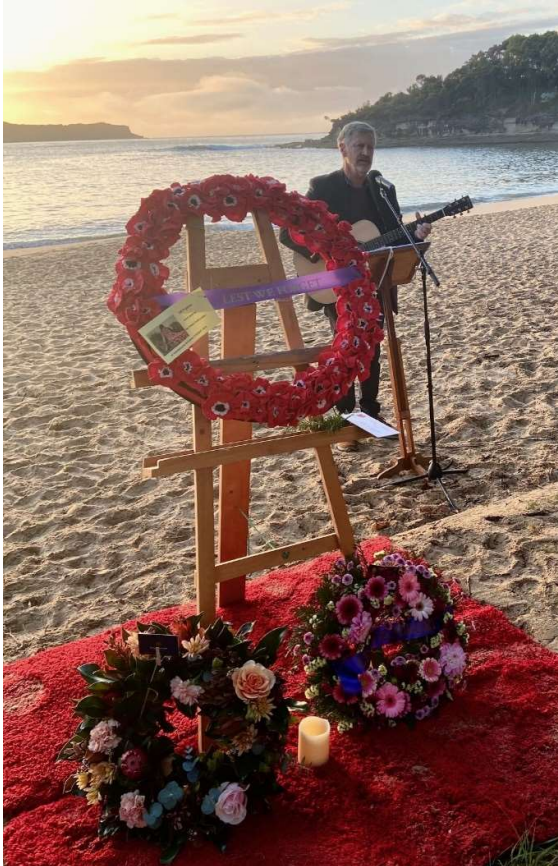


PEARL BEACH COMMEMORATES ANZAC DAY 'DAWN SERVICE'

A large crowd of locals and visitors gathered on the beachfront for the Pearl Beach Dawn Service.

Members of the community were invited to make suitable readings and presentations relating to their own service experiences and memories from family and friends. Starting with a moving 'welcome to country' by Auntie Robyn from Mingaletta with gentle guitar music making a beautiful and haunting start to the service.



Victoria Crawford welcomed the everyone on behalf of the Pearl Beach Progress Association. Kerime Danis read in Turkish and English the famous piece by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk *'Those heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives - You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore, now rest in peace'*. Bob Keating told of the work that Central Coast Legacy undertakes, and Lily Frost recited "the Ode". Pearl Beach resident John Steinbeck related his forebears service story and their continued involvement with Pearl Beach particularly the building of the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall.

The Memorial Hall and Pearl Beach War Memorial are owned by the Pearl Beach Progress Association, which was established in 1929, and grew out of informal gatherings of residents to discuss local problems and community projects.

The Memorial Hall and the War Memorial were officially unveiled on the 16 September 1950. At that time Pearl Beach was a popular spot for ex-servicemen to live and holiday after the Second World War. There was sub-branch of the RSSAILA (now the Returned Servicemen's League or RSL) at that time who used the newly completed Hall for their monthly meetings.

At the conclusion, Malcolm Davis thanked Jackson Hood for his moving trumpet rendition of "The Last Post" and invited everyone to the Memorial Hall for morning tea with Anzac Biscuits.

End: Lynne Lillico, Publicity, Pearl Beach Progress Association
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Photo: Victoria Crawford, welcoming the guests