

Anzac Day 2022 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our 2022 Newsletter. It was such a pleasure to see so many of our Members again after a couple of years of Covid-uncertainty. Our Committee hope you and your loved ones have been surviving in our new Covid world as unscathed as possible.

Another very successful March and a very special Anzac Day. Information originally received from the RSL was changed prior to Anzac Day and unfortunately not forwarded on to us. As a result, we stepped off at 10.45 instead of 11.30 as originally directed and we sincerely hope that this did not mean some of our Members missed us completely. We may need to suggest an earlier meeting time next year just in case this happens again. The entire March ran very quickly this year and was concluded by midday, due mainly to reduced numbers marching overall. Thank you to those Members who joined us for a photo in Hyde Park at the conclusion of the March, it is a wonderful memento to have on our website each year. Those of us who have been marching for many years look back and see quite a few changes as the years go by!

We were lucky with the weather, especially given the dreadful weather conditions we had been experiencing, and this may have contributed to the large crowds of spectators who enjoyed the sunshine. It is always wonderful to see so many people showing their appreciation for our present service men and women and all those that have given so much in the past. There is always a very warm welcome for AWWOD and without our wonderful Ancestors, there would not be the name ANZAC to honour this very special Day. They must never be forgotten.

AWWOD looked very smart again this year. We had around 60 members marching, a wonderful roll up, and a few new Members joined us. A big thank you to all who have purchased our very smart ties and scarves over the years, we certainly look a very professional, well dressed group and this is noted by the RSL March Committee each year.

The ABC again had the March available to watch on iView after Anzac day. Unfortunately AWWOD didn't receive very much coverage and our Commentary ran over the Contingent behind us. A shame, but this is not the reason we march. Lunch at Hotel Harry's was again a lovely opportunity to catch up with around 30 Members attending, and we were back upstairs in our familiar surroundings.

Still a lot of name badges not collected, please remember to collect them next Anzac Day as they cannot be posted, Australia post is not kind to the clips on them. Also, badges are not made until all paperwork has been sent in to Arline, that is, both Membership Application and Statutory Declaration. Your Statutory Declaration is very important, as then we have a record of the service person that you are marching for.

A TIMELY REMINDER: Family membership is where a number of family members take turns on a yearly basis, to march for a common Ancestor. If two or three family members are marching for different Ancestors, then they must join separately nominating the person that they are marching for. Membership is still only \$5 for pensioners and children; working people and Family membership is \$10. Direct Debit is now our preferred payment method and a receipt will be emailed to you directly. Please email Arline or Karen to let us know as the banks do not always advise when a payment has been made and would leave your AWWOD record showing as being in arrears with the possibility of being removed from the Data Base. **We have abolished the need for Renewals to accompany your payment**, however we do ask that you advise us of changes to your contact details please so that we can update our data base.

PLEASE NOTE: The March guidelines that we must follow are those set for us by the RSL March Committee and must be followed to allow us to continue taking part in the March. This has taken over 20 years of dedicated effort, and it is up to each one of us to keep up the standard that we adhere to and be allowed to continue Marching on this very special Day. Please keep in mind the three rules laid down by the RSL:

1. ***Only one** family member can march representing an Ancestor during the March and medal sets are not to be broken up between family members.
2. ***Medals** are to be worn on the right side of the chest (if in doubt, remember “the Right side is Right”). If the originals have been wall mounted or lost, then it allowable to wear a replica set, these are available from a number of medal shops around Sydney. Ladies may prefer to wear a miniature set as these are kinder to dress material.
3. ***Photos** are not to be carried during the March, so please do not bring them with you.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS: Our Committee meetings are held regularly to attend to any preparation needed for the next Anzac Day and we are constantly looking to improve our procedures. We hope you have found our new receipt email system a great improvement on previous years. It has certainly streamlined our administration on Anzac Day itself. PR Officer Karen attended the Kings’ School and made a presentation to our Banner Boys with AWWOD Certificates and tins of Anzac Biscuits as a gesture of our appreciation. Many of our Committee Members attend Remembrance Day Services, Anzac Sunday Services or Anzac Day Dawn Services and lay a wreath on behalf of AWWOD. When held, we also endeavour to attend the annual Fromelles service at the Hyde Park War Memorial.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Our AGM on Wednesday 27th July 2022, commencing at 7.30pm. To be held at Dooleys’ Catholic Club. 24-28 John Street Lidcombe. All Members are very welcome. Dooleys’ very kindly waive our room hire fee each year so we would greatly appreciate your patronage there for dinner or drinks prior to or after our meeting. As we have not held an AGM since 2019 due to Covid, all reports will cover (2020)/2021/2022.

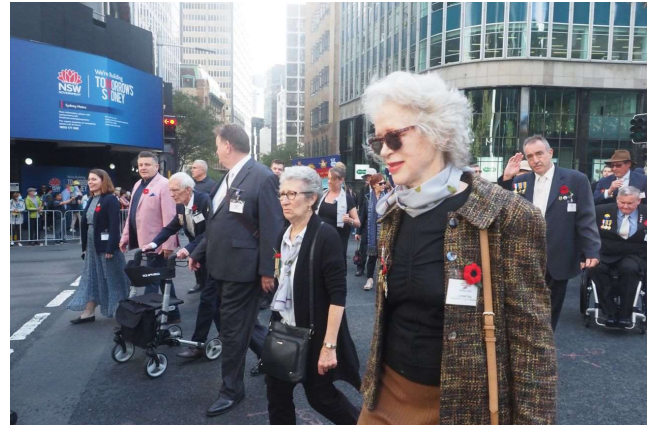
HOW CAN YOU HELP AWWOD:

Truthfully acknowledge your Ancestor’s service. Research information and records are available from the National Archives, Canberra. As part of our Aims and Objectives, we can assist you with this, just contact us through our website or contact Arline, our Secretary, who will endeavour to pass your query to the relevant person to help you. Be proud of your Ancestor and show the respect for their memory and sacrifice by having their medals restored with new ribbons and the appropriate means to apply them to your clothing. Ladies, don’t forget that miniature sets are available and much lighter to wear on dress material. Battalion colour patches are also available from some of the medal shops around Sydney and these are appropriate to wear with your Ancestor’s medals. Acknowledge the dignity and reverence of the Day by dressing appropriately in a dark business suit. Don’t forget AWWOD scarves and ties are available on the Day at a modest price. Be sure your yearly Membership is paid up to date before Anzac Day, via bank transfer to our account. We wish to avoid carrying cash with us on the day.

HONOUR PAGE: We are continuing to develop an Honour Page on our website. If you would like to include your ancestor on this page, please contact our webmaster on www.awwod.com.au and send through a photo if you have one and a brief outline about him and his service.

Thank you to all who express thanks on Anzac Day to members of the Committee, for the voluntary work that we do to keep AWWOD functioning. We appreciate your support for our efforts and hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at our AGM on Wednesday 27th July 2022 at 7.30pm.

If you have any suggestions, would like to offer any feedback or have a special project in mind, please contact us at arlineronisvalle@bigpond.com or write to The Secretary, AWWOD, Box 1/121 Anzac Avenue, Engadine NSW 2233 for consideration by the Committee.





Our Committee look forward to seeing you on Anzac Day 2023, and wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy year ahead.