

# **BASS & FLINDERS NEWS** April 2020

*Newsletter of South Cronulla Bowling & Recreation Club Ltd.*



Your club is using this special edition of the newsletter to recognize the importance of ANZAC Day 2020, and the sacrifices made by serving Australians, past and present, to make Australia a better place. The Corona virus-induced club closure will not deter us from symbolically recognizing this important event and looking towards better times. The Board, the Ladies' and Mens' club presidents and committees send their best wishes on this important occasion.

In recognition of ANZAC Day the club is arranging for the Australian flag to be flown at half-mast at the club throughout the day. Acknowledgement of the day is to be posted on our website. This newsletter also marks the occasion.

We inform club members that the RSL is supporting an initiative called "Light up the dawn". On Anzac Day this year at 5:50am all over Australia and New Zealand, people will be going to the end of their driveway with a candle in hand and may listen to a brief commemorative service just like a normal Anzac Day. From 5:30am the ABC radio will be broadcasting a live service from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. There will also be a 10am service from the "Anzac Memorial" in Sydney that will be broadcast on ABC and streamed live.

Thanks to club member, and former serviceman, George McLean, and in keeping with the tradition of relating a story behind highly decorated Servicemen, we relate below the story of the RAN's Highest decorated sailor.

## **Lest We Forget.**

Garry Smith  
Chairman



### The highest-decorated Australian naval sailor

Ian Desmond Laurie-Rhodes enlisted in the RANVR using the name of Rhodes in September 1940. He had previously tried to enlist but was rejected on medical grounds and used the name Rhodes as a successful subterfuge. He was sent to England under the Yachtsman's Scheme and as an Ordinary Seaman was posted to the destroyer HMS Kashmir which shortly sailed for the Mediterranean and was involved in the Battle of Crete. On 23 May 1941 Kashmir together with her sisters Kelly and Kipling came under sustained air attack in which both Kashmir and Kelly (Captain Lord Louis Mountbatten) were sunk.

Rhodes was stationed at the Port Oerlikon which was going under water when he saw his ship being again strafed by a JU 87. He climbed to the Starboard Oerlikon and opened fire on the approaching aircraft hitting and destroying it. For his courageous and selfless action Rhodes was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal which, the Australian War Memorial lists as the highest decoration awarded to an Australian naval sailor. He was later commissioned and served in HMAS Shropshire, and was serving ashore at Port Moresby when the war ended.

