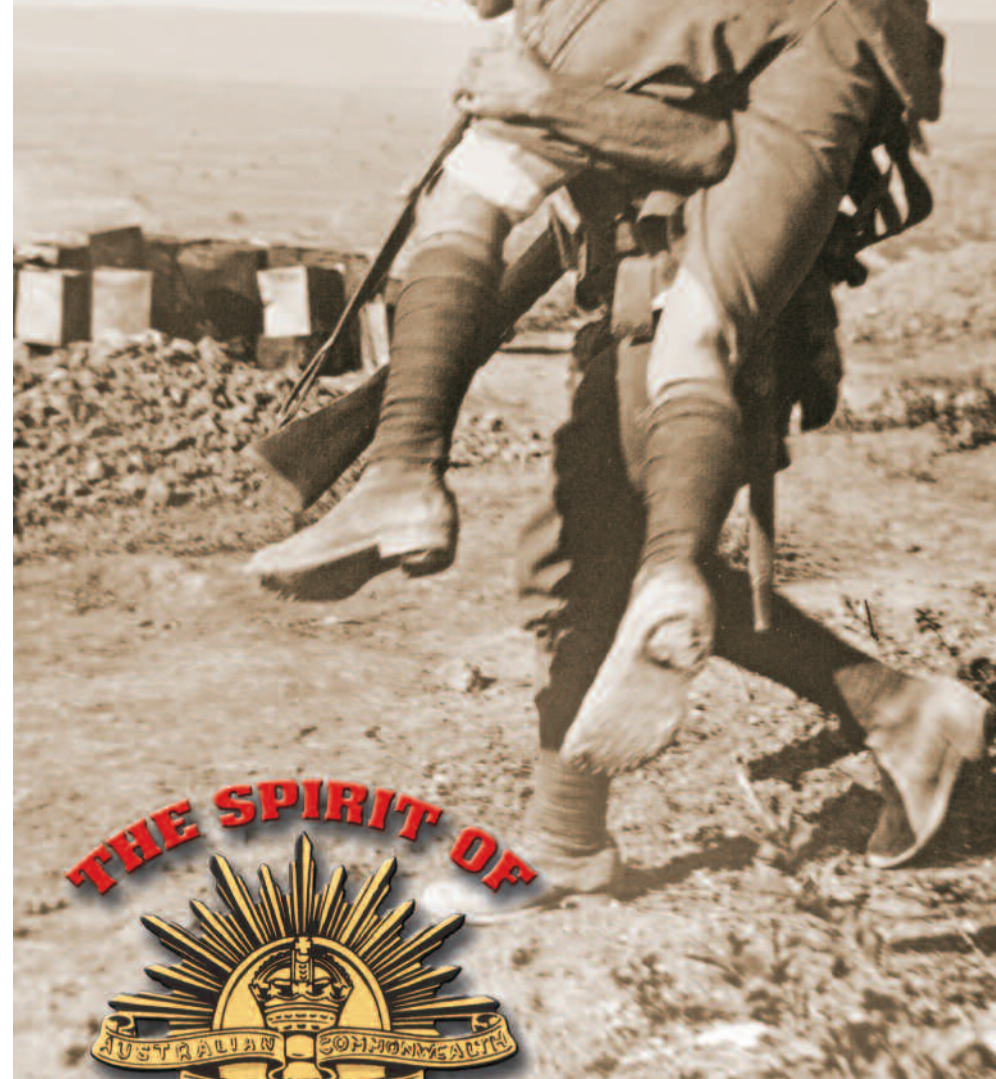




APRIL 2013



THE SPIRIT OF



ANZAC

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
GREG PIPER MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER
FOR LAKE MACQUARIE





A time to remember so many great Australians

The ANZAC legend holds a special place in the history and events of this great country. The Spirit of ANZAC is still very relevant today.

In many respects, ANZAC represents all things Australian ... courage, mateship, honour, determination, loyalty and pride.

All these qualities of character were combined 98 years ago when our brave soldiers stormed onto the beaches at Gallipoli for the fight of their lives.

In such tough times, they still maintained a good sense of humour and will to win – so typically Australian!

And so emerged the Spirit of ANZAC which has grown stronger with time and is still today like a kindred bond for our men and women in all theatres of war.

The relevance of the ANZAC Spirit is especially highlighted in this year's publication. It features a tribute to three very loyal Australians with strong links to our area – two of them who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty for their country.

Mathew Hopkins died in action in Afghanistan while Beau Pridue lost his life on a peacekeeping mission in East Timor. Two young lives lost but never forgotten, especially by their friends and families.

The other story is a tribute to an air force veteran whose life was full of adventure and achievement. Group Captain Sir Richard Kingsland died last year aged 95 – he commanded the Rathmines Catalina base during World War II.

Three very different theatres of war, three very different life stories, but all contributing to the same cause – peace, security and freedom for all.

Australians everywhere will join together at ANZAC commemoration services to remember those brave souls who have served and those who never made it home.

We remember not only the first ANZACs at Gallipoli where the legend was born in a foreign land on April 25, 1915, but those in wars and conflicts before and since The Great War.

I urge people within the electorate to try to attend a commemoration service to honour so many great Australians – we should take a moment to remember them.

Greg Piper
Member for Lake Macquarie

COVER: The Spirit of ANZAC embodies the attributes of mateship and valour, amply demonstrated in this graphic picture taken at Gallipoli in 1915.



The tragedy of Sandakan – just six survivors

Between January and August 1945, with an Allied victory in the Pacific War so close, about 2400 Australian and British Prisoners of War were suffering under the Japanese in the Sandakan POW camp, North Borneo.

In 1942 and 1943 – after the Fall of Singapore – about 2700 Australian and British prisoners of war were taken to Sandakan.

Starvation, beatings and torturous punishments were common and took a great toll on the prisoners who were used to build a military airstrip later bombed and destroyed in the Allied advance in late 1944.

Early in 1945 the Japanese moved the POWs 260km west to Ranau. On three forced marches between January and June 1945, approximately 500 prisoners died. The remainder died at the Ranau and Sandakan camps.

Of all those who had been alive in January 1945, by the end of August only six – all Australians – had survived.

Two of the six escaped into the jungle during the second march in June 1945. Another four escaped from Ranau and survived until the end of the war, aided by locals.

Today, the POW dead are buried in the Labuan War Cemetery. Those who could not be identified or who have no known grave, are commemorated on Memorials to the Missing at Labuan and Singapore.



Morisset Digger a Sandakan victim

Thousands of Australian soldiers suffered a terrible fate at the Prisoner of War camp at Sandakan. Morisset hospital worker George Burton was one of them.

Corporal George Burton (pictured above), attached to the 2/10th Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps, was captured in the Fall of Singapore to the Japanese.

He was one of almost 1500 Allied POWs transferred to the Sandakan camp in north Borneo as part of B Force.

B Force was transported from Changi on July 7, 1942 on board the tramp ship *Ubi Maru*, arriving in Sandakan Harbour on July 18, 1942.

Corporal Burton, aged 42, died as a prisoner of the Japanese on May 7, 1945. He was the son of James and Jean Burton, and the husband of Martha Reilly Burton, of Morisset.

He is commemorated on the Labuan Memorial Panel 25.

LEFT: The Labuan Memorial, where Corporal George Burton is listed among thousands of other names as victims of the Sandakan death marches.



THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC



RAAF 007's life filled with thrills and spills

VALE: SIR RICHARD KINGSLAND 1916-2012

Fearless aviator Sir Richard Kingsland was like a real-life James Bond: a daredevil who encountered many dangerous, life-threatening situations but always emerged a winner.

The biography of the one-time Rathmines Catalina air base commander reads like a spy thriller – daring escapes, car chases, shoot-outs, mercy missions, low-level flying, exotic locations and even romance.

Richard Kingsland packed his 95 years with many thrills and spills, and always had a yarn to tell about them.

Among them was a high-speed dive in a Hawker Demon at an air show in Melbourne in 1937 after which he admitted he should have been killed when the plane clipped the ground. Two years earlier he took a plane, flew it to meet a lady friend, took her for a joyflight, and returned to base – all with about 10 hours training to his log book.

The former RAAF Group Captain, who flew in the face of death many times, died in a Canberra hospital last year. His obituary is the story of an ambitious young man who excelled professionally in just about everything he did – in the RAAF and later as a high-profile public servant.

One of his life's chapters includes his posting to command the Rathmines

Flying Boat base, being promoted to Wing Commander, having commanded 11 Squadron Catalinas in New Guinea.

He met his future wife, Kathleen Adams, a WAAAF officer, whilst visiting a nearby air force base and in 1943 they were married – the union lasting nearly 70 years until his death.

During the war years Richard was known as Julius Cohen, his birth name, but he later changed his Jewish surname by deed poll, not wanting his two daughters to suffer the same prejudice he had. During the war he considered the name change in case he was taken prisoner – however, he did list his religion on dog tags as Buddhism, much to the humour of his air crews.

In July 1939, he was sent to Britain to ferry to Australia the first of the Sunderland flying boats. But war broke out and Kingsland was attached to the RAF's No. 10 Sunderland squadron.

One mission in 1940 turned nasty and involved an escape from a jail cell, a shoot-out with police and the military, and being fired upon as his flying boat – a sitting duck – battled to escape Morocco with two VIPs he had been sent to extricate. It was a close-run affair, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The passengers aboard his Short Sunderland flying boat were Field Marshal Viscount Gort VC and Duff Cooper, the British Minister for Information.

His exploits in New Guinea as commander of No. 11 Squadron were of similar dash. One day he used a Catalina like a dive-bomber to destroy Rabaul wharf, despite full-on fire from Japanese guns.

In the last year of the war he was sent to Morotai as director of RAAF intelligence and also acted in Manila as director of intelligence to the commanding general of the United States Far East Air Force.

He was promoted to group captain at the young age of 27, and took up a series of operational training and intelligence appointments. At the end of the war he was appointed the RAAF's director of organisation, which involved him in the demobilisation of more than 150,000 airmen.

He left the RAAF in 1948 to join the public service as manager of Sydney airport, then became regional director of civil aviation in South Australia.

Taking leave for a year to be an airline pilot, he was then appointed assistant secretary in the Department of Civil Aviation and later first assistant secretary at the Department of

Defence, where he had the difficult and sensitive task of integrating the three Services.

In 1963 he became head of the Department of the Interior, which he skilfully reorganised. In 1970 he took over as chairman of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, where he remained until his retirement in 1981.

Kingsland had a deep love of the arts and music. He wrote an autobiography, *Into the Midst of Things*, in 2010.

He was knighted in 1978 after having been made a commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1967, and further recognised as an officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1989.

Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Brown, last year paid tribute to Kingsland. "Sir Richard inspired others to follow in his footsteps. True to this generation of fine Australians, he was always humble about what he had contributed and achieved," Air Marshal Brown said.





THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC



A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO TWO OF THE ARMY'S FINEST

CRAFTSMAN BEAU PRIDUE – EAST TIMOR

Beau Pridue loved his family, loved his mates and he loved the Army – he was the brand of soldier who exemplified the close-knit fabric of the defence forces in Australia.

He was a well-respected member of the Army Reserves and was a tradesman who could be relied upon to get the job done.

The Lake Macquarie region mourned the death of Craftsman Pridue, who died on September 15, 2011 from injuries in a truck accident while deployed in East Timor with the Timor Leste Task Group Rotation Three.

He enlisted in the Australian Army Reserve on December 15, 2007 under the Army Reserve Traineeship and Apprenticeship Program as a Fitter Armament.

On enlistment he was posted to 111 Workshop Company, 8th Combat Service Support Battalion and was deemed qualified within his trade in December 2010.

Cfn Pridue, 21, was a young, professional soldier who consistently dedicated his time and effort in support of tasks and events within the Battalion. He was awarded the Company's Most Efficient Soldier for 2010.

The Pridue family in Speers Point later spoke of Beau's love for family, his mates and the Army.

"Beau was much admired by his Army colleagues and was seen by his superiors as a quiet achiever who always got the job done. Our son chose to serve in the Army and he was happy and as fate



would have it, he paid the ultimate sacrifice. His decision to serve his country was a true indication of his character. Beau always wanted to help and be of assistance, and he had this opportunity during his deployment to East Timor."

International Stabilisation Force Commander Colonel Luke Foster said Cfn Pridue was an excellent soldier, a great contributor and a real team player.

"He cared greatly about his extended Defence family and his mates and was willing to lend a hand whenever it was needed," he said.

Memories of a fine and dedicated soldier remain strong. Lest We Forget.

CORPORAL MATHEW HOPKINS – AFGHANISTAN

Serving his country was important to Corporal Mathew Hopkins.

The Australian Army was his job – his duty – and he committed 100 per cent to it. But never far from his thoughts were his new wife Victoria and baby son Alex back home in Australia.

Cpl Hopkins was serving with the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force (MRTF) in Afghanistan when he was killed while conducting a patrol near Kakarak when he and his team were engaged by a group of around 20 Taliban on March 16, 2009.

The 21-year-old had close links to the Lake Macquarie area through his wife Victoria, who has family in Morisset. He also joined the South Lake Macquarie RSL as a show of support to the region.

Cpl Hopkins, known as "Hoppy" to his mates, was born on August 27, 1987 in Christchurch, New Zealand, and arrived in Australia with his family in 1988.

He enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on March 28, 2005 and was deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Slipper within the 1st Reconstruction Task Force from November 2006 to April 2007.

He remained with the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment upon the delinking of both battalions and later qualified as a M113 Crewman Commander in November 2007.

He was promoted to Corporal before his 21st birthday in August 2008.

Cpl Mathew Hopkins deployed to Afghanistan as a member of the Force Protection Combat Team (FPCT) known as Combat Team Tusk, serving with the 1st Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force. He was a Section Commander with FPCT.

His mates in the 7th Battalion described him as a very professional soldier, but always a bit of a larrikin having a joke when the chips were down.

Cpl Hopkins was always keen to get the



job done which gave his subordinates something to emulate. He was a good leader and a good mate who would go out of his way to provide any assistance within his capacity.

Cpl Hopkins was an approachable young man with a genuine caring attitude for his soldiers. He upheld the Army values as a source of inspiration, particularly courage and mateship.

He was a soldier who led from the front and always looked out for his mates and most certainly for his soldiers.

He was a keen sports player; he particularly enjoyed rugby within the battalion and the competition within the Brigade.

Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, described Cpl Hopkins as "a fine, professional and courageous soldier".

"He died while serving his nation and his sacrifice should never be forgotten," he said.

Rest In Peace Mathew Hopkins. Lest We Forget.

LEST WE FORGET

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*



THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC

History of ANZAC Day

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.

April 25 was officially named ANZAC Day in 1916 and was marked by a wide variety of ceremonies and services in Australia, a march through London and a sports day in the Australian camp in Egypt.

In London more than 2000 Australian and New Zealand troops marched through the streets, with one London newspaper headline dubbing them “The knights of Gallipoli”.

Marches were held all over Australia in 1916. The first year in which all States observed some form of public holiday together on ANZAC Day was 1927.

2013 ANZAC Day activities in the region

BOOLAROO-SPEERS POINT

5.40am: Assemble at Lake Macquarie Council car park for march to Speers Point Cenotaph.

6.00am: Dawn Service at Speers Point Cenotaph.

CARDIFF

5.00am: Dawn Service at Cardiff RSL Sub-branch.

DOYALSON-WYEE

5.00am: Dawn Service at the Doyalson-Wyee RSL Club. Breakfast afterwards.

8.30am: March steps off from the Baptist Church in Wyee Rd for the War Memorial at the RSL Club. Form up at 8am.

9.00am: ANZAC Commemoration Service at the War Memorial. Service will be inside the club if inclement weather.

MORISSET

6.00am: Dawn Service at the Morisset Country Club. Breakfast afterwards.

10.00am: March from the new railway station carpark to the Morisset Country Club. Form up at 9.40am.

10.40am (approx): ANZAC Service at the Country Club.

RATHMINES

2.00pm: ANZAC Service at the Rathmines Catalina Memorial.

RYHOPE

9.00am: ANZAC Service at Lake Macquarie Memorial Park, Ryhope.

TERALBA

7.40am: Assemble in ANZAC Parade for march to the War Memorial.

8.00am: Service at the Teralba War Memorial in ANZAC Park.

TORONTO

5.00am: Dawn Service at Toronto Diggers.

Form up 4.50am Toronto Post Office. Breakfast available afterwards gold coin donation.

10.45am: March steps off from Toronto Post Office to the War Memorial in Goffet Park. Form up 10.30am outside the Diggers Club.

11.00am: ANZAC Service at the War Memorial in Goffet Park, Brighton Ave.

WANGI WANGI

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

10.00am: March steps off in Puna Rd for the War Memorial. Assemble and form up at 9.30am. ANZAC Service at the Memorial to follow march. A range of military vehicles will be on display.

WYONG

5.45am: Dawn Service. Assemble at Wyong RSL carpark at 5.40am.

9.30am: Morning Service starting at the Cenotaph, Wyong Town Centre Park. Assemble at 9.15am.

10.30am: March steps off. Marchers assemble in Rankens Court at 10.15am. March proceeds along Hely St, into Anzac Ave, into Margaret St and finishing at the RSL carpark. Service will be inside the club if inclement weather.

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.