



## Merewether Historical Society

*"A society aimed at recording memories of the past for the benefit of the next generation."*

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# The Chronicle

May 2024

**Meetings:** Next meeting will be at the Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St, on **Tuesday**, 10.30 for a 10.45 start. Hope to see you all there.



**Guest Speaker:** Samuel North

**Birthdays in May** Many happy returns to and any others for whom I do not have the date. Flower and Birthstone are the sweet pea and diamond.



### Easter Raffle:



1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Hinchliffe  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Arnott  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jan Graham

**Stroud Bus Trip:** 32 Passengers had a lovely day out on 19 March and sincere thanks go to those who contributed to what was a feast for morning tea.

There are 8 grain silos which were built by the Australian Agricultural Company in 1841. One in which you can look into. There are two 260 pound cannons on the hill which were built in England and originally used in the defence of Sydney Harbour during the Crimean War and then Fort Scratchley. They were obsolete in 1909 and were brought to Booral via the Karuah River and then to Stroud by a bullock team.

**Merewether Anzac Day Service:** The Merewether-Hamilton-Adamstown RSL Sub-Branch is holding its annual Commemoration Service at the Mitchell Park Memorial Gates commencing at 7.00am Thursday 25 April, and concluding approximately 8.00am. The MHS will have representatives there and will be laying a tribute. All are welcome to what is always a very moving service.

**May 21 Bus Trip:** Murrays Brewery then lunch at Salt Water Fingal Bay

**Anzac Day** [bayfields.com.au/blog/anzac-day/](http://bayfields.com.au/blog/anzac-day/)



Each year on 25 April, Australians and New Zealanders around the world reflect and remember those brave souls that went before us. From the moving dawn service celebrated at monuments around the country to the solitary and sorrowful sounds of the trumpet's "Last Post", no other day sums up the spirit of our two great lands than Anzac Day!

### Anzac – Over 100 Years Of Celebrating The Legend

Most people are aware that the ANZAC acronym stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. A term given to our brave soldiers who landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula on April 25, 1915, known today as Anzac Cove. Other countries including the Cook Islands, Tonga and Samoa, as well as small villages in France and England also celebrate the day because of their own involvements in the Gallipoli campaign.

### The Spirit Of The Anzac

The concept behind a "spirit" of the Anzac legend

lends itself to the idea that Australians and their Trans-Tasman cousins shared similar characteristics at the time they were soldiers together. Courage, good humour, endurance, mateship and appreciation of one's inner larrikin were all considered qualities typical of the Anzac spirit.

### Why Diggers?

The term 'digger' was a slang term coined to describe miners and gum-diggers in both Australia and New Zealand prior to the First World War. By 1917 the name Digger was used to describe the cultural stereotype of the Aussie and Kiwi soldier in the First World War.

### Anzac's – Boys, Soldiers, Volunteers

Over 11,000 Anzacs lost their lives during the battles at Gallipoli over the 8 months the campaign lasted, and a further 23,500 were seriously injured and maimed. **But did you know just about every Anzac soldier was a volunteer?**

Unlike later wars, conscription did not exist. Boys and men from all over the country travelled far and wide to sign up, believing it gallant, heroic and one's duty to enlist.

### A Fighting Spirit

While the battle itself was a crushing blow, the Australian and New Zealand soldiers displayed relentless courage and spirit, even despite the most horrible of circumstances. This is how the Anzac legend was born.

### Slouch Hat

The distinctive Australian slouch hat, often referred to as an Australian "bush hat" or by others as a "digger hat" was designed with **one side pinned with a Rising Sun Badge in order to allow a rifle to be slung over the shoulder.**

### Anzac Bickies

Wives, mothers and sisters of Anzac soldiers made Anzac biscuits for their loved ones to take with them because they were considered 'healthy' options for transit. And as they didn't include ingredients such as milk and egg, they didn't spoil and held a rather long shelf life.

### When Was Anzac Day First Commemorated

In Australia and New Zealand the anniversary was marked in 1921 with a public holiday, however not every state in Australia observed the date until 1927. By the mid 1930's the dawn service, Anzac marches and two-up had become firm fixtures of the day.

### Come In Spinner

Two-up is ordinarily an illegal coin game on 364 days of the year, however the one day it is completely legal to play is 25 April to mark a shared experience with the Diggers through the ages. Two coins (traditionally pennies) are thrown into the air and players bet on whether the coins will fall with both heads up (obverse), both tails up (reverse), or with one coin a head and one a tail (known as "Ewan").

### Rosemary For Remembrance

Rosemary has long played a part in Anzac Day ceremonies, pinned to the lapels and collars of servicemen, civilians and school children alike. It is significant to Anzac Day as it can be found growing wild all over the Gallipoli peninsula where our troops fought.



### LEST WE FORGET!

**Point to Ponder:** "And remember; we all stumble, every one of us. That's why it's a comfort to go hand in hand." E K Brough

### 2023/24 Committee:

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