

Anzac Day 2023 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our 2023 Newsletter. It was such a pleasure to see so many of our Members again year after year, and a few new Members joining us. We hope you enjoyed the March this year.

Another very successful March and a very special Anzac Day as always, and the weather was kind to us. We were without our President, Vice President or indeed any Marshals to speak of, and the Committee thanks several Members who walked up and down Pitt Street to find information as to step off times etc.

AWWOD looked very smart again this year, and you may note by the photos in this Newsletter that we marched very well. Keeping in mind we are an untrained Contingent of non-military personnel, we look extremely professional. We had around 70 members marching, a wonderful roll up, and a big thank you to all who have purchased our very smart ties and scarves over the years. The ABC again had the March available to watch on iView after Anzac day. Lunch at Hotel Harry's was again a lovely opportunity to catch up with around 25 Members attending, and we were back upstairs in our familiar surroundings.

Karen would like to thank those Members who sent their best wishes to her after her abrupt decision to further investigate the pavement a little too closely in Pitt Street. She advises no amputation was necessary and she has made a full recovery.

A TIMELY REMINDER: Family membership is where a number of family members take turns on an annual basis, to march for a common Ancestor. If two or more family members are marching for different Ancestors, 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 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 database.

PLEASE NOTE: The March guidelines that we must follow are those set for us by the NSW 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. Treasurer and 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 26th July 2023, commencing at 7.30pm. To be held at our **NEW VENUE AT PETERSHAM RSL CLUB , 301 Trafalgar Street, Petersham.** All Members are very welcome. Petersham RSL have very kindly waived our room hire fee so we would greatly appreciate your patronage there for dinner or drinks prior to or after our meeting. Your Committee decided that a change of venue for our AGM was necessary due to the changes made to the meeting rooms at Dooley’s, Lidcombe. Petersham have welcomed us whole-heartedly and we look forward to introducing you to this new venue. It is also located directly across the road from Petersham train station for your convenience, but there is plenty of parking underneath the Club.

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 26th July 2023 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 2024, and wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy year ahead. Thank you for joining us, and for your ongoing support.