

# SUB-BRANCH REPORT



The 2017 ANZAC remembrance ceremonies at the Centenary of ANZAC Reserve were again successful with great support from the local community with some 15,000 attending the Dawn Service. The addresses on ANZAC Sunday and the ANZAC Dawn Services were given by Air Vice Marshall (AVM) Greg Evans, DSC AM and Group Captain (GPCAPT) Don Sutherland, respectively. The theme this year was General Sir John Monash with each of the Year 11 ANZAC ambassadors covering an aspect of his life during both the Sunday and Dawn services whilst also laying wreaths on behalf of the youth of our district. AVM Evans expanded on the Monash theme during the ANZAC Sunday sub-Branch lunch which was much appreciated as was GPCAPT Sutherland address at the Dawn Service which also covered the service of the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) and RAAF including the Victoria Cross events of Frank McNamara in WW1 and Rawdon Middleton in WW2.

The sub-Branch continued its participation in the Hills Relay for Life and Homes for Heroes charity events whilst again supporting the NAMBUS team who each year have come into the District to provide an opportunity for local high school students to understand about Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War which is part of their history curriculum.

Captain Jonathan Earley, RAN and Commanding Officer of HMAS *Adelaide*, one of the Navy's two highly capable Landing Helicopter Dock ships was the speaker at the sub-Branch's well attended mid year lunch. He spoke about the Battle of Coral Sea, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of this significant battle in the Defence of Australia during WW2 and also provided an overview of his ship, HMAS *Adelaide*.

Upcoming events include our war widows lunch, Remembrance Day on 11 November, our annual Christmas lunch for sub-Branch members and the creation and distribution of Christmas hampers as our gift of thanks to war widows during the holiday season. We start off the New Year with our long running Australia Day Flag Ceremonies at the Castle Hill Cemetery and Castlebrook Memorial Park.

Of note, the sub-Branch has a number of members deployed on operations this year with the Australian Defence Force. We have formalised the process of supporting them and their families whilst they are deployed including the provision of care packages and have received some very positive response to our support so far.

Next year is a significant one as commemorations for the Centenary of World War 1 come to an end including a number of significant battles and 100

years since Armistice Day. Also NSW hosts Invictus Games 2018 with the sub-Branch providing financial support and hopefully the Hills District being involved in supporting the overall event.

Our sub-Branch volunteers continue to provide consideration time and effort on numerous fronts for the welfare of the veteran community. This is the unsung work of the sub-Branch and I commend all those who selflessly give of their time for this most important endeavour.

“Lest We Forget”

**Brigadier Phillip Bridie, AM**

PRESIDENT,  
CASTLE HILL & DISTRICT RSL  
SUB-BRANCH