



RETURNED and SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH
ROUTINE ORDERS



Vol 29 No3

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June-July 2026
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Message from the President



As the newly elected President of the Epping RSL sub-Branch, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your confidence in me. I am honoured to take on this role and look forward to working closely with the new Committee to support you the members of the sub-Branch and the wider Epping community.

We are all aware of the challenges facing not only our sub-Branch but the RSL, especially the ongoing decline in membership. This isn't just about numbers—it's about maintaining the spirit and camaraderie that makes the RSL special for veterans, current ADF members, and their families. Attracting new members has been tough in recent years, but it's essential for the future of the Epping RSL sub-Branch.

To tackle these challenges, I believe our approach must be collaborative. It's not solely the committee's responsibility; every sub-Branch member can contribute, whether by helping at events, sharing fresh ideas, or reaching out to someone who needs a sense of belonging. Your involvement will make a real difference. Together, we can revitalise our sub-Branch and secure its legacy for years to come in Epping.

The past month has been very busy for the sub-Branch with all the ANZAC Commemorations that have been conducted from the ANZAC Sunday Service, the Dawn Service and all the contributions the sub-Branch committee members have made to the ANZAC commemorations conducted by the local schools and community organisations.

These commemorations were rounded off with a successful ANZAC Dinner held in the Epping Club. Although the attendance at the dinner did not reach the numbers we were aiming for it was a great success. Our Guest Speaker for the evening, Major Mark Beretta gave an enduring speech about the meaning of the ANZACs. For those of you that were unable to attend the dinner, Mark was the former sports presenter on Channel 7 Sunrise and is famous for his involvement with Tour De Cure.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment. Let's take this journey together and make the Epping RSL sub-Branch stronger than ever.

Andrew (Andy) Brayshaw
President, Epping RSL sub-Branch

WAR WIDOWS NSW

Coordinator: Jo Burgess 0404 107 794
Treasurer: Jo Burgess
Meetings: First Monday of the month at 10.30 am except for public holidays
Monday 1 June
Monday 6 July
Monday 3 August
Monday 7 September
Monday 12 October due to
Labour Day Holiday 5 October
Monday 2 November
Monday 7 December

GOLDEN KANGAROOS

Autumn in the Air: free concert

Sunday 31 May 2026 at 2pm

Hornsby War Memorial Hall

2 High Street, Hornsby

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

VALE

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

During the months of April-May 2026, advice has been received of the passing of the following Service Members:

NAME	RANK	SERVICE	UNIT	SERVICE NUMBER	DATE JOINED	DATE DECEASED
Leonard Charles BROWN	PTE	ARMY	7 RAR	2788634	29/03/1989	5/04/2026

WELLBEING SUPPORT OFFICER

Andrew (Andy) Brayshaw

Mobile: 0435 879 258

Email: wellbeing@eppingsubbranch.com

Visit Andy in the sub-Branch office on Wednesday mornings between 9 a.m. and noon.

WSOs can offer:

referrals for training and employment pathways, housing providers, counselling and health services, and claims and compensation advocacy

support to claims Advocates,

visits to veterans at home, and in hospital and aged-care facilities

support services, such as driving and shopping trips

support at funerals

assistance organising domestic assistance or home maintenance services

assistance with administrative duties in a volunteer capacity

support organising and conducting social, family and Sport & Recreation Program activities

non-clinical and non-advocacy support to a veteran's family during time of grief, loss, and bereavement

ROUTINE ORDERS is issued 5 times per year, in January, April, June, August and October.

Contributions for inclusion in ROUTINE ORDERS, such as forward activities, interesting personal notes etc. are always welcome. Items for the next issue on Monday 27 July 2026 are required before Wednesday 15 July 2026 .

Earlier would be appreciated. Electronic copy preferred if possible. *Routine Orders* editor Barry Hoschke bhoschke@tpg.com.au.

To whoever stole my copy of Microsoft Office, I will find you. You have my Word.

A police officer caught two kids playing with a firework and a car battery. He charged one and let the other one off.

Bullets are quite weird indeed ... They only do their jobs after they are fired.

HR called me to ask why I only get ill on work days... I told them it was because of my weekend immune system.

Astronomers were bored and tired after watching the moon go around the Earth for 24 hours, so they called it a day.

EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY JUNE - AUGUST 2026

JUNE 2026

Monday 1	Families of Veterans Guild of NSW -War Widows	1030
Monday 1	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Monday 8	King's Birthday	
Sunday 14	Sub-Branch Mid-Year and Life Members Luncheon	1200
Wednesday 17	Stand Easy	1300
Monday 29	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930

JULY 2026

Monday 6	Families of Veterans Guild of NSW -War Widows	1030
Monday 13	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Wednesday 15	Stand Easy	1300
Monday 27	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930

AUGUST 2026

Monday 3	Families of Veterans Guild of NSW -War Widows	1030
Monday 10	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Saturday 15	VP Day	1000
Wednesday 19	Stand Easy	1300
Monday 31	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930

STAND EASY

Stand Easy is an informal daytime gathering on the third Wednesday of the month between 1300 and 1500 hours. It is held in 45 on Rawson at The Epping Club.

This provides an opportunity for all members of the sub-Branch to relax with a drink and nibbles and solve the problems of the world. Those who are unable to attend the evening monthly meetings catch up on sub-Branch activities and enjoy companionship.

Upcoming Stand Easy meetings will be held on:

17 June

15 July

19 August

Anzac Day: Memory, Remembrance and Amnesia

Prof. Mesut Uyar

Every year millions of Australians at Australia and thousands on the Gallipoli Peninsula commemorate the Anzac Day on 25 April. For most Australians the Anzac Day is more important and meaningful than the Australia Day which owns a controversial historical baggage of its own. The library bookshelves are groaning under the weight of ever-increasing number of books about the Anzacs and Gallipoli. It looks like there is no end to public appetite for the Anzac legend for seeable future which is very surprising. Because, just fifty years ago, less and less people were attending the Anzac Day commemorations and there were even speculations that it would die away with the pass of last veterans of the First World War. Singer-songwriter Eric Bogle deliberately included these lines, "But as year follows year, more old men disappear; Someday no one will march there at all" into his famous song "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda" in 1971.

There is no need to retell in detail the transformative importance of Peter Weir's motion picture Gallipoli which was released on 13 August 1981. Indubitably, it was a beautifully directed and powerfully acted movie. However, what made the movie so important is Weir's superb ability to combine so many well-established myths into one movie in such a realistic and at the same time dramatic way. Starting with "mateship" born out of training, extraordinary "valour" of soldiers and junior officers from the landing till the Nek offensive and ending with "self-sacrifice" of the main characters while providing elements of incompetency of the British generals (a clear display of lions led by donkeys) and abundance of Turkish machineguns and artillery always

ready to pour lead over these brave and tragic heroes.

Of course, there were other events and developments that contributed on the rise of the Anzac legend and its commemoration. Bill Gammage's book "The Broken Years" sparked the rebirth of the Anzac legend in 1974. It was this book and expert help of Gammage that made the movie possible. Nine years after the release of the movie, the last living and medically fit Anzac veterans crossed the ocean and landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25 April 1990 as a part of the 75th anniversary. They were, this time, greeted not by bullets but flowers and the open arms of the last remaining Turkish veterans. Heart melting scenes continued throughout the ceremonies and broadcasted live.

Popular and academic historians rushed to capitalise on public demand. Each new publication encouraged new ones and regrettably sparked new controversies. At the same time families, enthusiasts and researchers have started to uncover long-forgotten diaries, memoirs and letters of the Anzacs. Publication of new personal war narratives and republication of the old ones are instrumental in reinforcing the Anzac myths. Because starting with the official historian Charles E. W. Bean's books perspectives of individual soldiers and junior officers have been the most important element of the legend and myths. Although Bean did not like the English war correspondent Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett much, but he was more than happy to make use of the popular emotional stir that Ashmead-Bartlett's tale had initiated on 8 May 1915; "These raw colonial troops, in these desperate hours, proved worthy to fight side by side with the heroes of the battles of Mons, the Aisne, Ypres, and Neuve-Chapelle."

The geography of the Gallipoli Peninsula and the Dardanelles Strait was turned out to be

more than helpful and inspiring for the creation of the Anzac legend and myths. This was the land of ancient Greek legend of “Hero and Leander”, Homer’s “Trojan War”, the demise of the Athenian empire at Aegospotami and the birthplace of Alexander the Great’s military fame at Granicus. Most junior officers and soldiers with some educations were aware and inspired of these ancient legends. They believed that they were heading for “once in a lifetime” or “biggest adventure ever.” Not to forget that British national hero poet Rupert Brooke died on the way to Gallipoli on 23 April. His patriotic and tragic lines; “If I should die, think only this of me: That there’s some corner of a foreign field; That is for ever England” reinforced Hero and Leander’s tragedy.

In this fertile land of ancient legends, it is not a big wonder that new legends and myths were born during the bloody Gallipoli Campaign, and more were created after evacuation. Although the Australian Imperial Force fought longer and bloodier battles at the Western Front and suffered more casualties the Anzac legend and myths of Gallipoli prevailed and overshadowed all others. Even during the campaign this baptism of fire and first blood was seen as the birth of nation distinct from the British. Interestingly the Second World War and other wars and conflicts that the Australian military took active parts reinforced the importance of Gallipoli. As an example Brigadier Field while delivering the Anzac Day address of 2012 in Kandahar, Afghanistan felt the need to put emphasis on the connection between Anzacs on Gallipoli and Australian soldiers in Afghanistan, “Today, it is with great pride and honour that you, as the daughters and sons of ANZAC stand this dawn, in the service of your nations, on the critical crossroads of southern Afghanistan.” This typical address shows that the Anzac legend and myths have become integral

part of the Australian Defence Forces psyche and warrior ethos.

In a contradictory way the rebirth and rise of the Anzac legend and myths in the 1980s and 90s have introduced antiwar elements and presented Anzacs as not only warriors but also victims of war. Weir’s hero run towards Turkish machinegun fire unarmed and killed as a martyr in a Jesus-like way at the end of the movie. Consequently, it is no great wonder that historians and authors like to put various versions of “broken” in their book titles. The Gallipoli myths they have reformulated and helped to reach wider audience provide two discordant portraits of the Anzacs heroes who had proved themselves on Gallipoli but had also damaged with this transformative experience and returned home with chest full of medals but essentially spiritually broken.

Another important new aspect of the Anzac legend is its religious character. From the very beginning the First World War was presented in religious words, symbols and colours. However, in Australian example it has transformed into a secular religious character. The official war correspondent and later historian Charles Bean had important roles in this transformation by not only writing influential books but also construction of Australian War Memorial which is a combination of a memorial, museum and archive. The Hall of Memory with its magnificent stained-glass windows and architecture is a secular memorial without symbols of any religion but having the look and feel of a temple. Similarly for most Australians, especially youngsters, trip to Gallipoli is a kind of pilgrimage. The Gallipoli Dawn Ceremony has all elements of a major religious ceremony with its special rituals. This secular religious aspect reinforces and solidifies the Anzac legend and myths while making them popular. Regrettably it also makes them difficult to critique.

From the perspective of this talk the most important element of the Anzac legend and myths is ignoring the other combatants, the Turks. To fight a war, one needs at least two sets of combatants but in the Anzac legend and myths, the Turks appeared rarely other their constant fire that killed and maimed tragic Anzac heroes. Surprisingly most modern Australian historians and popular authors also prefer to ignore the Turks, only mentioning that Turkish soldiers were brave and sturdy and they were led by competent leaders such as Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and Liman von Sanders. Some of them make use of a few Turkish sources but without changing well-established narrative. Thousands of brave Turkish peasants led by a few outstanding commanders fought against the Anzacs. They describe not a conventional army but an armed horde.

The reason why the Turkish defenders of Gallipoli have been seen and portrayed as a horde is directly related with the legend and myths. A conventional army has military organisation, chain of command, doctrine, training, manoeuvre units, support elements, all sorts of weapons and related paraphernalia. When you see and treat the Turks as soldiers of a conventional army you need to change everything. All of a sudden faceless and unnamed defenders gain an identity and unit number with orders to defend a particular place according to specific doctrine. In addition to Mustafa Kemal and von Sanders they should have platoon leaders, company, battalion and regiment commanders. For a proper history of the war on Gallipoli we need to know and consider not only these necessary military details of a conventional army but also its combat performance and military efficiency. That means what they did and did not, how and why.

Unfortunately, neither most authors of Gallipoli Campaign nor their readers are willing to face the reality. For example, on 25 April 1915, the first

wave of Anzac landing took place at the planned correct landing site albeit at a narrow front. They were faced with a Turkish platoon (2nd Platoon of the 2/8th Company, 27th Infantry Regiment) of 85 soldiers without any machineguns. Due to command paralysis and failure, this platoon failed to man the main trench and fought from exposed positions. Most Turkish soldiers were killed or wounded in a short time, and others withdrew. Therefore, against the myths, the first wave did not land on a wrong site and faced with murderous fire. In fact, only a few soldiers were killed or wounded during the initial phase. The casualties were increased dramatically after the attempts to widen and deepen the beachhead.

This is just an example of the effects of putting the Turkish side properly into history writing. Proper military histories of the Gallipoli which make full use of Turkish sources certainly debunk most of the myths and question essential elements of the Anzac legend. However, there is no demand for this kind of history books in Australia, and the available ones are simply ignored. Because myth means accepting a set of propositions uncritically. Gallipoli myths have provided heartwarming tales of mateship, valour and self-sacrifice to generations of the Australians. They are seen indispensable and beyond criticism. Australian leaders believe that these myths inculcate good Australian values and norms to new generations. For them how these myths were invented and transformed is not important because they see these myths as a suitable and useful history for political and socio-cultural reasons. Consequently, it is no great wonder to witness a general hostility to historians who try to debunk them.

Myths look and feel like historical accounts and true myths gain reputation of universally valid stories. Anzac myths are stories of concrete battles that took place on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

However, we cannot take them serious and reliable historical accounts. Anzac myths are one-sided (completely ignore the other side of the hill) invented stories based on real events and soldiers. They have successfully adapted to changing time and requirements of the Australian society. The Anzac legend and myths serve to various political and socio-cultural needs. Nevertheless, they cannot replace military history of the Gallipoli Campaign. Modern historians have better means to access greater sources (including Turkish archives), improved techniques and advanced technology to provide use better and illuminating accounts of various aspects of the Gallipoli Campaign. Nothing replaces a good military history.

This is the text of the Anzac Sunday Address delivered by Professor Mesut Uyar

Dr. Mesut Uyar is a military historian and war studies expert. He is a graduate of Turkish Military Academy. Got MA on politics and Ph.D. on international relations from Faculty of Political Sciences Istanbul University. As a career officer he served at platoon leader and company and battalion commander positions in various infantry units and several tours of peace support operations duties as military observer at UN mission in Georgia and as staff officer in Afghanistan. He was wounded twice in action. He served as assistant professor of international relations at the Turkish Military Academy for ten years. He spent one year as an instructor and academic advisor at the Peace Support Training Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He retired from the Turkish Army in 2012 and started working as a full-time scholar first as an associate professor of Ottoman military history at the University of New South Wales,

Canberra-Australia for five years and then as an international relations professor at Antalya Bilim University for six years. Where he also served as the dean of School of Business and Social Sciences. He is now professorial fellow at the University of New South Wales, Canberra.

He is the author or co-author of *The Ottoman Army and the First World War* (2021); *The Phaseline Attila: The Amphibious Campaign for Cyprus, 1974* (2020); *The Ottoman Defence Against the Anzac Landing 25 April 1915* (2015); *A Military History of the Ottomans: From Osman to Atatürk* (2009); and numerous articles and book chapters. His most recent work, as an editor, is *The Routledge Handbook of Modern Turkish History* (2025).

DON'T TRY TO JUDGE A SOLDIER

By Clive Sanders

Don't try to judger a soldier,
If you have not been there,
Unless you've walked along the street,
That only soldiers dare.
Don't criticise their actions,
Don't judge them after years,
For they have fought your battles,
Then come home to national cheers.
It's for you they lost their comrades,
It's for you they shed their blood.
It's for you they followed orders,
Knowing that's what soldiers should.
He only had his rifle,
Which he carried in your name.
So don't make him your scapegoat,
Used to bear his nation's blame.

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ANZAC DAWN SERVICE 25th April 2025 Forest Park Epping



Photos Irene Rowe

Arr. John Curdie

ANZAC Breakfast at The Epping Club



Photos Irene Rowe

Arr John Curdie

ANZAC Breakfast at The Epping Club



Photos Irene Rowe

Arr John Curdie

ANZAC Sunday service 19th April 2026



Photos Irene Rowe

Arr. John Curdie



Photos . Irene Rowe

ARR. John Curdie

Epping ANZAC Day Address 2026

COL Mark Hoare (Rtd)

Before dawn on 25 April 1915, the first soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, as part of a British and French-led invasion, landed on the shores of the Gallipoli peninsula. The Allies' immediate mission was to destroy Turkish guns that were preventing naval ships from reaching and bombarding the Turkish capital, Constantinople, and open the Dardanelles and maritime access to the Black Sea and Russia. If they succeeded, Turkey might be forced out of the war and Germany would lose an important ally.

Some 2,000 Australians were killed or wounded on 25 April 1915. At Anzac Cove, the Australians were the first to land. The New Zealanders followed later in the day. They advanced about a kilometre and a half in some places, less in others, but they could go no further. It was a day of confusion and fear. One soldier called it 'a day of sorrow' as he remembered the dead and wounded. For the next 8 months, the campaign was a stalemate. In December, the Anzacs were evacuated. By then, about 8,700 Australians and almost 2,700 New Zealanders had been killed. They were some of at least 130,000 soldiers on both sides who lost their lives at Gallipoli.

From a population of just under 5 million, more than 400,000 Australians enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, and more than 330,000 served overseas. For most this meant Gallipoli, the Middle East, or the war's main theatre: the Western Front in France and Belgium. More than 60,000 Australians lost their lives, a devastating toll for a small country, and the loved ones who were left without them, or caring for the injured. Around the world some 10 million military personnel died in what was then called the Great War. At first, from 1916, Anzac Day became a day for all those Australians who had served in the First World War. It gave people a chance to honour the original Anzacs – the Australians and New Zealanders who fought on Gallipoli.

Two decades after the First World War ended, Australia was plunged into the Second World War. Since then, Australians have contributed to many conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Today, here in Forest Park Epping on Anzac Day 2026, we recognise more than 102,000 Australian service men and women who gave their lives in military operations carried out on behalf of our nation, many more who were injured, and their families and others affected. We remember all who have worn our country's uniform in service. We honour the values that were shown by the original Anzacs – loyalty,

selflessness, courage and service – and the ways in which later generations have measured their own achievements against those of the soldiers who fought on Gallipoli.

LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC Dinner 2026: An Evening of Reflection, Camaraderie and Tribute

This year's ANZAC commemorations were fittingly concluded with a memorable ANZAC Dinner held on the evening of 2 May 2026 at the Epping Club. The event brought members, families, and guests together for an evening marked by reflection, camaraderie, and deep respect for the legacy of the ANZACs.

Although attendance fell short of the numbers originally hoped for, the evening was nevertheless regarded as a great success. Those who gathered shared a warm and meaningful opportunity to honour the spirit, sacrifice, and enduring values that define the ANZAC tradition. The atmosphere was one of fellowship and gratitude, with conversations and connections that reflected the strength of our veteran and local community.

A highlight of the evening was the keynote address delivered by Major Mark Beretta, whose heartfelt reflections on the meaning of ANZAC resonated strongly with all present. Many know Mark from his long career as the sports presenter on Channel 7's Sunrise, as well as his significant involvement with Tour de Cure, where he has helped raise awareness and funds for cancer research across Australia.

Major Beretta's speech added depth, inspiration, and a personal touch to the occasion. His words reminded us that the ANZAC legacy is not confined to history—it lives on in the values of courage, service, mateship, and quiet determination that continue to shape our nation and its people. His address ensured the dinner was not only enjoyable, but also a powerful tribute to those who have served and those who continue to serve.

As the evening drew to a close, the Sub Branch had the honour of presenting Major Beretta with a copy of the Operation CORPORATE (Falklands War) battle map—a gesture of appreciation for his contribution to the night and a symbolic acknowledgement of shared military heritage across generations and nations.

The 2026 ANZAC Dinner stands as a testament to the importance of coming together to remember, reflect, and uphold the legacy entrusted to us. Though smaller in number, the spirit in the room was unmistakably strong - proof that the ANZAC legacy continues to unite and inspire our community. Lest we forget.

A solemn tribute to those who never returned.

ANZAC Dinner Saturday 2nd May 2026



Photos Irene Rowe

Arr. John Curdie

***Epping Little Sprouts* visit the Remembrance Room April 2026**

On April 28th

The Epping Little Sprouts

visited the Remembrance Room and Museum to learn of the life and times of veterans and to lay their own wreath in Remembrance



Assembling in the Foyer of The Epping Club



Meeting at the Remembrance Room



Trying hats on for size



Hearing stories of veteran's memorabilia on display in Museum



Learning the significance of the Cenotaph



Laying their hand made wreath at the Cenotaph