomeo Colleoni and inflicting damage on others while suffering only very light damage herself. Sydney was the pride of our navy and nation and received a hero's welcome when she returned to Australia in February 1941.

The following months were spent escorting troop and supply ships. On November 19 she encountered the German raider the Kormoran disguised as a Dutch merchant vessel. The Sydney out-gunned the Kormoran by a large margin. How it was sunk by a ship whose weapons had less range and potency is an enduring mystery. Historians have concluded the Kormoran deceived the Sydney. While it was trying to identify the Kormoran's intentions, the Sydney allowed itself to come within range of its guns.

Both vessels sank as a result of the battle but adding to the mystery was while the majority of the Kormoran crew took to life-rafts and survived, no one from the Sydney lived to tell the story. The sunken war ship was discovered 207km off the Western Australian coast at a depth of 2.5km in 2008 following the discovery of the Kormoran just 21km away. Both sites have been declared official war graves.

VP Day



AWM 018290 New Guinea - Wounded Private J.J. Parkes, 10 Platoon, B Company, being helped to a jeep ambulance near Sonam, March 1945.

August 15th 2020 is the 75 anniversary of Victory in the Pacific. It marks Japan's surrender to the Allies after more than three years of war following their shock attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

The European war which broke out in September 1939 had already ended with Germany's surrender on May 8th 1945, but it took another three months to complete the task in the Pacific and when it came, the victory was met with euphoria throughout Australia.

World War II is one of the most significant events in our history and was the first time since European settlement that Australia came under direct attack.

With a population of just seven million, almost one million Australians answered the call. More than 39,000 gave their lives for the country with 17,000 of those losses occurring fighting the Japanese. A further 8000 died in Japanese captivity with 30,000 Australians taken as prisoners of war.

Battles were fought across the countries and islands of the Western Pacific and on VP Day we remember the efforts of our defence forces in Singapore, Borneo, Malaya, Papua, New Guinea and New Britain. The war placed an enormous strain on families with so many absent and many who never returned. The economy was also severely tested, but as peace came Australia then embarked on a tremendous period of nation building and prosperity.



AWM P02018.226 Rejoicing broke out spontaneously when the surrender of Japan was announced - the War was over. Left to right, Betty Williams, Lois Anne Martin and possibly Carmel O'Connor, three work mates from the Kodak factory at Abbotsford typified the joy and relief felt by all Australians. Miss Martin knitted the red, white and blue vest especially for VP Day and never wore it again.

LOCAL HERO

Sir Richard Williams - Father of the RAAF

Richard Williams was born to a working-class Moonta family on August 3rd 1890, the eldest son of Richard Williams, a copper miner who had emigrated from Cornwall, England, and his wife Emily.

Leaving Moonta Public School at junior secondary level, Williams worked as a telegraph messenger and later as a bank clerk. He enlisted in a reserve unit in 1909, was commissioned a second lieutenant on March 8th 1911 and subsequently joined the Permanent Military Forces the following year.

He learned to fly at Point Cook, Victoria, in 1914 becoming Australia's first qualified military pilot. Serving with the Australian Flying Corps in World War I, Williams commanded both Australian and British air fighter units and rose to command No.1 Squadron AFC and later 40th Wing RAF. He finished the war as lieutenant colonel and was awarded an OBE in 1919 and a CBE in 1927 in recognition of his service.

Williams is widely regarded as the “father” of the RAAF, campaigning successfully for an Australian air force to be run separately from the army and navy. He became its first Chief of Air Staff in 1922 and served for 16 years over three terms at that rank, still a record term.

Following the war he became Director General of Civil Aviation in Australia.

Williams rose to the rank of Air Marshall and was knighted in 1954. He died on 7 February 1980 (aged 89). The RAAF Williams air base is named in his honour as is Sir Richard Williams Avenue at Adelaide Airport.



AWM AN 010805 Sir Richard Williams KBE CB DSO, Royal Australian Airforce, born in Moonta in 1890 and Australia's first qualified military pilot.

The Vietnam War

As a part of a wider strategy of containment, the United States entered Vietnam to prevent a communist takeover of South Vietnam. More than 50,000 Australians served in Vietnam. Over 3,000 were wounded and 521 died. In August 1966 Australian forces faced the Viet Cong, in a battle known as Long Tan. Three hours of fighting saw the Australians hold off the enemy's much greater numbers. 245 Viet Cong died and many more were wounded. Australian casualties numbered 42, of whom 18 died. The last Australian troops were withdrawn in 1973.



AWM GIL/67/0480/VN Vietnam 1967 Army Nurse Lieutenant Colleen Mealy from Port Augusta shows the children from the village of Hoa Long how to operate her camera.

Remarkable Family Commitment

Leading seaman Kacey Neindorf is part of HMAS Ballarat's Counter Terrorism and Counter Narcotics team. She, along with her two brothers, grew up in Robertstown.

One brother, Dale, is currently a submariner aboard the HMAS Rankin and her brother Trent spent seven and a half years in the Australian Army. We thank the Neindorf family for their incredible contribution to our nation.

