

# 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 1, 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 1. 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 102,911 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 a hundred 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.



## RSL Supporting Veterans

The RSL was formed in 1916 as a result of the camaraderie and mateship of the Diggers during and after WW1. There are now 1,153 RSLs across Australia with 34 in Grey. That ethos of compassion and service remains the motivating influence of the League.

From the Boer War on, Australia has lost 102,784 military personnel, all of whom are recognised in our Australian War Memorial. Many more were injured, returning to Australia often suffering PTSD and depression.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs supports those who have served in the defence of our nation and commemorate their service and sacrifice.

The Open Arms Helpline (1800 011 046) provides support, 24-hour free and confidential counselling, for current and ex-serving ADF members and families.

Photo: Crystal Brook RSL continues to support local veterans. Rowan is pictured with Chris Schoepf, Kaye Nicolson, president Scott Bowman, Ivan Venning, Maxine Wilson & Dianne Large at the RSL.

# 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

For information on ANZAC Day services in your area, ring your local council.

## Contact Details

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## 50th Anniversary of End of Combat in Vietnam



December will mark 50 years since our last troops left Vietnam. The Australian war effort was largely concentrated around Nui Dat, our base in enemy country to the south-east of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) with significant battles like Coral and Balmoral occurring elsewhere. Australia's most notable engagement with our highest casualties occurred in 1966 at nearby Long Tan. On that eventful day in August, 108 Australians from D Company, 6 RAR, held back a sustained attack from a Viet Cong force estimated to number between 1500-2000.

Long Tan resulted in 18 Australian deaths and 24 wounded with around 245 Viet Cong lost and another 350 wounded. The battle is an exemplar of Australian resilience and commitment. August 18th is now dedicated as Vietnam Veterans' Day.

The reduction of Australian forces began in 1970 with a phased withdrawal to end in 1972. The Vietnam conflict was difficult, but the trauma for Vietnam veterans did not end there. Many faced abuse and discrimination upon their return to Australia.

The abuse of our returning Vietnam veterans was one of the most shameful incidents in our history. Universally recognised as a complete travesty, it must never happen again.

Photo: Corporal Allan Walter "Midge" Graham, 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Age 22 from Port Augusta SA. Graham died at the 24th US Evacuation Hospital Long Binh on the morning of 7th January 1969 of wounds received during a fire fight the previous day in Bien Hoa Province. His wife, Raelene, died by her own hand on the 8th January 1969. They are buried together in the Stirling North Cemetery.



# ANZAC DAY

## LEST WE FORGET

# 2022



80 YEARS SINCE THE BOMBING OF DARWIN

A newsletter from Rowan Ramsey MP



# A MESSAGE

## from Rowan Ramsey MP

Federal Member for Grey



It is fitting that on Anzac Day we remember those who have given their all for our country and the ideals that are the foundation of our great democracy.

The first half of last century was dominated by two global conflagrations that took millions of lives. The 75 years since the end of WW2 have been peaceful by comparison. However, it has not come without cost and Australia has made significant contributions to international efforts to prolong peace and protect human rights in wars including Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, we have been involved in interventions and peace-keeping operations across the world. While we have finally withdrawn from Afghanistan, we currently have personnel in the Solomon Islands keeping the peace and protecting civilians.

Every time an Australian in uniform is sent to a hot-spot, they put their life on the line. Many have experienced mental illness upon return to Australia and civilian life and there has been far too many suicides.

The Government has significantly increased resources and established a Royal Commission to deal with these issues. Ensuring the culture within the forces and the support after service is improved is the highest priority.

As we approach Anzac Day let us remember those who have served and commemorate their service to the nation.

In compiling this newsletter, we made extensive use of the Virtual War Memorial. This is a brilliant resource and can be found at <https://vwma.org.au/>

Let us not forget



## Bombing of Darwin

On 19 February 1942 Australia was shocked when Darwin was bombed, WW2 had reached our shores. Japanese fighters and bombers attacked the port and shipping in the harbour twice during the day, killing 252 Allied service personnel and civilians.

Echoing their success at Pearl Harbor, the Japanese struck with stealth, speed and force, dropping 681 bombs weighing 114,000 kilograms with accuracy and minimal losses. More Japanese bombs fell on Darwin, more civilians were killed and more ships sunk than in the attack on Pearl Harbour.

On March 3 Broome in Western Australia was strafed. In succeeding months air attacks were made on many towns in northern Australia.

Despite popular fears, these raids were not the precursor to an invasion, but they did serve to interrupt the use of Darwin's vital port and airfield facilities which had been significantly developed in the build up to the war in the 1930's.

The 64th, and last, air raid on Darwin occurred on 12 November 1943. In total there were 97 air attacks on northern Australia and enemy air reconnaissance over the region continued through much of 1944.

**Cover: AWM 012703 1942 Darwin, Northern Territory. Australian Army bomb disposal experts recovering an unexploded Japanese aerial bomb.**

Pictured above: AWM 044607 Darwin, 1942-02-19. The ruins of the Darwin post office after the first Japanese raid.

# AUSTRALIA'S ROLE

## In Various Conflicts

### World War 1 1914-1918



Most focus on Australia's WW1 involvement centres firstly on Gallipoli and then the Western Front, however they were not the only places Australians saw action. When the main body of troops shifted to Europe the Light Horse units were left to defend Egypt and the Suez Canal from the German and Turkish armies and Arab tribes.

The three battles for Gaza took place from March to November 1917, including the Battle for Beersheba and the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade's mounted charge, the last mounted charge recorded in history.

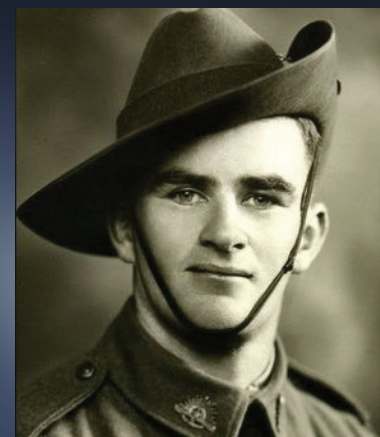
Preparing troops and horses for battle in the middle of the Negev Desert revolved around water supplies. The horses carried their masters and water for the last 50km as they positioned themselves for battle. At 5.00pm the Australian brigade was ordered to commence a mounted attack. Their commander General William Grant gave the order personally "Men you're fighting for water. There's no water between this side of Beersheba and Esani. Use your bayonets as swords. I wish you the best of luck."

With their rifles slung on their backs and bayonets in hand they charged across 6.4km of open ground to the Turkish trenches. It was completely unexpected, and the surprise resulted in the mounted troops completely overrunning the enemy positions. The battle was over in an hour with 31 Australians killed, 32 injured and 80 horses died. Casualties were heavy for their opponents, 500 killed and 1500 captured. The third battle for Gaza never lost momentum and the German and Turkish armies were cleared from Palestine.

*Picture: William James Ritchie, born March 1872 at Lower Light – farmer, soldier, husband. He joined the Australian Imperial Forces on April 19 1916, at age 44, going from being a hard working farmer to a brave soldier. He embarked Adelaide on the 12th of August 1916, to join up with the 32nd Battalion in France.*

*He fought in France through 1917 and the first half of 1918, until he was wounded in the shoulder on 15th June 1918 He survived the war and died in 1951 aged 79. He is listed on the Murrumbidgee WW1 Honour Roll.*

### World War 2 1939-1945



It is 80 years since the Fall of Singapore, one of the most significant military defeats in British and Commonwealth history.

More than 20,000 Australians served in the Malayan Campaign and the defence of Singapore during the Second World War. In excess of 1,700 were killed, 1,300

wounded and more than 8,000 perished in captivity.

Singapore was regarded as an impregnable British fortress and its loss sent shockwaves through Australia and the Commonwealth. It was positioned to defend attack from the sea, but the Japanese surprised by coming down the Malay Peninsula, crossing the Straits of Johore and landing on the north-western part of Singapore on 8 February 1942. It was just eight days before British and Commonwealth troops were forced to surrender.

Though there was some fierce fighting, the Allied defence was disorganised and the Japanese took many of Singapore's key facilities, including the island's water reservoirs and all but one airfield.

The fall of Singapore left Australia vulnerable, and just four days later, Japanese forces brought the war to the Australian mainland with the bombing of Darwin.

*Picture: Bryan Stanford Trigg was born in 1913 in Johannesburg, South Africa, while his father was working as a supervisor in the mines. On returning to Australia, his parents and the family of eleven children eventually settled on a farm near Cummins, South Australia. On enlisting in January 1942, Bryan was assigned to the 2/12 Australian Field Ambulance, and was posted aboard the hospital ship Centaur, leaving Sydney on the 12th May 1943 en route to Cairns and Port Moresby. In the early hours of the 14th May, the ship was torpedoed, and Bryan was amongst the many soldiers, nurses and crew who died. Of the five brothers and one sister who served during WW2, he was the only one to be killed.*

# LOCAL HERO

## Sister Elizabeth Mosey of Robertstown



Sister Elizabeth Mosey was born in Robertstown on 23rd March 1880. She trained as a nurse in Burra and enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service at the beginning of WW1. In 1915 Elizabeth arrived in Egypt and served at Mena on the outskirts of Cairo throughout the Gallipoli campaign.

On 14 July 1916, she was "Mentioned in Despatches" for her administrative work in Egypt. Transferred to the Western Front following the disengagement at Gallipoli, Elizabeth treated the wounded from the Battles of Messines and Ypres. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross Second Class for her service. Following the war Elizabeth returned to Australia, then joined the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force which was involved in post-war management of PNG, embarking from Sydney on 16 April 1919. She took up her post at the hospital in Rabaul shortly after. Just prior to WW2, Elizabeth was working as a volunteer nurse in Hong Kong. When the Japanese invaded, she was trapped and spent the next six years tending to the people of Hong Kong.

There are several mentions of her bravery at the Repulse Bay Hotel in the book Prisoner of the Japs:

*"The Angel of Mercy of the siege was white-haired Elizabeth Mosey, who had served in the last war and had retired to the hotel to do the light nursing that is necessary in such a place. The (Japanese) soldiers, with fixed bayonets, rushed into the hospital. They started for the beds with their bayonets coming down into position. White-haired and frail Nurse Mosey stepped in front of the bayonet points. "You'll have to kill me first before you kill them," she said. "The Japs may not have understood the words, but they understood the gesture. They hesitated a moment, looked beyond at the wounded men, whose eyes were begging for some show of humanity, and back at the determined little lady in front of them, and then they backed away. There was no doubt that these British men owed their lives to the courage and bravery of Miss Mosey. Wounded men in other emergency hospitals weren't so lucky."*

Following the war, Elizabeth returned to Australia and in 1947 was created a Member of the Order of the British Empire for her service to the people of occupied Hong Kong. She passed away in Ceylon in 1949 and is a true Local Hero.

Credit to the Australian War Memorial, <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1264294> (www.awm.gov.au).

*AWM H00047 Sister Elizabeth Mosey with driver Henry Dalziel VC, 15th Battalion. Sister Mosey was awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross medal in 1917. This is probably taken at Harefield at No 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital.*

## A letter from George V

Peter Stuart Sinclair was born in 1880 and raised at the Green Patch Homestead north west of Port Lincoln. His middle name was in honour of family friend and explorer John McDouall Stuart. Peter was the grandson of James Sinclair an early settler who came overland to Eyre Peninsula in 1847.

He had a varied start to life working in goldmines in WA as a teenager and then in South Africa. Returning to Australia shortly before WWI broke out, he immediately joined the armed forces and was allocated to the 11th Field



Artillery Brigade and sent to Europe. While in France Peter became quite deaf as a result of the noise of the guns and walked in front of an artillery gun when the order was given to fire - he was badly injured and lost his arm. Tragically, this actually occurred after the armistice was declared. As a result of this, Peter received a handwritten letter from King George V

wishing him a speedy recovery. The family has proudly kept this letter in their possession. After he had recuperated Peter returned to Port Lincoln where he remained for the rest of his life. He died on 28 July 1957.

