

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited

E-Newsletter May 2022



Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre, NSW. Photographer: Victoria Dawson

Welcome to the May issue of the TPI NSW E-Newsletter

Our e-newsletter header image shows the Cowra Japanese Garden. The Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre opened in 1979, to recognise the special relationship between the people of Cowra and the people of Japan. Cowra was the site of a major POW camp during WWII. At about 2:00 am on 5 August 1944, around 900 Japanese

POWs armed with knives, baseball bats and other improvised weapons attempted to destroy or scale fences surrounding the prison camp. About 400 Japanese POWs escaped from the camp. A hunt for the Japanese escapees ensued, during which 234 of the escapees were either killed by Australian soldiers or died by suicide. The remaining escapees

were recaptured. Four Australian soldiers also died during this episode, known as the Cowra Breakout.

The Japanese POWs who died in the breakout were buried at a site adjacent to an Australian war cemetery in Cowra. Later, all Japanese WWII graves in Australia were transferred to this site.

In 1977, Japanese Garden designer Ken Nakajima was commissioned to design a commemorative garden for a site near Cowra's Japanese and Australian war cemeteries. Opened in 1979, the Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre is an enduring symbol of peace and goodwill between Australia and Japan. At five

hectares, the garden is the largest Japanese garden in the Southern hemisphere.

We hope this e-newsletter will not be just one-way communication and that you will share your ideas and experiences with other TPI NSW Association members. If you have information that you would like to share please email: editor@tpinsw.org.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Victoria Dawson

Editor, TPI NSW Association

Email: editor@tpinsw.org.au

How to Promote Your Wartime Memorabilia

Penshurst sub-branch launched its entire collection of wartime memorabilia online on 11 November 2020 to mark Remembrance Day. On that same day, the local paper published a prominent article on the launch and provided the public with the digital link to the new site.

How Was it Done?

Our sub-branch committee authorised our Curator, Sean Mc Manus, to work with retired Council librarian, Julie FitzSimons, to begin work on the project during the Covid lockdown. This work entailed producing a detailed catalogue of all of the 143 objects in the collection. Each object was cleaned, photographed in a light box, and a detailed record made. Each photo was then sent for adjustment to Jessica Lee, who then uploaded each photo with details onto a special resting site.

Photo and catalogue work proceeded over several weeks and was tested prior to loading onto the final site on Remembrance Day.

What is eHIVE?

eHive (<https://info.ehive.com/>) is a digital site repository for over 600,000 collection items worldwide. It is a web-based cataloguing system used by museums, art galleries and private collectors to catalogue and share their collections with the public around the world. There is a small



Stan Pickering's wallet with bullet hole

annual cost involved to store and display your collection.

Benefits

By providing a digital catalogue of its collection, Penshurst has made it possible for students, relatives, researchers and RSL members to view the collection in their own time. Importantly, during the time of the Covid virus restrictions, students and others, can safely view the collection from the privacy of their own homes. Making the collection available on eHive benefits the Penshurst sub-branch as it makes its collection available to a potential worldwide audience. Finally, the collection is now safely preserved in a digital format for all time.

One of the Treasures

The catalogue contains photos and information on 143 objects from WWI and WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan. A feature of the collection is a leather wallet with a bullet hole. It belonged to a local named Stan Pickering from Oatley. He enlisted in the 1st AIF in August 1916 aged 21 and departed on HMAT SS Port Nicholson. Whilst in Melbourne Port, he threw a bottle overboard with a message for his mother. Amazingly, the bottle was recovered by a resident in Western Australia who returned it to the Pickering family in June 1917.

Stan joined the 1st Battalion (22nd reinforcements) and was reported wounded and then missing in action at Passchendaele in October 1917. A Lieutenant Dunningham, who met Stan on the voyage over to France, posted Stan's personal effects home including the wallet.

How to Access the Collection on eHive

Penshurst is proud to be able to share the story of Stan Pickering and his wallet (and bible) along with other precious collection items belonging to those who served Australia.

The collection can be viewed from the Penshurst Sub-Branch web site at:

www.penshurstsubbranch.org.au

or

<https://eHive.com/collections/200753/penshurst-rsl-sub-branch>

For more information on this project and to find more about eHive, please contact Julie Fitzsimons and Jessica Lee at penshurstarchives@gmail.com

John Hoban

TPI NSW Director



World War II cigarette lighter produced by the Australian Red Cross Society, image provided to eHive by Penshurst RSL Sub-Branch

Letters to the Editor

HMAS Hobart Association (NSW Section)

President: Bill Ross (02) 9834 3225

Hon. Sec: John Withers, OAM

Friday 25th March 2022

Ms Victoria Dawson
Editor *Salute* Magazine

Dear Ms Dawson

I am the Secretary (along with other duties of *The Buzz*, the bi-monthly newsletter of the HMAS Hobart Association (NSW Section) which is circulated to currently approx. 300 members all around Australia. This has been printed for members since June 1976, and has always come under the umbrella of the Secretary's responsibilities. *The Buzz* usually is 12 x A5 pages but since Covid, I have dropped back to 8 x A5 as we were not able to hold meetings.

I have been forwarded a couple of editions of your *Salute* magazine, by one of your members. I enjoy reading it. The autumn edition has a WWII painting and short story on HMAS Hobart 1 during the Battle of the Coral Sea.

I include an appropriate poem each April edition and have five or six that have been rotated for many years. It is time for some newer contributions.

I am seeking your permission to use in the April (ANZAC) edition of *The Buzz*, the poem "The Marchers" by Vic Jefferies on page 33 of the autumn edition of *Salute*. If granted, acknowledgements to Mr Jefferies and *Salute* would be accorded.
Yours faithfully

John Withers, OAM
Hon Secretary/Treasurer
HMAS HOBART Assoc (NSW Section)
ddghobart39@tpg.com.au

The following message was received from Chris Edge via the TPI NSW website:

Thursday 24 March 2022

I have just purchased a 2022 Kia Sportage from a local KIA dealer. I managed to save just on \$9,000 off the retail price by not paying GST, stamp duty and registration costs. I was also to take advantage of the KIA national fleet discount which was negotiated through the TPI Association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Association for their efforts in negotiating this discount with KIA.

Cheers
Chris Edge



Blacktown & Districts TPI Social & Welfare Club's February BBQ with the colour theme red.

Invitation: Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPIs) & Special Rate (SR) Veterans

The Blacktown & District TPI Social & Welfare Club's members invite TPIs/Special Rate (SR) to come and experience our club.

The club meets at 1:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Club Blacktown (formally the RSL club).

This invitation stands for our general meetings.

Prior to the monthly general meetings, members and wives/carers meet in the Villaggio restaurant to socialise (about 11:45am). Meetings are held in a room set aside on the day. Post-meeting members are treated to cold or hot drinks and more socialising in the Villaggio restaurant.

If attending a meeting contact Ian Brady

ibrady@bigpond.net.au to arrange a member to meet & greet you or just walk in.

The club is the most active TPI Social & Welfare Club in the state, with a different activity each month which could be a meet at a point of interest/event or a day coach trip.

- Social events are subsidised.
- Longer 3-day country tours are also conducted once per year.
- The purpose of this invitation is to encourage TPIs to join our club and participate and socialize.
- You are encouraged to join the TPI Association of NSW to give it strength in numbers when dealing with government.

Victory in Europe Day 8 May

Victory in Europe (VE) Day marks Germany's surrender in World War II after almost 6 years of conflict. It's a significant date for us to remember and reflect on the important role of many Australians across the European theatre of war.

Australian aircrew, who had flown more than 500 allied prisoners of war liberated from German camps back to England that day, belatedly celebrate the victory in Europe in their station mess. (AWM UK2852)

Victory in Europe Day – or 'VE Day' – signalled the end of almost six years of terrible fighting between the Allies and Nazi Germany on 8 May 1945.

The signing of an unconditional surrender by the German High Command took place on 7 May 1945. The surrender took effect from midnight on 8 to 9 May. The Allies proclaimed 8 May as Victory in Europe Day. It brought an end to

the war against Germany and its European allies.

Most Australians read the news in their local newspapers, such as "[Germany Capitulates: Unconditional Surrender](#)".

Australians serving overseas celebrated the victory, as did their loved ones back home. However, the celebrations as a whole were dampened by the knowledge that the war in the Pacific was still to be won.

In Australia, churches held thanksgiving services. On 9 May in Melbourne, 100,000 people attended the service at the Shrine of Remembrance. In Canberra that same day, the editorial writer of *The Canberra Times* wrote that the floodlights over the Australian War Memorial stood:

"In bright relief against the darkness which is now passing from Europe, and soon from the entire world." (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2626721>)



Crews of RAAF No 463 and No 467 (Lancaster) Squadrons who throughout the day had flown more than 500 liberated prisoners of war from German camps back to England, celebrate a belated VE Day in their station mess at RAF Station Waddington, Lincolnshire, in May 1945. AWM UK2852

The war in the Pacific continued until the Japanese surrendered in August of 1945.

(From the Anzac Portal: <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/commemoration/days-commemoration-australia/victory-in-europe#0>)

DVA Media Releases

Australians Gather Around the World to Commemorate Anzac Day

25 April 2022

Thousands have gathered in Australia and around the world to commemorate Anzac Day and pay tribute to those who have served this nation in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

This year marked the return of international

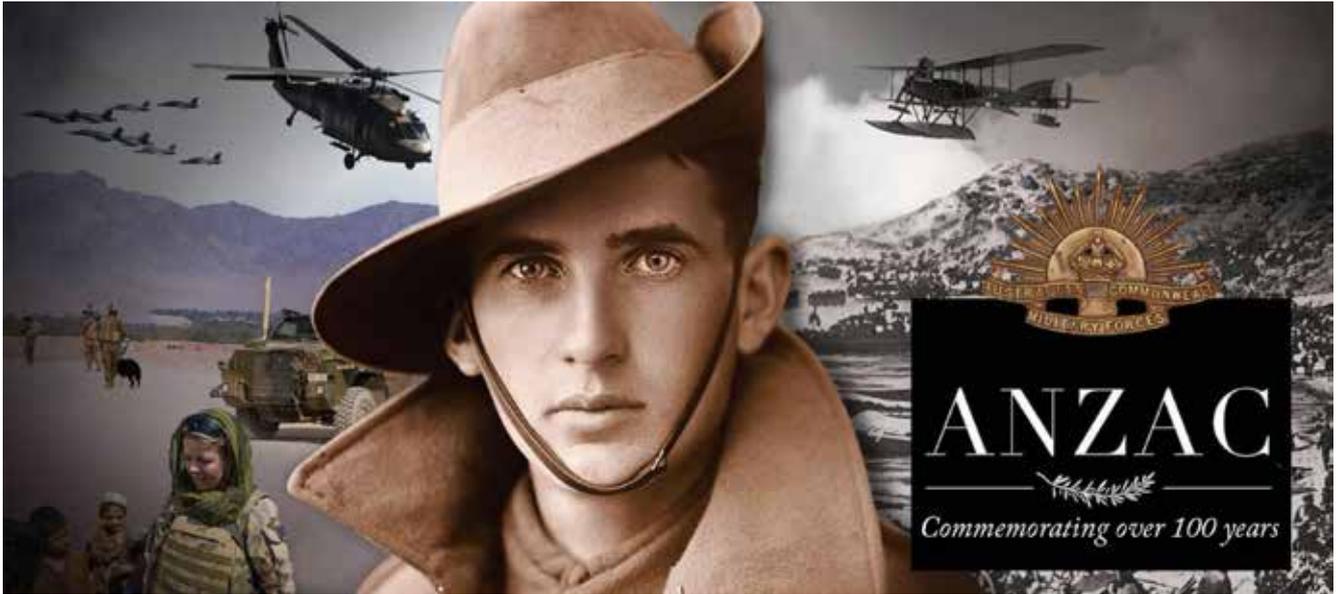
public commemorations for the first time since 2019, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions.

Anzac Day services have been held in Australia since 1916, with the day formally gazetted as a day of commemoration in every state and territory during the 1920s.

Anzac Day pilgrimages to places of significance to Australians who have served is also a long-held tradition, with services held on Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, as early as 1923.

Estimated attendance at Anzac Day domestic and overseas commemorative services

Australian War Memorial Anzac Day Dawn Service, ACT, Australia	18,200 people
Anzac Day Dawn Service, Gallipoli, Turkey	563 people
Lone Pine Service, Gallipoli, Turkey	187 people
Anzac Day Dawn Service, Villers-Bretonneux, France	665 people
Anzac Day Service, Hellfire Pass, Thailand	450 people
Anzac Day Service, Sandakan, Malaysia	85 people *Unfortunately the Service was not open for public attendance this year in accordance with local COVID restrictions
Anzac Day Service, Port Moresby (Bomana War Cemetery), Papua New Guinea	2,000 people



Honouring the Service and Sacrifice of Those Who Defend Our Nation

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Federal Member for Calare

24 April 2022

Tomorrow, on Anzac Day, our nation will pause to thank all current and former men and women of our Defence force, and to remember the sacrifice of all those Australians who have given their lives in the service of our nation.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee encouraged all Australians to take time out to reflect on our national day of commemoration.

"Anzac Day is sacred to Australians, as a time when we honour our nation's defence personnel who have served across all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations," Minister Gee said.

"We must never forget the more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives for our

nation, and all those who have been physically and emotionally wounded, as well as their families.

"It is a day to acknowledge and commemorate the enormous contribution that all of these brave and dedicated Australians have made.

"Through their service, courage and commitment, they have ensured Australia remains a free and democratic nation. For that we are eternally grateful.

"The men and women who've served our nation through the generations have never asked for much in return. In the end it comes down to one thing – that we never forget what they have done for us.

"That sacred duty of remembrance currently rests with our generation, and it is a commitment that we will in turn pass onto the next.

"There are many ways to mark Anzac Day, and it is very heartening to see local services returning this year now that COVID restrictions have eased. It will be the first Anzac Day since 2019 that many veterans and families can again come together with their communities for commemorations.

"This year also sees the return of overseas services, including at Gallipoli and Villers-Bretonneux.

"No matter how you mark Anzac Day this year -

at a Dawn service, at your own home, at your local RSL, or watching the national service on television - I encourage all Australians to pause and reflect on all those who have served, and those who continue to serve.

"As a grateful nation, we do this, for what they have done and all they have given for us.

"Anzac Day can be a challenging time for veterans and for the families of those who have served, so I would also encourage Australians to reach out to the veterans and their families in your community to ensure they have the support they need."

Anyone needing support at this time should reach out to Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling on 1800 011 046, or visit the website at openarms.gov.au

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Minister Gee's office: 0459 966 944

DVA Media: 02 6289 6466

Office of the Hon. Andrew Gee, Canberra ACT.

For more information on the meaning of Anzac Day, visit the Department of Veterans' Affairs Anzac Portal.

More information on international Anzac Day services can be found on the Department of Veterans' Affairs website.

For information on the national services at the Australian War Memorial, visit the AWM website.

Contact and Feedback

We value your feedback!

If you have any feedback on what we are doing, please contact us through the following channels:

By Post:

TPI Association of NSW

Level 4, 55 York Street,

Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 4429, Sydney, NSW 2001

Email: editor@tpinsw.org.au

Phone: (02) 9235 1466

Free Call: 1800 649 216

Website: www.tpinsw.org.au

(A new website is currently under construction and will be available soon.)

Affiliated with The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women Limited.

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Our mission is to ensure the welfare of all members and their recognised carers