



Newsletter of the Toowong RSL Sub-Branch

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Est. 1919



June 2024

Dear Members,

In 1849, French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr wrote 'the more things change, the more they stay the same'. As you will read, the sub-branch is now in possession of copies of our first DON Rs from March 1947 to March 1953. As I went to write this opening it occurred to me that the Toowong Secretary continually makes the same opening comments:

- Welcome to new members. In 1947, however, membership had soared to 1120 following demobilisation. In 2024, we have 102 Service and Veterans up from 94 last year and 93 in 2022. We are also very happy to have in 2024, 28 social members from the community.
- Congratulations on ANZAC Day. In 1947, 200 to 300 people gathered at the Memorial at 8am. In 2024 we had over 1500 people at 6am. A big thank you goes to Steve Thornton for all the effort that went into coordinating this year's ANZAC Dawn Service and this DON R.
- Thank you for fundraising. In 1947, the Secretary commented that they only raised £8 from ANZAC day badge sales (approx. \$645); compared to \$4719 in 2024. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped our fundraising efforts at the hospitals and at Toowong Village.
- Upcoming Events. In 1947, members

were encouraged to participate in weekly dances, card nights, garden parties, baby contests and the Xmas Tree. In 2024, we have events planned leading up to Christmas, including a Children's Christmas Party on the West Rugby's oval. We do hope that our members embrace the opportunities to meet and socialise with their fellow members.

The more things change, the more they stay the same; but equally like in 1947, the Secretary sees a bright future ahead.

Tim Robb, Secretary

President's Report

On behalf of the sub-branch, I wanted to acknowledge George Hulse OAM for all his hard work on the Amiens Bridge of Friendship which was dedicated in April.



Peter Gow

I thank the sub-branch for their sponsorship of my visit to France to represent us at both the bridge dedication and ANZAC Day in France. Thank you to Dr Lily Zhu for recording the events in France as our photographer.

It was my honour to lay a wreath at Menin Gate, Ypres on behalf of the members.

Thanks to Steve Thornton and Tim Robb for keeping the sub-branch operating during the period that most of the Board was in France and for arranging ANZAC Day 2024 and to James Mackay (MC), Brian Venz (stand-in for me), Chris Mallcott (stand-in for Vince Atley in the office) and Wayne Fowler for their efforts at the Dawn Service.

Thanks also to Tom Coulter for his help with so many board members away. Tom's daughter Leila read a poem of her own creation at the service which is included near the end of this newsletter. Leila's uncle is Major Tim Coulter (Retd) who served 15 years as an Infantry Officer including multiple Afghanistan deployments.

The meetings and significant events conducted by the sub-branch since the last newsletter are:

January	
15 th	Board Meeting
February	
19 th	Board Meeting
March	
17 th	Board Meeting
17 th	AGM at Regatta Hotel
April	
5 th	Stone of Remembrance / Cross of Sacrifice Centenary Commemoration at Toowong Cemetery
15 th	Board Meeting
24 th	Opening of Bridge of Friendship in Amiens, France
25 th	ANZAC Day dawn service
May	
20 th	Board Meeting
June	
17 th	Board Meeting

Peter Gow, President

ANZAC Day Service

The sub-branch conducted its annual service at the Cenotaph with an estimated 1500 people in attendance. Many thanks to QUR for supporting us and providing the catafalque party as well as the work party under direction from CSM WO2 Glenn Swain.

Major Brook Hastie QUR delivered the ANZAC Day Address with Chaplain Major Jessica Grant QUR leading the prayers. Commander Michael Collinson, Naval Adviser NZ High Commission Canberra, read the Ode of Remembrance in both English and Māori.

We were pleased to have the services of bugler Greg Sims, Thomas MacDonnell on the bagpipes and Nick Dubravcic as photographer. Music was provided by St Peters Chamber Chorale from St Peters Lutheran College under direction from Kathryn Morton and accompanied on keyboard by David Mibus. Meg Kiddle sang Danny Boy and the two anthems. Good support once again from the SES (Lucie Ayotte), Indooroopilly Rover Crew and Taringa Milton Toowong Scout Group.

A Gunfire Breakfast was served back at the Wests Rugby Club for members and guests. We are indebted to the new Wests President John Clifford who continued the fine work of Graham Brown in supporting the service and the Wests rugby players who rise early on the day to ensure we are well fed. Thank you.



More photos at end of newsletter

Bridge of Friendship

The Bridge of Friendship between Australia and France, is dedicated to every Australian Army engineer unit involved in World War One.

Amiens France – This bridge was dedicated on 24th April 2024 and is a “twin” bridge to that located in ANZAC Park, Toowong.

These monuments/bridges will serve as a perpetual link between Australia and France in recognition of the outstanding achievements of the members of RAE during WWI in every area in which they served.

Thanks to the hard work of George Hulse and the 1st Field Squadron Association in facilitating both bridges. Thirteen members of the Toowong Sub Branch attended the dedication in France.

The Amiens bridge has on one side of the walkway Australian motifs including the RAE Bursting Bomb with the words “Follow the Sapper” beneath the bomb and a kangaroo in a corner of each of the panels. On the other side, is the heraldic symbol of the French Army engineer accompanied by the Unicorn of Amiens.

On the Australian side of the bridge, on the central panel, are the words in the English language “The Bridge of Friendship between Australia and France, dedicated to every Australian Army engineer unit involved in World War One” and the same words but in the French language on the panel opposite.

The Bridge of Friendship Site



VIP Group (L to R) LTCOL Jean-Marc Sapet, Madame Ingrid Dordain, Monsieur Alain Gest, Monsieur Rollon Mouchel-Blasiot, Minister Matt Keogh MP, HE Gillian Bird PSM, Mr George Hulse OAM, LTGEN Simon Stuart AO DSC.



The Amiens Bridge of Friendship joining the Rue de la Resistance with the Jardin des Plantes.



*Purpose of the bridge (In English and French)
Gates showing the Unicorn and Kangaroo*

The bridge was assembled by a group of seven Sapeurs from the 3rd Regiment du Genie under the control of George Hulse.

The dignitaries who inaugurated the bridge by cutting the opening ribbon include Monsieur Rollon Mouchel-Blasiot (Prefet of the Somme), Monsieur Alain Gest (member French National Assembly) and Minister Matt Keogh MP (Minister for Veterans Affairs).

There was an exchange of National Flags between a student from an Amiens school and a student from St Joseph's (Stanthorpe).

The highlight of the ceremony occurred after the exchange of flags when the first people to cross the bridge were a large contingent of school students from St Joseph's School in Stanthorpe. They were piped across the bridge by a lone bagpiper with each student waving a small Australian flag.

See photographs at end of newsletter.

The bridge was blessed by a priest who led those gathered in prayer to sanctify the work of the military engineer.

Brisbane choir (Chantefique) and the Amiens choir (Diapason) joined in singing the National Anthems.

The reception that followed the bridge dedication was held in a large marquee close to the bridge site on the Botanical Gardens side of the Somme River. Chantefique entertained everyone with French and English songs from WWI. 1st Field Squadron Association awarded Certificates of Appreciation to their French friends and enjoyed the hospitality of the Amiens City Council.

The bridges in Toowong and Amiens France were financed by a combination of an RAE Foundation donation together with a donation from the Toowong Sub Branch and crowd funding by the 1st Field Squadron Association.

Toowong Brisbane - This bridge was dedicated on 11th November 2022 to coincide with the 120th anniversary of the birth of the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers. It is a genuine Bailey military grade pedestrian bridge of 5 bays.



Bridge in ANZAC Park Toowong

Centenary of Stone of Remembrance and Cross of Sacrifice

On 5th April 2024, the Toowong RSL arranged a service to mark the 100th anniversary of the Stone of Remembrance and the Cross of Sacrifice at the Toowong Cemetery.

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley attended the service.

Thanks goes to Tim Robb for coordinating the service and a special acknowledgement to Sarah Harper who completed all the hard work in getting all the background approvals and who facilitated the rejuvenation of the memorials and the garden areas surrounding them.

Darcy Maddock (Friends of Toowong Cemetery) and Peter Collins (Canon Garland Memorial & Stone of Remembrance Centenary Committee) coordinated the event. The Governor General wrote a letter acknowledging the work of the Toowong RSL and SED.

Below is His Excellency Governor General David Hurley, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley and Cr Penny Wolff with members of the sub-branch, QURA and QUR. A larger image showing the Cross of Sacrifice is located at the end of the newsletter along with the letter.



Stone of Remembrance Centenary service in Toowong Cemetery

Corporal William Darby

CPL William Darby was the model for the figure of this soldier on the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney. William landed at Gallipoli on his 43rd birthday on 25th April 1915. He was previously buried in an unmarked grave at Toowong Cemetery. Toowong RSL arranged a headstone for him, and a gravesite dedication service was held on Remembrance Day 2023.



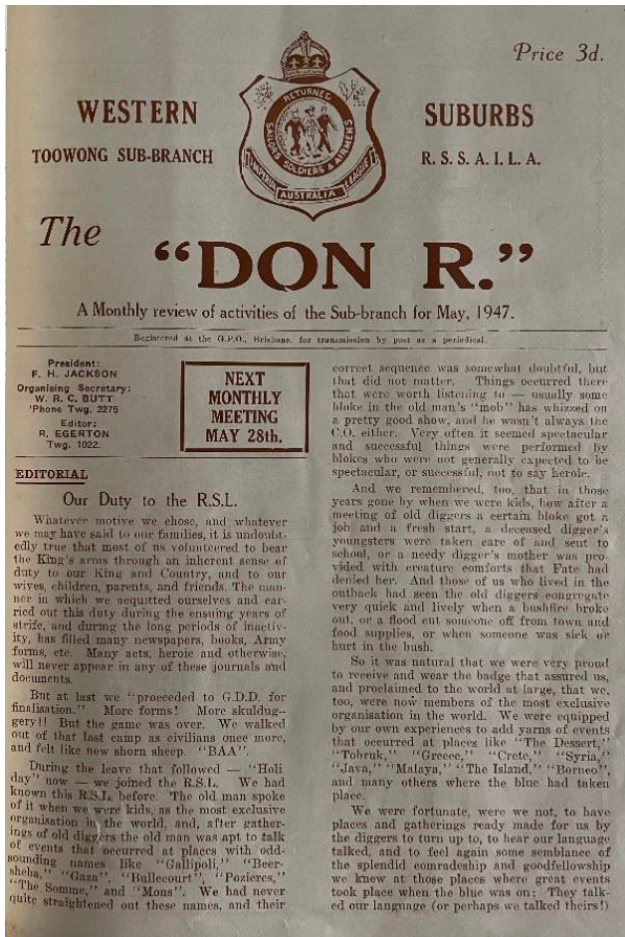
WW1 Memorial at Martin Place in Sydney



Vince Atley, Mark Evans, Tim Robb, His Excellency Governor General David Hurley at new WW1 headstone for CPL William Darby

DON R – March 1947 to Mar 1953

The Toowong RSL was recently donated two bound copies of our original DON Rs by the granddaughter of Sidney (Bom) Stubington. Sidney was an editor of the DON R. Sidney's granddaughter, Clara Greo, currently lives in Brighton, UK and we thank her sincerely.



We will have the monthly newsletters scanned so we can preserve this part of our history. In future DON R editions, we will include snippets from our past including how proud the sub-branch was of their stand at the Exhibition and the ongoing trials and tribulations of our sub-branch in the post war years.

SGT Sidney Stubington served in 1st Garrison Battalion from 1939 to 1944. After leaving the Army he joined Toowong RSL, later becoming Editor from June 1947 of the monthly DON R magazine (that was sold for approx. \$1.00).

Sapper George Hook

While in France in April 2024, the RAE Associations, members of the 1st Field Squadron and members of the Toowong RSL participated in a rededication service on 24th April 2024 for a new headstone for Sapper George Hook. George's headstone was unveiled by LCPL Raeme Brooke from 1 Field Squadron (LCPL Brooke was nominated as the top Sapper in 1 FD SQN in 2023) and she represented the unit at the bridge dedication ceremony as well as the Dawn Service at the Australian Monument to WWI near the township of Villers-Bretonneux.

Sapper Hook was accompanying his officer, 2LT Ralph Hunt, on a reconnaissance patrol along the Somme River on 8 August 1918 near the townships of Cerisy and Chipilly. They were engaged by a German machine gun which seriously wounded Sapper Hook in the legs. LT Hunt, with total disregard for his own life, ran to his soldier's aid, lifted him on to his shoulders and ran with enemy bullets flicking up earth around him. The LT survived but George Hook was hit again by enemy fire. When George was dropped off at a Casualty Clearing Station, he did not have any identification devices with him and when he died of wounds, he was buried in an unknown soldier's grave.

A long search for him ended in 2023 when he was found and identified in the British WWI cemetery in the township of Vignacourt – about a 20-minute drive from Amiens.

The Department of Veterans Affairs financed a headstone rededication service for George on 24th April 2024 and his descendants were invited to attend the service. A large contingent from RAE Associations and the Toowong RSL sub-branch attended.

The band of the RAAF and a Catafalque party were deployed to the unveiling.

It is interesting that 2LT Ralph Hunt was nominated by his OC for the Victoria Cross, but this was downgraded to the Distinguished Service Order by the General Officer Commanding the British 4th Army, General Henry Rawlinson.



George Hulse, BRIG Wayne Budd and Peter Gow at Vignacourt, France

West's Bulldogs Sponsorship

Toowong RSL continues the sponsorship of West's Bulldogs. Former Wallaby, Henry Speight, showcases the sponsorship logo.

Thanks goes to Vince Atley, Keith Lamb and Tim Robb for putting up the Toowong RSL marquees at the West Bulldogs home games.



Toowong RSL sponsored rugby jersey

James Mackay joins the Board

Welcome to James Mackay who joined the Board on the 15th January 2024. As you can see, James will bring a bit of class to the Board. We like the RSL tie!



Peter Gow & James Mackay

Coffee Catchups

Our new initiative last year has been quite successful with good feedback from members. We have conducted these all on a monthly Sunday morning basis at Chatterbox, Level 1 of Toowong Village. These have continued in 2024.

Please come and enjoy a free coffee and get to know some of your fellow Toowong members.



Sub-branch members at Chatterbox

Thank You Photographers

Always behind the scenes and rarely in front of the camera; thanks to Lily Zhu and Nick Dubravcic for all your efforts.



Nick at ANZAC Day

Hospital & Home Visits

Toowong sub-branch continues to develop strong relationships with the Wesley, The Mater and the St Andrews War Memorial Hospital.



Thanks again to all those who have volunteered to visit our members and those from regional Sub Branches when they have been in our local hospitals.

Tash Winters, Vince Atley, Keith Lamb, Peter Gow, Tim Robb, Janelle Voysey, Bernie Voysey, Sarah Harper and Laurie Smith have recently visited RSL members in hospital.

SED have recently supplied update care packs to help those who need emergency toiletries when they are first admitted. If you have some time to have a chat with a member in hospital, please let the Secretary know.

Remember - if you are doing it tough and require assistance, or just need a friendly ear, please get in contact with us as we are not always aware of members' situations.



Tim Robb visiting sub-branch member Gary Bennedick at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Membership

We currently have 102 Service members and 28 non-Service (social) members being a total of 130 members.



Welcome to the following new members:

- Bob McKernan
- James Hartridge
- Justin King
- Martin Drew
- Peter Hallinan
- Troy Doig

Finances

Our 2024 social plan includes the need for fundraising to help reduce the costs to members.



Thank you to all those that assisted with fundraising this year as part of our ANZAC Day appeal. Over \$4700 was raised this year which was down just \$100 on last year.

Special mention goes to Vince Atley who singlehandedly did the fundraising at St Andrews and The Wesley before he went to France and Clare Jenkinson who ran the stand solo on one afternoon just to ensure we sold out of most items. Keith Lamb, Janelle & Bernie Voysey, Denis Lutrell did multiple shifts and Graham Brown, Wayne Carter from Wests Bulldogs did a shift for us given volunteer numbers were down on last year.

Thanks to local businesses such as QSCAN Radiology, Bodytrack, The Regatta Hotel and Milton CrossFit Gym for their fundraising. Thank you to the following members who assisted with fundraising. Apologies for any names missed:

- Vince Atley
- Tess Baker
- Graham Brown
- Wayne Carter
- Garry Collins
- Bruce Davis
- Wayne Fowler
- John Hamilton
- Jum Kidd
- Denis Luttrell
- Mark Plath
- Tim Robb
- Laurie Smith
- Maureen Soter
- Steve Thornton
- Brian Venz
- Janelle Voysey
- Bernie Voysey
- Ross Williamson
- Tash Winters
- Bruce Woodhouse



Claire Jenkinson



Bernie & Janelle Voysey



Tash Winters, Mark Plath & Maureen Souter



Graham Brown & Wayne Carter



Vince Atley's St Andrews Hospital ANZAC Stand

Last Post

John Muirhead passed away in May aged 93. We offer our condolences to Mike and the Muirhead family.



A reminder that the sub-branch will conduct a poppy service for any person who has served in the Australian Defence Force. They do not have to have been a member of the RSL. They are free of charge.

An RSL representative will:

- deliver a eulogy, detailing the veteran's service
- recite *The Ode*
- sound *The Last Post* and *Rouse*
- provide poppies for mourners to place on the coffin in recognition of service.

Unfortunately, we are often advised of the passing of a member by family sometime after the funeral so please make your family aware of the poppy service if it is something you would like to be part of your service.

RSL Queensland Advocates

RSL Queensland employs about 90 paid and some unpaid advocates to support veterans in Queensland and the Northern Territory. The number of paid advocates is increasing as the accreditation requirements increases.

They operate a triage system to support the more urgent cases first. Currently there is a wait of between 30-90 days to get an interview with an advocate. Outside of that, urgent support for homelessness or financial support, etc. is available.

Open Arms provides mental health support for Navy, Army and Air Force personnel, veterans & their families.

They have a 24hr crisis support line as well as free and confidential counselling to partners and children of those who have served. You can call 24/7 on 1800 011 046. More information at www.openarms.gov.au.

Mates 4 Mates supports their members with psychological, physical and social barriers services.

To find out more about joining Mates4Mates, accessing services or supporting our cause, fill out the form or call 1300 4 MATES (62 837) during business hours. More information at www.mates4mates.org.

If you feel the need for an advocate to make an initial contact for advocacy support, contact RSL Queensland in 134 775 and choose option 2 to go through to a staff member. They will interview you and get your details. You will then receive an email to read and agree to the Client Services Agreement.

Once you accept this you will receive a second email to complete your:

- Profile Information,
- Living Conditions, and
- Personal Wellbeing Index

Based on your answers you will get another email with useful links such as Open Arms, Mates for Mates, etc.

We encourage all members who may have current or future needs to consider an early approach as the DVA assessment process can be drawn out. Your Regimental Number and/or PMKeys number will be required so have it handy.

Even better your DVA White Card is useful as this has your DVA reference number even if you have only the basic services on it.

Welfare Assistance

Occasionally we are contacted by other sub-branches and ex-service men and women to assist with advocacy regarding the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and other agencies. In these cases, we can direct them to the appropriate contact within the RSL.



RSL South Eastern District offers free services for veterans & families:

- Wellbeing support, visits & bereavement assistance
- Medical & allied health referrals
- PTSD & mental health support
- Advocacy & research for compensation & welfare
- Career transition assistance

Located at Greenslopes Private Hospital
Tuesday–Thursday | 10am–2pm or by
appointment.

Email: wellbeing@rslsouthqueensland.org
Ph. (07) 3394 7235 www.rslsouthqueensland

There are also professional services like
Australian Veteran Health Services which is
run by Dr Andrew Cronin. 1300 766 206.
Services offered included DVA Claims, ADF
Transition Medicals & Permanent Impairment
Assessments.

DVA Telephone Number

DVA's telephone number is 1800 VETERAN
(1800 838 372) for veterans and their families.

2024-2025 Sub Branch Board

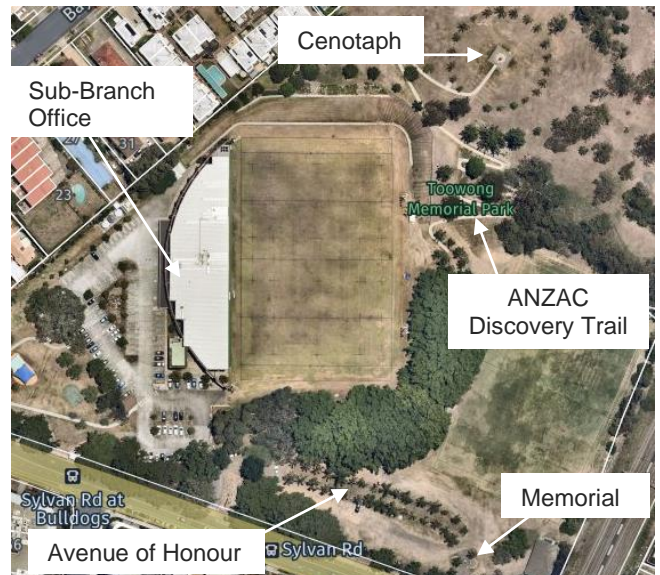
- Peter Gow – President
- Ross Williamson RFD – Deputy President
- Chris Mallcott – Vice President
- Tim Robb – Secretary
- Vince Atley – Treasurer
- James Mackay
- Mike Muirhead
- Dr. Stephen Thornton
- Dr. Lily Zhu

Contact Us

Office: 7/65 Sylvan Road Toowong
Postal: PO Box 1564 Toowong DC 4066
Phone: 0455 655 766
Email secretary@toowong.rslqld.net.au
Website: www.rsltoowong.org

The office is in the Western Districts Rugby
Football Club (Wests Bulldogs) building in
Sylvan Road Toowong.

*Please note the office is only open at certain
times so please contact us to make a time to
meet.*



Toowong Memorial Park

ANZAC Day 2024





LT COL Brian Venz RFD (Retd)



Major Brook Hastie (QR) giving the ANZAC Day Address



OCDT Chris Armstrong (QUR) reading the Prayer of Remembrance





Piper Thomas MacDonnell



Commander Michael Collinson, Royal New Zealand Navy




Commodore Dr Anthony Holley AM, Royal Australian Navy





Indooroopilly State School Captain Leila Coulter reading her ANZAC Day poem

A decorative border of red poppies with black centers, arranged in a vertical line on the left and right sides of the page.

The 25th of April

On the 25th of April, year after year
Is a Nation-wide event, born of no cheer
Our young and willing soldiers, went to war in Gallipoli
Those brave men fought, to keep our country free

They crossed the ocean, thinking they would win
Their jovial spirits dampened, when they missed their kin
Shoulder to shoulder, deep in the trenches
Attacking at dawn, to the toughest defences
“Man the guns, the bombs and machines!”
By sunset each day, many lay in endless dreams

Months went by, they continued to fight
Stories home of great loss, was a terrible fright
Those men gave us freedom, comfort and life
As the news was delivered, to mums, dads and wives

Stalemate was called, in 1915
Our ANZACs were ordered to vacate the scene
After 8 months of battle, effort, and struggle
Away from the foes, our ANZACs were smuggled
Scurry and Lawrence set the drip rifles in place
This genius invention helped them get away safe

Those who came home, minus their mates
Have all left for the stars, where those good friends await
They’re the reason we gather, at dawn every year
Their spirit lives up there, their legacy down here

On the 25th of April, year after year
Is a Nation-wide event where we honour and cheer
Our young and willing soldiers went to war in Gallipoli
They fought in that war for our country that’s free

by Leila Coulter
2024

France Trip





VIP Group (L to R) LTCOL Jean-Marc Sapet, Madame Ingrid Dordain, Monsieur Alain Gest, Monsieur Rollon Mouchel-Blasiot, Minister Matt Keogh MP, HE Gillian Bird PSM, Mr George Hulse OAM, LTGEN Simon Stuart AO DSC.





French and Australian school children shake hands



George Hulse OAM



Lily Zhu & George Hulse OAM



Vince Atley



Peter Gow and Ross Williamson



Peter Gow laying a wreath at Menin Gate, Ypres

Centenary of Stone of Remembrance and Cross of Sacrifice



(L to R) Steve Thornton, Mike Muirhead, Denis Luttrell AO, RFD, ED; Mark Evans AO, DSC; Tim Robb; His Excellency Governor General David Hurley AC, DSC & Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley; Vince Atley, Trevor Luttrell RFD; Ross Williamson RFD.



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Commemorative Ceremony — Centenary of The Stone of Remembrance
Toowong Cemetery, Saturday 20th April 2024**

It is a privilege for me to send you this message on such an historic and significant occasion.

Historic because 100 years ago then Governor-General Lord Forster officiated at the unveiling and dedication of Australia's first national war memorials.

Significant because since then The Stone of Remembrance and The Cross of Sacrifice have provided a place of remembrance for not only our diggers who landed at Anzac Cove but those who served in the Second World War, in Korea, Vietnam, on peacekeeping operations around the world, and more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

That is why you are all here.

And in honouring our service men and women, we recognise the impact of that service on their families.

Many, many times over the years and in varying capacities, I have been asked why memorials and commemorative services are important.

Because they inform who we are and who we aspire to be.

Our nation must never forget the sacrifices made by our service men and women and the contribution they have made to our country.

We remember them and will never forget them.

We also take inspiration from them.

Moreover, in remembering those who have served, we are learning and thinking about who we are as Australians, what we stand for, how we go about life and what our values are.

The actions of our veterans and current serving ADF men and women reflect values we attribute to the Anzac legacy: courage, sacrifice, endurance and mateship.

As a nation, we've seen examples of this legacy in the way we have responded to flood, fire, drought, cyclones and the pandemic.

As I approach my last Anzac Day address as Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief, I want to assure our serving personnel that we respect their service.

They should be proud of the uniform they wear. They are rightful inheritors and protectors of the Anzac legacy. We are proud of them.

Today commemorative ceremony is special for another reason. It is the centenary of the first Anzac service conducted in Australia in the format we know today.

Canon David Garland, an Anglican priest, had witnessed the Anzacs at war in Western Europe. He understood the legacy that they were creating and tried to capture it at that first service here at Toowong Cemetery. Poignantly, that service ended with the familiar words 'Lest we forget.'

I commend all members and supporters of The Stone of Remembrance Centenary Committee, particularly the Friends of Toowong Cemetery, Toowong RSL Sub-Branch and RSL South-Eastern District.

Lest we forget.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that is difficult to decipher but appears to be a personal name.

Get better health
and wellbeing,
your way.



LEARN MORE

RSL **Be:Well**

VETERAN WELLBEING

ONLINE