



Thank you to all who express thanks on Anzac Day to members of the Committee, for the voluntary work we do to keep AWWOD functioning. We appreciate your support for our efforts and hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you at our AGM on Wednesday 26th July 2017. If you have any suggestions, would like to offer any feedback or have a special project in mind, please contact us at arlineronsisvalle@bigpond.com or write to the Secretary AWWOD Box 1/121 Anzac Avenue, Engadine NSW 2233 for consideration by the Committee. Look forward to seeing you all on Anzac Day 2018.



Again, another very special Anzac Day this year. Many of our members especially remembered their family member who served on the Western Front or in the desert at Beersheba. This year is the 100th Anniversary of the Charge of Beersheba at which our Australian boys figured so very prominently. Our loss as such a young country must never be forgotten and the feeling of pride in our Fathers, Grandfathers, and Great Uncles is quite overwhelming. It is so very important that we march every year in their memory, to keep the sacrifice that they made alive forever. The weather was kind to us again this year and the March seemed smoother with a constant pace through our new route down Elizabeth Street. There were a lot of spectators to cheer the March in spite of the threats of terrorism that had been reported in the media during the previous days, which may also have reflected on our smaller contingent. A reduction in our numbers was expected after the 2015 and 2016 Centenary years, but we still had over 80 people marching and we looked very impressive. The Kings Boys looked wonderful, as usual. We are so very fortunate to have these young boys and their Leader giving their time freely, to carry our banner every year for us. All very well dressed and the AWWOD ties and scarves certainly give us a very professional appearance. Thank you to everyone for making this effort. It was lovely to again welcome a number of new members and lovely to have some young children join us for the first time. Unfortunately, there were no landrovers available for some of our older members to ride in this year, as the Army has sold them. Many people did not collect their name badges again this year. Please don't forget next Anzac Day. They cannot be posted out, as the pins do not travel well in the post. If anyone did not have a badge there for them this year, please email Arline so one can be ready for you next Anzac Day. Badges are only made when both Membership Application and Statutory Declaration have been received by Arline. The ABC Broadcast filmed us this year and it was available on <http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/anzac-day-march-sydney> for 10 days after Anzac Day. Part of the filming was captured from overhead and did show us off very well. Lunch at Hotel Harry's was good again this year, and a great way to unwind after the March with about 30 of our members joining us.

A TIMELY REMINDER: Some members have still not filled in and returned their paperwork to Arline. As it is part of our rules that both the Membership Application and Statutory Declaration are returned to AWWOD for membership, could those who have not done so, please comply. Family Membership is where a number of family members take turns on a yearly basis, marching for a common Ancestor. If two or three family members are marching for different Ancestors, then they must join separately. Membership is still: \$10 for working people, \$10 for Family membership and \$5 for pensioners and children.

PLEASE NOTE: The March guidelines that we follow are those set down to us by the RSL March Committee. By AWWOD following those guidelines, we are eligible to continue marching. This has taken us over seventeen years of dedicated effort, and it is up to each of us to adhere to these rules on Anzac Day. Please be aware that anyone who flouts or bends these guidelines to suit themselves, risks us being put out of the March. The RSL is very specific about ***photos** NOT being carried during the March, so please do not bring them with you. ***Only** one family member can march to represent an Ancestor on Anzac Day and medal sets are not to be broken up between family members. ***MEDALS** must be worn, either the original set or replicas and worn on the right hand side of the chest.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS: Our AGM last June and many thanks to those people who made the effort to attend. It would be nice to see a few more members attending. Your Committee was re-elected in total. Greg and Royce both attended the RSL Headquarters pre March Meetings and their wash up Meeting. We again received a good report from the RSL and they have asked us to help with the WW2/Post group who march behind us. Many of our Committee members attended the Centenary services at Fromelles and Pozieres in Belgium and France last July. It was truly amazing to be able to honour our Australian soldiers and walk in their footsteps through Flanders Fields and beyond. President Greg was accompanied by many WW1 Re-enactors who wore their replica WW1 uniforms throughout the trip. We attended various Remembrance Day services and Karen and Greg laid a wreath on behalf of AWWOD at the Woronora RSL service which was organised by Royce. Our Committee members also attended Anzac Sunday services to represent AWWOD. Karen attended the Kings School and presented the 2017 banner holders with a box of Anzac biscuits and a certificate each as a thank you for their participation on Anzac Day. We have regular Committee meetings to enable us to stay on top of the tasks that keep us organised.

UP COMING EVENTS: Our AGM on Wednesday 26th July 2017. To be held at Dooley's Catholic Club, 24-28 John Street, Lidcombe. Starting at 7.30pm. The Fromelle Day service on Wednesday 19th July will be attended by many of our Committee members again this year and a wreath will be laid on behalf of AWWOD. This is always a very lovely service in memory of the five and a half thousand young Australian men that were either killed, wounded or taken prisoner in a period of twenty-four hours. Any AWWOD members that are attending the service at Hyde Park War Memorial at 10.45, are asked to wear their Ancestor's medals

HOW CAN YOU HELP AWWOD:

*Truthfully acknowledge your Ancestor' service. Research information and records are available through the National Archives, Canberra. As part of our Aims and Objectives, we can assist you with this – just contact us through our website or contact Arline, our Secretary, who will endeavour to pass your query to the relevant person to help you.

* Be proud of your Ancestor and show respect for their memory and sacrifice by having their medals restored with new ribbons and the appropriate means to apply them to you clothing. Ladies may find a miniature copy set of medals is kinder to you clothing. Battalion badges are also available from some of the medal shops and these are appropriate to wear with your Ancestors medals.

* Acknowledge the dignity and reverence of the day by dressing appropriately in a dark business suit. Don't forget AWWOD scarves and ties are available for a very modest price.

*Be sure your yearly membership is paid up to date before Anzac Day. Please keep in mind the security of your Committee members if they are forced to carry money around with them that they have had to collect on Anzac Day.



HONOUR PAGE: We are currently developing an Honour Page on our website. If you would like to include your Ancestor on this page, please contact our webmaster on www.awwod.org.au and send through a photo if you have one and a brief outline about him and his service. Also, be sure to check our our Anzac Day 2017 photos on our website as well. Our Paparazzi Bruce always does his best to ensure there are photos of most members posted!