

## ANZAC Day 2014 Victoria

Anzac Day is the day Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations are remembered. We, as South Africans and in particular SAMVOA Veterans, join together to remember them and the many South Africans who fought alongside their Ozzie mates who also perished. Human qualities of courage, mate-ship and sacrifice continue to have meaning and relevance.

Our two parades commemorating ANZAC Day in Victoria were most successful owing to fine weather on the days and the high attendance by our SAMVOA Veterans.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2014 a wreath was laid as part of the Waverley RSL commemoration at the Cenotaph in Glen Waverley. The day commenced with a march from the RSL to the Cenotaph in Glen Waverley led by the Hawthorn City Pipe Band. It was particularly pleasing to have Veteran Cliffy Everton, our WWII Veteran participate as one of 12 SAMVOA Veterans.



The key note address was delivered by Ms. Sarah Barker who in 1989 became the Norm Smith Scholarship awardee. We look forward to the day when Jaco van der Spuy and Theone van der Merwe, two of our Veterans children are asked to be the key note speaker.



Following the service we returned to the RSL for the traditional bangers and mash and coffee, and for some, a mix of coffee and rum. During this time we had the chance to share some of our stories with family and friends and in particular Rita Roos who was visiting her son Paul from South Africa. This was Rita's first visit to Australia. Once again it was an enjoyable morning at the Glen Waverley RSL.

On ANZAC Day, Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2014, the day started early for some of us braving the cold to attend the Dawn Service. This is always a special way to start the day and today was no exception. It was reported that those attending exceeded

40,000 in number. Standing in silence sets a sombre tone while respect is paid to a Grand Father, a Father or other family member or friend who paid the supreme sacrifice during conflicts past.

At the conclusion of the service we wandered down to the area the traditional gunfire breakfast is served. Unfortunately this year the scrambled eggs were missing and we had to be content with a sausage in a slice of bread. Followed with a coffee or tea and the well known ANZAC biscuit, any disappointment to the missing eggs was soon forgotten. The Australian Catering Corp does them proud, never knowing how many would be joining the queue for food.

The official parade commenced at 09h00 and we grouped together on St Kilda Road to watch and applaud those participating whilst we waited for our turn to step off as part of the Commonwealth Forces.

This year the SAMVOA Veterans stepped off at 12h10. An impressive 32 of us marching, knowing WWII Veteran Cliffie Everton, accompanied by daughter Sandra was following in a Ford Mustang. Cliffie complained to me afterwards, he would rather have travelled in a military jeep, they never had Mustangs when he was serving and he did not want to start now. We had a laugh.



As usual the Veterans were in step, smart and one comment heard from onlookers was that we should be used to set the example to the other associations of how to march.

After reaching the Shrine a group photo was taken and we proceeded to Bells Hotel for lunch and a couple of beers. Helping us to swell our ranks, our thanks to

Stephen Clark who persuaded his father in law, Mike Rushworth to fly from Tasmania and participate in this Year's ANZAC Day commemoration. Mike and Stephen you are always welcome on our shores. Our two attractive Heritage members Kirsten

Macquet and Caitlyn Black added the female touch. Joining up with our Rhodesian cousins a total of 65 friends and partners relaxed and became merry as the afternoon drew to a close.



The Following Veterans received the SAMVOA Medal for participating in their first ANZAC Day March: Gary Coetzee, At Du Plooy, Richard Goodwin, George Paouros, Kevin Rother and Grant Seiderer.

5 Year Bar: Karl Brown, Cliff Styles, Gerald van de Weg, Jacques van Niekerk, Michael Weber.

10 Year Bar: Michael Black, Cliff Everton, Michael Lord, Tony Macquet, Max Newman, Walter Skilton, Derick Smith.

Thank you to all who participated in the 2014 commemoration. With 2015 marking 100 years since WWII, an even bigger event is planned. I look forward to a growing number of Veterans be present next year.

Mike Black