



ANZAC 2020

A Facebook note by [Michael Sanderson](#)

Image above - Michael (Air Force), Frank (Navy) & Donald (Army)
Taken in 2002, this was the only time the three were together
Francis died in 2004.

This note summaries four generations of my families service spanning over a century.

This time of year I normally head down to Tasmania and take my Father's and Grandfather's medals for a walk. Traditionally I would attend the dawn service with my Vietnam Vet brother Donald at Dover and travel back to Hobart for the march the later in the day with my nephew [Matthew Brocklehurst](#) a veteran of Afghanistan. You will see from the images, that this is a extended family event.

Verner Sanderson

First is Great Grandfather, Grandfather and father Verner Sanderson (pictured below) who enlisted in the Australian Army in 1915 and served in WWI. Vern kept a diary which has been transcribed and researched by my cousin Lynn Jarvis and his late mother Auntie Shirley, Vern's daughter. Lynn has pieced together his journey and produced a detailed account (59 pages). [You can read it here.](#)



Verner Sanderson

Francis Sanderson

Second is my Father Francis Sanderson (pictured below) who enlisted in the Australian Navy and served in the Korean War.
[You can access Franks story here.](#)



Francis Sanderson

Gordon Hunt

It wouldn't be ANZAC without a kiwi. My late Father in-law Gordon Hunt served in No.14 (Fighter) Squadron of the New Zealand Air Force. Gordon served with J force, NZ contribution to the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan. I spent a decade in NZ in the nineties and attended ANZAC commemorations with Gordon.

[You can read Gordon's story here.](#)



Gordon Hunt

Donald Philips

Next is my older brother Donald Phillips (pictured below) served in the Australian Army in Vietnam after being called up for National Service. He was part of the 4th Infantry Battalion which was the last to leave Vietnam in 1971 when the war ended.

[For more about Donald, click here.](#)



Donald with his Granddaughter

Michael Sanderson

Then there is me (pictured below), I served in the Australian Air Force for approximately nine years and was discharged in 1981. I was the luckiest of the bunch, I was too young for Vietnam and was discharged before any other conflicted started.



Donald and Michael

Matthew Brocklehurst

Finally the next generation is represented by my nephew Matthew Brocklehurst (pictured below) who served in the Australian Regular Army from 1992 to 2012. Matthew served in Germany, Bosnia, Indonesia, Bougainville and Afghanistan.

[You can read Matthews story here.](#)



Matthew and son

Some random pictures



Francis and his Daughter (Donald's twin & Matthew's Mother)



Donald and Daughter - The Serious Business of Two Up



About to head out to the Dawn Service



Three generations at the Dover RSL



Francis enjoying a beer