



Terrigal Wamberal RSL sub Branch

# NEWSLETTER

## President's Message

Dear Members,

We remembered VP (Victory in the Pacific) and Vietnam Veterans Day at Breakers on 18 August with an informal service for sub-Branch members. It was pleasing to see WW2 veteran Peter Wyllie at the function. Unfortunately, another WW2 veteran member, George Craven, was ill and unable to attend.

The dedication of the Wamberal Memorial was held at the site on 27 August. Local community representation, including the Member for Robertson, Dr Gordon Reid, was present.

Sub-Branch activities for the remainder of the year are well advanced.

On 28 August, we cosponsored a scuba diving experience for veterans at the Woy Woy PLC. This was a social event for families to experience the fun of scuba diving in a safe environment and, at the same time, socialise with other veterans.

The next major commemorative event is Remembrance Day in November, and we will be conducting services at the Terrigal Beach Memorial and Breakers.

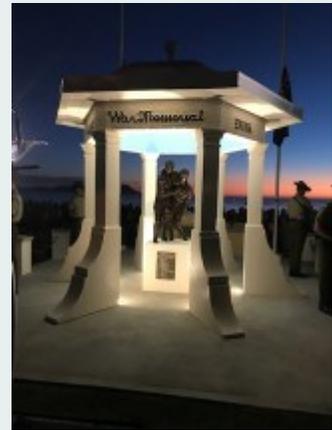
The RSL NSW State Congress and AGM will be held in Newcastle on Monday, 31 October and Tuesday, 1 November. With no COVID restrictions this year, delegates can attend in person or vote online. State Branch will publish motions for discussion at our October sub-Branch meeting.

On 21 November, 40 sub-Branch members and partners will travel by bus to Canberra for a two-day ACT tour. The itinerary over the two days includes Mount Ainslie, Parliament House, the Australian National Museum, the Mint and, of course, the War Memorial. I acknowledge and thank Greg Kirley, who was instrumental in the planning and implementation of this trip.

I look forward to your attendance at the next sub-Branch meeting on Saturday, 10 September

Regards,

Terry Saxby



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### Upcoming Event

- Veterans Health Week 6 October
- State Congress 31 October
- Remembrance Day 11 November
- ACT Bus trip 21 November

# MEET THE MEMBERS

## Lieutenant Colonel Scott Warr (Retired)

Scott Warr was born in Sydney and attended St Patrick's College at Strathfield, graduating in 1981. During his final year at high school, Scott secured one of 50 scholarships to attend the Royal Military College Duntroon in Canberra.



Graduating from the Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon to the Royal Australian Armoured Corp (RAAC) in 1986, he completed his troop leading time at 2 Cav Regt in Sydney before finishing a year as a recruit platoon commander at 1 RTB. Scott was then posted to 2/14 LHR (QMI) as a Squadron 2IC. During that time, he participated in an exchange with the British Army in Germany, where he met his now-wife Alison. Scott returned to Australia from Germany for an instructional posting at RMC Duntroon in Field Training Wing. From there, Scott completed 12 months in the Middle East with UNTSO as a military observer in Southern Lebanon and on the Golan Heights. Returning to Australia on promotion, he raised and established the third squadron at 2 Cav Regt, now in Darwin. Finally, a two-year posting to Manila in the

Philippines, initially in the Defence Section at the Australian Embassy, then onto Philippine Army Staff College for the final year.

Next, it was a two-year posting in Sydney at Land HQ in Victoria Barracks, where he was involved in operations, having input into planning for Bougainville, East Timor, Sydney Olympics, and the Solomons Islands. Then, he was promoted to LTCOL to take command of the ADF Recruiting Unit for NSW & ACT; he was the pilot unit for the ADF outsourcing of recruiting operations to Manpower in 2002. Scott left the Army in 2003.

As part of the transition to civilian life, Scott, Alison, and his two young children moved to the UK, to Alison's hometown of Newcastle Upon Tyne in the northeast of England. Initially working as the Assistant Director HR at Durham University, he then moved to the role of Chief Civil Contingency Officer for County Durham and Darlington, providing emergency management and business continuity planning capability for the County from a local authority perspective.

Returning to Australia in 2007 to settle at Terrigal, Scott initially worked in the shipping industry in Sydney before securing a program manager role at WorkCover NSW in Gosford in early 2008. In 2009 Scott took over as the CEO of the Long Service Corporation in Gosford until mid-2016. His next role was as a General Manager with Clark Equipment Sales (Forklifts & Construction Equipment) from 2017 until 2018.

In June 2018, Scott took over as the National CEO for Legacy Australia, a position he held until early this year. Looking to move to permanent part-time work Scott accepted the acting CEO RSL NSW role from March to July 2022. Currently, Scott is consulting one day a week with RSL Australia as the RSL Project Lead for the Catalogue of Services Project.



## SCUBA DIVE EXPERIENCE FOR VETERANS

The Scuba Warrior Experience held at the Woy Woy Pool on 27 August resulted from a collaboration between The Suba Gym, RSL NSW and Open Arms. The event was sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Terrigal Wamberal RSL sub-Branch.



Participants, including family members of veterans, had the opportunity to experience the fun of scuba diving in a safe environment.

A sausage sizzle was available after the event.

Group receiving instructions from Lyndi (Scuba Gym Australia). Each participant received one-to-one training.



Sub Branch member Bronte Pollard about to take the plunge.

## NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

The sub-Branch is extremely pleased with the number of new members who have joined us in the last six months.



**Mcalister (Macca) Le Gros**

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MACCA enlisted in the RAN in 1997 and is still a serving member, stationed at HMAS Kuttabul. He holds the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

JOHN is a former member of The Corps of Royal Marines, also known as the Royal Marines Commandos. They are the UK's special operations capable commando force, amphibious light infantry and also one of the five fighting arms of the Royal Navy.



**Geoff Dilworth**

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**John Williams**

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GEOFF was called up for National Service in 1967. He is a retired lawyer and has entered the Advocacy Development Training Program (ATDP) to qualify as a Compensation Advocate. He is being mentored by Bill Forsbey.

### OTHER MEMBERS

**Beau Denton** - Beau was a member of the Royal Australian Navy between 2011 and 2019. He works for RSL DefenceCare, helping veterans in need and assisting with the submission of compensation claims.

**Paul Mostowyj** - Paul enlisted in the in the Regular Army in 1993 and served in East Timor, Afghanistan and in Peacekeeping operations. He is a WO1 attached to HQ 2 Division.

**Saxon Martin** - Saxon is a former member of 3RAR and was discharged in 2019. He served in East Timor and Afghanistan.



## WAMBERAL MEMORIAL DEDICATION SERVICE

Wamberal Hall was built in 1920 at a time when every community in Australia was trying to recover from the tragedy of the "war to end all wars". Like the rest of Australia, Wamberal had lost its youth, and there was a desire to carry out those words – "Lest We Forget".



Peter White, Terry Saxby, Dr Gordon Reid

The hall provided a community centre and a memorial honouring service and sacrifice.

A dedication service was held at the hall on 27 August in recognition of a refurbished memorial, incorporating three headstones that were part of the original monument, established after WW2.

We are indebted to many people for restoring the memorial. However, the three centrepiece stones would have been lost had it not been for nearby resident Karl Jenkins, who rescued and secured the stones before the memorial's completion.

The stones were cleaned and preserved by Creightons, who also donated the brass storyboard, which will tell everyone who visits the history and significance of the hall, the memorial boards inside, and the headstones.

The Federal Government provided funding for the project.

The Federal Member for Robertson, Dr Gordon Reid, was in attendance and presented the sub-Branch with a Certificate of Appreciation.

We thank our members, John Wilton, who did much of the initial planning, and Roger Wrightson for the construction.

We hope that we now have something which will highlight the significance of this hall in the future and be a reminder to all of us that we should never forget.



Sub Branch President Terry Saxby

## FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH

Sub-branch members and friends meet informally on the first Friday of each month for lunch at Breakers. It is an excellent way to meet and enjoy the company of fellow members.



Peter White circulates a reminder email with details at the beginning of each month. There is no need to RSVP for catering as members order and pay for their meals and refreshments. Just turn up, and you will be more than welcome.

Please support this initiative as it is a great forum to exchange ideas and a comfortable way of getting to know your fellow members.



# Memoirs of Carlyle Alfred Harrison.

*The following is a typed copy of Carlyle Harrison's diary notes concerning his experience at Gallipoli. He later served on the Western Front and was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty under heavy fire in attending to wounded at Ypres on 4 October 1917.*

**We thank Leonie Pinson for sharing with us the memoirs of her grandfather, Carlyle Harrison.**

## ARTICLES from our MEMBERS

### A GLORIOUS FAILURE

Early morning- pale light beginning to creep over the horizon, the ghostly shapes of warships well off the rocky coast and further in, dim lines show destroyers racing about.

Smaller boats put off from the naval vessels and the first troops are away. The landing has begun.

The morning is April 25<sup>th</sup> 1915, the rocky coast that of the Gallipoli Peninsula, the warships and cruisers part of the formidable British Navy and the troops the men who live forever as the A.N.Z.A.C.'s, "the Australian and New Zealand Army Corp."

I was not among the first to land but land we did and followed our gallant comrades up the little goat track which led to the high plateau on which the Turks were entrenched. Contrary to many stories we came upon only nine of the enemy here, all dead. They had occupied two small trenches on either side of the track and one had attempted to crawl away but was dead about 50 yards up what later became Shrapnel Gully.

We went along the Gully and diverged from it up numerous was to our main line on Anzac Ridge where our 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade had dug in with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in support. We crossed over both and six of us walked on and at 3 o'clock we looked down on the fort and town of Anafala, nestling on the waters that led to Constantinople. We were out of ammunition and so returned picking up three's and four's of various battalions and brigades on the way.

If sufficient support had been given -Turkey would have left the war that day.

Returning to the main line we set to and gave a hand digging our trenches, bringing up supplies and ammunition and wondering about our water supply.



*Continued...*

The trenches started as a little mound behind where each man lay but ended up becoming almost luxurious. About 15 feet wide and of varying depth we made our dugouts in the sides and were comparatively comfortable.

A few days later when the men of the Light Horse arrived we found them bathing in the only waterhole on the peninsula. This started a little private war.

However, soon we were firmly entrenched and when the Turkish counter-attack of the 18<sup>th</sup> May came, we were ready for it. A man on a beautiful white horse rode up and down before us leading the Turkish Army. No one fired as we were ordered not to do so. They told us he was a Hoji or something preaching a Holy War.

Every Turk killed in the battle would go to Allah. One chap remarked that Allah would get a writer's cramp recording his new lodgers. He did.

The attack eventuated and we did not have to aim. As fast as you worked a bolt so you accounted for Turks. We lost a few but compared to the thousands the Turks lost our losses were negligible. The Holy War certainly solved any overcrowding problems the Turkish General Staff may have had. So great were their casualties that a truce was called and a line drawn. Along this line both sides had sentries. All on our side of the line we buried, those on the other they buried. This was necessary to ensure that our water supply did not become polluted.

For a time now, things were quiet. They would have a little skirmish with us and we had a skirmish with them. A Turk held a shovel and we fired at it. He recorded a hit or a miss. We likewise for him.

A young officer came up and gave us a lecture on "the inadvisability of fraternizing with the enemy" and then unaccountably fell flat in the mud at the bottom of his soapbox. "Did he fall or was he pushed?" was the appropriate comment from one wag. I tripped him.

Military honours went unreported. The officer who sent all his men excepting one back, and held a sap against bombing Turks by jumping away from a bomb as it exploded, of the gallant company who fought Turkish bombs by falling on them with half-filled sandbags (all this force were wounded) and of Nash, whose fervent prayers for bombs went unheeded, and who was never heard of again.

When we had occupied part of these trenches an interesting incident occurred. We were separated from the enemy by a big sheet of mesh and iron, over which, each side heaved bombs. Ours were very amateurish and consisted of a jam tin, stuffed with powder, nails, shrapnel and any odds and ends of steel we could find. When Johnny Turk got wary and dodged our bombs we resorted to strategy. A tin of bully beef went over, a tin of beans next and then a couple of biscuits.

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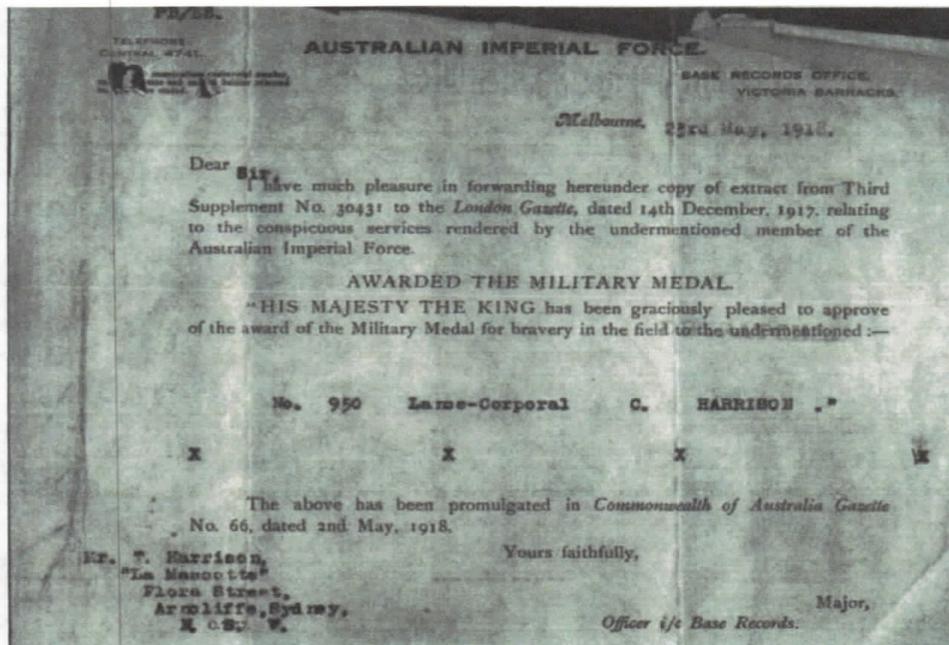
He was wary of the first; suspicious of the second but came readily to number three. Then a jam tin bomb went over, he rushed it thinking it to be more food-then "bingo"- Allah wrote again.

Many incidents of this nature occurred during the campaign.

Soon, unfortunately, we were told to evacuate the Peninsula. Many were the oaths and questions as to why. We were doing all right but the heads were bossing us so we left. A masterpiece of military strategy not comparable with any before or since, but nevertheless an admission of retreat, the evacuation was the final phase in a campaign which had been marked by the tactical ideas of decades before, the faults of bad co-operations between units and commanders.

So we left the Peninsula and went to France but behind us we also left a badly broken Turkish Army and the reputation of the toughest fighting men anyone had seen.

The old hands will tell you that anyone who missed the Gallipoli Campaign missed the fun of the war and they often ask, "Will they repeat Gallipoli?"



PRINCIPAL SPONSORS

