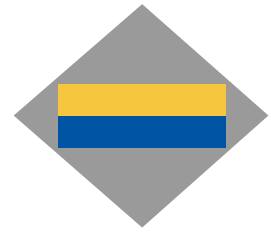


# COMRADESHIP

[www.2nd14battalion.org.au](http://www.2nd14battalion.org.au)

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## President's Report



Another warm 2/14th welcome to Comradeship for this, our second edition for 2012. The year is certainly zinging along and I can't believe we are into June already. So much has been accomplished; so much more to do. Our Melbourne re-union went off very well. After a well represented short ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance, we all trooped off to the Celtic Club, where about 80 people enjoyed the fellowship, and met old and new friends. Special guests included the Victorian Minister for Veteran Affairs the honourable Hugh Delahunty, and representatives from the Kingsbury Primary and Reservoir High schools. Next came the ANZAC day march and a goodly number braved the elements to be there. Veteran Cam Thompson superbly led the march this year, and we had children from the Kingsbury Primary school carry the banner. Their school colours are the same as ours, yellow over

dark blue, and they made an impressive sight moving up St Kilda Road. As per usual, a lot of hard work produced the required results, well done all.

I was part of a group of six who travelled to Borneo in late May. Balikpapan in southern Borneo was the last campaign of the 2/14th during WW2. The operations are little known by the Indonesians and Australians now working in the off shore oil industry there. Our six consisted of four sons of Battalion veterans, one other, who does a lot of business in Bali, and the magnificent 91 year old veteran Matt Power from Queensland. As you can imagine there were many highlights as we enjoyed the hospitality of our expat friends. A major 2/14 operation in 1945 occurred at Waite's Knoll, after Japanese guns took out three Matilda Tanks down at the Manggar head land. Five battalion members payed the supreme sacrifice here. No one was absolutely sure where actually Waite's Knoll was, but after about 60 years of being used as a farm, we found it again. Thanks go to Ian Hale of Borneo and Ian Hopley, for the research that got results, and to Matt Power who left his mark there after sixty seven years absence.

Much is happening during the second half of 2012, including a celebration on the 9th of September for the 70th anniversary of the Kokoda campaign. Come along and join in the fun.

**Till the next time,  
Michael Ralston, President.**

## REMINDER

### **2012 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$25**

These fell due on **30 April 2012** and whilst many have already been received, we wish to remind those who are still outstanding to please send them in. The remittance form for this purpose is in this copy of Comradeship. If you wish to pay directly by internet or bank transfer please email [chris.ingram@margni.com](mailto:chris.ingram@margni.com) for banking details.

If you joined the Association between October and December 2011 your membership subscription will not be due until April 2013.

**Remember timely payment saves your Association the additional costs caused by following up overdue membership subs.**

Please note:

- Payment for veteran membership is optional.
- Widows of 2/14 veterans are not required to pay the membership fee.
- Do keep us informed about Changes of Address

## 70 Years Ago

If you're ever travelling on the Yandina-Coolum Rd, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, you may be surprised to see a sign at Barcrest Drive directing you to a 2/14th Memorial. If you proceed up the hill and turn left at Tinarra Cl, you'll come to a small park with a plaque reading:

*"2/14 Australian Infantry Battalion formed in Victoria in April 1940 and later joined by many Queenslanders camped on this site 11 May 1942 to 5 August 1942. The Battalion trained over a wide area from Blackall Ranges to the coast and made many friends in the district. Between 16 August 1942 and 15 January 1943 the Battalion fought on the Kokoda Track and at Gona assisting to drive the Japanese out of Papua. 166 members of the Battalion gave their lives in that campaign. Let us forget"*

The redoubtable Stan Bisset was the prime mover behind the development of the park, which acknowledges the links between the battalion and this area of Queensland, forged 70 years ago, when the battalion was posted here for training and coastal defence in the months following their return to Australia from the Middle East.



*The view from the park on the side of Mt Ninderry, near Yandina, Queensland*

## QUEENSLAND NEWS

On the Sunday before ANZAC Day, Arthur Toombs and Dudley Warhurst with several other veterans, journeyed to Broadbeach for the ceremony at the end of the annual Kokoda Memorial Walk.

About 70 walkers completed the 9km course, honouring all those involved in the historic campaign. The veterans all proved most popular and spent a considerable time signing autographs, books and all types of memorabilia.



**Dudley Warhurst and Arthur Toombs (L) at Cascade Gardens.**

On 3 June, Ken Watt, Dudley Warhurst (2/14) and George Palmer (39) were guests at the Brisbane Kokoda Challenge. Over 500 participated in a 30 km walk, (a prelude to the 96km Challenge to be held on the Gold Coast in July,) at the Brisbane suburb of Brookfield. The veterans were on hand to welcome the teams as they finished.



**Ken Watt, George Palmer and Dudley Warhurst with walkers**

It's been many many years since 3 Platoon (Mortars) mates, George Priestley and Ken Watt, have caught up, but recently the two joined Qld rep, Trevor Pryor, for morning tea. It was great to see old comrades together again and the meeting was appreciated by them both. Trevor was also interested to find that George, still an active golfer, was a member of Redcliffe Golf Club where Trevor is now the captain.



**Mortarmen, George Priestley and Ken Watt swap yarns**

Trevor Pryor

## ANZAC DAY

### BRISBANE ANZAC DAY MARCH

We were privileged to host Mr Dickson Hango from the village of Hamara in Kokoda along with his carer, Alice Tamur, for ANZAC Day this year. The previous day we collected George Palmer of the 39th Bn and, with Dickson, visited Mango Hill State School for its commemorative parade. Later in the day Dickson entertained grade 1 at Living Faith School at Murrumba Downs.

ANZAC Day began with the Dawn Service at Pine Rivers where Dickson was the guest of the local sub branch. Following that it was into town for the march.



**George Priestley, Dudley Warhurst, Dickson Hango, Arthur Toombs & Alice Tamur**

By step off we had 3 veterans in George Priestley, Arthur Toombs and Dudley Warhurst who were accompanied by 11 others representing past members, associate units, supporters and family. (Leave of absence was granted to Ken Boyne and Bruce Henderson who were attending services in Scotland and France respectively!!)

Dickson was so excited by the enthusiasm of the crowd that he danced rather than marched for the majority of the journey. Firm commands at the saluting dais by leader George ensured that the group showed the appropriate respect to the banner and the march. Once again it is necessary to express what a privilege it is to march with this group. At the end of the march, Dudley was greeted by the march leader, Keith Payne, OAM, VC. Being in uniform, Megan Jesser was thrilled to snap a salute.

Following the march we moved to the usual spot at Roma St for some light refreshments and fellowship where it was great to get together with family members who had watched the march.



Thanks again to Fran Ralston for the provisions – and the tip on a closer and cheaper parking station!



**L to R: Trevor Pryor, Megan Jesser, Warren Major, Kylie Toombs, Arthur Toombs, Dickson Hango, Terry Twine, George Priestly, John Hay, David Butler, Michael Webster, Rob Warhurst, Fran Ralston, with Dudley Warhurst in front.**

What an inspiring day!

### MELBOURNE ANZAC DAY MARCH



**Norm Stringer, Max Caldwell, Noel Bear, Darren Benson (at rear), Jim Coy, and Jim's grandson, Paddy, waiting for the march to get under way.**



**Cam Thompson, who led the Battalion contingent, discusses the weather with Bob Iskov.**

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## ANZAC DAY

### ANZAC DAY MATCH



*Kingsbury Primary School students assisting with the banner.*



*Phil Kemp joined us from Western Australia*



*Veterans Jim Coy, Max Caldwell, Cam Thompson and Norm Stringer with the children from Kingsbury Primary School who were proud to be a part of the day.*

What a wonderful day we had at the M.C.G.!!! We were met at the entrance to the ground and taken to a room under the grandstands where the machinery for the upkeep of the ground is kept. There we were given some nibbles and drinks. At a bit before 2pm, Bob Iskov and I were taken to our car. The cars were really up-market! The hood was rolled back and the seats were like sitting in a soft lounge chair. As our car was entering the ground, our names and the places where we had served were announced over the loud speakers. The cars about 8 cars, spaced about 25 yards, apart in the convoy. We were in the third car and the response from the crowd was really overwhelming. Looking up at the stands we could see thousands and thousands of faces, everybody cheering and calling out their thanks. During all this, my thoughts went to our fallen comrades, may they never be forgotten.



*Bob Iskov and Bob Nichols enjoying the adulation at the MCG.*

It was over all too quickly, and we were then taken to our seats to watch the game.

At half time and after the game we were taken into the A.F.L. clubrooms for drinks, which was great too!! So over all it was a very good day. It could only have been improved had Essendon won!!! They have been my team for a bit over 80 years, so it was great to watch them play.

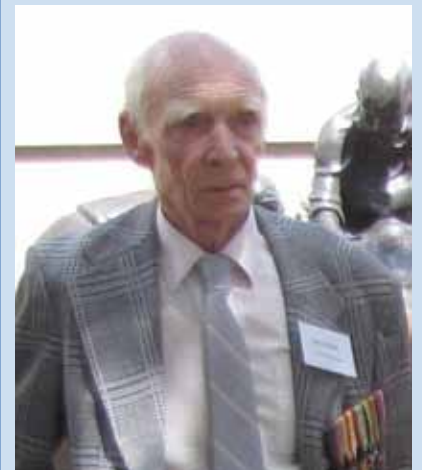
## A SEQUEL TO "ADELAIDE"

Unfortunately, space does not permit the full text of Les Cook's follow up article to the one printed in the last issue. But readers will be interested to know that after Les's article first appeared in VetAffairs, he was contacted by Margaret Kemp, who turned out to be Peggy Cameron, the girl in the milk bar, who Les had squired around Adelaide during the time he was billeted there.

The issue of "Vetaffairs" in which the article appeared was addressed to Peggy's neighbour but had inadvertently been put in Peggy's letterbox. Without realising it was not addressed to her, she opened the magazine, saw the article about Les, and remembered the name. She then wrote to the Department of Veterans Affairs to find out if it was the same Les Cook she had known in 1942.

When Les phoned Peggy, she told him that she had visited Melbourne in 1946 and called to see his mother. At the time, Les was serving with the occupation force in Japan and had been writing to the woman who would become his wife for two years. As a result of her visit Peggy would have become aware that Les was still alive and, probably, that he was now 'off limits'.

Their long phone conversation came to an end near midnight, with Peggy saying to Les: "Don't let another 60 years go by before we get in touch again."



*Les Cook*

## QUEENSLAND REUNION - NSW AND QLD MEMBERS

In conjunction with the **Queensland Reunion**, a special reunion of "chalkies", members of the Pacific Islands Regiment Association, will be held on **Thursday, 26th July, 10.00 am – 3.30 pm** to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. Ron Inglis our rep in Sydney, who was a former "chalkie" during his National Service, is keen to see other "chalkies" there. The day will include morning tea, hot lunch and guest speakers will be Major-General Michael Jeffery (former Governor-General), Aidan Grimes and Ian Hopley. The Reunion will be held as usual at Riverside Receptions at New Farm, Brisbane and the organisers welcome all who have a connection with the Kokoda Track. The cost is \$45. For further information please contact Ron at [inglisrw@gmail.com](mailto:inglisrw@gmail.com) or 02 9642 3563 or Trevor Pryor [teepee\\_au@yahoo.com](mailto:teepee_au@yahoo.com) or 07 3482 4768.

## MELBOURNE REUNION

Once again, the weather held good for the annual wreath laying ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance. President Michael Ralston this year read the poem Remembrance of Departed Comrades. The "heroes staunch and true" who were in attendance included Norman Mattila (2/27), Cam Thompson, Max Caldwell, Bob Iskov, Norm Stringer, and Phil Kemp, who again travelled from Western Australia. As always, the support of the Shrine Governors and their team is very much appreciated, along with the bugle playing of Howard Cornish.



*Michael Ralston lays the wreath at the 2/14 Battalion tree*

Following the ceremony at the Shrine, members gathered at the Celtic Club for the annual Melbourne reunion, where as well as a partaking of delicious meal, they were

entertained by a number of speakers.

Max Caldwell shared his experiences on coming into the battalion in July 1944, and paid particular tribute to those who had endured the appalling conditions of the Owen Stanley campaign. Minister for Veterans Affairs, Sport and Recreation, the Hon. Hugh Delahunty dropped in briefly to pay tribute to the 'real legends', and acknowledged our debt of gratitude to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Mark Jessup, Principal of Reservoir High and Barb Hinsley, Principal of Kingsbury Primary School shared their visions for the students in their schools, and reaffirmed the importance of the Battalions' involvement with them, through the Kingsbury Awards and Scholarship programs. Current Kingsbury Scholarship holder, Kiam North, whose award winning essay appears elsewhere in this issue, also addressed the gathering.

The final item on the agenda was the awarding of Life Membership of the Association to Bob Iskov. In recent years Bob has travelled extensively around Australia, speaking at events and being interviewed, ensuring that



*Bob Iskov accepting the award of Life Membership of the Association*

the contribution of the men of the 2/14 Battalion is not forgotten. Well done, Bob.

Our sincere thanks go to the staff at the Celtic Club for their help in making the day such a success.



*Rear: Gordon Mclean, Norm Stringer, George Collins, Kiam North, Cam Thompson, Bob Iskov, Max Caldwell, Phil Kemp, Seated: Col Blume, Norm Mattila (2/27), Jim Coy. Doug Watkins missed the photo.*

## 2011-2012 Kingsbury Award Winners



Kingsbury Primary School's Bruce Kingsbury Achievers Award winners for 2011, **Andrew Devine** and **Rayanne Margi** receive their awards from President Michael Ralston and Trustee, Rob Eden.

Kyam North, of Reservoir High was awarded the Kingsbury Scholarship for her essay, a portion of which is quoted below.

**'Bruce Kingsbury and his comrades made great sacrifices for Australia during the Second World War.' What is the relevance for today's youth?**

During World War II, Bruce Kingsbury and his comrades, whom made great sacrifices, are still significant in today's modern world. Their victories and hardships impact the lives of many; for those who knew them, for

families who lost their loved ones and for the Australian public. In World War II, Australians were experiencing a period where there was a need to fight for the protection and safety of our nation. In regards to the 2/14 battalion, immense sacrifice was made to secure the protection and safety of those now past and present. Not only did they leave behind their families and friends to fight for us, they also risked their own safety to secure the safety of our nation. With all the possible risks, Bruce and his comrades served our country with courage and pride...

As a student growing up with a similar home life to Bruce when he was a teenager makes me feel pride in his achievements. Growing up in a working class family is not always a blessing but it does not stop you from making the most of your life and fulfilling your dreams. Just like Bruce and his comrades, today's youth should be inspired to reach their dreams and to persist to make a difference to the world we live in. The slightest impact on the lives of many is a reason to be proud, as is any achievement made. Another reason their duties are important is because it allows us to respect those who are currently fighting for our people and to remember those who have sadly fallen. We need to be respectful and accepting of their roles in our lives. Due

to the fact Bruce grew up in the northern suburbs that I now call home makes myself and surrounding youth feel connected with his presence... Courage can be the ultimate quality that drives many to make a difference in the world. The initiative, resilience and self sacrifice of Bruce Kingsbury and his comrades should be mirrored in the youth of today.

It is important for all Australians to feel pride in their country. The loss and success of the past provides youth with a sense of historical knowledge and understanding. Bruce and his comrade's actions remain influential for many, especially youth who will become a part of history in years to come. Their relevance for today's youth comes in the form of



remembrance – an important part of acknowledging those whom have fallen under our flag and made significant change in the world.

Lest we forget.

*Kyam North speaking at the Battalion Reunion*



## WAITES' KNOLL BATTLE SITE LOCATED IN BALIKPAPAN

**Ian Hopley**

After a great deal of research, consultation and planning, an intrepid band of 2/14th members and supporters have positively located the site of Waites' Knoll in Balikpapan, Borneo.

The knoll housed a number of bunkers and two 6 inch coastal defence (CD) guns that were covering the Manggar airstrips and were responsible for knocking out 3 Matilda tanks on Manggar Beach as well as causing a number of casualties and problems for the battalion at Manggar.

The knoll was taken by D Company of the 2/14th on 6 July 1945 and defended against 9 Japanese counter attacks over the succeeding 48 hours. Five members of 2/14 made the ultimate sacrifice during the Waites' Knoll battle. (see separate story)

Veteran Matt Power, 2/14 President Michael Ralston, and members Trevor Pryor, John Smith and Ian Hopley, together with supporter Todd Shone and Balikpapan expats Ian Hale, Dave Webster, Ian Berwick and Russell Wood finally located the exact site of the knoll known locally as "Gunung Meriamac" which translates as "Mount Cannon".



*Trevor Pryor, Ian Hopley, and Matt Power with Waites' Knoll in the background*

We were fortunate to meet landowner Mr Sajaro, who informed us that his father had told of him of the battles and of the guns located on the knoll and confirmed the actual location of the two 6 inch guns. He graciously showed us the knolls and stated that he still unearthed shrapnel on a regular basis. Our veteran, Matt Power made a lasting impression on Mr Sajaro and his wife and they have invited him back for a longer visit next time. Matt was also able to point out the positions held by his C Company on nearby Brown Spur on day 2 of the action. Ian Hale in Balikpapan is trying to find out what happened to the Waites' Knoll CD guns. There is no doubt we were the first expats to visit the site for a very long time and Matt Power is

probably the first 2/14 veteran to return to the site since the war.

The group also visited a number of other significant sites around Balikpapan including Parramatta Ridge, the 2/14th landing site at Yellow Beach, Kampung Batu (Petrosea) on the Makassar Strait, where the 2 Japanese guns that strategically covered the harbour entrance, and are still in place, and Manggar Bridge and Manggar Beach, where the 2/14 ultimately set up camp and headquarters.



*The team at Manggar Bridge*



*Michael Ralston, Ian Hopley and Trevor Pryor on Manggar Beach, where the 3 Matilda tanks were destroyed by the Japanese guns at Waites' Knoll*

The Chevron oil company kindly allowed us onto their Pasar Ridge property where the Matilda Tank memorial is located so we could conduct a short memorial service and lay wreaths. President Michael Ralston presented a 2/14th flag to Russell Wood of the Balikpapan ANZAC Association, who assured us that the flag would be flown on ANZAC Day and for other memorial services. Balikpapan Chevron oil Senior Vice President, Ted Etchinson and his wife Susan, generously provided a morning tea at their nearby house, which overlooks the Balikpapan township from atop Pasar Ridge (Pasar Ridge was taken from the Japanese by the 2/10th Bn AIF on 1 July 1945).



*2/14 memorial service, Pasar Ridge Memorial*

The group inspected a number of Japanese bunkers around the Manggar area and also visited the Manggar Community Primary School. It is hoped that our association may be able to assist this school in some way in the future.



*Matt Power and students at the Manggar Primary School*

Another highlight of our visit was Matt Power speaking to students at the International School at Balikpapan. Matt answered many questions from the children including about his wounding at Isurava in 1942. The children saw Matt as a rock star and lined up for his autograph. The school now intends including more of the Balikpapan war history in their curriculum, including the role played by the 2/14 Battalion.



*Matt Power as guest of honour at the Balikpapan International School*

The Balikpapan ANZAC committee have requested that one or two 2/14 veterans and as many members/supporters as possible attend their Anzac service in 2013. Further information will be in a future Comradeship.

Our sincere thanks go to our expat supporters in Balikpapan for what was a well-planned and highly successful trip to an often overlooked theatre of action of the 2/14 Battalion. The Balikpapan campaign ultimately cost the lives of twenty one 2/14 members.

The 2/14 Battalion war diaries and maps of the entire Balikpapan campaign including Waites' Knoll can be accessed on line at: <http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/records/awm52/8/3/14/awm52-8-3-14-87.pdf>

## OBITUARIES

### VX125549 Pte Allan Noel VARTY

Allan Varty was born on 30 August 1921, and in the early part of 1939 tried to join the army, but was rejected because he was too young. He later admitted that he was probably too honest as he didn't try to claim that he was older. Instead, his service record shows he enlisted in the militia on 20 August, 1942, and was posted to the 1st Australian Motor Transport.

After transferring from the Citizens Military Forces to the AIF on 3 June 1943, Allan embarked for Port Moresby in September, 1943, and was posted to the 7 Division Carrier Company, returning to Australia in March, 1944.

He marched in to the 2/14 Battalion from 7 Division Carrier Company on 15 June, 1944, and as a member of 10 Platoon, participated in training on the Atherton Tableland and at Trinity Beach in preparation for the landing at Balikpapan. He continued with the battalion when it went on to the Celebes for peace keeping purposes after the Japanese surrender and eventually returned to Australia in February 1946. He then volunteered to escort Japanese prisoners of war from Murchison to Rabaul in New Guinea. Private A. N. Varty was discharged on 21 August 1946, just a few days before his 25th birthday.

He died 26 February 2012, in Perth, WA.

### VX16378 Cpl Alfred George RUMPF

Alf was born at Heyfield, Vic on 24 June, 1917 and enlisted in 52 Battalion in January, 1939, transferring to 37 Bn in January, 1940. On 26 April, 1940, he enlisted in the AIF and was posted to the newly formed 2/14 Battalion a month later.

Alf was a member of 15 Platoon in C Company for the Middle East and Owen Stanley campaigns, rising to the rank of corporal after the Kokoda Track action. In New Guinea he contracted malaria, which plagued him for the rest of his army career. He marched out of the Battalion on 1 July, 1943, having been posted to Headquarters Section of the 21st Infantry Training Battalion.

Following more bouts of malaria, Alf was medically downgraded in August 1943, and posted to the Queensland Area Records Office. He was further downgraded a year later and discharged on 1 Nov 1944.

He died 24 April, 2012, in Melbourne.

### VX 23374 Geoffrey James ROBINSON

Geoff was born on 4 Sept, 1915 at Hampton, Vic. He enlisted in the AIF on 6 June, 1940 and was initially posted to the 2/15 Field Ambulance, with which unit he embarked for the Middle East in Oct, 1940. Shortly after arriving there he transferred to 2/14 Battalion and marched in on 1 Dec, 1940. He served in the Transport Platoon for the Syrian campaign and marched out to the 21st Infantry Training Battalion on 8 Sep, 1941. He was posted to 2/24 Battalion and discharged on 13 Sept, 1945.

## THE CAPTURE OF WAITES' KNOLL 6-7 July, 1945

The object of the patrol to take what came to be known as Waites' Knoll, was to neutralize the Japanese coastal defence (CD) guns which overlooked the battalion positions at Mangaar airstrip. The patrol, following the lessons of war learnt in the preceding years, had the support of naval, field and anti-aircraft guns, as well as of mortars and aircraft.

On July 6, 1945 at 12.37 pm, Lt Frank Doyle (VX16572) led his patrol consisting of 11 2/14th men and 2 engineers forward towards the position held by the Japanese. The men moved through the bush for an hour and a half, and then, from a position 50 yards from the guns, advanced firing their weapons and throwing grenades.

**Sapper Theodore Scholz (VX118607)** (2/6 RAE) carrying a 24-pound explosive charge was killed. **Lance-Corporal Harry Waites (VX 50561)** raced forward and picked up the charge but was mortally wounded. **Corporal Harry Lynch (VX13168)** led his section against a coast-gun on the left, threw in grenades and then climbed to the top of the emplacement and fired to cover the movement of his section. Private **John Sullivan (VX43480)** raced 80 yards to the other gun, forced the crew out with phosphorous smoke grenades and put them to flight. About 50 Japanese

were driven off the hill and two 120-mm guns were captured.



*Japanese gun emplacement, Waites Knoll. The sign says: "A section of 'Don' took this knoll. The Niponese paid their toll. The Organiser. Captured by 'D' Coy 2/14 Bn under Lt. F. Doyle 6/7/45"*

It rained heavily during the night and the men had to fight off four attacks from trenches where the water was chest high. Ammunition ran low, but their determination to hold the position never wavered. The counter attacks against Waites' Knoll continued over the next 48 hours until the Japanese finally retreated leaving some 100 dead.

2/14 men killed in the attack were **Harry Waites, Stan Symonds, Jim Ball, Robert Bair, John O'Neill and Ron Brown.**

## Victorian Premier's Luncheon

Six of our veterans were guests at this year's Premier's ANZAC Day Luncheon on 16 April. Max Caldwell and Lionel Smith joined the group below. Jim Coy fittingly had the seat of honour next to the Premier. I'm told the food was considerably better than that which the boys had become accustomed to during their army days.



*Jim Coy, Bob Iskov, Cam Thompson and Gordon McLean arrive for lunch with the Premier.*



## KOKODA CAMPAIGN - 70th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS AND SERVICES – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012

Members are encouraged to attend as many of these events and services as possible. This is a very special year and we want to make the most of it by urging you to come along and support, not only the Association, but, more importantly, the men who fought and gave their lives on the infamous Kokoda Track. Most of these services and details are listed under EVENTS CALENDAR on this page, but I'd like to draw your attention to the following:

**Back to Caulfield P.B. Lawrence Stakes Day - Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign** will be held on **Saturday, 18th August**, Caulfield Racecourse. Gates open at 10.30 am and the day will start with the Lone Pine Ceremony, Level 1 of the Rupert Clarke Grandstand at 11.00 am, to be followed by morning tea. The Association will be putting on a display of memorabilia, which is being organised by Jill Bear, and we will need volunteers to help man the display and answer any questions from the public. Please contact Jill at [jillbear@gmail.com](mailto:jillbear@gmail.com) or telephone (03) 9889 3466 or mob 0402 054 852 if you are able to help. Victorian veteran members will have already received an invitation to attend luncheon, so we hope to see you there. Please wear your membership badge if attending. Veterans please wear your medals. Admission is free to War Veterans, Members of Legacy, Members of RSL, and War Widows.

**St George's Church Service, Chapel Street, East St Kilda, Sun 19 Aug.** The service this year will commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign, and the sacrifice of Bruce Kingsbury VC at Isurava. The guest speakers will be Bob Iskov and Cam Thompson, and Peter Holloway of the 39th. If you wish to attend the lunch following the service, please RSVP by 7 August by telephone (03) 9692 9426. Veterans, please wear your medals.

**Hawthorn Football Club – Kokoda 70th Anniversary Match** to be held at the MCG on **Sunday, 19th August, 4.40 pm.** The match will be between Hawthorn and the Gold Coast Suns. Veterans and their carers who would like to be guests of the Hawthorn Football Club and receive their usual VIP treatment should advise Chris Ingram at [chris.ingram@margni.com](mailto:chris.ingram@margni.com) or telephone (03) 9561 5790 by Tuesday, 31st July, at the latest, in order to receive your special invitation from the Hawthorn Football Club.

**Kingsbury Services, Friday 24 Aug.** At the schools' service this year we will be presenting copies of the History of 2/14 Australian Infantry Battalion by W.B. Russell to both Kingsbury Primary School and Reservoir High School. A wreath will be laid at the Kingsbury Tree at the High School, followed by morning tea.

Following the School service, a moving service will be held at the Austin/Heidelberg Chapel and a wreath will be laid in the memorial garden. A light lunch follows this service.

**Kokoda Track Memorial Walk, Ferntree Gully National Park.** The opening of the upgraded Memorial Walk and the new Memorial Terrace, is scheduled for **Sunday, 26th August.** The commencement time has not been finalised, but is likely to be 9.30 am. This project is the result of a \$1m allocation by the State Government. In consultation with Parks Victoria, our very own Marg Briggs, Trevor Ingram, representing the 2/16, and representatives from the 39th, have worked with the architects and builders, and the project is now well under way. For further details please contact Marg Briggs at [mgbriggs@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mgbriggs@bigpond.net.au) or telephone (03) 9561 2247.

**Kokoda Campaign Memorial Service, Osborne House, Geelong, Sun 26 Aug.** This service has now become a regular date for members in the Geelong area. Unfortunately it clashes with the above, but we are hoping Geelong people will try to get along to represent the 2/14 Battalion. Darren Benson, our new area rep (see page 8) will be contacting you about this. A wreath will be laid for the 2/14th and lunch is provided (free of charge) afterwards.

**70th Anniversary, Kokoda Campaign, Special 2/14 Battalion Association Service, Sun, 9 Sept.** You will find a separate invitation in this copy of Comradeship which should be returned at your very earliest convenience (for catering purposes). This is the Association's own commemorative service and it is important that you attend. John Smith is organising the event and by all accounts this is going very well. Along with a surprise MC, Patrick Lindsay, author of several books on Kokoda, will be our guest speaker and the Band of the 2/10th Field Regiment RAA will play for us. I've been told that a sumptuous afternoon tea will be available.

**ANYONE REQUIRING TRANSPORT TO ANY OF THE ABOVE SERVICES AND EVENTS, PLEASE LET CHRIS INGRAM KNOW AND IT WILL BE ORGANISED. BUT DON'T LEAVE IT TO THE LAST MINUTE – PLEASE DO IT NOW.**

**Chris can be contacted on [chris.ingram@margni.com](mailto:chris.ingram@margni.com) or telephone (03) 9561 5790**

## EVENT CALENDAR 2012

### Reunion – Queensland

Thursday, 26th July, 10.00 am  
Riverside Receptions, New Farm

### St Georges Church Service

Kokoda 70th Anniversary  
Commemorative Service  
Sunday, 19th August, 10.30 am  
4 Chapel St, East St Kilda

### Kingsbury Services

Friday, 24th August  
9.30 am Reservoir High School  
11.00 am Austin/Repat Hospital

### Kokoda Track Memorial Walk

Opening of "upgraded Kokoda  
Memorial Walk and Memorial Terrace  
Sunday, 26th August, 9.30 am  
Ferntree Gully National Park

### Kokoda Campaign Memorial Service

Sunday, 26th August, 11.00 am  
Osborne House, Geelong

### 70th Anniversary, Kokoda Campaign Special 2/14 Battalion Association Service

Sunday, 9th September, 2.00 pm  
2/14 Battalion tree, north-west corner  
Afternoon tea to follow  
The Shrine of Remembrance

### AGM & 1st Committee Meeting

Sunday, 23rd September, 11.00 am  
The Shrine of Remembrance

### Annual Pilgrimage

Sunday, 23rd September, 1.30 pm  
The Sanctuary, Shrine of  
Remembrance

### 2nd Committee Meeting

Sunday, 2nd December, 11.30 am  
East Malvern RSL

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## Around The Traps

The Committee has made two new appointments. **John Smith**, son of **Leonard R Smith (VX7557)** will assume the role of Media Manager. Any media enquiries that come to the Association will now be passed on to John. **Darren Benson** has taken on the role of Geelong representative. Darren is the grandson of **Peter Benson (WX14638)** and great nephew of **Jack Benson (WX14639)** who were both transferred as reinforcements from the 2/16 into the 2/14 Infantry Battalion just before the battalion returned to Australia from the Middle East in 1942. Darren will be making contact with the veteran members in the Geelong area, but would be delighted to hear from any other members thereabouts. His mobile number is 0424 179 017.



*Geelong Rep,  
Darren Benson*

Those who were on the 2010 trip to Balikpapan will be saddened to hear of the sudden passing of 2/16th Veteran **Dick South** on 3rd June. Dick joined us on our Borneo trip 2 years ago, and had not been out of Australia since WW2 or flown on a plane before. He had a ball. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

We are also saddened to note the passing of **Pat Rhoden**, widow of the battalion's former Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Phil Rhoden**, and of **Grace Howden**, widow of W 'Stace' Howden, and sister of Alex 'Sandy' Thomson. Our condolences are extended to the families of both these women who quietly served the battalion over many years.

The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne currently has two exhibitions of interest to the Battalion. The exhibition, **Milne Bay, Beachheads: Australians in Papua, July 1942 - January 1943** will be on display from **8 June 2012 - 27 January 2013**. While, the **Indigenous Australians at war from the Boer War to the present** travelling exhibition, which was mentioned in the last newsletter, can now be seen at the Koorie Heritage Trust, 295 King St, Melbourne, from 28 June - 26 August 2012.

To help raise money for the construction of the new **Kokoda Memorial** at Ferntree Gully National Park, the 39th Battalion Association is holding a **luncheon** on the **26th July** at the RACV Club, Level 17, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne. The Chief of the Army has agreed to be the guest speaker. The proceeds of the lunch will be shared equally between the

Kokoda Memorial fundraising and the Shrine of Remembrance to help them meet the costs of the current Kokoda Exhibition. Booking information can be found on the 39th Battalion website [www.39battalion.org](http://www.39battalion.org) or for more information contact Mary Holloway [meh@iinet.net.au](mailto:meh@iinet.net.au) Mobile 0407552 891

Congratulations to **Aidan Grimes**, a member of the Association, who is one of this year's recipients of the ANZAC of the Year Award, from the RSL. Aidan runs treks in Papua New Guinea, and on ANZAC Day each year lays a wreath at Bomana War Cemetery, in memory of 2/14 members who made the supreme sacrifice. His award is in recognition of his years of sustained and enthusiastic commitment to the community through his involvement with many community organisations, and in particular through his fostering the understanding and remembrance of Australia's military involvement in the Kokoda Campaign.

**Bob Turnley (VX64855)**, reports a most successful ANZAC Day commemoration was held in Tocumwal. It seems the whole town including children from the local schools and pony club, the SES and Cobram Pipe Band were involved. The only thing missing from former times was a fly past from the air force.

**Bob Fisher** sent in the following photo taken after the ANZAC March, wreath laying and service held at Epping, Victoria. The photograph shows Nancy Ormsby who was the wife of **Charles Fitzpatrick (VX15291)**, a 2/14 veteran (Nancy remarried after Charles passed away) and Charles' son, Barry Fitzpatrick. Nancy is wearing Charles' medals plus her Woman's Land Army medal, while Bob is wearing the medals of his uncle, **George Thompson (VX13877)** of 2/14 Bn who was killed in November 1942 at Gona. Bob also had two other uncles serve with 2/14 Bn, **Jack Thompson (VX11344)**, George's brother was posted elsewhere on their return from the Middle East, and **Keith Florance (VX13140)** who was wounded at Gona and who married George's sister, Bob's Aunt Nellie.



*Bob Fisher, Nancy Ormsby and Barry Fitzpatrick at Epping RSL.*