



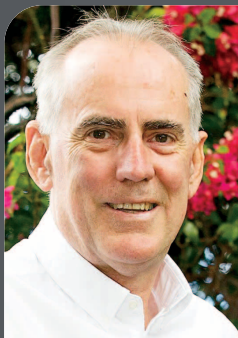
**ANZAC DAY
THURSDAY
25 APRIL 2019**



APRIL 2019

Compliments of
GREG PIPER MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER
FOR LAKE MACQUARIE





A message from Greg

Australia's national day of remembrance is a time to stop and reflect on the sacrifices many thousands of people have made so that today our country is a free and safe place to live.

ANZAC Day is important to all Australians. It is a day we can all stand proud in honour and respect of those men and women who have served, and those who have died, in defence of this great land.

The Spirit of ANZAC is strong and still very relevant today. And after the events of recent weeks we must not forget the strong relationship our country has forged with our close friends in New Zealand – we are two countries very much bound by the ANZAC spirit and its heritage.

ANZAC represents many things to many people, but mostly it is the qualities of mateship, endurance, courage and sacrifice which best define it.

It was the same characteristics upon which the ANZAC legend was born on the battlefields of Gallipoli 104 years ago. Our troops stormed onto the narrow beaches of Gallipoli at dawn on April 25, 1915 against the odds. Still they went forward.

We remember not only the first ANZACS but all those in wars and conflicts before and since The Great War of 1914-18. Last year we stopped to remember the 100th anniversary since the Armistice of 11 November 1918 when the guns fell silent and fighting stopped. This year it is the centenary of the Treaty of Versailles signing which officially ended the war.

Community representation at ANZAC Day dawn services, marches and ceremonies in the Lake Macquarie electorate has been overwhelming in recent times. It is always great to see community groups and young children get involved on this very special day of remembrance.

I urge you all to try to attend a commemoration service or march this year in honour of all those service personnel who have served Australia at home and abroad.

Greg Piper
Member for Lake Macquarie

COVER: The 12th Catalina Festival at Rathmines will soar into action on 19 May this year. It is the initiative of Rathmines Catalina Memorial Park Association, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the preservation of the history of Rathmines RAAF Base and Catalina aircraft. This year's cover image, courtesy of Visit NSW, features Felix the Black Cat which has made guest appearances at previous festivals.



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Couple's love conquers war after years apart

Local digger William Gawn marched off to war with a heavy heart.

He had farewelled the love of his life, Amy Maher, knowing their final goodbye may have been their last.

But like any true love story, there was a happy homecoming and the couple was reunited many years later.

William, 19, (pictured) was employed as a gardener in the Lake Macquarie district at the time of his enlistment on 18 September 1916 and he embarked with the 6th Reinforcements aboard HMAT A72 *Beltana* on 25 November. The teenaged Irishman had immigrated to Australia as a 17-year-old, arriving in Sydney on 14 June 1914.

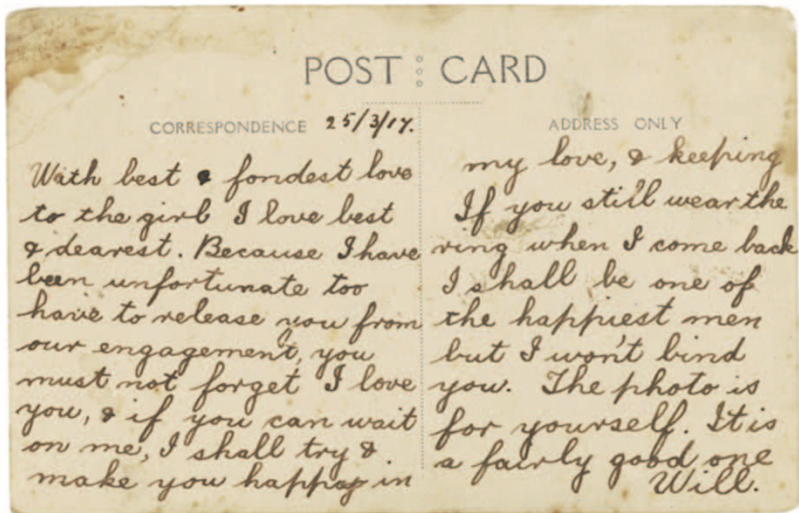
Not long after he met Amy of Ash Island Newcastle while working in the district, their young love endured through the early years of the Great War.

Like so many young lads his age, Will answered the call for "King and Country" and signed up for duty at Cardiff in 1916 and soon set sail for the Front. He was stationed with the 9th Training Battalion, Durrington, when he wrote a heart-breaking love letter to Amy breaking off their engagement.

Pte Gawn suffered a severely injured ankle in January 1919 while serving on the Western Front in Belgium, and following hospitalisation in England, returned to the frontline in August of that year.

After the Armistice in November 1918, Will was struck down by the Spanish influenza epidemic which was sweeping the world. He spent time in hospital in February 1919 before regaining his strength to start the long journey back home. He sailed back to Australia aboard HT *Ypiringa* on 15 May 1919 and was discharged on 14 August 1919.

After reuniting on his return, William and Amy were finally married in 1921. Their love for each other had endured after surviving the horrors of war and many years of separation.





Deadly influenza pandemic hits home

In the final days of the First World War, the start of a new battle was being fought around the globe.

The Spanish Flu pandemic emerged in October 1918, just weeks before the 11 November Armistice to end the war was signed.

The flu would ultimately claim more than 50 million people worldwide and Australia would not be immune from its terrible effects.

As European countries became infected and thousands died each week, Australia initially remained free of the epidemic. If the flu arrived on Australian shores, it was clear from its impact in major cities around the world that it would be a disaster.

Early in 1919, despite a swift quarantine response, the first cases were identified in Australia. The first diagnosed case in NSW was a soldier who had travelled by train from Melbourne.

About 40 per cent of the population fell ill and around 15,000 died as the virus spread through Australia. New South Wales reported 6387 of those deaths.

In the Newcastle district, which had a population at the time of around 100,000 people, 2,400 cases were reported to authorities. There were 494 registered deaths directly attributed to the flu and probably many more who died of related causes that were not directly attributed to the pandemic.

More people died from the influenza pandemic (between 50-100 million) than had died during the First World War (18 million). The Spanish flu is considered second only to the "Black Death" plague pandemic in overall mortality rates.

LEFT: Toronto's first flu cases reported in the *The Newcastle Sun* on Friday, 6 June 1919.

BELOW: Nurses wore masks to protect themselves against the flu.



TO-DAY'S 'FLU

ANOTHER DEATH

Toronto's First Cases

John Hutchinson, aged 64, who was admitted to Waratah Hospital on June 6 from Alfred-street, city, died in the institution this morning from influenza.

The first cases of the disease to be found at Toronto were sent to Waratah today. The patients number two. Two others were admitted from Hamilton, one from Brown-street, Newcastle, three from Stockton and one from Hexham.

The report of the medical superintendent (Dr. Banks-Smith) follows:—

Death to-day	1
Discharged	11
Admitted	9
Critically ill	1
Dangerously ill	6
Seriously ill	8
Ill	68
Convalescent	40
Total in hospital	123



Treaty signing marks official end of World War

The guns of the First World War fell silent on Armistice Day, 11 November 1918, to stop the fighting but the official end to The Great War did not happen until six months later when a peace treaty was signed.

The Treaty of Versailles was the most important of the peace treaties that finally and officially brought World War One to an end.

The Treaty ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers. It was signed on 28 June 1919 in Versailles, exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which had directly led to the outbreak of World War One.

It had taken six months of Allied negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference to finalise the peace treaty.

Australia's representatives at the Conference were the Prime Minister William "Billy" Hughes, the Deputy Prime Minister Sir Joseph Cook, and Lieutenant Commander J.G. Latham, Royal Australian Naval Reserve.

The Treaty was registered by the Secretariat of the League of Nations on 21 October 1919. This year it is 100 years since the signing of the document which restored world peace.



Peace deal finalised in 1919

War memorials across the country honour and remember the fallen and those who served in all wars and conflicts.

On many of those memorials there are often varying dates for the First World War. The dates 1914-1918 are the most common for WWI and commemorate the year the war started (1914) and the year the Armistice was declared, on 11 November 1918.

However, it is not unusual to find the dates 1914-1919 on First World War memorials. The 1919 date refers to the year when the Treaty of Versailles was signed. One such memorial is located at Teralba (pictured at right).

Some war memorials also feature the dates 1914-1921, although this is less common in Australia. On 25 August 1921 the United States of America signed a separate peace treaty with Germany, the Treaty of Berlin.

There were no "rules" for war memorial inscriptions all those years ago so any of these dates are correct as the local communities decided to use the dates which were most appropriate.





Pte Henry Crowe is pictured (sitting front row, far left) in a group portrait photo with fellow entertainers from the 1st Divisional Concert Party at an on-stage performance at Bailleul, France, on 23 February 1918.

Wyee soldier helped entertain the troops

Wyee's Henry Crowe was a coal worker who had a passion for music.

It was his love of performing which gave Henry many opportunities away from the frontline to entertain the troops and provide them with some "normality" of every day life during their respite from the battlefields.

Private Henry Matthew Crowe was a soldier first and foremost. He was aged 23 and enlisted in 1916, setting sail from Sydney in June that year.

He soon joined the fighting with the 2nd Infantry Battalion on the Western Front in France and Belgium during 1916 and 1917 and in late 1918, just a few months before the war's fighting stopped, he was wounded in action but stayed in the field. For his dedication to long and uninterrupted service, Pte Crowe was awarded the Belgian Decoration Militaire (below).

In his time away from the trenches, Henry was a member of the popular 1st Divisional Concert Party – a contingent of entertainers who performed on stage with the purpose of boosting morale among the troops.

The field theatres were organised by various divisions in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the United Kingdom between late 1916 and 1919.

Some troupes also toured back home later in the war, offering insights into their experience while providing entertainment for propaganda and enlistment purposes.

After being demobilised in 1919 after the war, a number of these soldier troupes turned professional and toured the Australasian region, the United Kingdom, and the Middle East well into the 1920s and even the early 1930s.

Concert parties were also formed back in Australia and New Zealand to help raise funds, increase enlistment and boost moral.

Pte Crowe returned to Australia on 31 May 1919. He was aged 63 at the time of his death on 6 June 1956.





‘Flying boat’ base celebrates milestone

This year is the 80th anniversary since the start of construction on the Rathmines seaplane base which is etched in Australia’s military history as a significant war-time facility vital to the nation’s defence in World War Two.

It was the largest seaplane base in the Southern Hemisphere and was the longest serving during the war effort.

The Catalina “flying boat” is synonymous with Rathmines. The

“Cat” was one of the most successful flying boats produced and its qualities made the aircraft important in the defence of Australia.

During July 1938, No 5 Squadron investigated landing areas and sites around the Lake Macquarie area for the establishment of a base which started in 1939. Lake Macquarie was an ideal site as Australia’s largest saltwater lake with 175km of shoreline.

Between 1941 and 1952, the RAAF operated a total of 168 Catalinas which were flown by four front line squadrons, two communications units and three air-sea rescue flights. The Catalinas were the only aircraft to see service with the RAAF for the total wartime operations against Japan.

Following World War II, Rathmines was used as a ground training base, and the Officers’ Training School was formed there along with training facilities for senior non-commissioned officers, physical training instructors and national servicemen. In 1962, the Base was sold to the Lake Macquarie Council.



MAKING A SEAPLANE BASE

Transformation at Rathmines

(By a Special Correspondent.)

How greatly has the scene changed in recent months at that small portion of Lake Macquarie known as Rathmines.

Once just a quiet lakeside resort, where a few fishermen earned their living, it is now the site of perhaps the most modern seaplane base to be built in Australia.

In a short space of time hundreds of human bees have been engaged in cell-making to complete the aeronautical hive. There are no drones; all day long there is a constant movement of workers laying foundations for the main and less important structures.

— Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners’ Advocate, 26 March 1940

The Base has social significance to service personnel and to the local community who recognise the site’s history. It is an evolving landscape which retains significant elements of the RAAF Base today.



THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC



A tale of two wars

Reg Gottschalk's last posting in a long and distinguished military career was at the Rathmines seaplane base during World War Two.

Originally from South Australia, Reginald Baden Gottschalk had the distinction of serving Australia in both World Wars – with the Royal Australian Navy and then the Air Force. He was just 15 years old when he entered the Navy in March 1915, as a Boy Second Class. He re-engaged in June 1918 for an additional seven years. Qualifying as a signalman, Reg served on HMAS *Sydney* in the North Sea between November 1916 and November 1919, and later served on HMAS *Melbourne* between 1921 and 1923. He was discharged in 1925.

Seventeen years later, Reg enlisted for service in the Second World War in February 1942 and joined the RAAF. He was promoted to Sergeant in October 1942 and Warrant Officer in 1943. Reg was initially mustered as motor boat crew before qualifying as a Coxswain First Class. He served at RAAF Base Rathmines and also saw service in the Pacific before being demobilised in 1946.

2019 ANZAC Day activities in the region

BOOLAROO-SPEERS POINT

- 5.45am: March step-off at western end of Speers Point Park, proceeds to rotunda.
- 6.00am: Dawn service in Speers Point Park. Free breakfast sausage and roll following service.

CARDIFF

- 4.50am: March step-off, corner of Macquarie Road and Main Road.
- 5.00am: Main service, Cardiff RSL Club.

DOYALSON-WYEE

- 5.00am: Dawn service at the memorial outside the RSL Club.
- 8.30am: March step-off within the club grounds and proceeds to cenotaph for service.
- 9.00am: Main service at memorial.

MORISSET

- 6.00am: Dawn service at the memorial outside Morisset Country Club, followed by breakfast in the club.
- 8.30am: Form up at the railway station car park.
- 9.00am: March step-off.
- 9.35am: Main service at club memorial.

RATHMINES

- 12pm: March steps off at Rathmines Bowling Club / Club Catalina.
- 12.30pm: Main service at the Rathmines memorial.

RYHOPE

- 9.00am: Main service at Lake Macquarie Memorial Park, Ryhope. Light refreshments following service.

TORONTO

- 6.00am: Dawn service at the memorial in Goffet Park (no march). Following service, full breakfast available in Diggers Club for gold coin donation.
- 10.50am: Form-up on The Boulevard near Pemell Street.
- 11.10am: March steps off down The Boulevard to Goffet Park.
- 11.30am: Main service at the Goffet Park memorial.

TERALBA

- 7.50am: March steps off from western end of Anzac Parade.
- 8.00am: Main service in Anzac Park. Return to Teralba Bowling Club following service for light breakfast.

WANGI WANGI

- 5.30am: Dawn service at the war memorial at Wangi Wangi RSL Club. \$5 breakfast in club afterwards.
- 9.30am: Form-up in Puna Road near Dobell Drive.
- 9.55am: March steps off at Puna Road, heads east along Dobell, turns left into Watkins Road and proceeds to the war memorial at the RSL Club.
- 1.00pm: Armoured vehicle display on foreshore until 4pm.