

ANZAC DAY

Monday 25 April 2022



APRIL
2022

Compliments of

GREG PIPER MP

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR LAKE MACQUARIE





A message from Greg

We have a lot to learn from the ANZACs - selflessness, camaraderie and dedication to a cause.

Those youthful, wide-eyed men carried high expectations and a heavy burden on their young shoulders, and their actions didn't disappoint.

They demonstrated to us that ordinary people can be heroes and make a difference to the lives of others. They can't have known their gallantry and deeds would become part of a national legend, but that very humility is why we remember them with such affection and reverence more than 100 years later.

The original ANZACs served at Gallipoli in 1915 and from that our nation embraced the qualities that held our Diggers in the highest regard - mateship, sacrifice, endurance and courage.

In all theatres of war since then, our men and women have served with honour and distinction.

On ANZAC Day we stop to remember all those who have served, fought and died in the defence of this great country's freedoms.

This year's Spirit of ANZAC publication puts a focus on some significant anniversaries of events.

The battle for Kokoda, the bombing of Darwin, the Fall of Singapore – among others, these events all took place 80 years ago in 1942 as the Second World War reached its halfway point.

There is also a tribute to our nurses, and one incident in particular, which highlights a shocking waste of life but emphasises the courage and bravery our people showed in a dire situation.

Wherever you may be this ANZAC Day, I urge you to take the time to stop and remember all our service personnel, past and present, for their sacrifice and service to Australia.

Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



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A RAAF Caribou crew is safely back on deck in Vung Tau after a 10-hour day, which took them to nine different landing zones in the Mekong Delta area. The crew delivered cargo ranging from rice and other foods, arms and ammunition, equipment and troops and civilians, including newborn babies. Pictured in this AWM Collection image are (from left) Leading Aircraftsman (LAC) Trevor Pratt, loadmaster of Nimitabel, Flying Officer (FO) Colin James, pilot of New Farm, Qld, LAC George Harrison assistant loadmaster of Windsor, and Pilot Officer (PO) Trevor Etheridge, of Toronto.

60 years ago: Vietnam War starts

This year marks 60 years since Australia's initial involvement in the Vietnam War (1962-1975). The War was the longest 20th century conflict in which Australians participated with 60,000 personnel involved for the next 10 years to 1972.

The initial commitment was limited to 30 military advisers in 1962, then a battalion in 1965 and ultimately a task force in 1966.

Air Force, Navy and Army were all involved.

Sadly, 521 Australian servicemen lost their lives. There were more than 3,000 personnel either wounded in battle, otherwise injured or fallen severely ill.

The last Australian combat troops came home in March 1972.

A small number of Australian personnel remained in Vietnam after the end of operations in 1972, and the RAAF returned in 1975 with evacuations and humanitarian efforts.

A national memorial to those who served and died in the Vietnam War was unveiled 30 years ago in 1992 and is one of the most significant milestones in honouring all personnel involved.

The construction of the Vietnam Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra followed another significant event – the welcome home march of 1987.

This was for their mates who never came home.



Don't forget me, Cobber

COVER IMAGE: At the Australian Memorial Park, VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial in Fromelles, France, is a statue called 'Cobbers'. It depicts Sergeant Simon Fraser of the 57th Battalion, carrying a wounded man. In a letter in 1916 Sgt Fraser described his rescue of two men: "Then another man about 30 yards out sang out, 'Don't forget me, cobber'. I went in and got four volunteers with stretchers, and we got both men in safely."



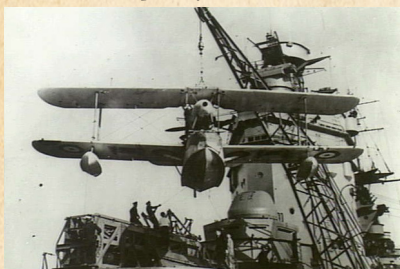
The flying Walrus



A Walrus is pulled ashore at Rathmines after a fire on take-off due to the fuel cap coming off.



A Walrus is catapulted from a RAN cruiser.



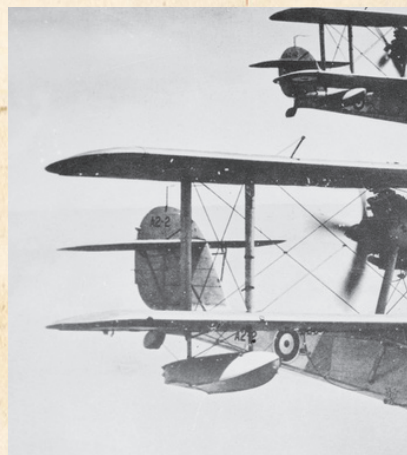
The plane is hoisted onto the cruiser.



A crashed Walrus has seen better days.



Pilot, Flight Lieutenant Egins (left) assists in the refuelling of his Supermarine Walrus amphibian aircraft at a stop during a survey flight of lakes from Rathmines to Hay, Lake Cargelligo, and Balranald, NSW, in January 1943



Supermarine Walrus amphibian

The former RAAF flying boat base at Rathmines is most famously known for its connection to the Catalina, but its Supermarine Walrus squadron also played an important role in the Allied defence during the Second World War.

Lake Macquarie was chosen as the site for the establishment of a seaplane training and maintenance base and in 1939 it became operational with the arrival of 9 Squadron Seagull (later Walrus) flying boats from RAAF Base Point Cook.

The famous Catalina flying boats arrived at the Base some time later in February 1941.

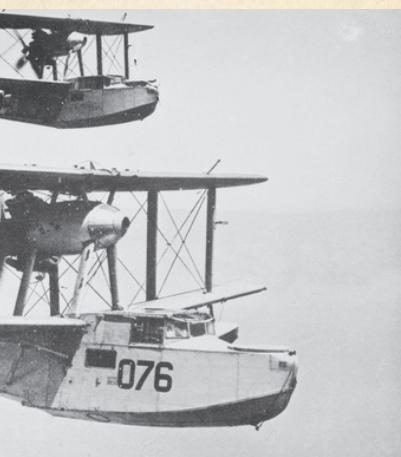
At various stages during World War Two, Rathmines housed Squadrons 9 (Walrus), 11, 20 and 43 (Catalina), 40 (Sunderland and Martin Mariner), 41 (Dornier Do 24K, Mariner and S23 Empire) and 107 (Kingfisher).

The Walrus (originally known as the Seagull V) was a British single-engine amphibian reconnaissance aircraft that first flew in 1933.

It was designed to be catapulted from larger warships, such as cruisers, and



us played its part



amphibian aircraft in flight.



used for reconnaissance and gunnery spotting.

Eventually 740 of this aircraft were produced and used by the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Irish Air Corps, Royal Australian Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force and from 1941 onward the Royal New Zealand Navy. The aircraft came in three variants, the Seagull V, Walrus I and Walrus II.

In 1934 the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) ordered 24 Seagull V's and they were delivered during 1935-37 and operated by 5 Squadron (later 9 Squadron) located at RAAF Base Rathmines, as of 1 January 1939.

In accordance with pre-WW II Australian procedures only the RAAF was permitted to operate service aircraft thus aircraft for use in the heavy cruisers HMA Ships Australia and Canberra and the light cruisers HMA Ships Hobart, Perth and Sydney were operated by the RAAF.

The pilot and maintenance personnel (normally six men that also included a photographer) were also supplied by the RAAF but the observer (navigator) and telegraphist air gunner were naval personnel.



Raymond Barrey



Sidney Marley

Two of our finest

Flying Officer Raymond Barrey and Sergeant Sidney Marley were two of six members of Rathmines' 9 Squadron posted to HMAS Sydney to fly and maintain the ship's aircraft.

Ray was warehouseman in civilian life. He enlisted in Adelaide on 29 April 1940 and spent time at Rathmines learning the Walrus seaplanes.

Sid enlisted in the RAAF on 4 January 1939.

Both airmen were killed in action during the HMAS Sydney's engagement with the German auxiliary cruiser HSK Kormoran on 19 November 1941.

Sid Marley was aged 29 and Raymond Barrey was 25.



Heroic nurse survived the horror

With the Fall of Singapore to the Japanese imminent in February 1942, it was time for 65 nurses to evacuate from the besieged city on the small coastal steamer SS Vyner Brooke.

The overloaded Vyner Brooke was later bombed and quickly sank. Twelve Australian nurses perished and the surviving 53 nurses reached Bangka Island which was the place of a terrible massacre resulting in the death of another 21 nurses.

Remarkably, there were initially two survivors of the Bangka Island massacre: Australian nurse Vivian Bullwinkel and an English soldier.

Captain Bullwinkel was struck by a bullet and pretended to be dead. She hid with a wounded British private for 12 days before deciding once again to surrender.

They were taken into captivity, but the soldier died soon after. Capt. Bullwinkel was a Prisoner of War for three years.

She returned in 1992 to unveil a shrine to the nurses who had not survived the war. After the war Vivian devoted her life to the nursing profession and was awarded many honours. She died in Perth in 2000.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of this massacre of Australian nurses. There were 32 nurses taken as POWs – eight did not survive captivity. Of the original 65, only 24 nurses returned home to Australia.



Vivian Bullwinkel

Darkest days as Singapore falls

The Fall of Singapore marked one of the darkest periods in Australian military history. In 2022, on the 80th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, we remember and honour the service of those who survived and those brave souls who lost their lives in POW camps under terrible conditions.

The 8th Australian Division, considerably weakened after fighting in Malaya, was protecting the north-western sector of Singapore when the Japanese attacked on the night of 8 February 1942.

Unable to hold back the sustained assault, a disorganised retreat towards the centre of the island started and the British Commonwealth forces were pushed back into Singapore city.

It was an untenable position. More than 1 million civilians remained in the city, the main water supply had been captured, and aircraft bombed with no resistance.

At 8.30pm on 15 February 1942 more than 130,000 troops, including 15,000 Australians, surrendered to the Japanese.

A total of 1,789 Australians had been killed since the 8th Division had entered the fray in Malaya in mid-January and 7,000 of those captured would die before the war's end.

Darwin bombing hits home

The surprise air raid and bombing of Darwin 80 years ago this year was the first attack on the Australian mainland in World War Two.

The unprecedented foreign raid was described as “the Pearl Harbor of Australia” but this was not just a one-off attack - there would be another 63 assaults on Darwin over the next 21 months with the last in November 1943.

Japanese bombs rained down on the northern city’s shipping and defence hub on that first day on 19 February 1942, wreaking havoc with 252 Allied service personnel and civilians killed and almost 400 wounded.

Fighters and bombers attacked Darwin twice on this day and about two weeks later on 3 March.

The raids involved more than 260 enemy aircraft. The bombing of Darwin is commemorated as a day of national observance.



Royal Australian Air Force PB2B-1 Catalina flying boat, A24-206 (pictured above) taxis across Lake Boga prior to delivery to No.43 Squadron.

The aircraft was later transferred to 20 Squadron on 15 June 1945. Whilst with this unit the aircraft was accidentally destroyed during a refuelling incident whilst moored at East Arm in Darwin Harbour on 20 June 1945.

It was fitted with two 250 pound depth charges which detonated as the aircraft sank. Two RAAF fitters were killed in the accident.

Leading Aircraftsman (LAC) Walter Strang, of West Wallsend who trained at Rathmines, and LAC Richard Graham of Kelvin Grove in Queensland lost their lives.

Both were aged 20. They are buried at Adelaide River Cemetery in the Northern Territory.

When they were not flying dangerous missions in their Catalina planes, crews took every opportunity to enjoy some rare recreation time.

Aircrew from No. 43 (Catalina) Squadron RAAF are pictured (below) in June 1944 playing a game of football.

Among them was Flying Officer DAW Shepherd of Toronto. He is pictured at the left in this image.

Other team-mates and opposition came from Manly, St Kilda and Temora.

The Catalina crews were responsible for rescue missions and mine-laying in enemy held waters.





THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC

ANZAC legend born at Gallipoli

ANZAC Day is commemorated by Australia and New Zealand each year in remembrance of members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who landed at Gallipoli in Turkey in 1915.

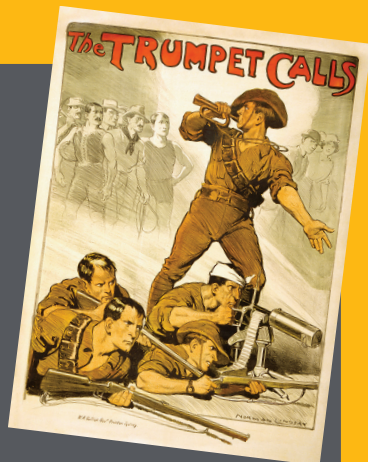
At dawn on Sunday 25 April 1915, thousands of young men charged ashore at Gallipoli.

It was the largest amphibious invasion in history. More than 75,000 men from Australia, New Zealand, Britain and France invaded the peninsula.

As a result of the failed campaign, 8709 Australians and 2700 New Zealanders died.

The sacrifices and acts of courage at Gallipoli drove patriotism back home. The ANZAC legend was born.

April 25 was officially named ANZAC Day in 1916 and was marked by a wide variety of ceremonies and services in Australia, London and Egypt.



2022 ANZAC Day activities

BOOLAROO-SPEERS POINT

March and service time to be confirmed.

CARDIFF

5.00am Dawn Service at Cardiff RSL.

4.45am march, restricted to Cardiff RSL sub-branch veterans. Form up at corner of Main and Macquarie roads, proceed to memorial at Cardiff RSL.

DOYALSON-WYEE

5.00am Dawn Service at the cenotaph outside the club.

March starting at 8.30am in Wentworth Ave, followed by main service at the cenotaph about 9am.

MORISSET

6.00am Dawn Service outside Dora Creek Workers Club.

Main Service at 9.30am. No march this year.

RATHMINES

12.45pm march to memorial followed by service at 1pm.

RYHOPE

March and service time to be confirmed.

TERALBA

March and service time to be confirmed.

TORONTO

Dawn service:

March:

Main Service:

WANGI WANGI

5.30am Dawn Service at the War Memorial at Wangi RSL Club.

10.00am March from corner of Puna Rd and Dobell Drive to the war memorial (march participation by invitation only).

Main service will follow the march at about 10.30am. Historic vehicle display on the RSL foreshore all day.

PLEASE NOTE: All times and venues have been supplied by various RSL sub-branch officials. Care has been taken to ensure as many services as possible have been included and were correct at the time of publication. For verification of other services please contact your local RSL sub-branch.

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