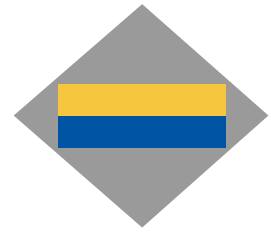


# COMRADESHIP

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

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## President's Report



The 2/14 Battalion Association Reunion Luncheon was held on Friday 22 April in the Officers Mess in Victoria Barracks Melbourne.

We were thrilled to have our veterans Clarrie Cunningham, Max Caldwell and George Collins attend. Having these wonderful men amongst us was such a privilege and it inspires us to carry out the services we provide to honour them, and in memory of their mates who have gone before them.

We entertained some special guests including Victorian Representative of the 2/16th Battalion Association, Trevor Ingram, President of Descendants of the 14th Battalion, Chris Waters and the representatives and Scholarship winners from the Kingsbury Primary and Reservoir High Schools.

We were pleased to have as our guest speaker, Air Commodore (Retd) Dave Steele CSC. Dave shared some highlights of his absolutely amazing career in the Royal Australian Air Force including flying helicopters, F111's, being in charge of the RAAF Roulettes Aerobatic Team and postings to Washington and the Middle East. He also touched on his time in Balikpapan with the 2/14 tour last year. Dave's father landed at Balikpapan with the Matilda Tanks in 1945 and he also has a family connection with the original 14th Battalion.

Anzac Day was celebrated around the country and the 2/14 was represented in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Balikpapan in Borneo and at Bomana War Cemetery in PNG. My thanks to all who took part in that special day.

Of course there are other events throughout the year and you are all invited to participate. A significant day is our Pilgrimage Memorial service in the Shrine Sanctuary on Sunday 25th September at 2.00pm. The names of all 2/14th men who gave up their lives are read out in a very moving service.

Check Comradeship, the 2/14 Battalion website and the 2/14 Battalion Facebook page for all event details. If you have any suggestions or comments, please email or call any one of the committee members and thank you again for being part of the 2/14th family.

**Craig Iskov**  
President

### KOKODA... THE SPIRIT LIVES

Next year is the 75th anniversary of the battles along the Kokoda Trail in the Owen Stanley Ranges. This is a significant event in 2/14 Battalion AIF history.

**Patrick Lindsay**, renowned author, film producer and good friend of the 2/14 Battalion Association is filming a documentary entitled **Kokoda ... the spirit lives** to celebrate this milestone in Australian History.

He is seeking public support and donations to fund the project through the Australian Cultural Fund program

<https://australianculturalfund.org.au/projects/kokoda-the-spirit-lives/>

We invite you to consider supporting this worthwhile project. If you decide to donate, there is a check box that asks you to nominate your Organisation. You could enter 2/14 Battalion and the name of a relative or friend who served in the 2/14 Battalion as a way of paying silent tribute.

*By popular request, this is the poem  
Clarrie Cunningham recited at the  
Melbourne Reunion:*

### Life Gets Teejus, Don't it?

Sun comes up and the sun goes down.  
The hands on the clock keep goin' around.  
I just get up an' it's time to lay down.  
Life gets teejus, don't it?

My shoe's untied but I don't really care.  
I ain't a-figurin' on goin' nowhere.  
I'd have to wash an' comb my hair.  
That's just wasted effort.

Water in the well's gettin' lower an' lower.  
Can't take a bath for six months or more  
But I've heard it said, and it's true I'm sure,  
That too much bathin' ll weaken' you.

I open the door an' the flies swarm in.  
I shut the door an' I'm sweatin' again.  
I move too fast an' I crack my shin.  
Just one durn thing after t'other.

My old brown mule, he must be sick.  
I jabbed him in the rump with a pin on a stick.  
He humped his back, but he wouldn't kick.  
There's somethin' cockeyed somewhere.

There's a mouse a-chawin' on the pantry door.  
He's been at it for at least a month or more.  
When he gets through there he's sure goin'  
to be sore.  
There ain't a durn thing in there.

Hound dog howlin', he's so folorn.  
Laziest dog that ever was born.  
He's howlin' 'cause he's a-sittin' on a thorn —  
Just too tired to move over.

Tin roof leaks an' the chimney leans.  
There's a hole in the seat of my ol' blue jeans.  
An' I've et the last of them pork an' beans.  
Jus' can't depend on nuthin'.

Cow's gone dry an' the hens won't lay.  
Fish quit bitin' last Saturday.  
Troubles pile up, day by day —  
Now I'm gettin' dandruff.

Grief an' misery, pains an' woes.  
Debts an' taxes, an' so it goes.  
And I think I'm gettin' a cold in the nose ...  
A-choo! Ah, life gets tasteless, don't it?

**Carson Jay Robison**

## MELBOURNE REUNION

The 2016 Melbourne Reunion began in the usual manner with a well attended Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Battalion Tree, near the Western Courtyard of the Shrine of Remembrance. In the presence of esteemed veterans, VX44029 George Collins, VX 92324 Max Caldwell and NX130073 Clarrie Cunningham, President Craig Iskov read the poem WX Unknown, by Sapper Bert Beros, (reproduced elsewhere in this edition,) reminding us of the tragedy of war. As always, we thank the staff of the Shrine of Remembrance, and Shrine governor, Don Reid, for providing the honour guard and organising the ceremony.



*Shrine guards at the wreath laying*

We then crossed the road to the Officers' Mess at Victoria Barracks to enjoy several hours of catch-up and reminiscences at a well organised and attended Annual Reunion. Veterans, George Collins, Max Caldwell and Clarrie Cunningham were our treasured guests of honour.

President Craig Iskov welcomed the guests, and thanked the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess Committee for once again making the venue available to us, before introducing our guest speaker, Air Commodore (Ret'd) Dave Steele. Dave is the son of 2/14 Battalion veteran, NX166437 Robert Steele, who served in 8 Platoon in the Ramu-Markham and Balikpapan Campaigns. Dave shared stories from his career in the RAAF: of sorties flown in various overseas postings; formation aerobatics with the Roulettes; and piloting F111s, including making the spectacular after burn over the Stadium at Homebush to mark the end of the 2000 Olympics. The 'near misses' he recounted won't be forgotten soon, either.

Kingsbury Award recipients, Georgette Athanasopoulos (Kingsbury Primary School) and Sony Salioski (Reservoir High) spoke of their pride in their connection with the Battalion and on being chosen to receive their awards.



*Air Commodore (Rtd) Dave Steele and Sony Salioski addressing the Reunion*

Michael Ralston was called upon to confer life membership of the 2/14 Battalion Association on Ian Hopley and veteran, Clarrie Cunningham finished off a most successful afternoon by entertaining us with a poem (Life is Teejus) and some piano accordion playing.



*Sony Salioski, Clarrie Cunningham, Max Caldwell, George Collins, Ian Hopley, Georgette and John Athanasopoulos*



*Guests enjoying the speeches*

## WX UNKNOWN

### DEDICATED TO HIS MOTHER

We knew he came from the Western State,  
Though to us he remained unknown;  
For the WX was marked in his hat -  
The rest a mortar had blown.

We buried him there, on the mountain spur,  
where the trees are draped in moss;  
We thought of his mother, no news for her  
of that irreplaceable loss.

Just a boy he looked, with his snowy hair,  
As we laid him down in the clay;  
The padre's voice was low and clear,  
No others had words to say.

Yet we knew a mother would watch and wait,  
for a letter sent by her boy,  
How she would dream of the things he did,  
How his first words caused her joy

And as he went off to school or game,  
he'd wave her fond goodbyes.  
Just as he did when the great call came,  
And the hot tears hurt her eyes.

Perhaps she will know in some unknown way,  
Of that little rugged cross,  
The remains of her hero beneath it lay,  
Where the trees are draped in moss.

We cursed the foe, who stripped the dead,  
No pity on them can be shown.  
We marked his cross so it can be read,

"WX" Unknown.

by NX6925 Sapper H 'Bert' Beros  
Written at Nauro, near Menari, Papua, Oct  
1942

Read by Craig Iskov at the Shrine Tree  
Ceremony.

## 2/16th REUNION at HEPBURN SPRINGS

As in the past, the 2/16th Battalion Association wish to invite members of the 2/14th Battalion Association to attend the annual reunion of the 2/16th Battalion Association, Victorian Branch.

- Date: Saturday 15 October 2016 at 11.30am for 12.00 noon start
- Location: Old Hepburn Springs Hotel, Newstead Road, Hepburn Springs
- Cost: \$30/head payable on the day
- Includes: pre dinner snacks, tea/coffee all day, three course meal (choice of two roasts)
- RSVP: to [trevor.ingram@bigpond.com](mailto:trevor.ingram@bigpond.com) by 3 October.

Bring your family along; all welcome so make a weekend of it!



# ANZAC DAY AROUND THE COUNTRY



Craig Iskov leading the Battalion in Melbourne



VX92324 Max Caldwell and NX130073 Clarrie Cunningham watching the March



Flag bearers from Kingsbury Primary



Clarrie Cunningham with 2/16 Battalion Association members at the Palmerston Hotel



The Brisbane marchers, supporting QX52024 George Priestly



George Priestley and Terry Twine chat over lunch



The 21st Brigade contingent in Sydney

## ANZAC DAY AROUND THE WORLD



Aiden Grimes lays his wreath in honour of 2/14 Battalion at Bomana



2/14 Battalion flag draped on the Matilda Tank remains at Balikpapan



## QUEENSLAND REPORT

4 generations of the **Priestley** family stepped off in the Brisbane ANZAC Day March this year including those who had flown in from Cairns. **George** was extremely thrilled to have them honour him in such numbers

Also impressive was the contingent of “regulars” who chose to follow the march in respect of local protocols and join together for lunch afterwards. Thanks go to Ken Boyne and Fran Ralston for their organisation, and to Chris and Terry Twine for their assistance.

Earlier in the year we caught up with **Jack Thompson** at Caloundra. Jack was cheerful as usual although found a couple of things were getting more difficult to do. However he was still able to get up to the local RSL a couple of times a week to have a chat and a beer.

The association was contacted by the family of **VX21471 Hugh McWilliam** to advise that he had moved into nursing home at Tweed Heads. As his daughter could only travel from Melbourne every couple of months to visit him, we contacted Tweed Coolangatta RSLsub branch. We are grateful that they immediately arranged for a visit to Hugh which they hope will become fairly regular.

**Trevor Pryor**



Members of the Priestley family ready to march

## ANZAC DAY AT OMEO

As South Australian first term school holidays for 2016 fell over the ANZAC Day period, we decided to travel to Victoria with our girls for the vacation period.

After attending the 2/14 Battalion Association reunion in Melbourne, we travelled the 5 hours to Omeo at the foot of Mt Hotham where we stayed at Innisfail Station.

Innisfail Station was owned by the late **VX113728 Pte. Marwood Alfred (Alf) Smith** who joined the 2/14 Battalion on 30 May, 1943 and served with the Battalion in the New Guinea and Balikpapan campaigns as a mortar operator.

Alf Smith was a long-time friend of my father, **VX149573 Bill Hopley**, the regimental butcher and cook. Alf was seconded to the battalion cookhouse at Yandina, North

Queensland to assist, after injuring himself in a motor vehicle accident.

In the 1960's, my father bumped into Alf at a 2/14th reunion dinner where Alf extended an invitation for us to visit the station and this year marked the 50th anniversary of us first staying at Innisfail Station.

Alf's son Alan now runs the cattle station and it was a privilege to attend the Omeo RSL dawn service with Alan and his wife Noeleen and about 70 Omeo and district locals (even though the temperature was -2C) and then later, the mid-morning service where Alan and his daughter, Belinda marched down the main street with the small Omeo contingent representing their late father, to the service at the Omeo war memorial.

Amazingly, whilst attending the gunfire breakfast, I ran into Wayne Clark whose

father, **VX41816 Walter Clark (KIA)** was also in the 2/14th Battalion. Wayne, brother of Darryl, who regularly attends the Melbourne Reunion, is now a resident in Omeo.

It was wonderful to see such a small country community embracing ANZAC Day and commemorating the memory of our past and present service personnel who served their country both in Australia and overseas. It was also an honour to see the 2/14th represented.

The below picture on left hand side in the red jacket is Belinda Smith with her father Alan (at rear black jumper) representing their father and grandfather, 2/14 member Alf Smith.

**Ian Hopley**



The Omeo ANZAC Day commemorative march.



Ian and Alan at the Omeo memorial that bears the name of 2/14th member, Alf Smith

## IAN HOPLEY - LIFE MEMBER

**At the recent Reunion, Ian Hopley was inducted into Life Membership of the 2/14 Battalion Association, with this speech by Michael Ralston**

I have very much pleasure in welcoming Ian Hopley into the Life Membership category of our Association.

I first met Ian in PNG in 1998 at The Last Parade. The Last Parade was a pilgrimage to enable Veterans to say a last good bye to their mates who gave their lives in The Battle of Isurava. It also eventually identified, once and for all the site of the Isurava battlefield, high on the Kokoda Track. Now, a national monument stands there, overlooking a large valley, featuring magnificent granite columns engraved with Courage, Mateship, Endurance and Sacrifice, often seen in pictures and film.

Ian's father Bill, a 2/14 veteran, had gone to PNG for his son's wedding to Sue. At the time, Ian was a Police Sergeant, on loan to the PNG Government as an adviser, and Sue was a chef at one of Port Moresby's leading hotels. I understand that at their wedding, the then PNG Assistant Commissioner of Police, local man, Jeffrey Vaki stated that Sue was worth at least 30 pigs, praise indeed, as the going rate for brides was about 5 pigs.

Later, Bill had showed my mentor, the late great Stan Bisset MC MID, some of Ian's PNG photos whilst at a Queensland reunion, and from there a dream started to become a reality. Ian Hopley willingly became an integral member of the reconnaissance team on Isurava which also included a 2/14th current member, John Rennie. They were responsible for getting recognition of Isurava as a major battle site of WW2 by the Australian and PNG Governments. Those magnificent monuments we see at Isurava today are there due, in the main, to the efforts of that team.

For over 30 years, Ian Hopley was a member of Victoria Police, including 5 years as a corruption and professional standards detective and trainer with their ethical standards department. So you didn't mess with Hoppers.

Ian was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and Queen Elizabeth Trust scholarship to study child exploitation around the world; not the most talked about topic at the time, but a bit more in the public eye of late. He expanded his knowledge of this delicate subject by training with the Torrance Police Department in California, USA.

The Sunday Herald Sun of the 10th April 1994 describes

him as being one of Australia's foremost child abuse experts, who was then head of the community policing squad in Mildura. He now runs, with others, a worldwide child abuse prevention organisation (CACET), from Adelaide, where he lives with Sue and daughters Kim and Anna.

Like most of us who had a father in the Battalion, Ian is passionate in keeping this Association relevant for today's needs, and beyond. He is our South Australia rep and has regularly visited our Veterans in that State to tend to their needs.

He goes out of his way to attend Victorian and Queensland reunions, and marches on ANZAC Day when time permits. I believe he was responsible for designing the Battalion ties that we still have today.

For years, Ian went to Qld to visit his mother at around our reunion time up there, attending the reunions, after first picking up Matt and Bertha Power at Mount Tamborine on the way.

Ian has walked the Kokoda Track in PNG on a couple of occasions, and in 2004 we were part of a group that walked from Kokoda Village to Isurava and back again. My God what an effort that was! Ian was in the advance party, I brought up the rear. When my wife Elaine and I finally staggered into Isurava late at night, and in the rain, Ian was there with a cup of hot soup. He told me that he was just about done in himself, when his party walked into Isurava Village, exhausted, but relieved that they had finally made it, only to be told that the Monuments were another hour or so walk away!

During my watch as President in 2009, he made the fatal mistake of suggesting the Association make a pilgrimage beyond PNG to Borneo, to visit the Battalion's last battleground. Last year, with Ian running them all, we completed our 4th successful trip back to Balikpapan in Southern Borneo.

I have had the pleasure of working with Ian on our Borneo trips, and he is the quiet achiever, getting the job done well with a minimum of fuss.

For many years Ian has been a most valuable asset to this Association. A worthy candidate for Life Membership. Congratulations, Ian.



Michael Ralston presenting Ian Hopley with his Life Membership

## EVENT CALENDAR 2016

### Committee Meeting

Sunday, 5 June 2016 at 11.30am  
East Malvern RSL

### Qld Reunion Lunch

Thursday 28 July  
Riverside Receptions  
50 Oxlade Dr, New Farm, Qld.  
Enquiries to Trevor Pryor at  
teepee\_au@yahoo.com

### Gillison Memorial Service

Sunday 21 August  
Armadale Uniting Church,  
Cnr Kooyong & Clarendon Sts,  
Armadale, Vic  
Time to be confirmed

### Bruce Kingsbury Memorial Service

Friday, 26 August at 9 for 9.30am  
Reservoir High School  
855 Plenty Rd, Reservoir

### Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital

(Austin Health)  
Friday 26 August at 11 am.  
Enter via Gate 9 300 Waterdale Road,  
Heidelberg West

### Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 25th September  
at 10am - 12.30pm  
Rats of Tobruk Association House,  
44 Victoria Ave, Albert Park.

### Annual Pilgrimage

Sunday 25 September at 2.00pm  
The Sanctuary, The Shrine of  
Remembrance, Melbourne

### 2/16th Battalion Reunion Lunch

Saturday 15 October at 11.30am  
Old Hepburn Springs Hotel, Hepburn  
- Newstead Road, Hepburn Springs  
RSVP Trevor Ingram 0419 333 347  
Email: trevor.ingram@bigpond.com

### Committee Meeting

Sunday, 4th December at 11.30am  
East Malvern RSL



## OBITUARIES

### **VX79466 Lance Corporal Maurice George MOORE**

According to Army records Maurice, or Mick, as he was known to everyone, was born in Sydney on 27 May 1922 and was living in Ballarat when he enlisted in the Army on 7 July 1942. He was attested at the Recruit Receiving Depot at the Caulfield racecourse before posting to Recruit training and then posting as a reinforcement for the 2/23 Battalion which was, at that time, involved in the Defence of Tobruk.

Arriving in the Middle East on 23 August 1942 he joined the 2/23 Battalion for its heroic actions in the Battle of El Alamein. This entitled Mick to wear the prestigious "8th Army" clasp on his Africa Star.

The 2/23 Battalion returned to Australia in February 1943 Mick was transferred to 2/14 Battalion on 13 May of that year and was posted to the Regimental Police Section in Battalion Headquarters. Apart from the management of the Guardhouse and defaulters in camp, the regimental police performed an important part on the battlefield.

Here, the Regimental Police became "Traffic Cops" where their role was to understand the movement plans and control and direct the movement of battalion units to their required positions. During the course of this they were often in the open and under direct enemy artillery and machinegun fire. But sometimes, beyond this, they also had to act as ordinary infantrymen, and Mick spoke about hauling 25 pounder artillery into position to engage the Japanese guns during the New Guinea fighting.

On 1 July 1945, the 2/14 Battalion took part in the seaborne landing at Balikpapan on Borneo. The regimental police were required to be on the beach after the first wave and to start directing traffic to ensure that the beachhead did not become bogged down.

Mick recalled to his family how he was required to direct the Matilda Tanks off the beach as they came off the landing craft and had to go to the assistance of a tank that was hit by fire and dress the wounds of the injured.

As the Battalion moved up the coast toward the principal objective at Manggar Airfield, Mick was also required to provide covering fire for radio operator, Lieut. Graham Thorp, who directed naval gunfire onto the Japanese positions from atop the airfield control tower as the Battalion crossed the bridge over the Manggar River.

With the declaration of peace, the Battalion's role changed and the Regimental police resumed their traditional role with the

peacekeeping function required by the Battalion in Borneo and then the Celebes (now Sulawesi). This involved the normal army camp functions and the control of the civilian residential areas. This was made difficult with the arising of pro-independence communist groups that had to be controlled until the Dutch administration could resume control.

With the return of the 2/14 Battalion to Australia on 22 January 1946, Mick was transferred to the Australian Army Ordnance Corps until returning to Australia on 4 February 1946. He was finally discharged from the Army on 10 October 1946.

### **V510773 / VX146172 Private John Lindsay ROMER**



Army records in Canberra show that John Lindsay Romer was born in Ararat on 1 April 1924. He was living with his mother in West Brunswick when he enlisted in the Militia Forces at Royal Park on 31 May 1943.

Lindsay was posted to 1st Australian Training Brigade in New South Wales on 8 June 1943 from where he was posted to 9 Infantry Training Battalion at Dubbo on 9 July 1943. During the next several months he had periods of Leave Without Pay to assist with seasonal harvesting as food production and supply was critical in wartime Australia.

On 22 October 1943 he returned to the Army and on 6 November rejoined 9 Infantry Training Battalion at Dubbo. Whilst here on 17 November 1943, Lindsay transferred his enlistment to the AIF that meant he could then serve overseas. From Dubbo he transferred to 19 Infantry Training Battalion at Cowra.

On Christmas Day 1943, Lindsay was transferred to Bathurst to attend an Intelligence Course that may have arisen because of his pre-enlistment employment as a draftsman. He rejoined his unit at Cowra on 13 February 1944. On return he was then transferred to 23 Australian Infantry Training Battalion on 16 February 1944 which was also based at Cowra.

On 13 April 1944 Lindsay was transferred to the Jungle Warfare Training Centre at

Canungra, arriving there on 18 April. This was fortunate because on 5 August 1944, 1100 Japanese prisoners broke out of the Prisoner of War Camp at Cowra. 4 Australian guards and 230 Japanese prisoners were killed during and in the days following the breakout, as the escapees were rounded up.

During 1944, the 2/14 Battalion moved to the Townsville area to train for amphibious landings as General Douglas MacArthur had requested that 7th and 9th Australian Divisions be detailed to support and participate in his plans to retake the Philippines. However, at the last minute he changed his mind and the Australians were excluded.

On 16 October 1944, whilst at Canungra, Lindsay received orders to transfer to 2/14 Battalion and marched in on 21 October where he was posted to the Mortar Platoon. Members of Army units were notorious for presenting each other with nicknames and one of the Battalion history books reveals that Lindsay was dubbed "Hurricane" but there is no reason given for this.

General Blamey wanted Australian forces to play a strategic part in the continuing war to enable Australia to be a strong voice at the anticipated surrender table. As a consequence, the subsequent actions in which Australians took part were labelled in many quarters as "the unnecessary war" because lives were lost that many felt should not have been.

The islands immediately north of Australia, in what is now Indonesia, that had been bypassed by the Americans, were seen as an ideal objective by Blamey; in particular the oil-rich island of Borneo. The 9th Division were to capture the north of the Island and 7th Division the oil port of Balikpapan and surrounding airfields at Sepinggang and Manggar.

The Battalion was a part of a 7th Division force comprising 21 and 25 Brigades which landed at Balikpapan by sea on 1 July 1945. Thick, black oily smoke covered the area as the large oil storage tanks in the port were set on fire. The Japanese were slowly forced from their positions but fought hard.

The Mortar Platoon played an important part in the advance with concentrated accurate bombing of positions as the infantry moved forward. This support was vital as the Battalion advanced on Manggar which was defended by fanatical Japanese supported by large naval guns dug in to well protected bunkers. These positions were heavily and accurately bombed by the platoon enabling the infantry companies to attack the positions and take the guns. This action led to the capture of Manggar airfield.

However, the Japanese were not done yet and when a number of fanatical counter-attacks occurred, the Mortars again played their part

with controlled and accurate shooting.

With the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki the Japanese Emperor ordered his troops everywhere to surrender and an Armistice was effected on 15 August 1945. The Battalion moved into a peacekeeping role that entailed the apprehension and detention of Japanese survivors and the gradual return to the civilian administration of the pre-war Netherlands East Indies.

After several weeks the Battalion moved to the Celebes Islands (now Sulawesi) to continue this work including the repatriation of Japanese soldiers to Japan.

In early January 1946, Netherlands East Indies Forces returned and the island was handed over to them. The work of the 2/14 Battalion was over and it prepared to return to Australia. For Lindsay, though, the job had not finished.

Longer serving soldiers were given preference for early discharge and Lindsay had to wait. As the 2/14 Battalion left for Australia, Lindsay was transferred from the Celebes to Rabaul in the Territory of New Guinea via Ambon. He marched into the 31/51 Battalion in Rabaul on 30 January 1946.

Rabaul was the biggest Japanese base in the South West Pacific area and there were over 100,000 Japanese there that had to be contained and then repatriated to Japan. Also there were large munitions depots and many hidden tunnels that had to be located and investigated. But there was a downside as Rabaul was notorious for malaria.

Lindsay was posted back to Australia for return to Melbourne and he arrived back in Sydney on 16 June 1946. Almost immediately he was sent to Melbourne and was admitted to 115 Australian General Hospital, otherwise known as Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital where he was in and out with recurring malaria for the next six months until finally discharged from the Army to return home on 14 February 1947. Like many of his comrades he was to continue to have recurrences of malaria for at least another ten years.

Lindsay was proud of his service with 2/14 Battalion and insisted that it be shown on his service certificate as the unit he was serving with at the time of his discharge. He was one of the few who marched into the Battalion late in the war but joined the Battalion Association where he was made welcome and took part in many reunions. The deterioration of his health in recent years made attendance at functions difficult.

He will be missed.

**Lest we Forget**

## BALIKPAPAN 2017

Despite swearing black and blue that they would not run another Balikpapan memorial trip, Ian Hopley and Michael Ralston have weakened and agreed to run a 2/14 Battalion Association commemorative tour to Balikpapan in 2017.

Tentative dates at this stage are 01 October 2017 to 08 October 2017 with the option of joining the lads a few days before hand to take in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Labuan, Malaysia (where all those who died during the Borneo campaigns are interred) and also Sandakan, site of the infamous POW camp and start of the of the Sandakan Death March.

Full details will be published in future Comradeships. Numbers will be limited. Write it in your diaries now.

## EMAIL AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you prefer to correspond by email we would like to keep up-to-date with your latest address.

Please let us know if you've changed your email address recently or if we haven't got a record of your email address, by emailing your details to [chris.ingram@margni.com](mailto:chris.ingram@margni.com)

**Comradeship will continue to be mailed to your postal address, so it is important for us to know any postal changes as well.**

## KINGSBURY SCHOLARS MEET

Barb Hinsley, Principal of Kingsbury Primary School, has come up with an idea to harness the potential of the many Kingsbury Award winners from the past twenty years, in support of the Association.

Following 'in principle' approval from the Committee of the 2/14 Battalion Association, and preparations made by a steering group, the inaugural meeting of the Bruce Kingsbury Scholarship Winners Alumni Association was held at Kingsbury Primary School on the evening of 17 May. 10 past Kingsbury Scholarship winners were in attendance and contributed to a brainstorming activity generating ideas about how such an association could work for them.

We look forward to hearing more from and about this group.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - UPDATED

Following the item in the last edition of *Comradeship*, we can add the three more to our list of remaining veterans, all of whom count as 'Originals':

State	Service No.	Surname	Initials	Service Area
Vic	VX14065	FORSTER*	PO	ME
Qld	VX21471	McWILLIAM*	HF	ME
Vic	VX15318	REID*	CE	ME NG B

It should also be noted that VX16833 LL Smith served in the Papuan campaign as well as the Middle East.

*A reflection on Anzac Day by student, Alicia Foley, daughter of Trevor Pryor.*

## WHY SHOULD I?

"Why should I? I don't want to."  
I've heard it said before.

Is that what the soldier asked himself  
Before he ran up on that shore?

"Why should I? I don't want to."  
It's not to do with me."

But would you have that choice to make  
If none had died to set you free?

"Why should I? I don't want to."  
Someone else will go and wave."

But what if no one else showed up  
And we forgot those without a grave?

A legend of courage and bravery  
Might one day soon be lost.  
A country without respect for the past,  
I hate to think about the cost.

"Why should I? I don't want to."  
I've said it once before.

But I do it now with strength and pride  
For those who can't anymore.

"Why should I?" Because they did!



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## AROUND THE TRAPS

I took the opportunity to check the new galleries under the Shrine before the March, and found they have a World War II memorial display, akin to the turning of pages in the World War I memorial books. The new display is digital, with an interactive screen where you can find the date and time that the name of those who made the ultimate sacrifice will be featured. In a quick check I found the following: Bruce Steel **Kingsbury** VC: 4.27pm, 17 Oct 2016 and 12.05pm 18 Oct, 2016; Charles Reginald **McCallum** DCM: 1.36pm 5 Nov, 2016 and Claude Charles Purvis **Nye**: 1.36pm, 27 Nov 2016.

Peg Armstrong, widow of Don, has settled in to her care facility so well that she is being featured in their advertising. At the Reunion, Heather Brisbane showed me a copy of a Goulburn Valley community newsletter which included this photo of Peg being very well cared for.



*Peg Armstrong and attendant*

Sandy reports that husband, **VX14065 Peter Forster**, is also in good hands at Fairway in Sandringham, 500 metres from the family home. On 1 January this year, Peter celebrated his 95th birthday in style.

**VX15318 Cletus Reid** has been added to our list of veterans, after his daughter, Glenda made contact with the Association. Cletus lives in Bendigo and was the only WWII veteran to actually march there on Anzac Day. Cletus was an old friend of Dudley Warhurst, having been next in line to enlist in May 1940. Cletus was with the Battalion in the Middle East, but stayed on when the Battalion came home in 1942, fighting at the battle of El Alamein. On return to

Australia, Cletus asked to be transferred back to 2/14, where he remained for the rest of the war. Good to hear you're doing well, Cletus.

**Rob Winther**, who hosts one of our August memorial services at Austin Health/Heidelberg Repat was featured in an ABC News report just before Anzac Day. More than 400 people attended the ANZAC remembrance service he organised for sick veterans and their families in the hospital memorial garden. Rob, whose father served in the 39th Battalion, worked in the pastoral care unit of the hospital with 2/14th veteran, the late Rev **Tom Douglas**, and continues to develop the memorial garden as a special place of remembrance within the grounds of the hospital where so many veterans have been cared for.

**NX144358 James Hudson** rang to say thanks for "putting him on the map" in the last issue of Comradeship. Some of us met Jim, now aged 92 and living in the Blue Mountains, when he joined us for the unveiling of the 2/14 Battalion plaque at Concord, in Sydney, in 2011.

Jodie Pryor, daughter of Queensland rep, Trevor Pryor, and granddaughter of veteran **VX15226 Tom Pryor** was awarded a Department of Defence Australia Day Medallion in "appreciation of the exemplary professionalism and commitment demonstrated" by her in a particular aspect of her work. Congratulations, Jodie.



*Jodie Pryor with her award*



*Peter Forster celebrating his 95th birthday, with wife, Sandy at his right hand*