



Terrigal Wamberal RSL sub Branch

# NEWSLETTER

## President's Message

Dear Members,

Congratulations to all as we have come through our busiest period of the year with praise for another successful Anzac Day. I hope all members had the opportunity to catch up with mates and enjoy their company, share a few stories, and remember those who are no longer with us.

There has been a fair bit on both for us at the local level, with several new members being welcomed, and we have a new Welfare Officer joining the committee. There has also been lots happening at State and National level, not the least being the Central Coast Veterans Forum organised by our Federal local member, Dr Gordon Reid and attended by the State Minister for Veterans Affairs – David Harris (local state rep for Wyong) and the Federal Minister, Matt Keogh, at our Breakers Country Club on 12 May.

First things first, and what an Anzac Day we had with fine weather and crowd numbers to match. Crowd estimates for the Dawn Service ranged from 5-8,000 attendees, who came and were able to take part in an excellent service. Our Dawn Service was highlighted by the Surf Boats and the Iroquois Helicopter making their appearances. The service was live-streamed and again this year received good coverage in the media, including social media.

The second major activity of Anzac Day was the service at 11 am at Breakers following our Anzac Day Breakfast in the Club. This service was also well-received and appreciated by the good crowd present. It must be noted that we receive no government financial assistance for our ANZAC Day activities and rely on the generosity of our principal sponsors, the Mounties Group and Creightons. In addition, other organisations provide invaluable support, including Terrigal Surf Lifesaving Club, other Surf Clubs from Central Coast and Sydney, National Helicopters, Central Coast Concert Band, Central Coast Primary Schools Choir and Scott Levi (ABC) as our MC. Special thanks to Peter White for leading the organisation of the day. Thanks also to all those members who helped in the lead up and on the day. Without our members support, we couldn't put on our day.



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### Upcoming Events

- VIVID 15 June

## President's Message continued

The third major activity for Anzac Day was our Anzac Day Schools visit program organised by David Ferry. It took place just before and after Anzac Day due to school holidays and was another great success this year, with the program covering just about all the schools in our area. All reports indicate that they were well received and greatly appreciated by the schools. I attended the Terrigal High School Anzac Assembly, and representation from our sub-Branch was very much appreciated. For next year I will be looking for more volunteers to share the visits, and I would put a special call out to our younger veterans to think about playing a bigger role next year in sharing their experiences with the schools.

Our sub-Branch continues to grow, with several new members joining us over the last couple of months. We are a very welcoming sub-Branch, and I would encourage everyone to introduce themselves to members, young and old, if they haven't met them yet. Our Club Committee is being joined by Michael Butler as our new Welfare Officer, taking over from John Wilton. I thank John for all his work, and I also thank Michael for stepping up to take on the role. Michael will also help us identify initiatives to better engage with younger veterans and families in our area. We will also be introducing a new approach to our monthly meetings with every second meeting being informal with a guest speaker followed by a social event with food. We have locked in the Mounties Group for our September 2023 meeting to give us a presentation on the wide range of services and benefits they provide as part of their membership. If members have any ideas or contacts for interesting presenters or formats for these informal meetings, then the Committee is all ears.

I would like to mention one of our younger members, Karl Woodward (featured in this newsletter), who recently competed in the World Veterans Indoor Rowing Championships in the UK and claimed a bronze medal. Congratulations Karl, and good luck in September when he competes in the Invictus Games Dusseldorf in Germany.

Finally, our Vivid Bus Trip takes place on 15 June, and I know those going are looking forward to it.

**Scott Warr**  
**President**

# MEET THE MEMBERS

## KARL WOODWARD

I joined the Royal Australian Air Force and graduated from Officers Training School in 2007. I recently discharged in February 2023.



During my service, I was posted to Townsville, Williamstown and Canberra. My roles varied between Adjutant duties in a fighter Squadron, Staff Officer duties in Air Force HQ and working alongside international allies conducting operational planning activities whilst deployed.

I was fortunate during this time to deploy three times, twice to the Middle East whilst serving on Operations Slipper and Accordion between 2010-2020. I also deployed on Operation Aslan as part of Australia's small contingent to support the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. I was lucky to travel across Australia, Asia, the United States and New Zealand during my career, participating in a range of Air Force, Joint and Peace Keeping exercises.

I was successfully selected for the Australian Team to compete in the Invictus Games (Germany) in September 2023. I will be competing in swimming, Indoor rowing and wheelchair rugby.

Sport plays a vital role in my rehabilitation for both my physical and mental injuries. Over the years, I have maintained a decent level of fitness, so keeping fit has always been a part of me and never been a problem. Sport is now helping me maintain purpose, focus and discipline in my everyday life; which ultimately helps my rehabilitation during post service life.

I am extremely proud to have served my country and wear the uniform within Australia and the world. My service instilled in me the values and skills that I will carry for the rest of my life, both in my professional and personal life.

I feel blessed now returning to where I grew up and can now live and give back to the local community on the Central Coast.



On deployment South Sudan

# ANZAC DAY 2023

**Our ANZAC Day Dawn Service** this year was impressive, and the sub-Branch is incredibly grateful to Peter White and other members involved for planning and implementing this event.

As President in 2015, Peter developed a plan to modernise our Dawn Service to honour the Centenary of Anzac. This model has been used as a planning template ever since. The number attending each year is a testament to the success of this strategy. In addition, we have an ideal location and a magnificent war memorial to conduct an ANZAC Day ceremony.



**Anzac Address CC Grammar**



**Huey Flyover**

We thank Peter Franks (National Helicopter) for the Huey flyover, Scott Levi (ABC), the Central Coast Concert Band, Ron Sinclair for his rendition of Waltzing Matilda, bugler Colin Wright, and the Central Coast School Choir. In addition, we are indebted to the Terrigal Surf Lifesaving Club for their support.



The Anzac Address by Central Coast Grammar School students was an essential part of the ceremony.

The cost to the sub-Branch for ANZAC Day activities is considerable, and we thank our principal sponsors, the Mounties Group and Creightons.

The community support we receive is amazing, with a huge crowd attending this year's service.





2023



Central Coast Concert Band



CC School Choir



Wreath Ceremony



Aerial View of Service

We continue to look for innovative ways to improve the ceremony, without compromising the traditional order of service. We live streamed again this years and it is encouraging when we receive positive feedback on social media.

*"Thank you for this! Our family was able to watch live from the USA 😊"*

**Jennifer Drost Seed**

*"I live in the uk and I visit my son and grandson and family who live now in Wamberal. I Have had the pleasure of attending the anzac day dawn service in 2022 and 2023 . I am going to write a short story about the wonderful tribute that Terrigal and the whole of Australia gives to its armed forces. The question I ask is could you give me your best estimate of how many people attended this year's 2023 service Thank you - "*

**Best regards, David Wilkinson**

*"Greatly appreciated 🙏 A beautiful Anzac dawn service 🙏"*

**Tracey Leigh Patzer"**

*"Thank you. A wonderful service."*

**Linda Culkin Tanner"**

# ANZAC DAY BREAKFAST AT BREAKERS

After the Dawn Service and refreshments at the Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club, about eighty sub-Branch members, family and guests gathered at Breakers for breakfast.

At 11 am, the sub-Branch conducted a further ANZAC DAY service at the Breakers Club War Memorial.

Students from Terrigal High School delivered the ANZAC DAY Address.



**President Scott Warr with wife Alison**

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**Lance Harrigan representing  
Breakers**

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**Sub Branch President Scott Warr**

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We thank member and former sub-Branch Treasurer Simon Averell, who never forgets his mates on ANZAC Day. Simon is working in the UK and made a sizeable donation towards this year's Anzac Day celebrations.



**Thank you Simon**

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# ANZAC DAY 2023

## School Visits

Eight schools in our district enthusiastically supported our Anzac Day schools engagement program. We were proud and privileged to have sub-Branch members at each service as guest speakers and witness students' moving presentations with their ANZAC Day message. In this edition, we feature Woodport Primary School.

### What War Means To Me

Woodport Primary School Student  
Annalena Thomas (Aged 12)



Woodport School Assembly

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*"This was a difficult question for me to answer, as my life experience has been nothing but happy and carefree. So, I asked my Nan, as her Dad, my Great Grandfather, served in the British army as a driver from 1939 to 1946, the entire length of the Second World War.*

*He was only 20 when he was called up. He saw action in Dunkirk And the D-day landings. He also had the gruesome task of freeing Jewish prisoners from the Belsen concentration camp in 1945*



Peter Wyllie in conversation

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*Great Granddad miraculously survived over 6 years of active duty, physically unscathed. **However**, he witnessed many horrors.*

*Shooting, bombing, killing, shocking destruction, suffering, freeing prisoners of war who had survived starvation and torture and digging mass graves for those who died.*

*Some may say he was lucky to survive, as he lived to be 79, **however**, the experience took its toll on him. His nerves were frayed he suffered anxiety, depression, and guilt that he survived, while his comrades didn't.*

*You see there are no winners in war,*

*My Nan says her Dad never spoke about his service and he even kept his medals hidden in a drawer. What she knows of it, is from her mum.*



Students with Peter & Terry

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*You see war is not something to be glorified. It is horrific. It takes innocent lives and scars the ones who survive. It is something that **should be** avoided at all costs. It **should be** the last resort."*



Peter White at Erina High School

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# SUB-BRANCH ACTIVITIES

## Family Morning Tea Meetings

**Saturday 8 July**



Creightons, one of our principal sponsors, will attend for a presentation on the benefits of a prepaid funeral. Sub-Branch family members are invited, and refreshments will be provided.

**Saturday 9 September**



Executives from the Mounties Group will be present to advise sub-Branch members and family of their entitlements as a member of Breakers.

The Secretary will advise details when confirmed.

**VIVID TOUR 15 June**



Please note that the coach **MUST** depart Breakers before 2.30 pm, and to achieve this, members and friends need to arrive at the Club before 2.15 pm.

## TERRIGAL WAMBERAL RSL SUB-BRANCH VIETNAM ROLL CALL



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Some 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War, more than 3,000 were wounded and 523 tragically lost their lives. We must honour those who served and the families that support them.

### CURRENT SUB-BRANCH VIETNAM VETERANS



**Richard Lane ANTHONY**

**Peter William BATES**

**James Patrick BURKE**

**Peter William COLMAN**

**Richard Geoffrey CRANNA OAM**

**Paul Henry DAVIS**

**William Harvard EDWARDS**

**Phillip George FREEMAN**

**Alexander John GEORGE OBE**

**Anthony John GIBSON**

**Ian Walter GLOVER**

**Kenneth DAVID GRAHAM**

**Joseph Terrence GRIFFIN**

**Michael Edward HICKEY OAM**

**Reginald (Spike) JONES**

**Dallas Phillip MULHALL OAM**

**Anthony John MORTON**

**Michael John O'HARE**

**John William PENINTON**

**Denis Warren PINSON**

**Laurence Robert PYE**

**Michael Peter ROGERS**

**Terry Alan SAXBY**

**Geoffrey David SMITH**

**Brian SNASHALL**

**John WADE OAM**

**Peter William WHITE OAM**

**Harry William WHITE**

**John Anthony WILTON**

**Noel Stanley WOODLEY**

**We honour their service**

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS

