

CLUB CHAT



NEW SOUTH WALES MASONIC CLUB

CLUB CHAT - ISSUE 27

MAY 2020

As we navigate our way with positivity through the coming months, our focus remains on where we can add the most value for our members, while strengthening our operations for the future. Staying connected with members is always a priority, and we will continue to do this through a regular Club Chat, with an update from the General Manager in between issues. Our website is constantly updated, and members are encouraged to visit it for further information at any time. We won't be producing a magazine in April, but, we are planning a bumper October Magazine and Annual Report.

HONOURING THE FALLEN

On ANZAC Day, we remember all the men and women who have served, or continue to serve, our nation as members of the Australian Defence Forces, in particular those who never returned.

In our Club, we also pay a special tribute to those 895 Brethren members who served in one or both World Wars and who have their names recorded in the Honour Roll which rests atop of our War Memorial.

This year, ANZAC Day will be very strange to us indeed, no Dawn Service, no marching bands and march participants and no crowds to say 'thank you' and to wish the service personnel well.

However, whilst we are unable to gather and share the 'Spirit of ANZAC' in the usual manner, our fallen comrades are not forgotten, and a wreath to mark this special occasion was laid on our memorial by the General Manager, Mr Paul Brasch.

In doing so, we remember our Brethren and comrades, who in all theatres of war and war-like operations, laid down their lives for Australia, its way of life and the freedom of choice that we enjoy today.

Despite COVID-19, I feel some pride knowing that our Club has in some small but significant way 'Honoured the Fallen' and those who served.

LEST WE FORGET

Robert Eaglesham
Club Vice President



ANZAC DAY - STAND AT DAWN

This ANZAC Day, the state and territory RSL branches joined other groups in asking Australians to unite in recognising all armed services personnel by standing on their driveways at 6.00am for a combined dawn service.

Whether it was with a candle or lantern, or the light of a phone, "Stand at Dawn" was a thoughtful way for the community to honour our servicemen and women amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with the qualities of the ANZAC spirit of courage, endurance, humour, ingenuity and mateship particularly applicable for Australians in this time of crisis.

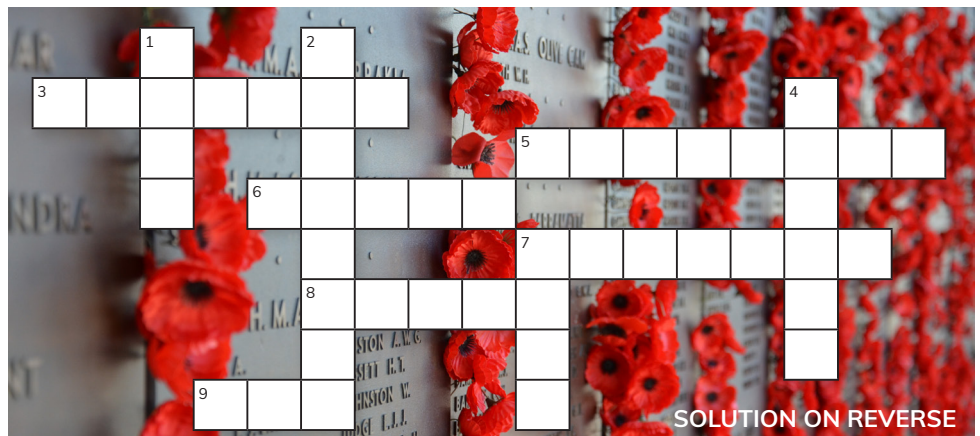
ANZAC CROSSWORD

Across

3. Someone who fights when there is a war
5. Relating to the armed forces
6. A period free from war or violence
7. A day for celebration when many people stay home from work or school
8. To show no fear in times of danger
9. Fighting between two or more countries

Down

1. A piece of cloth with a special colour and pattern used to represent a country
2. To keep something in your memory
4. A large number of people marching, walking or riding in vehicles, usually as part of a celebration
7. A person who performs bravely in battle



SOLUTION ON REVERSE

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MEMBERS' MATTERS

ENSURING MEMBERSHIP VALUE DUE TO COVID-19

Membership at the Club comes with many benefits and rewards for all our important members and guests. Our desire is to provide them with a charming and welcoming venue for relaxation, dining and entertainment in one of Sydney's top CBD locations. However, while the Club is closed, we are not able to offer the usual membership value. The Board is currently considering a plan to reduce member fees for 2021 to reflect the 2020 closure period, along with a rebate of fees for those who have paid 3 or 5 years in advance.

We will advise you of the outcome once it has been decided. In the meantime, please be aware that if you are holding Birthday Vouchers due to expire while we are closed, they will be extended to ensure you have time to redeem them.

WORKING WONDERS

DURING CLUB CLOSURE

There is no time like the present when it comes to getting all-hands on deck for maintenance and improvements throughout the Club. During March and April, our team has been able to



undertake a range of projects without the usual noise disruption to members and guests.

Small painting projects have been completed in the lifts, in the conference room on Level 3, and in the Boardroom. Repairs have been completed in the top-level fire escapes, and work is soon to start on the street awning and the kitchen ceiling (Stage 3 of the kitchen improvement program). The cooling tower louvres have been replaced, and cabling has been laid for Café Reagh for its point of sale, phone system and CCTV.

Our team will continue to work wonders with our building improvements in the weeks and months ahead.



HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

HOTEL ROOM MAKE-OVER

Trips to the hairdresser may be on the way out, but room make-overs are in! The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel has fully renovated four prototype rooms in recent years, and is now in the process of creating a major transformation of Room 904. Products and materials for the project are being sourced, from carpets to cabinetry, to bring new life to this room next month. The "Mood Board" above provides a sneak peak of what we have in store.

We are looking forward to sharing photos of the completed room very soon! We hope to roll out this mini-makeover to a number of rooms in the near future.






FACE TO FACE

RECONVENING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

We are strongly convinced that the physical meetings and events business will bounce back at the Club, although how soon and when, remains the question.

Getting back to normal will take some time, however the importance of human interaction has now been illustrated to us. Yes, we can survive without human interaction but it's difficult. Seeing someone for a 10 minute walk at 1.5 metres distance, has the power to recharge your battery. You get that same recharge when you see friends and colleagues and interact face to face – you don't feel that in a Zoom meeting!

Enjoy this small collection of event photos. We look forward to seeing our function rooms filled with people again soon!

Visit www.thecastlereagh.com.au for inspiration for future events.







