

# DS

Anzac Day 2020



**Newsletter  
of the  
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## Anzac Day 2020

From the President

Anzac Day is an important day of commemoration for all Australians. This is especially the case for all those who served, and for those with family members and friends who served. Anzac Day also provides an opportunity for us to reflect on our shared service and our own contribution to Australia's security. The current COVID-19 circumstances will inevitably dictate that the way in which we observe the occasion this year will be different to what we have done in the past. Nevertheless, Anzac Day remains the occasion, and provides the focus for commemoration at a time of great uncertainties.

A joint Anzac Day communication from the Chief of Air Force and Warrant Officer of the Air Force is attached. It is also posted on the RAAF Staff College Association website. In their message, Air Marshal Hupfeld and Warrant Officer Grasby outline how they will be marking Anzac Day in 2020. For my own part, I will be on my balcony at dawn, with my Australian flag appropriately raised, tuning into the broadcast of the Dawn Service from the Australian War Memorial. It won't be the same as being there, in the forecourt of the War Memorial, but I suspect it will be cold enough outside for it to feel very similar! If conditions permit, I'll take a photo, (or delegate that role to my personal photographer) and post it on our website. Feel free to send me any photos of your Anzac Day that you wish to have included on the website. My email address is [ian.m.pearson@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.m.pearson@bigpond.com)

I want to take this opportunity to reiterate a couple of issues raised in the last edition of DS. News reports indicate a sharp increase in the incidence of scam emails and SMS messages. Having received such email, I know how confronting the messages can be. Please exercise great care with these messages and do not be intimidated by them. Please also consider reporting these scams to appropriate authorities, such as the Australian Cyber Security Centre and the ACCC's Scamwatch. Your reporting can assist these agencies trace those who seek to intimidate and defraud us.

The second follow-up concerns our ongoing physical (but NOT social) isolation from each other. Again, I encourage you to use all the means that current technology provides to ensure that you retain contact with family and friends. Skype seems to be the universal platform for such contact, but those with Apple devices can use FaceTime and Facebook Messenger. Each of these platforms allow contact between a number of devices, so they are good for a chat between two parties, or a bigger group. Importantly, the software is free. The cost of using them will depend on your internet account, but if you are already paying for unlimited internet you might find that using these platforms is much cheaper than a phone call, with the added advantage that multiple parties can communicate with each other.

If you are really ambitious in terms of connecting with many parties – for example for a morning coffee chat, or for sundowners - consider using Zoom. Again, it's a free download either on your phone, tablet or desktop, and its use is free for only two users at a time, or multiple users up to forty minutes – at which time you can take a break and resume the conversation. Zoom offers a number of enhancements useful for larger meetings, including the ability to change the background to a shot of your favourite holiday destination, and the ability for us to smooth out our wrinkles! The downside is that there are well documented security considerations, as indeed there are with all platforms operating on the open internet. However, if I can tie up a security agent working for an unfriendly national power, listening to my random meanderings for an hour or so, I will think that even in retirement I am continuing to contribute to our national security!

I wish you well with your Anzac Day commemorative activities, and don't forget to send me any Anzac Day commemoration photos you wish to have posted on the website. As always, I look forward to seeing you next time we meet.

Stay well,

Ian Pearson

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