

Anzac Day 2021 NEWSLETTER



With Covid preventing the 2020 Anzac Day March to go ahead, we trust you all enjoyed however you commemorated the day, be it by standing in your driveway at dawn, or simply watching the many televised programs aired. We certainly missed you all last year.



It was touch and go as to whether or not the March would go ahead this year, and having only been notified weeks before, Arline and Karen managed to squeeze a years' worth of work into a very short time. Our check in procedures were streamlined, due mainly to the government Covid requirements of pre-registration, and this precipitated our new receipts process which eliminated the need for paper receipts and messy sign-in procedures on the day. This worked extremely well, and we are continuing to look at further ways to streamline and automate our systems. Unfortunately our Kings' boys were at a school camp previously organised with the unlikelihood of Anzac Day going ahead in mind.

We certainly missed them, but were very fortunate to have two members of the 18th Battalion Re-Enactment Group of whom our President Greg is a member, carry our Banner. Our sincere thanks to Ron O'Connor and Rod Harris, and also our wonderful rope carriers, Secretary Arline's grandchildren: Toby Brunton, Charlotte Dippre, Julian, Bailey & Olivia Ronsisvalle, and of course Sarah Adkins. They all looked very professional and carried out a difficult but very important task for AWWOD at the last minute.

We were lucky with the weather again, and a surprisingly large crowd given the circumstances, showing their appreciation for our present service people and all those that have given so much in the past. There is always a very warm welcome for AWWOD and without our wonderful Ancestors, there would not be the name ANZAC to honour this very special Day. They must never be forgotten.

AWWOD looked very smart again this year. We had over 50 members marching, a wonderful roll up considering the initial uncertainty of our participation. A big thank you to all who have purchased our very smart ties and scarves. We certainly look a very professional, well dressed group. The March ran quite smoothly this year, and we came through much earlier than usual, due mainly to reduced numbers marching overall. The ABC again had the March available to watch on iView after Anzac day, and AWWOD also received great Commentary at the end of the March as well. Lunch at Hotel Harry's was a very small and much quieter affair this year as numbers were restricted. We were placed near the two-up game which was exceedingly noisy but fun to watch.

Still a lot of name badges not collected, please remember to collect them next Anzac Day as they cannot be posted, Australia post is not kind to the clips on them. Also, badges are not made until all paperwork has been sent in to Arline, that is, both Membership Application and Statutory Declaration. Your Statutory Declaration is very important, as then we have a record of the service person that you are marching for.

A TIMELY REMINDER: Family membership is where a number of family members take turns on a yearly basis, to march for a common Ancestor. If two or three family members are marching for different Ancestors, then they must join separately nominating the person that they are marching for. Membership is still only \$5 for pensioners and children; working people and Family membership is \$10. Direct Debit is now our preferred payment method and a receipt will be emailed to you directly. Please still return your Renewal Form to Arline as the banks do not always advise when a payment has been made and would leave your AWWOD record showing as being in arrears with the possibility of being removed from the Data Base. It is quite acceptable to hand it in on Anzac Day.

PLEASE NOTE: The March guidelines that we must follow are those set for us by the RSL March Committee and must be followed to allow us to continue taking part in the March. This has taken 20 years of dedicated effort, and it is up to each one of us to keep up the standard that we adhere to and be allowed to continue Marching on this very special Day. Please keep in mind the three rules laid down by the RSL:

1. ***Only one** family member can march representing an Ancestor during the March and medal sets are not to be broken up between family members.
2. ***Medals** are to be worn on the right hand side of the chest. If the originals have been wall mounted or lost, then it allowable to wear a replica set, these are available from a number of medal shops around Sydney. Ladies may prefer to wear a miniature set as these are kinder to dress material.
3. ***Photos** are not to be carried during the March, so please do not bring them with you.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS: The 2019 AGM was held at Dooley's, but no AGM was held last year as there was no March due to Covid. Our Committee meetings are held regularly to attend to any preparation needed for the next Anzac Day. PR Officer Karen was interviewed by Paul Murray and talked about the importance of Anzac Day amongst other things. It aired Anzac Day night.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Our AGM on Wednesday 4th August 2021, commencing at 7.30pm. To be held at Dooleys' Catholic Club. 24-28 John Street Lidcombe.

HOW CAN YOU HELP AWWOD:

Truthfully acknowledge your Ancestor's service. Research information and records are available from 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 the respect for their memory and sacrifice by having their medals restored with new ribbons and the appropriate means to apply them to your clothing. Ladies, don't forget that miniature sets are available and much lighter to wear on dress material. Battalion colour patches are also available from some of the medal shops around Sydney and these are appropriate to wear with your Ancestor's 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 on the Day at a modest price. Be sure your yearly Membership is paid up to date before Anzac Day, via bank transfer to our account. We wish to avoid carrying cash with us on the day.

HONOUR PAGE: We are continuing to develop 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 Anzac Day photos on our website as well. Our "Mr Paparazzi" Bruce was sorely missed this year so we don't have as many photos as usual but there are still many on our website as well as a couple videos, with thanks to some of our Members.

Thank you to all who express thanks on Anzac Day to members of the Committee, for the voluntary work that 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 4th August 2021 at 7.30pm.

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.





Our Committee look forward to seeing you on Anzac Day 2022, and wish you a safe and happy year ahead.