



ANZAC Day – 2019

Anzac Day, the 25th April, marks the anniversary of the first campaign that led to major casualties for Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. The acronym ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, whose soldiers were known as Anzacs. The day remains one of the most important national occasions of both Australia and New Zealand

Origins of the acronym ANZAC

There are several suggestions as to where the word ANZAC originated, the favourite is attributed to General Sir William R. Birdwood. He said: *“One day early in 1915 Major C.M. Wagstaff, then junior member of the “operations” section of my staff, walked into the General Staff office and mentioned to the clerks that a convenient word was wanted as a code name for the Corps. The clerks had noticed the big initials on the cases outside their room—A. & N. Z. A. C.; and a rubber stamp for registering correspondence had also been cut with the same initials. When Wagstaff mentioned the need of a code word, one of the clerks suggested: “How about ANZAC?”*

Major Wagstaff proposed the word to me and “Anzac” thereupon became the code name of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. It was, however, some time before the code word came into general use, and at the Landing many men in the divisions had not yet heard of it.



Later on, when we had effected our landing at Gallipoli in April, I was asked by General headquarters to suggest a name for the beach where we had made good our first precarious footing, I suggested that this might be recorded as “Anzac Cove”—a name which the bravery of our men has now made historical, while it remains a geographical landmark for all time.”

Gallipoli campaign, 1915



In 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of an Allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula to open the way to the Black Sea for the Allied navies. The objective was to capture Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, which was an ally of Germany during the war. The ANZAC force landed at Gallipoli on the 25th April, meeting fierce resistance from the Ottoman Army commanded by Mustafa Kemal (later known as Atatürk). What had been planned as a bold strike to knock the Ottomans out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months. At the end of 1915, the Allied forces were evacuated after both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. The Allied deaths totalled over 56,000, including 8,709 from Australia and 2,721 from New Zealand. News of the landing at Gallipoli made a profound impact on Australians and New Zealanders at home and the 25th April quickly became the day on which they remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in the war.



Though the Gallipoli campaign failed to achieve its military objectives of capturing Constantinople and knocking the Ottoman Empire out of the war, the actions of the Australian and New Zealand troops during the campaign bequeathed an intangible but powerful legacy. The creation of what became known as an "Anzac legend" became an important part of the national identity in both countries. This has shaped the way their citizens have viewed both their past and their understanding of the present. The heroism of the soldiers in the failed Gallipoli campaign made their sacrifices iconic in New Zealand memory, and is often credited with securing the psychological independence of the nation.



Australians recognise 25 April as a day of national remembrance, which takes two forms. Commemorative services are held across the nation at dawn – the time of the original landing, while later in the day, former servicemen and servicewomen meet to take part in marches through the country's major cities and in many smaller centres. Commemorative ceremonies are more formal and are held at war memorials around the country. In these ways, Anzac Day is a time at which Australians reflect on the many different meanings of war.

Popularity of the Day

By the 1950s many New Zealanders had become antagonistic or indifferent towards the day. Much of this was linked to the legal ban on commerce on Anzac Day and the banning by many local authorities of sports events and other entertainment on the day. Annoyance was particularly pronounced in 1953 and 1959, when Anzac Day fell on a Saturday. There was widespread public debate on the issue, with some people calling for the public holiday to be moved to the nearest Sunday or abolished altogether. In 1966 a new Anzac Day Act was passed, allowing sport and entertainment in the afternoon.



During and after Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War (1962–1975), interest in Anzac Day reached its lowest point in Australia. Anti-war protesters used Anzac Day events as a platform to voice opposition to

conscription and Australia's military involvement in general; in the following 20 years, the relevance of Australia's war connection with the British Empire was brought into question.

However, since the late 1980s and especially the 1990s, interest in and attendance at Anzac Day ceremonies has grown. On 25 April 1990, Bob Hawke became the first Australian politician to visit Gallipoli, and he also decided that government would pay to take Anzac veterans to Gallipoli for the 75th anniversary of the dawn landing. This is seen by historians as a major milestone in the recovery of Anzac Day. John Howard (PM 1996–2007) was also a huge proponent of Anzac Day commemorations and visited Gallipoli on 25 April in both 2000 and 2005.



An increasing number of attendees have been young Australians, many of whom attend ceremonies swathed in Australian flags, wearing green



and gold T-shirts and beanies and with Australian flag tattoos imprinted on their skin. This phenomenon has been perceived by some as a reflection of the desire of younger generations of Australians to honour the sacrifices made by the previous generations.

One of the traditions of Anzac Day is the "gunfire breakfast" (coffee with rum added) which occurs shortly after many dawn ceremonies and recalls the "breakfast" taken by many soldiers before facing battle. Later in the day, ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen meet and join in marches through the major cities and many smaller centres. In 2018, female veterans were encouraged to march at the front of their sections. The "By The Left" initiative was launched following a number of reported cases where servicewomen had been challenged that they were wearing their medals on the wrong side, as people should wear their own medals on the left side of their chest, but people marching in place of their parents or other ancestors should wear that person's medals on the right side. According to historian Dr Carolyn Holbrook of Deakin University, "We reached Peak Anzac in 2015 sure, and there has been some backing off since then, but in terms of the dawn services and Anzac Day commemoration, it will remain huge for a good while yet," says Carolyn. "There is nothing better to take its place in terms of a national mythology."



Brisbane 2019

As was the case right throughout Australia, there were many ceremonies held in Queensland to mark and commemorate the day, the largest of which was held in Brisbane. After people attended the various Dawn Services, a lot caught buses, trains, taxis, or drove in themselves and congregated along both

sides of Brisbane's main streets, ready for the march which was programmed to start at 9.30am and finish at 12.30pm.

Many thousands of people of all ages, some of whom had arrived hours earlier bringing along folding chairs, rugs, thermoses of coffee and sandwiches, settled in ready for the parade. For the full three hours they stayed put, waving flags, displayed "Thank you" signs, and cheered and clapped those that marched.





Those who had served in Vietnam and remember the animosity dealt out by a very vocal minority on their return, wonder at and are thankful for the huge change in attitude that has taken place over the years. Perhaps, if times had been different back then, there would not be as many lost Vietnam Vets as there are today. Perhaps!

Army, Navy and Air Force personnel, both serving and ex, began forming up from about 9.00am. This year the Navy led the way, followed by the Army with the Air Force bringing up the rear. Various accompanying bands formed up in Queens Gardens and commenced tuning their instruments to the amusement of hundreds of interested people.

There were bag-pipes, drums of all sorts, cymbals, trumpets, horns, bugles – all contributing to the mix.

You can see and hear them [HERE](#).

Over the years the parade has grown like Topsy and now lasts for nearly 3 hours. This is ok for young people but for many older people, many aged north of 70, standing around, in most years in 30 degree heat, is far too strenuous and possibly far too dangerous. In nearly all cases there is nowhere to sit and definitely no shade. The organisers have thoughtfully organised the distribution of bottled water but that does not alter the fact that the elderly should not be expected to endure hours of standing in the streets in hot sunlight for an hour or so. Unfortunately, there is not a lot that can be done about it, there are just so many associations that need to be paraded but the organisers do change the order every year with each Service taking turns to lead the Parade.

The Parade is now a mix of former service personnel and also current personnel and we feel an easy fix would be to have all the elderly march first followed by the current, young and fit persons. The Army and the Air Force had many current members in the parade, perhaps they could follow the elderly, that and close up some of the gaps, at times there were very large gaps between groups.

That has been suggested – it will be interesting to see if anyone listens.

Bertie Milne in front of the RTFV-35Sqn Banner at the form-up area..





Ted McEvoy with daughter Bree at the form-up



The WRAAF Association (Qld) – lining up behind Janet Noack and the new banner.



ADG



3 Sqn Association people, standing – waiting.



9 Sqn Association



RTFV-35 Sqn Association.



Then finally, at about 11.40am, the Air Force Associations moved off, all with stiff legs from the prolonged standing.



Some people who wanted to take part in the parade but whose legs refused to tolerate the distance were ferried the route in WW2 vintage jeeps.



John Donohue



Tom Mills



John Broughton

Once again, the ABC did a wonderful job of televising the Parade – you can see an edited version [HERE](#).

After the march, 3 Sqn, 9Sqn and RTFV-35 Sqn Associations and a great bunch of serving blokes and blokettes from Amberley, with a few others, headed for the Jade Buddha Restaurant/Bar for their annual get together.

Once again, the Brisbane Vietnamese Community tossed in, all at their own expense, and helped make the day so enjoyable. Some of the lovely girls met people at the front door at the Jade Buddha and presented everyone with a leigh of flowers. Here Thien Khuong lays a leigh on one of the blokes as he enters the Jade Buddha.





The Vietnamese people were co-ordinated by Diamond and Thai Dang – who have given of their time and expertise for some years now – we gratefully thank them.



Diamond, Thai and Roy Morris entertained everyone for most of the afternoon.



Lorea and Peter Gleeson, Andrea Butler.

Gate-keepers at the Jade Buddha, collecting the entry bribe. (Two for them, one for me?)



The outlook from the Jade Buddha.



Some of those at the Jade Buddha, after the march, are: (all names L-R).



Amelia Marsh, Jennifer Pearsall, Tim Pearsall.



Allan Pickering, Whisky Carter.



Ben Nielson, Doug Stonehouse.



Ben Rearson, Ross Wilcox, Bill Luyton.

After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife went for counselling. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they had ever had in all the years they had been married. On and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she endured. Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around his desk and after asking the wife to stand, he embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched - with a raised eyebrow. The woman shut up and quietly sat down in a daze. The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least 3 times a week. Can you do this?" "Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdaybut I fish on Fridays."



Chris Greenwall, Ben Strong, Raba Nona.



Colleen Gidley, Bill Krause.



John McDougall, the RTFV-35Sqn Association President, welcomed everyone to the afternoon and thanked the sponsors for contributing to the Association.



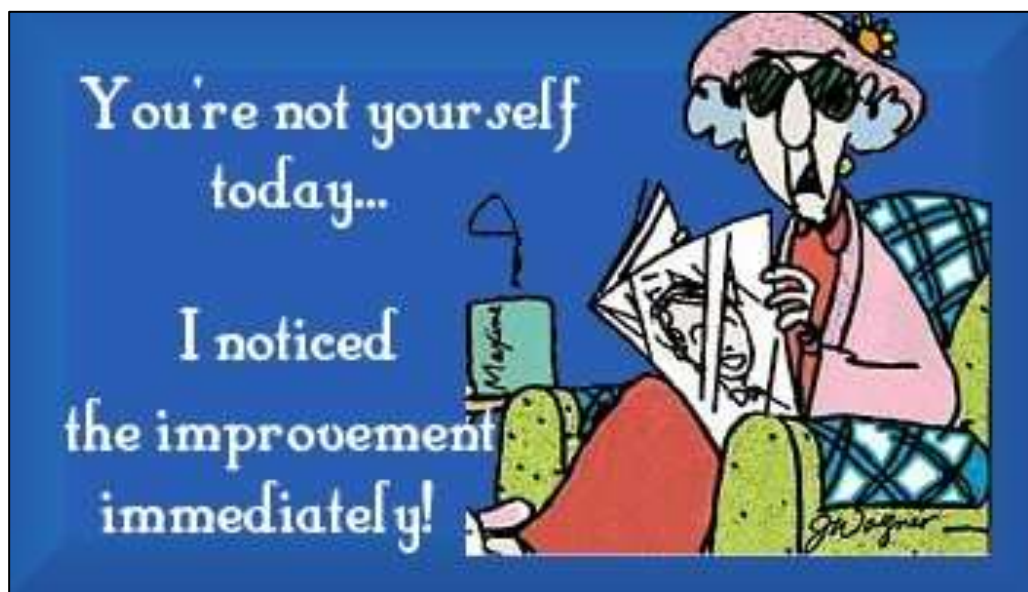
Katrina Puranik and her son Sean, with her plaque of appreciation for all the work she has done for the association. Katrina has developed and maintains the Association's web site.



John "Sambo" Sambrooks with Jenny McIntosh.

Jenny is the Marketing Manager for KM Smith Funeral Directors which is a major sponsor of the RTFV-35 Sqn Association.

Jenny was presented with a plaque of appreciation by Sambo, the RTFV-35Sqn Association's Secretary/Treasurer, as a thank you for KM Smith's support.





Aaron Freney, Myles Fenoglio, Chris Greenall, David Kelly.



David Kelly with his young bloke.



Darryl Holden, Jenny McIntoch, Dick Marman.



Dennis Roles, John Lunn



Ian Oxborrow, Steve Keale, Ken Bishof

Some of the revellers.









Jessica Woodyard, Kristy Watson, Katie Brander.



John Donohue, Wally Jolley



John McDougall with his lovely daughter Karinne Cilento.



Dougie Linnett, Renae Halley, Steven "Rabbit" Burrows., Ben Poxon, Shaunn Segon, Andrew Burgess, Benjamin Calman.



Pete DeJonge



Keith Kinch, Simon Deguara

Y



Ray Bennett, Cath Doyle



John Broughton, Dave McCarey, Sue Trimmer.



Ros Rossi, Phillip Chamberlain.



And while the food, the drinks and the fibs flowed freely, the lovely Thien Khuong handed out mandarins for everyone.



These lovely girls, Thien Khuong, Tuyet Van and Kim Oanh, had several costume changes during the afternoon and entertained the troops with a colourful national dance.



John Sambrooks, Emily Renshaw, John McDougall.



Ted Strugnell and his lovely daughter Shan.



Ted NcEvoy and Jack Bennett



Troy Reeves, Taylor Moore



Pete DeJonge, Elizabeth Goopy, looking after the old bloke!



Late in the afternoon, as the vets started to slow down, those in uniform were just starting to hit their straps.

Oh to be young again!!!



Then, at about 5.00pm, people started to wander off home, the Brisbane City Council had moved in, removed all the barriers, cleaned up any mess and opened up the City's streets for normal every day commerce.

In 12 month's time, we'll do it all again.



ANZAC Day in Sydney.



Group photo of the 37SQN Association contingent at the Sydney Anzac Day March, led by GPCAPT Bryan 'BDH' Harris OAM, former CO 37SQN 1981-83, CDRALG 1989-91.

Unfortunately, again this year, Association members were segregated from current serving members resulting in our veterans getting to The Establishment 2.5hrs after the serving members had arrived.

The Sydney opera House was lit up by laser.





ANZAC Day in Perth.

Some of the WRAAFs that marched in Perth.



ANZAC Day in Scotland, 2019



"Scotty Potter, all decked out for ANZAC Day at Edinburgh Castle.



ANZAC Day in Darwin, 2019.



Chris Cates and Colleen Higginson