

# **TERRIGAL WAMBERAL RSL SUB-BRANCH**



## **CENTENARY OF ANZAC 2015**

# TERRIGAL

By Matt Taylor

A record crowd of more than 5000 people packed the Terrigal foreshore for an emotion-charged Anzac Day dawn service.

Police blocked off streets heading into Terrigal's CBD from 4.45am as hordes of people filed down to the Cenotaph on the beachfront.

Terrigal-Wamberal RSL president Peter White said it was "mind-blowing" to see how many people were paying their respects to the fallen.

"There were easily 5000 people here today, which would be the biggest ever turnout for Terrigal. We've never had people on the beach, and seeing a mass of them there today was spectacular," Mr White said.

"We've been working on this for three years, and today's been everything we could have asked for."

The Gallipoli landing re-enactment was a spectacular feature of the spine-tingling service.

Twelve surf boats, led by the 18th Battalion Living History Group, rowed ashore to the sounds of gunfire and two flares lighting the sky.

For Brad Wardle, the day had extra special meaning after his father, a veteran, passed away late last year.

"My father (Mick) did two tours on HMAS Melbourne in Vietnam and he passed away when he was president of the Terrigal-Wamberal RSL sub-branch, so it's had added meaning for me," he said.

"It's been really exhilarating to remember the fallen and what these people did for our country.

"This is my (three-year-old) son Samuel's first ever dawn service and it was to be the year he was going to march with his pa."





Surf boats arrive at Terrigal Beach to re-enact Gallipoli landing. Picture: Sue Graham  
*Source:* News Corp Australia

The Channells family said the service “touched our hearts”.

Asked what Anzac Day meant to her, Hayden Channells, 7, said: “Today is about remembering all the soldiers who fought at war.”

Geoff Channells, whose birthday falls on Anzac Day, said he was delighted to see such a big crowd in attendance.

“My grandfather was in World War II in Papua New Guinea, and I think the importance of this day keeps growing each year. It’s not just about the fallen, but those who have returned.

“Imagine getting off that boat and having people shooting at you as you run up the sand,” he said, gazing out to the Terrigal shoreline.

His wife, Simone, added: “It’s an honour to be among the veterans here on Anzac Day.

“And it really pierces the heart on what they have been through, and what their families have been through. The landing re-enactment brought home what it would have been like for the soldiers in Gallipoli.”





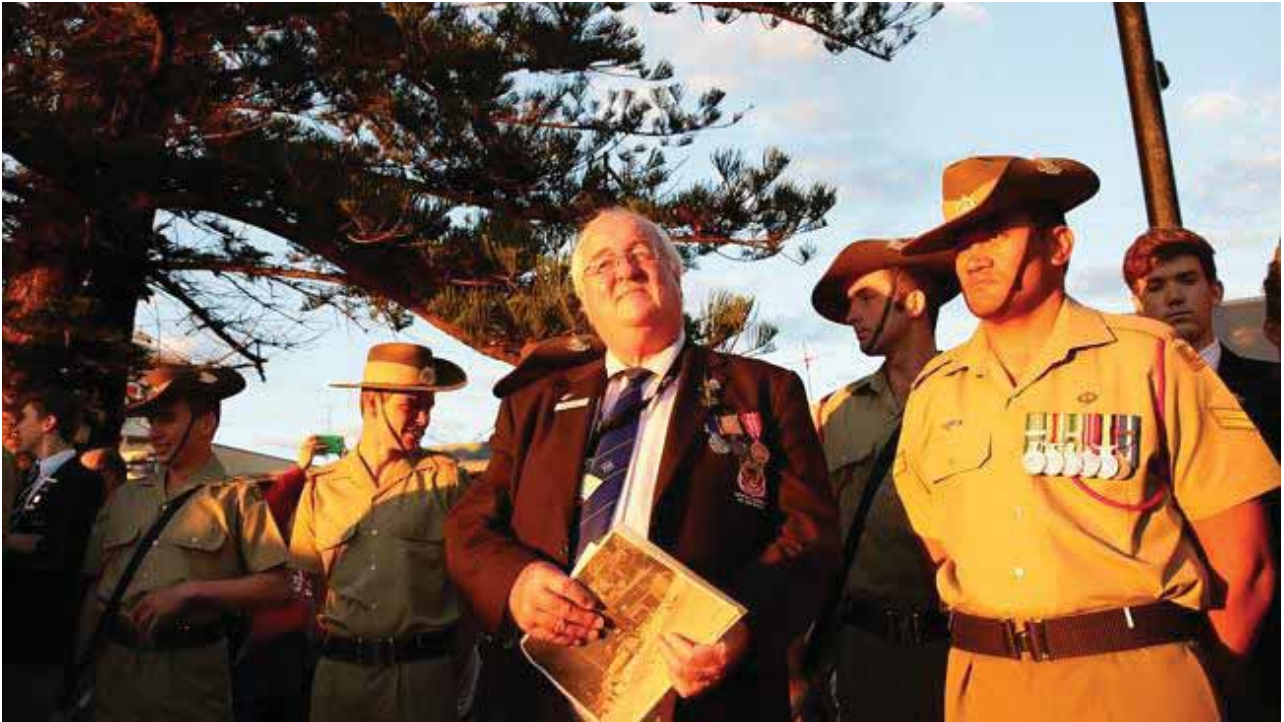
Veterans and best mates Peter Wyllie and Dave Roberts at the Terrigal dawn service. Picture: Sue Graham *Source: News Corp Australia*

**Peter Wyllie and Dave Roberts are ordinary blokes who have led extraordinary lives together.**

The 88-year-olds went to Gosford High School together, before enlisting in the Navy in 1944 and serving out the final months of World War II on different battle ships around New Guinea. And they have been close mates ever since returning to the Central Coast.

The centenary of the Gallipoli landing holds special meaning to Peter. His father, Jim, who was a chemist in Gosford, served — and survived — in one of the Great War's bloodiest campaigns.

“My father was in Gallipoli,” Peter said, as he pointed to his dad’s war medals after the spectacular Anzac Day dawn service at Terrigal.



A moment of reflection at the Terrigal dawn service. Picture: Sue Graham *Source: News Corp Australia*

“But my old man was always very unhappy with me. He was at war from 1915-18 and survived it. He got three medals. I served six months in World War II and got four to his three.

“He later got a valour medal for fighting in the Battle of the Somme. But he didn’t get that until the ’80s.

“By the time he got that medal, there were only 70-odd survivors left alive from it.”

Both Peter and Dave, who rowed surf boats together for 40 years after World War II, were delighted to see the 5000-strong turnout for Terrigal’s dawn service.

“It’s been really great today,” Peter said with a big smile. “The fact the public is getting so involved is really impressive.”

Dave agreed.

“It’s amazing to see so many people,” he said.

Dave said his father also served on the Western Front in World War I.

“Dad served in France. He was also a headmaster at North Entrance school. He actually started the school,” he said.

Asked to recall their wartime memories, Peter said: “It’s only the good stuff now. You have to forget all the bad things. It’s a long time ago now and we’ve moved on.”



5000 people turn out at Terrigal dawn service to commemorate the Anzac centenary

April 25, 2015 12:09pm



A massive crowd turned out to pay their respects at Terrigal's Anzac Day dawn service. Picture: Sue Graham

A record crowd of more than 5000 people packed the Terrigal foreshore for an emotion-charged Anzac Day dawn service.

Police blocked off streets heading into Terrigal's CBD from 4.45am as hordes of people filed down to the Cenotaph on the beachfront.

Terrigal-Wamberal RSL president Peter White said it was "mind-blowing" to see how many people were paying their respects to the fallen.

Mr White said Anzac Day had become “more of our national day”.

“It’s about mateship, looking after other people, companionship, sacrifice and loyalty to other people,” he said.

“These are all values we should have, and as a country we are developing them even more now.

“Seeing so many people at Terrigal today makes me feel proud to be Australian.”







The 18th Battalion Living History Group during the Terrigal dawn service. Picture: Sue Graham

















## **MAIDEN SPEECH BY MR ADAM CROUCH, MEMBER FOR TERRIGAL - RECORDED IN HANSARD MAY 2015.**

Like a large number of people in this Chamber, I have attended many Anzac Day ceremonies. But this year took on special meaning given that it was the centenary of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli and my first Anzac Day as the local member. The day commenced with the most surreal dawn service I had ever attended. It was conducted at Terrigal Beach by the Terrigal-Wamberal RSL Sub-branch. It was at this event, after laying my first wreath, that I met 93-year-old Mr George Craven for the second time in a week. George, before taking the stage to read the Ode, leaned over to me and said how wonderful it was to see so many young people attend the service, and that he was so very proud that he and his friends would not be forgotten. With surf boats delivering soldiers in period uniforms to the shore to the sound of gunfire, the beach was packed with thousands of locals for as far as the eye could see who were respectfully silent for the entire event.

If the closing of the ceremony was not emotional enough, the spritely Digger again leaned over to me, clearly moved by the proceedings, and proudly produced a picture of his sweetheart and late wife of 67 years, Joy, on their wedding day. The photo was of him in his uniform, looking so very young as he headed off to serve in the south-west Pacific, in the 2-11 Army Troop Engineers. He did this to protect the country he loves so much, like thousands of Australians did, without question or hesitation. A tear rolled down my cheek as he told me what an honour it was for him to be able to talk to the "new guy". I had to correct him and tell him that the honour was indeed mine.





## TERRIGAL

## Speeches lead way to Kokoda

TWO students will walk the Kokoda Track later this year after submitting winning speeches for an Anzac address competition presented at Terrigal Anzac services.

Terrigal-Wamberal RSL Sub-Branch held the competition on 'What Anzac Day means to me' for six high schools in conjunction with centenary of Gallipoli landing events.

Sub-branch president Peter White said the winners were Samantha Acklerley, of Terrigal High School, and Jacob Schoffl, of Central Coast Grammar School. "Entries went before a panel of judges and there were many well presented submissions that was difficult to set them apart," he said.

Mr White said Breakers Country Club got behind the sub-branch by sponsoring the walk and donating more than \$10,000.

"The club assists us in many ways and this is an invaluable experience for the students who will have life long memories that they will share throughout their lives,



**Peter White with Jacob Schoffl and Samantha Acklerley who are going on a trek to walk the Kokoda Track. Picture: PETER CLARK**

Samantha wrote a story of her experiences of Anzac Day.

"I used to go as a little kid but as I grew older I stopped. I went to an Anzac Day service last year and realised how important it was, I think we should all attend a service on Anzac Day," she said. "I do Duke of Edinburgh which involves hiking and think Kokoda will be an amazing experience, life-

changing and rewarding."

Jacob said his grandfather migrated from Austria to make a new life in Australia.

"The Anzacs created a good life in Australia due to their sacrifices and this is the substance of the speech that I will give at the club on Anzac Day," he said.

"Anzac Day means a lot especially as I get older and understand the significance of it."



Good evening ladies and gentleman.

What does ANZAC Day mean to me?

My name is Jacob Schoffl. I am a second generation Australian. My grandfather, or Opa, as I call him, migrated to Australia in 1957, on his own, at the age of just 17, from war-torn Austria to begin a new life. Two years after he arrived he decided to add a few more letters to the name of the country that he wanted to live in, raise a family in and become a citizen of- he went from being an Austrian to a naturalised Australian. He still has the first Australian passport he ever owned. My Opa constantly reminds me that moving to Australia was, without doubt, the best move he ever made in his life besides marrying my grandmother. It was better than winning the lottery. I tell you this about my grandfather because what made him decide to leave his parents and family behind to come to Australia is essentially why ANZAC Day means so much to me.

In 12 months' time I turn 18. I will be able to vote, legally drink alcohol, I can drive and own a car, depending on my effort and my goals for the future I can go to university, or go to work, or become an apprentice. I have choices. I am not discriminated against by my religion, or sex, or age or racial background. It's up to me to have a go and do the best with what I have. I have these extraordinary opportunities living in Australia because of the legacy of the hundreds of thousands of often young Australian men and women who risked their lives and fought for the rights and opportunities that I enjoy in 2015.

Anzac Day for me is a reminder that those first ANZACS who landed at ANZAC Cove on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1915, did so believing they were fighting to protect a way of life not only in Australia but across all countries. The impact of their efforts and courage, their attitude to support and help those in need during the Gallipoli campaign, is best summed up not by an Australian, but by the then Turkish commander and later father of modern day Turkey, Kemal Attaturk:

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives.... There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmetts to us where they lie side by side now here in this country of ours... you, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.

ANZAC Day reminds me that this spirit which was started at Gallipoli and then on the battlefields of France and Belgium, and then twenty years later around the world in World War 2, has continued to filter through 100 years of Australia's young men and women and become such a legacy. It is the spirit of adventure, of curiosity, of selflessness and of helping others-qualities evident in such great Australians as Weary Dunlop and Nancy Wake.

This ANZAC Day is an especially important one. It is historic in that it marks one hundred years of modern Australia's involvement in armed conflicts and peacekeeping efforts around the world. But what has become more evident each ANZAC Day is that the fight for equality for all people is a continuing one. Those rights that we take as a given here in Australia- right to vote, to an education, to work and freedom of speech, are in some countries nothing but fantasy. Therefore ANZAC for me is my annual wakeup call to be thankful for what I have, who I am and where I live. These are the things that my grandfather has embraced since coming to Australia as he has long recognized the



efforts of Australia's servicemen and women to make a country where all are welcome who wish to contribute and call Australia their home. ANZAC Day is also a reminder for me that Australian men and women are continuing to provide this same legacy we enjoy in Australia in other countries around the world. It is also a reminder that it comes at a huge cost. The cost of brave and caring men and women such as Lance Corporal Todd John Chidgey who have died fighting to uphold these values in Afghanistan as recently as July last year.

Finally, this ANZAC Day will be important to me because those servicemen men and women past and present can take heart from the fact that their efforts and often sacrifices have indeed left a legacy of which they can be eternally proud. No greater example of this is more evident in the fact that last year, Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for his gallant efforts in fighting for soldiers under his command in Afghanistan. ANZAC Day will be my reminder that soldiers like Cameron Baird have played their part and enabled me to make the most of the life I have.



## What ANZAC Day means to me

It was 100 years ago today that the first ever ANZAC's arrived on the beach in Gallipoli, one I'm sure is not too different from the beach we stand on today, to start the fight for our freedom. Close your eyes for a second and just imagine how they might have been feeling. Hear the swish of the ocean lapping against the shore, feel that ball of nervousness in your stomach of the hardships and tragedy that are surely to come but also the anticipation and excitement of battle. I'm sure whatever each of those soldiers was feeling on that momentous day was different and unique. Just as what each of us is feeling here on this momentous day 100 years later is different and unique because I believe ANZAC Day takes on different meanings for each of us.

My first memory of ANZAC day would have to be when I was 6 years old. I had asked mum, as the ever curious child, "What exactly does ANZAC day mean"? And so in response she took my dad, brother and I to the Dawn Service at Terrigal to march with our primary school- Wamberal. It was the earliest I had ever gotten up and it was absolutely BUCKETING down with rain as we slowly shuffled along the streets under our umbrellas. We were at the very back of the crowd squished in like sardines and I couldn't see anything over the countless others craning to get a view. All I heard that morning was mumblings about hardships and sacrifice and other things my little 6 year old head couldn't quite comprehend. So by all accounts it should have been an absolutely horrible morning- but it wasn't. Despite being only 6 I still felt something that day moving along and being part of that crowd. A sense of community, a sense of coming together as one- a sense of mateship- which is of course the embodiment of the ANZAC legend.

And so the next year we went again. And again and again after that. And each year it would rain a little less, and I would see a little more, and I would hear and capture more and more of that ANZAC spirit. I would understand more about the importance of remembering those who had fought and died for us so that we could live such privileged lives in this lucky country of ours. I would come to realise that yes, we would never be able to truly understand the unimaginable horrors and gore of war but that didn't mean we couldn't honour those who did know what it was like. And I learnt more and more the lessons that the ANZAC legend lives on to teach generation after generation. The lessons of courage, commitment and mateship- 3 qualities the ANZACS upheld and the 3 qualities I believe we should all strive to adhere to as Australians today.

My most memorable year attending the Dawn Service to date would be Year 6 where, as school captain, I had the privilege of laying a wreath for Wamberal Public School. Finally after all the mumbling and small glimpses over the years I got to fully see and hear the ceremony and what a surreal experience it was. Laying the wreath, although it was only one of the countless others laid down around the country on this special day, made me feel proud. Proud that I was doing my part, no matter how small, to remember the ANZACS.

I didn't go to the ANZAC ceremony the next couple of years after that. I had moved on to high school and I just kind of got caught up in life I guess. I was always still thinking about the ANZACs on that day each year, or so I told myself, I just didn't have the time to go to dawn service. I mean I had been every other year right? These were my excuses. But no matter what excuse I told myself (that my friends weren't going anymore or my family didn't want to) I couldn't get over the feeling of guilt that I hadn't gone. I felt like I had not only let the ANZACs down but I had also let myself down.



And so last year I told mum I wanted to go again and she said okay. And so we got up and we were all a bit grumpy and tired and dad suggested we just go back to bed and try again next year. But I remember clearly mum saying "the soldiers got up to do their duty to this country, so the least we can do is get up and do ours". And she was right. I believe this is our duty as Australians to remember our fallen brothers and sisters, not just from Gallipoli but all wars, and to acknowledge the ongoing sacrifice that soldiers continue to make today in countries like Afghanistan.

So we did get up. I dragged my brother out of bed and we and we drove to Terrigal and this time we had to park a mile out of Terrigal and walk in because this time there were more people going to the dawn service than ever before. We crowded around and my school captains make their speeches and I turned to mum and said "mum I want to be able to get up there one day and speak as well as they did". And she said okay and I knew she would help me. Little did I know this opportunity would come so soon to be a part of all this and what better occasion than the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

So as you stand here today and listen to my musings I want you to take one message with you. Don't stop coming to these services. Even if the rain is a bit heavy, or you're a bit sleepy, or you have other things that need doing, make the effort to come. Our fallen brothers and sisters sacrificed everything for us. The least we can do is to remember and honour them. Because in another 100 years people won't just be remembering those who fought in that war way way back, they'll be remembering the people who got up and made that early morning march to show their gratitude and respect. They'll remember us as the ones who honoured the ANZAC legacy. So show the mateship Australia is so famous for and serve your duty to our country by never forgetting our brave ANZAC legends. Thankyou.

Samantha Akerley

Terrigal High School



CELEBRATING ANZAC HEROES 1915-2015

# Modelling memories

## CLUB SHOWS MEMORABILIA

Denice Barnes

THE week-long commemoration of the Centenary of Anzac began at Breakers Country Club at Wamberal on Monday.

The club is the home of the Terrigal-Wamberal RSL sub-branch and volunteers have been planning the commemorations for months including an Anzac memorabilia display which opened on Monday and will run until Sunday.

Volunteers spent the weekend assembling the display, which included newspaper clippings, photographs and uniforms representing the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force.

Primarily designed for local schoolchildren, a highlight of the display will be two massive model aircraft carriers, built over three painstaking years by Ray Crawley from the Terrigal Men's Shed.

One, the HMAS Melbourne, measures 3.1m and took 2200 hours to build all from scrap timber.



Ray Crawley with his model of the HMAS Melbourne and Sydney.

Picture: PETER CLARK

The smaller HMAS Sydney 3 sits next to her big sister and measures 2.1m.

It has definitely been a labour of love for Mr Crawley.

"I've been making models since I was 12," he said.

"It's a skill young kids today just don't have. I get so much enjoyment making them and showing them."

Also at the week-long display will be a World War I "trench" recreated by Andrew Church from the Central Coast Interactive War Exhibit at Gosford.

The "trench" includes an original stretcher from World War I among a host of fascinating artefacts.

Mr Church has sourced

items from all over the world. "We have some of the rarest items in the world, some stuff that the Australian War Memorial doesn't have," Mr Church said.

Other items in the display have been sourced and donated by sub-branch members including original World War I uniforms.

COASTWIDE

# Long Tan battle soldier speaks

Errol Smith

PLATOON commander at the Battle of Long Tan in Vietnam in 1966, David Sabben, will be special guest speaker at Breakers Country Club at Terrigal on April 22.

He will address both a lunchtime gathering and dinner later in the evening.

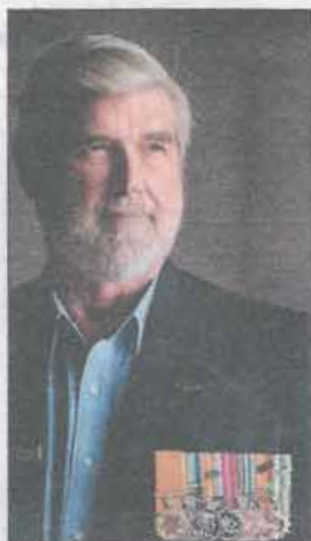
Mr Sabben is a former Central Coast resident and during his visit will attend a book signing at Dymocks at Westfield Tuggerah on April 21.

On April 23 he will also visit Erina Heights Public School for their Anzac Day service.

Mr Sabben was born in Fiji in 1945 but moved to Australia in 1958 to attend Trinity Grammar School in Sydney, where he bordered and spent his high school years.

He was called up in 1965, aged 20, for the first intake of Australia's National Service scheme and in January 1966 was posted to 6RAR in Brisbane.

Mr Sabben was 12 platoon commander at the Battle of Long Tan for which he was



David Sabben.

awarded a Medal for Gallantry (MG).

Upon retirement in December 2004 he was co-author of the book *The Battle of Long Tan by the Commanders* which is widely regarded as the definitive account of the battle.

With his wife, Di, he now takes tours to Vietnam each October to walk the decisive battlefields.

He has a daughter, a son and six grandchildren.



# Your say

Editor's  
favourite

“ There were several thousand people in attendance at the Terrigal Anzac Day dawn service. I guarantee you that all of them left as proud Australians. I certainly did.

- Geoffrey Jenkins

## Poppies are fantastic

CONGRATULATIONS to Merrill Jackson and Gosford City Council for their fantastic Poppy Project.

The scene running from the Cenotaph down the steps to the fountain and park, with Gosford's beautiful waterfront as a backdrop, may well have been unrivalled in the entire nation.

My club combined with North and East Gosford Rotary in 1973 to build and establish the fountain and steps. I doubt it has ever been put to better use.

**BARRY HENWOOD,**  
President, Gosford Rotary Club

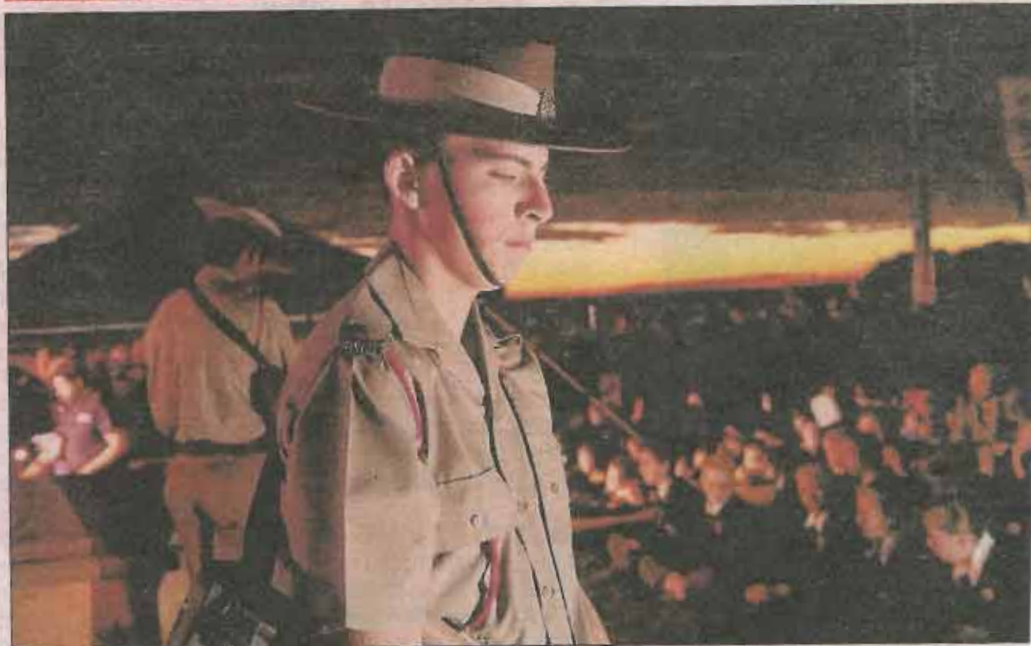
## Thanks to attendees

THE Terrigal-Wamberal RSL Sub-Branch would like to thank the thousands of people who attended the Anzac Day dawn service at Terrigal beach.

We sincerely hope that the service was a suitable tribute to our fallen and that those attending found it both moving and an opportunity to reflect on what Anzac means to us as Australians.

**PETER WHITE,**  
Sub-branch president

## EDITOR'S FAVOURITE



Terrigal's Anzac Day dawn service was emotional for the thousands of people in attendance.

## Beautiful dawn service on Anzac Day did Australians proud

THE Anzac dawn service at Terrigal was beautifully done.

The involvement of school-children in the service, both in speeches and singing, was capped off by the landing re-enactment, which had me in tears. It really tugged at the heartstrings.

I agree with Peter White, the Terrigal-Wamberal RSL Sub-branch president, who said Anzac Day was more of our national day.

To my eye, people seemed full of national pride.

We remembered the fallen, of course, but the day also made me

and my family think of Australia of today.

There were several thousand people in attendance at the dawn service. I guarantee you that all of them left as proud Australians. I certainly

**GEOFFREY JENKINS**

*Don & Carolin Frohmuller*  
*6 Walker Road*  
*WYOMING NSW 2250*  
*Tel: 0243281874*

19 May 2015

Organising Committee  
ANZAC Day Dawn Service, Terrigal  
Terrigal Wamberal RSL Sub Branch  
Breakers Country Club  
64 Dover Road  
WAMBERAL NSW 2260

Dear Sirs

We refer to our letter forwarded to you May 2013 in answer to your request for suggestions to improve the Anzac Day Dawn Service held at Terrigal and in particular 'getting it right' for the Centenary in 2015.

We attended the recent Anzac Day Dawn Service at Terrigal and just want to acknowledge and appreciate the great work carried out by the organising committee. Speaking to others on the day we all felt that it was presented in a most moving & emotional format fitting the 100 years commemoration.

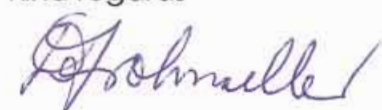
Also we have spoken to others who attended other Dawn Services on the Central Coast and it seems to us that the Terrigal Service was by far more inspiring and professional. We believe both Gosford RSL & Ettalong/Woy Woy RSL should review their format to bring it more in line with your programme as, on all reports their services lacked your professional commitment and dedicated approach.

We feel that this year's Dawn Service was the best we have attended at any time.


In saying the above, there is one thing we would like to bring to your attention. It is important to follow the correct protocol in your service programme as per the Anzac Day Services held by the Australian Government i.e. The Ode, Last Post, then 1 Minute silence followed by Reveille.

You are to be congratulated on a wonderfully run Dawn Service and we understand the effort made by many to present the programme - well done to all.

Kind regards



Don Frohmuller &  
Vietnam Veteran (1969-70)



Carolin Frohmuller



