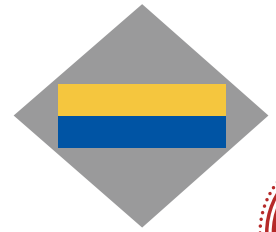


COMRADESHIP

www.2nd14battalion.org.au

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President's Report



Another year has flown past and we marked it with good memories of some wonderful events, and celebrations of the amazing lives our brave veterans have led. We have some great activities in the planning stages and many of your committee members are involved in various tasks to continue the work of honouring our veterans and ensuring the role they had in Australia's history is never forgotten.

We have begun an Alumni Association of past Kingsbury Scholarship winners, which is being nurtured by our members, along with former Principal of Kingsbury Primary School, Barbara Hinsley. We are working with Parks Victoria and a number of schools in the area to continue the Kokoda education program at Ferntree Gully National Park.

We are active in various programs in Sydney and in Queensland that continue the tradition of educating about and honouring our men.

We are part of a joint committee with the 2/16 and 39th Battalion Associations, along with input from representatives of the 2/27 and 2/53 Battalion families, in planning for a major 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign event, to be held at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance in September 2017.

As of September this year, our records show that we have 37 veterans and 107 widows as members. To those veterans and widows, I can say that you inspire us to do the work we do. You have played your part in history and now it's time for us to honour you. We will ensure our 2/14 men and their deeds and sacrifices are never forgotten.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Regards,
Craig Iskov
President 2/14 Battalion Association

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS BUY

AVAILABLE - 1 DECEMBER 2016 TO 31 JANUARY 2017

If you are having trouble deciding what to get for that special person?

Why not purchase the **History of the 2/14 Battalion by W B Russell**. This is a wonderful book and a must read for descendants of Veterans or anyone interested in the History of the Battalion.

We are offering it at the special Christmas price of \$60 which includes P&P. If you indicate on your order, which is included in this copy of Comradeship, we can send it directly to your relative or friend, if that is what you would like.

So that you get your copy in time for Christmas please order NOW using the Christmas order form and mail or email this directly to Chris Ingram. Contact details are on the order form.

If you order two or more copies the price will reduce to \$50 per copy, including P&P. Requests for multiple copies must be made by the same purchaser.

Please note that overseas postage will be additional. Please email or phone Chris on Chris.Ingram@margni.com or (03) 9587 5546 to obtain a quote for overseas postage.

COMRADESHIP by EMAIL

In a grand experiment, the September edition of Comradeship was emailed to all those members who had provided us with an email address, as well as being posted, as usual.

If you didn't receive an email version and would like to in the future, please let me know directly at jillebear@gmail.com

I had quite a few undelivered because of incorrect email addresses.

As well, there were quite a few bounce backs that probably hit your spam filter. This was particularly evident if you have a **Bigpond** address. Please send me an email and add me to your 'safe senders' list (or equivalent) so that you can receive future mailings.

We aren't reducing the print run, so if at any time you would like to receive a hard copy, let me know. It's easy to send one out.

This edition will be sent by email only, to those who indicated they were happy with the new arrangement.

ANZAC SERVICE FOR SCHOOLS IN THE DANDENONGS

Earlier this year, Yarra Valley Legacy advised that they would no longer be organising the annual Anzac Service for schools in the area. The committee of the 2/14 Battalion Association felt that the event was an important one, and has stepped up to the plate to take over its organisation. A subcommittee has met several times with Parks Victoria and all are keen to proceed. Schools in the area have already been contacted and we predict it will be a very successful occasion, bringing the meaning of ANZAC Day to approximately 350-400 local children.

It will be held from 11 am on Wednesday, 19th April 2017, at the memorial site at Dandenong Ranges National Park, Upper Ferntree Gully. We urge you to put this date in your diary for next year. The 39th and 2/16th Battalion Associations will also support this event and we hope that some Veterans and Widows will be able to attend.

MEMORIAL SERVICES 2016

RESERVOIR HIGH

The work of the year 7 students at Reservoir High again impressed the audience at the Kingsbury Memorial Service this year. All reflected on the sacrifices made by **Bruce Kingsbury**, and others who served with the Battalion on the Kokoda Track. **Alyssa Kontos** and **Madilyn O'Neill** presented their research in the form of a newspaper report, while **Charlotte Reginato**, **Keely McDonald**, **Serina Kaing** and **Sweeney Marshall** imagined the letters that Bruce Kingsbury might have sent home, describing his experiences. **Michael Cooper** and **Corey Chan** shared their poems; and all the students demonstrated a clear understanding and strong historical imagination in regard to the events in Papua New Guinea during August 1942. Corey's poem, which he recited from memory, appears below.



Reservoir high students sharing their research

In one of her last official duties as Principal of Kingsbury Primary School, **Barb Hinsley** reflected on the strong link the school has forged with the Battalion Association over the years, and the tangible benefits that have flowed from this for her students. Several of the grade 6 students then shared their feelings of excitement, nervousness and ultimately pride in their achievement, carrying the Battalion banner in the 2016 ANZAC Day March.

Current Kingsbury Scholarship holder, **Suny Salioski**, shared some thoughts from his prize winning essay, noting that, though Bruce Kingsbury was not much older than him, Bruce put the needs of others before his own.

On behalf of the Battalion, **Sue Davies** reflected on the importance of Mateship, and how camaraderie can help us get through difficult situations. She identified four elements of Mateship: the need for respect and understanding of each other; having shared goals; solidarity in achieving those goals; and the trust and friendship that then develops among members of the group.

Howard Cornish provided the bugle calls for the formal part of the service of remembrance, after which wreathes were laid at the memorial tree at the front of the school. The visitors were then treated to a delicious morning tea and lively conversation with the staff and students. On this occasion, members of the Battalion Association were

joined by representatives from the Darebin RSL and La Trobe Village, a retirement community near the school.



Wreath laying ceremony at the Reservoir High memorial tree

AUSTIN HEALTH

Once again, **Rob Winther** and his team hosted the annual service at what was formerly the Heidleberg Repatriation Hospital.

Jill Bear, daughter-in-law of **Lindsay 'Teddy' Bear**, shared her thoughts on the Healing Power of Truth and the effects the silence surrounding their father's trauma had had on the families of those who suffered from their experience of war.

Will Smith and **Nick Callcott**, cadets from Ivanhoe Grammar School, read the names of the Fallen from the Owen Stanley Campaign, reminding us all of the sacrifices made for us in that darkest of times.

The service concluded beside the Battalion memorials in the Memorial Garden, with **Howard Cornish** providing the traditional bugle calls, as he had earlier in the day at Reservoir High.

Conversation continued over a wonderful luncheon spread.

We extend our thanks to the staff at Kingsbury Primary, Reservoir High and Austin Health for their continued support of these ceremonies of remembrance, which are so important to us.

SHRINE PILGRIMAGE

Following a successful AGM held amidst the fascinating display of memorabilia at the Rats of Tobruk Hall in Port Melbourne, the annual Pilgrimage was held at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 25 September.

Rob Eden presided over the proceedings, with the assistance of the Shrine Governor, **Lieut Col. Don Reid**, and the honour guard, provided by the Shrine Guard.

President **Craig Iskov** retold the story of 16 year old **Reginald Armstrong Hunter**, who enlisted in July 1941 using his older brother's birth certificate. Reg was wounded at Isurava on the same day as Bruce Kingsbury died, and was later killed at Sangai, with other wounded and their carer, who were awaiting rescue there. He lies buried in the war

cemetery at Bomana, near Port Moresby, under a headstone bearing his brother's name, Stanley Robert Hunter.



The memorial to Reg Hunter at Austin Health

Gavon Armstrong read the list of names of the Fallen of the Battalion and **Howard Cornish** provided the bugle calls; children from Kingsbury Primary held the banner, and laid a wreath, with President Craig Iskov.



Students from Kingsbury Primary School proudly supporting the Battalion banner at the Shrine Pilgrimage

Jill Bear

Bruce Kingsbury

On the 29th of August, 1942,
Pinned down in their tracks, with nothing left to do.
Australia had no choice and were forced to pull back,
But apart from all the rest, Kingsbury stood to attack.

Against all odds Bruce Kingsbury ran, past the fire of guns,
Charging through the undergrowth in such a treacherous run.
The Bren gun of his fallen comrade firing from his hip,
He killed or crippled the Japanese without a single slip.

But then and there a sniper rose, from the plants and trees,
A single bullet from their gun brought Kingsbury to his knees.
And so the man who stood so strong and held his head up high,
Fell down to the fruits of war and was seen to die.

A soldier and a faithful friend was fighting by his side,
He tries to chase the sniper down but lost him as he tried.
He returned to where Kingsbury lay in the blood and lead,
But sadly it was much too late, Kingsbury was already dead.

He may have died at 22 but his life was not in vain,
He fought the Japanese long enough for ground to be regained.
So farewell to Bruce Kingsbury, we bid your life adieu,
Farewell to Bruce Kingsbury, we thank you through and through.

Corey Chan 7D
Reservoir High School



NSW REPORT

Yesterday, Nov 3, I attended two fine Kokoda events here in Sydney. There was the Kokoda Flag Raising ceremony at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway at Rhodes (still one of the finest landscape memorials anywhere in the world). The Kokoda Flag Raising event at Rhodes is well established in the Sydney veteran calendar. I was very proud to be there, both as a member of Auburn RSL and as a member of the 2/14th Battalion Association.

In the evening there was a fine dinner at the Sheraton Hotel in the city, organised by the charity Network Kokoda. The evening raised over \$90,000 for the charity's work which is medical, educational and agricultural for Papua-New Guineans living along the real Kokoda Track. The key leader of this charity is the well-known veteran, Charlie Lynn who has walked the real Kokoda Track 84 times.

Ron Inglis

Our NSW representative, Ron Inglis, has just published the second edition of his guidebook *Lest We Forget the Western Front - A Guide to Following in the Footsteps of the AIF in Britain, Belgium and France*.

The second edition contains much new material and many updates on the Western Front and on the commemoration of the war in Australia. Most importantly, Ron has included the GPS coordinates for all Australian sacred places along the Front and in Britain so

travellers will be able to find their way to them with ease.



With over 200 photographs, this book is a great buy for Christmas for a traveller or for anyone with an interest in the First AIF and in the commemoration of war in Australia.

Cost from Ron is \$20 plus \$10 postage. Order at inglisrw@gmail.com, including your name and address. Payment may be made to Commonwealth Bank account [Inglis R W](#) BSB [062256](#) A/c No [10657576](#) including your surname and 'Guide' in the description field, or send a cheque with details to Ron Inglis, 13 Augusta St, Strathfield, NSW 2135.

The book may also be ordered from the bookshop of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra at www.awm.gov.au/shop

QUEENSLAND REPORT

We greatly appreciated that **Terry Wicks** included a visit to Hugh McWilliam at Tweed Heads, in his holiday activities after the Qld reunion.

Our two "local" veterans are still punching along well. **Jack Thompson** still gets up to the Maroochydore RSL for a "beer and a bet" during the week and **George Priestley** still has a couple of games of golf most weeks.

Members in Qld face the same situation as the southerners with protocols for the March moving to rule out marching behind the banner.

Recently, grade 6 students at Yandina State School were taken to visit the 2/14 Memorial at Mt Ninderry, site of the Battalion camp for three months prior to embarking for PNG in August 1942.

I was joined by **Gloria Bissett** and local RSL representative, **Helen Cook**. Helen has been supporting the Association by applying for a grant to assist in the restoration of the memorial. We are waiting (im)patiently for news of the result.

Students showed great interest in a brief history of the Battalion, up to and after the time spent in the Yandina district. Once out at the memorial, the emphasis was placed on two things: the wonderful relationship between the troops and the people of the area, and the role of the students in living the type of life that was won for them.

It was heart-warming to hear the understanding and appreciation of the students about the role of the 2/14 and also that of the last community many of the soldiers knew.



Gloria Bissett (L) and Helen Cook (R) with Yandina SS students

EVENT CALENDAR 2016/17

Committee Meeting

Sunday, 4 December 2016
at 11.30am
East Malvern RSL

Committee Meeting

Sunday, 5 March 2017
at 11.30am
East Malvern RSL

Ferntree Gully Schools Service

Wednesday, 19 April 2017
at 11.00am
Dandenong Ranges National Park,
Ferntree Gully.

2017 Reunion

Friday, 21 April 2017
Date and venue to be confirmed

2017 Anzac Day March

Tuesday, 25 April 2017

Committee Meeting

Sunday, 4 June 2017
at 11.30am
East Malvern RSL

Queensland Reunion

July 2017
Details to be confirmed

Kingsbury Services

Reservoir High & Austin Health
Details to be confirmed

75th Anniversary of Kokoda Campaign

Saturday, 26 August 2017
at 11.00am
Shrine of Remembrance,
St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

2017 Balikpapan Tour

Tuesday, 26 September 2017
to Tuesday, 3 October 2017
Balikpapan, Indonesia

2/14 Battalion Association | BALIKPAPAN TOUR 2017

ATTENDANCE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Due to popular demand the 2/14 Battalion Association is putting together preliminary plans for a commemorative tour of Balikpapan from 01 to 07 October 2017.

Due to popular demand the 2/14 Battalion Association is putting together preliminary plans for a commemorative tour of Balikpapan from 01 to 07 October 2017.

As with past 2/14 Battalion Association Balikpapan tours, in order to keep costs to an absolute minimum, instead of using a tour company, we will put together an itinerary and then it will be up to participating persons to arrange their own airfares and book accommodation. This will allow participants to shop around for the cheapest airfares available and make their own arrangements for stopovers en route/return. **Please note: This is not a travel agent 'organised' tour as such.**

The organisers will attempt to negotiate a discounted rate at a Balikpapan hotel to keep everyone together and, in conjunction with our Balikpapan expatriate supporters, arrange the appropriate local tours and services. A costing for these tours, including the buses, national park admission prices and extras will be advised in due course, but will be kept at cost. Meals and travel insurance will be individual expenses however where an organised meal is arranged, a costing will be provided. It is normal practice that we also provide a gratuity to our bus drivers and translators. Time permitting, we hope to visit the Batki Haji Orphanage and make a donation. Tours/events are subject to prevailing conditions, weather and availability and are subject to change. In fairness to others, participants are expected to pay for and attend all organized events.

As a rough estimate, the Novotel 4 star hotel room with breakfast in Balikpapan is in the vicinity of \$AU80/100 per room per night. The bus charter etc, depending on numbers

is approximately \$AU25 per person per day. National park tours/cruises are approximately \$AU30 to \$AU60 per person per event. We divide up the cost of these tours between participants.



Camp site on the 2009 Tumberumba trek

Optional Labuan and Sandakan stopover extension possibility.

A number of members and supporters have expressed interest in visiting the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Labuan Island (Malaysia) where 2/14th Borneo casualties were reinterred as well as a stopover in Sandakan, site of the infamous Sandakan POW camp and the start of the Sandakan death marches of 1945. The extension proposal is from 26 to 30 September.

For those interested in this option, we could meet in Labuan, tour the island, fly to Sandakan then fly from Sandakan to Tawau/Tarakan to Balikpapan to meet the rest of the group and commence the Balikpapan itinerary. **We will only conduct the extension if there are sufficient numbers.**

It is possible to fly from Australia to Labuan in one day (Malaysian/Singapore Airlines and

perhaps Scoot/Air Asia). Please note: visas are no longer required for Australians in Indonesia.

Travel to Balikpapan can be arranged through a number of airlines and budget airline Air Asia has flights to Balikpapan. Flights via Bali, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore or Jakarta can also be made through airlines including Garuda, Malaysian Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Silk Airlines, Lion or Citilink. Some routes may require a stopover en route.

Expressions of interest

Initial indications are that the 2/14th Balikpapan 2017 tour will be very popular and it is essential that we start planning as soon as possible. Whilst airline bookings for the period are probably not yet open, it is suggested that interested participants commence their own planning and lock in the dates. Numbers will be strictly limited and if necessary, a selection ballot will be held. We are hopeful that our Australian expatriate friends in Balikpapan will be assisting.

TRAVEL BOOKINGS: Use your own travel agent OR I have approached Mr. Ben Miller of Escape Travel, Unley, South Australia who will be doing all my bookings. Ben is aware of the trip and has offered to assist all participants in their bookings, even those from interstate if they wish. Ben can be reached on 08 8306 6888 or email: benjamin.miller@escapetravel.com.au. Hotels we hope to use will be advised in due course.

Further initial information is available from:
Ian Hopley (SA) on 0433 019441
Michael Ralston (Vic) on 0417 550861

PROPOSED BALIKPAPAN TOUR (including Labuan/Sandakan optional extension) 26 Sept to 7 Oct 2017

No.	Day/Date	Place	Event
1#	Tue 26 Sept	Australia to Labuan	Arrive Labuan by own arrangements
2#	Wed 27 Sept	Labuan	Tour Labuan CWGC
3#	Thu 28 Sept	Labuan to Sandakan	Arrive Sandakan. Tour POW memorial park
4#	Fri 29 Sept	Sandakan	At Sandakan - Heritage trail
5#	Sat 30 Sept	Sandakan to Balikpapan (possibly via Tawau & Tarakan)	Flights to Balikpapan . Via Tawau/Tarakan (if possible)
6	Sun 01 Oct	Australia to Balikpapan	Arrive Balikpapan by own arrangements
7	Mon 02 Oct	Balikpapan	Tour Balikpapan incl. Manggar Beach & Waite's Knoll. Balikpapan International School visit/Batki Haji orphanage
8	Tue 03 Oct	Balikpapan	Yellow Beach landing site & Pasar Ridge Commemoration Service. Military museum PM: Manggar Besar River cruise*
9	Wed 04 Oct	Balikpapan	Kampung Batu (Petrosea) Japanese guns PM: Somber River village & Proboscis monkey cruise
10	Thu 05 Oct	Balikpapan	Bos Samboja National Park - orangutans & sun bears PM: at leisure
11	Fri 06 Oct	Balikpapan	At leisure. PM: Farewell dinner
12	Sat 07 Oct	Balikpapan-Australia or other port	Depart Balikpapan by own arrangements

optional only

*all tours/services etc subject to prevailing conditions/weather/availability and are subject to change. The association and organisers can take no responsibility for cancellations/changes



OBITUARIES

WX13879 Private Philip John KEMP



Philip John Kemp initially enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 30 December 1940 and advised on his enlistment form that he was born at Bunbury, on 10 December 1922. However, he was discharged on 13 January 1941 at 4 Recruit Depot with the rank of Aircraftman 1 after, it is believed, the RAAF found he was actually only 17 years of age!

Phil, then enlisted in the Army on 4 June 1941 at Claremont but this time noted on his enlistment form that he was born at Capel, near Bunbury, on 10 December 1920. Perhaps the Army wasn't as diligent as the Air Force and Phil was in.

After attesting at the Western Command General Details Camp, Phil spent time in various training units at Northam and the Signals Battalion at Fremantle Naval Base. On 7 November 1941 he embarked for the Middle East arriving on 24 November. He was posted to a reinforcement contingent for the 2/16 Battalion and marched into the 21st Australian Infantry Training Battalion; the reinforcement training unit for 21 Brigade, which included 2/14 Battalion, alongside the SA 2/27 and WA 2/16 Battalions.

Although issued with 2/16 Battalion colour patches, Phil, along with several other Western Australians, was given movement orders to march into 2/14 Battalion on 19 January 1942. He was posted to the Transport Platoon which was responsible for the transport of the Battalion and its supplies and the maintenance of all jeeps, trucks and weapons carriers.

With the commencement of the Pacific War, the Australian Government sought the return of Australian troops in the Middle East but against the wishes of the British Government. The Battalion embarked on 31 January 1942 and

headed for Australia. Whilst in the Indian Ocean, the convoy received intelligence anticipating possible attacks from Japanese submarines and were directed back to Colombo. While still at sea, further orders were received from Britain changing the destination to Rangoon, with the intention of their assisting the British to resist the Japanese in Burma. This order was countermanded when Australian Prime Minister John Curtin insisted that the troops were essential to the defence of Australia, following the fall of Singapore.

The Battalion finally landed in Adelaide on 29 March 1942 and progressively made its way to Queensland to undertake jungle training in preparation for the forthcoming campaign in the Territories of Papua and New Guinea. On arrival in Port Moresby, the Transport, Carrier, Machine Gun and Mortar Platoons were detached from the Battalion and put under the direct control of 7th Division Headquarters, as the 7th Division Carrier Group.

The principal purpose of the Carrier Group was to be a heavily armed mobile fighting group patrolling the area between the Owen Stanley Mountains and Port Moresby, in other words, the last line of defence if the Australians could not hold the Japanese in the mountains. The group was also responsible for taking supplies and communications to the road head at Owers Corner in the foothills of the Owen Stanley Mountains.



V-shaped bridge built by a pioneer platoon for a creek crossing on the Kokoda Track

With the commencement of the Japanese withdrawal across the Kokoda Track, on 8 October 1942, Phil was detached from the Carrier Group and rejoined the 2/14 Battalion where he was posted to the Pioneer Platoon. This Platoon was responsible for the physical labour associated with engineering works at a Battalion level and included setting up and dismantling camps, digging and creating defensive positions, sweeping for and treating landmines, building and maintaining roads, tracks and bridges and, unfortunately, digging graves for Battalion members who died on active service. On occasions, Pioneers also had to act as ordinary infantry in battle.

The Pioneers saw action in their traditional role and as infantry at Gona where the Battalion was next in action; greatly understrength after the Kokoda fighting. Gona has often been described as the worst battlefield anywhere in World War Two, with troops fighting in the coastal mangrove swamps, often not knowing

where the enemy were situated. Casualties were high in this tragic situation and tropical diseases such as malaria caused havoc.

Phil was one of those seriously affected by malaria. He was evacuated to hospital on Boxing Day, 1942, and then, by Hospital Ship Katoomba, to Australia on 13 January 1943. Apart from some home leave, Phil was in and out of various hospitals because of the debilitating and recurring effects of malaria until he rejoined the Battalion in Queensland on 24 May 1943, as it prepared for the next stage of the War: the Markham Ramu Campaign.

On arrival in Port Moresby on 8 August 1943, the Battalion was camped at Bootless Bay and the Platoon's first task was to set the camp site up for occupation. With the move to the Markham Valley, after the initial parachute landing at Nadzab by American troops, the main work of the Pioneers was to support the advance by constructing and maintaining tracks and bridges; a difficult task given the occasional flooding from tropical rains.



Typical work and conditions for the Pioneer Platoon in the Ramu-Markham Valley

Unfortunately, like many of his comrades, the Tropics were not kind to Phil and he spent extended periods in medical care with recurrences of malaria and other conditions such as dysentery. Returning to Australia with the Battalion in February 1944 he endured further periods of hospitalisation from recurrences of malaria.

During 1944, following regrouping at Strathpine, and the move to Kairi and Townsville in Queensland, the Battalion trained for a possible seaborne landing, in the belief that the Americans would use Australian troops in the retaking of the Philippines. However, as this didn't eventuate, the Australians were finally given the task of invading Borneo, with 2/14 Battalion to land at Balikpapan.

Whilst the actual landing was largely unopposed, as the Battalion advanced up the coast towards its objective, Manggar Airfield, many obstacles were encountered requiring repair by the Pioneers, sometimes under enemy fire. Finally the Japanese surrendered and the Battalion became engaged in the restoration of civil administration; the Pioneers repairing local infrastructure. >>>

OBITUARIES CONT.

>>> Whilst the Battalion was engaged in gathering and guarding Japanese prisoners of war for their eventual repatriation to Japan, the Pioneers were busy with the dangerous task of identifying and dealing with booby traps and unexploded ordnance. Civil administration became the task for handover to returning Netherlands East Indies forces, firstly in Borneo then in the Celebes (now Sulawesi in Indonesia). Phil embarked with the Battalion on the armed merchant cruiser HMAS Kanimbla at Makassar on 22 January 1946 and landed in Australia on 4 February 1946.

After further periods of hospitalisation, Phil was finally discharged from the Army on 1 July 1946. Like many of his comrades who had served in New Guinea, he suffered from the effects of malaria for many years after the war. However, this did not stop him from joining his comrades in remembering the achievements of the 2/14 Battalion and commemorating his fallen friends.

Although only earmarked as a possible reinforcement for the 2/16 Battalion, he joined its Association and was a regular attendee at commemorative events and reunions. He also joined the 2/14 Battalion Association and often travelled to Melbourne to participate in its annual reunion and ANZAC Day March. He was honoured in recent years to deliver the Toast to the Battalion at the Reunion Lunch.

He will be greatly missed

QX41568 Private Neville William Nott

Army records show Neville Nott had been living in Normanton, Qld, when he enlisted at Brisbane on 24 November 1942. He marched in to 2/14 on 11 June 1943, when they were in training at Millstream Falls, near Ravenshoe on the Atherton Tablelands, Qld, and was posted to C Company.

He took part in the New Guinea Campaign, along the Ramu-Markham Valley, between Lae and Madang from September 1943 until January, 1944.

On 30 August 1944 he marched out of 2/14 to an unspecified unit, and was discharged on 11 April 1946.

We were informed through the 2/14 Facebook page that Neville passed away earlier this year.

Lest we Forget

THE KOKODA EFFECT - PART 1

Trevor Pryor

Trevor Pryor continues his perspective on the way his father's wartime experience has had an impact on him and his life.

Part 1 appeared in the September 2016 edition of [Comradeship](#)

Personal Effects

Effect 6: Ocean Shores Effect

I became a teacher and eventually a principal, and in most years responsibility fell to me to organise the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies. To be fair, I think I was always first to put my hand up. For many years I invited local identities to come to school to give students the best experience possible. I also took representatives to Dawn Services and other ceremonies.

And then one year - I listened to the students!

After talking of the role of our veterans, including the Kokoda campaign, we discussed the service of these men and women. I asked them if they had any role in all this hype. They told me that it was their responsibility to live the lives that had been fought for; to do the right thing, to be fair and to work together and help each other. I went outside, wiped my eyes and came back in.

I contacted the local sub-branch and asked if they had ever considered having primary students deliver the address at the Dawn Service. They said they would discuss it and get back to me. I don't think they were convinced. They agreed to send a representative out to listen to what the students had to say and see if they could help them develop something suitable.

The rep came out, listened to Aimee and Jake, the school representatives, and said, "That's fine!" They got the gig.



Students from Ocean Shores Primary School attending the Dawn Service

Effect 7: The Tumba Effect

That same year, I was transferred to Tumberumba, a timber town on the western foothills of the Snowy Mountains. I arrived on April 23rd and attended the Dawn Service 2 days later. But my mind was 1200 km away. I had missed the kids' address - but received wonderful messages about their marvellous effort. I ran into Aimee last year and after apologising profusely for leaving her in the lurch, listened as the now 27 year old excitedly relived that day.

In my second year in Tumba, I invited two 2/14 vets from Victoria, Roy Watson and Jim Sartori, to come and talk with the students. I hadn't counted on the group of local dads who also attended. Two years earlier they had walked the Track and wanted to be involved.

One of them, in conjunction with a high school teacher, hatched a plan to take some students across the Track. In 2007 the first group was assembled. They were inspired by a letter I organised from Stan Bisset as they went about their training. I arranged for another 2/14 veteran, Ted Armstrong, to visit them prior to departure and he almost talked a few out of going. Ted went on to talk to the local Rotary club and was declared, at that stage, their best guest speaker ever. What thrilled me was the Mitchell/Joey story. (The story of an overweight boy from a struggling family who lacked confidence, and a delightful, confident lass from a prominent business family, who, in working together demonstrated the real meaning of the program. Mitch went on to give a talk to a Rotary club in a neighbouring town on his return)

Tumberumba is a town with a population of around 2 000. By the end of the 2015 school trip, the 5th, almost 10% of the town will have walked the Track.

In my second year in Tumba, The president of the local RSL sub branch approached me and asked if I would consider coordinating the 2 primary schools and the high school in



running the Remembrance Day service. My hand went up again. The students did a marvellous job and the cooperative work they put in was again, very rewarding to see. Until I left, 3 years later, the service was run exclusively by the students. On one occasion they did call on an adult as guest speaker.



Camp site on the 2009 Tumbarumba trek

Effect 9: Lismore Effect

As principal of Lismore Heights I was once left with just over half of the senior school as the rest were involved in a three day music extravaganza. What to do?

I designed a tabloid, a series of activities involving, maths, reading, mapping, listening, writing, talking and sport – all connected with the Kokoda campaign. Students were placed in mixed aged groups and instructed that success meant involvement of all, each member helping others, sharing, everyone completing tasks, much like the soldiers along the track. Correct answers were a bonus!

Students embraced the concept and loved the activity. So successful was it that I asked staff to select 20 students who I loaded into a bus and drove to Matt Power's place at Mt Tambourine. Here Bertha fed us while Matt returned to the classroom and told stories and answered questions.



Lismore Heights students listen closely as veteran Matt Power explains conditions in PNG

Effect 10: Brisbane effect

Three weeks after moving to Brisbane, Stan Bisset rang to ask if I would take on the Qld rep's role for the 2/14th; a role that has given me so many opportunities: it has seen me link up with the exceptional veterans from the 39th and other militia battalions as well as the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB), I have had the opportunity to have some connection with the Kokoda Challenge Foundation (now Kokoda Youth Foundation) and talk to some wonderful youngsters who have walked the Track. I have also worked with staff and students from Yandina State School to establish a link between the school and the Battalion in recognition of the time the Battalion spent at Yandina in preparation for heading off to give the 39 a hand in New Guinea.

I have had the opportunity to host a Fuzzy Wuzzy for the last 6 years and have dragged him and George Palmer off to a number of schools to tell their story, as well as having him join the 2/14 for the ANZAC Day march.



Trevor Pryor (left) with Frederick Soka (centre) at the 2013 ANZAC Day March

I have been fortunate to have had many opportunities to be involved with the wonderful veterans over the years. I have had the opportunity to tell some of their stories and to guide many youngsters to an appreciation of their deeds and the reasons behind them. I have also been influenced by the attitude of many of those students toward maintaining the tradition.

It is a source of great pride that at a number of times during my career, colleagues or parents have indicated that I had a wonderful relationship with students. When asked if I could suggest why, I figured it was because I was just a big kid. But when I thought more deeply, my mind slipped back to Victoria Barracks, to the picnics, the visits and the respect I had been shown by those soldiers. I am confident the quality of these men had shaped my career, and I hope through me, the lives of many others.

"We will remember them";

WE MUST REMEMBER THEM.



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AROUND THE TRAPS

RETIREMENT

President Craig Iskov and former President, Michael Ralston attended the retirement function to farewell **Barbara Hinsley**, principal of Kingsbury Primary School. Throughout her ten years at the school, Barb has been a keen supporter of the Battalion, regularly attending the Annual Reunion, participating in the 2015 trip to Balikpapan and bringing about the 'adoption' of the Battalion by the school, through the Shrine of Remembrance program. The school uniform is in the colours of the Battalion, and Barb has ensured that the students who pass through the school are aware of the sacrifices of Bruce Kingsbury and others from the Battalion and their relevance to our way of life today.

We wish Barb and her husband, Charles, a long and happy retirement, and look forward to continuing our association with her through her work with the Kingsbury Award Alumni.

INFORMATION REQUEST

We have had a request from researcher, **Alex Warton**, who would like to speak to any veterans who are able, about their wartime experiences. He would particularly like to interview anyone who travelled to the Middle East on the **Aquitania** in 1940, or returned to Australia on the **Ile de France** or **City of Paris** in January, 1942. But he also has a broader interest in recording the memories of veterans.

Contact can be made with Alex by phone: 0425 216 714, mail: 2 Cedar Ave, Bradbury, NSW 2560 or email: alex.warton@gmail.com

KINGSBURY ALUMNI

A group of nine former Kingsbury Award winners came together with members of the Battalion Association, including veteran, **Max Caldwell**, at a dinner at Darebin RSL on 24 October. The gathering presented an opportunity to see where some of our former award winners are now. While some are in the process of completing their years at high school, others are furthering their studies at university and entering the work force. **Barb Hinsley** will be working with a couple of volunteers from the group to arrange future activities.



Margaret Bannan and Adrijan Cvetanoski at the recent Alumni Dinner

FLAG PRESENTATION

Michael Ralston attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at Kingsbury Primary School. In brilliant sunshine, Michael presented the school with their own 2/14 Battalion flag, to be flown on significant occasions. The whole school made paper poppies which they then planted in the school's memorial garden during the ceremony. Staunch 2/14 Battalion Association supporter, Wayne Bolton, managed the proceedings.

75th ANNIVERSARY of the KOKODA CAMPAIGN

Please mark **11.00 am, Saturday 26th August 2017** in your calendar as something not to be missed.

A Joint Committee of the 39th, 2/14th and 2/16th Battalion Associations is planning a Commemoration Service at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, to mark the **75th Anniversary** of the **Kokoda Campaign**.

Patrick Lindsay has agreed to be the Master of Ceremonies and Invitations have been organised for the dignitaries who require a longer lead-time such as Governor General and a VC winner while a band, Catafalque Party

and RAAF flyover have also been requested.

The day is to focus on the veterans and their actions 75 years ago, and the Shrine ceremony will be followed by a luncheon for the veterans (with 2 family members) and dignitaries.

Association members will be kept fully informed as details of other arrangements come to hand.

Together we are going to make this 75th Anniversary a significant event for all.

Watch this space!