



Chris Patterson MP

Government Whip

Your Local Member of Parliament



Electorate Office: 66 John St Camden • **Phone:** (02) 4655 3333 • **Fax:** (02) 4655 3325
Mail: P O Box 669 Camden NSW 2570 • **Email:** camden@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.chrispatterson.com.au or  facebook ChrisPattersonMP

100 YEARS ON - WE REMEMBER

Camden showed on ANZAC Day that we have not forgotten and will be forever grateful to the soldiers who fought at Gallipoli.

All those involved on both sides suffered great losses, but 100 years on we all are unified in our memory of those lost and those who returned to their families.

Those men who volunteered to go to war did so, as they believed it was necessary to protect this great nation and their families.

Gallipoli became the place of courage and duty and in some ways those men are now the heroes of modern Australia. Each conflict that Australia has participated in since the First World War, has been done with the thought of how the soldiers of that conflict fought with bravery and conviction beyond anything we could have envisaged.

The bravery and unity of the men forged the ANZAC bond which has endured to this day and will continue. These men felt a sense of torment when they had to return leaving their fallen comrades behind believing they will be forgotten.

Today we still remember them. I think they would all be at peace knowing that the generations since that great battle have made sure that they and their fallen comrades will never, ever be forgotten.

We all should be proud to say to them, thank you for your courage and determination to fight for your country and lay your lives on the line protecting what we truly believe in.

The attendance at the Camden RSL Sub-Branch Dawn Service was overwhelming. It was a record attendance with an estimated 10,000 people plus.

Chris Patterson



100 YEARS ON - WE REMEMBER

The following story was written by Donald Howard on behalf of John Lee of Elderslie in memory of his late father, Norman Lee.

1915 ANZAC NUMBER

Norman Lee sailed through Sydney Heads for the Middle East one Saturday evening in October 1940. Like many others on the Queen Mary, he was never to return. He died of wounds received during the Battle of Alamein, one of the most critical military conflicts in history

In his history of World War II, Winston Churchill later wrote: "It may be said that before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat."

The victory climaxed a costly campaign of nearly three years in the Western Desert. Australian units comprised 10 percent of the Allied force, but suffered 20 per cent of the casualties. The massed burial ground lies beyond a cloistered walk with the names of another 11,945 who fell in the African campaign and left no known grave.

Born in England in 1907, Norman Lee made Camden his home during the early 30's. He established a solid reputation in the town where he had a successful hairdressing salon opposite today's Albert Baker Arcade. A born athlete, he left behind a meticulous account of his sprinting performances in Victoria as well as in his home state. On one occasion he clocked 9.9/10 seconds over 100 yards.

In 1935 Norman married Edna, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Marden a well-known local family. They had one son, John, who was four years old when his father sailed. Edna was pregnant with the second child Kevin (Max) born 1941 whom his father was never to see.

Norman (NX 14594) served with the 2/17th Infantry Battalion, earning fame as a "Rat of Tobruk". His unit endured the siege for nine months under incredible conditions.

The Battle of Alamein commenced after meticulous planning by the then General Bernard Montgomery, a Tasmanian-born British general of outstanding strategic ability. At the precise moment a chorus of whistle blasts heralded what was destined to become the heaviest artillery barrage in all history.

Fighting commenced on October 23; German forces were routed on November 24. They were never to threaten Egypt or the North African theatre of war again. An able adversary of fine character, Field Marshal Rommel advised Hitler after the defeat to withdraw from the African continent. But the Fuehrer ordered him to retreat to Tunisia with disastrous losses in personnel and equipment.

Private Lee was hit by enemy fire on October 31, and died of wounds in a regimental hospital on November 1, a fortnight before the battle ended. A simple cross originally marked his grave but he now lies under one of the thousands of headstones in the Alamein War Cemetery and Memorial.

On October 24, on the 12th anniversary of the battle, Field Marshal the Rt. Hon. Viscount Montgomery unveiled the memorial. During his speech he said:

At a decisive moment in history, one fleeting chance found men with the spirit and will to seize it. It was all or nothing at Alamein in 1942. In this life we meet each task but once; we never pass that way again. So it was at Alamein 12 years ago. Through this Memorial Gateway we should return to our homes resolved to live the present hour as those past hours were lived...

We have something beyond price to save and we mean to save it. It was well expressed by a soldier of the Eighth Army in an anonymous poem.

"Peace for the kids, our brothers freed, A kinder world, a cleaner breed."

A fitting epitaph for Norman Lee and those who keep him company at Alamein.

100 YEARS ON - WE REMEMBER

The following story contributed by Maureen Spurling of Camden about her husband's family.

This is a unique story is about six Spurling brothers who were enlisted in World War II.

Donald served in the RAN on the HMAS Shoalhaven and was part of the occupation forces in Japan. Don delivered groceries and joined the army at 17. After 10 years service in the army, Don worked in a cleaning company eventually escalating to area manager. Don moved to Sydney where he met and married Maureen.

William served in the A.I.F and was transferred from the militia into the A.I.F when war broke out. William worked on a farm and was known as a champion bag sewer (wheat), push bike rider and wood chopper.

Patrick served in the A.I.F attached to water transport and was part of the BGOF and worked in retail before joining the army and then after he was discharged he returned to retail.

Lionel served with the A.I.F as a despatch rider and was in Darwin when Darwin was attacked. He worked in the railways before joining the A.I.F. and was a keen motor bike rider. After his discharge he worked on the South Australian Highways.

Bernard served in the RAN on the HMAS Kanimbla during the war. Bernard was a drifter before joining the Navy and after his discharge he worked on the ready cut homes.

Arthur served in the RAAF and was part of ground crew at various RAAF bases.

The Spurling family consisted of seven boys and four girls and were born at Black Rock South Australia. Their father was a railway ganger and after some time he was transferred to Strathalbyn where the family continued to live.

Sadly all the boys have since passed away living well into their 80s but their memory still lives on.

Don's great granddaughter marches every year in the Camden ANZAC Day March proudly wearing her great grandfather's medals.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Each year on April 28 we have the opportunity to remember those workers who have lost their lives while in the workplace.

Employers and workers across the state are encouraged to take time on the International Day of Mourning to think about the significance of work health and safety and how workplace incidents can affect those around them.

Camden Council holds a service each year to reflect on those who have sadly lost their lives while at work.

Photo: Chris laying a wreath at the Camden Council memorial in John Street.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR LIFELINE VOLUNTEER



A Telephone Crisis Support volunteer with Lifeline Macarthur has been awarded the Local NSW Community Service Award.

Robyn has been a telephone crisis supporter since 2006 totalling 780 hours of service. Robyn volunteers to support members of our community who are in need and at times many in life threatening situations.

Lifeline's mission is to provide specialised telephone crisis support and companion services where people are accepted, helped and supported by competent, accredited, specialised crisis supporters the core of which is our 24-Hour telephone crisis support service.

Robyn was nominated by the Crisis Support Manager Jacky Moore.

Without volunteers such as Robyn many people in our local community would not have anyone to turn to.

If anyone needs assistance from Lifeline please call 13 11 14 at anytime.

Photo: Chris presenting Robyn with her award

INFRASTRUCTURE IN CAMDEN SINCE 2011 AND CONTINUING

Bringelly Road Upgrade – Stage 1

- Upgrading from two lanes to a six lane divided road between the eastern sides of the Upper Canal Bridge and the western side of the Eastwood Road through to the future Leppington Town Centre
- A speed limit of 80km/h
- Three metre wide off road shared pedestrian and cyclist path with crossing facilities at traffic lights to improve safety
- Bus priority at traffic lights and indented bus bays on both side of Bringelly Road
- Designated turning lanes at traffic lights
- Temporary U-turn facilities opposite traffic lights at the upgraded intersections of Eastwood Road and King Street
- The existing noise wall on Cowpasture Road will be extended by about 240 metres eastbound along Camden Valley Way
- Left in / left out access only for existing properties on Bringelly Road until precinct development
- Adjustments to public utilities including gas, electricity and telephone services along the route

Camden Valley Way Upgrade Nears Completion

The final stage of the Camden Valley Way upgrade is nearing completion with a 1.4 kilometre section of the upgraded road to open between the Sydney Water Canal and Bringelly Road intersection has opened.

Work is progressing well on the third and final stage of the \$280 million Camden Valley Way upgrade after stages one and two opened to traffic last year.

Work is under way to install the final layer of asphalt on a section of the new southbound and northbound lanes of the upgrade on Monday 30 March between Bringelly Road and Ingleburn Road at Leppington.

New traffic lights at Forest Lawn Cemetery have been switched on.

The remaining 1.8 kilometre section of stage three is on track to open in the second half of 2015.

Narellan Road continuing works

Stage one

- Provide three lanes on Narellan Road in both directions between Mount Annan Drive and the Hume Highway interchange, including a new set of traffic lights for the Hume Highway southbound ramps.

Stage two

- Provide three westbound lanes between the UWS/TAFE access road and the Hume Highway interchange.
- Provide three eastbound lanes between Hume Highway interchange and Blaxland Road.
- Upgrade the UWS/ TAFE intersection with dual right turn lanes into UWS/TAFE access road.

Stage three

- Improve the right turn lanes on Narellan Road at the Blaxland Road / Gilchrist Drive intersection to provide dual turning lanes into Blaxland Road and lengthen the dual right turn lanes into Gilchrist Drive.

Stage four

- Widening to three lanes in both directions between Hartley Road/Waterworth Drive and Tramway Drive/Mount Annan Drive (some temporary road work was completed in 2012 to achieve this). Widening to three lanes westbound between Camden Bypass and Waterworth Drive.
- Provide dual right turn lanes into Camden Valley Way, Hartley Road and Waterworth Drive and triple right turn lanes into Narellan Road (westbound) from Camden Valley Way (southbound).

Stage five

- Widen the eastbound bridge over the Hume Highway to provide three eastbound lanes at the interchange while improving the southbound exit ramp (to Campbelltown).
- Provide four eastbound lanes between Tramway Drive and Hume Highway.

The Northern Road upgrade

The Northern Road is being upgraded in four stages, in conjunction with the development of growth centres, employment area and the proposed western Sydney airport at Badgerys Creek.

The stages are:

- Stage 1 is Camden Valley Way, Narellan to Peter Brock Drive, Oran Park (3.3 kilometres)
- Stage 2 is Peter Brock Drive, Oran Park to Mersey Road, Bringelly (11 kilometres)
- Stage 3 is Elizabeth Drive, Luddenham to the M4 Motorway (7 kilometres)
- Stage 4 is Mersey Road, Bringelly to Elizabeth Drive, Luddenham (9 kilometres).

Leppington Trains become a reality

The first train left Leppington on February 8 2015. Since the service began it is proving a hit with locals, with more than 35,000 customer journeys made in the first month of service and it continues to grow.

The opening of the SWRL was well ahead of schedule and \$300 million under budget. The people in the Camden area have been waiting over 16 years for this infrastructure and it has been achieved in the space of 4 years since winning government in 2011.

The new rail line has completely transformed the daily commute for thousands of residents. Rather than having to drive their car to work or travel to other train stations, we now have regular and convenient services leaving from our own back yard.

With air-conditioned trains running every 30 minutes seven days a week and 1,250 free un-timed commuter car parking spaces at Leppington and Edmondson Park, there's no wonder locals have flocked to the new rail line.

Delivering the South West Rail Link was the crucial infrastructure needed in South-West Sydney to create jobs and tackle congestion.

Photo: Chris with Camden Mayor Cr Lara Symkowiak, Premier Mike Baird, former Minister for Transport Gladys Berjiklian



100 YEARS ON - WE REMEMBER

A Father's Final Word – Norman Lee to his son John

12.10.42

NX 14594 PTE. N.LEE HQ.COY A/TK 2/17 BN. ABROAD

Dear John

I am very happy to get your letter and to know you are well.

I know you are a good boy because Mummy told me you were, and Mummy also told me you fell in the water down at the brickworks. You must not go down there again because you cannot swim. I go for a swim every day now so I can teach you when I come home.

Sorry to hear your dog Socksy got killed, and that the parrot died, but Santa Claus might bring you something for Xmas.

I cannot write much more now as I have to write to Mummy too, so be a good boy and don't let Max play on the road and look after Mum, because I'll be home soon to play you football and race you and then fight you.

Love from
Daddy

This letter was written less than a fortnight before the battle began, and was written in pencil on a small note pad.

It was the last Norman wrote before he was wounded. The letter was delivered in Camden after the news was received that he had died from wounds.

NSW GOVERNOR ATTENDS THE 2015 MILITARY TATTOO IN CAMDEN

The Governor of NSW, His Excellency, General, The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC and Chief of the Australian Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC attended the Military Tattoo held at the 2015 Camden Show.

The tattoo comprised of singers, marching bands, pipe bands, cadets and military vehicles. The tattoo was organised by the Camden RSL Sub Branch with the assistance of Camden Show Society volunteers.

400 foot paraders including ex-servicemen, emergency service personnel and scouts added to the spectacle. Vintage war vehicles, armed personnel carriers, World War I army ambulances and a gunner puller were also part the parade.

The parade was held to mark the centenary of the landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli and paid homage to Lieutenant Colonel Astley John Onslow Thompson, a Camden identity who was killed in action on the second day of the Gallipoli campaign.

Photo: The Governor of NSW, His Excellency, General, The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC inspecting the parade – photo courtesy of Brett Atkins photography



Brett Atkins © 2015

MT ANNAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE REFLECT ON 100 YEARS OF THE ANZACS

MtAnnan Christian College remembers 100 years on. The College held a very moving ceremony remembering and recognising the sacrifices of those men who fought in the First World War.

Photo: Chris with school captains, Iain Richard-Evan Camden RSL Sub-Branch President, Deputy Mayor Cr Therese Fedeli and Principal Nathan Gray



MACARTHUR LIONS ANZAC RUN ANOTHER SUCCESS

Each year Macarthur Lions runs the Anzac Run which raises money for Lifeline. Again the attendance was incredible even though the weather was not favourable. Everyone competing endeavoured to better their times from last year and negotiating the very wet terrain after the big wet the previous week was an obstacle.

Photo: Chris with some successful competitors



AUSTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

I had the privilege to attend the Anzac Day Ceremony at the Austral Public School. I thank Principal Jan Rogers for the opportunity to visit the school on such a prestigious occasion.

The Anzac address was given by Lt.Col Mr Lyall Wood AM, RFD representing 2.17th Battalion AIF. His words very thought provoking and moving.

Photo: Chris with School Captains Nikola and Annalise, Vice Captains Anthony and Isabel and Principal Jan Rogers



THE IMPORTANCE OF BLOOD DONATIONS

Donating blood is vital to sufferers of Thalassaemia. Thalassaemia is a genetic blood disorder. People who have this condition do not have the ability to reproduce red blood cells and sufferers require regular blood transfusions on average every 4 weeks for their entire life.



Please think about donating blood.

For more information visit www.thalassaemia.org.au or to donate blood www.donateblood.com.au

SES ASSIST IN MAJOR STORM

State Emergency Services were kept very busy in the Macarthur region assisting many residents and business who were affected by the recent rain event that hit NSW. Even though the rain has ceased the SES still assist those who require help in the clean-up.

Little Sandy Bridge managed to sustain the influx of water after nearly 8 inches of rain in 3 days. The new work to repair Little Sandy Bridge in September 2013 was made possible with a grant of \$32,000 from the NSW Government. The funding was provided on a dollar-for-dollar basis to Camden Council. After the old bridge was damaged due to floods in 2012 it was necessary to upgrade the bridge to enable many years of service to the Camden community.

On behalf of the community I say thank you to those SES volunteers who gave up their time, sometimes after being affected themselves, to help our community.

I encourage people who are able, to think about joining the local SES. Call 1800 201 000 or visit their website www.ses.nsw.gov.au

Photo: Courtesy of Brett Atkins - Little Sandy Bridge



Please take the time to view other stories, speeches and media releases on my new Website :

www.chrispatterson.com.au