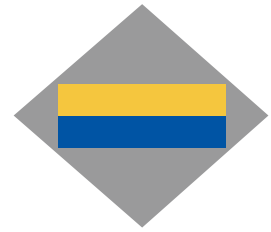


COMRADESHIP

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello again. I hope wherever you were on Anzac Day, it was a day not only of sorrow for our lost loved ones, but also one of good memories. What a joy it was to have our 2/14 veterans Max Caldwell and Keith Lambert with us at the Melbourne reunion lunch at Victoria Barracks. Both veterans also took part in the March on Anzac Day, where the Kingsbury School children again did us proud, resplendent in their gold and blue colours, proudly presenting the 2/14 banner.

We had a wonderful Anzac service at the Ferntree Gully Kokoda Memorial, with over 400 grade 5 & 6 students attending. It was a mighty effort by the 2/14 team of David Webb, Michael Ralston and Chris Ingram who took on the role when Legacy could no longer organise the service. And what a tribute to our own very special Marg Briggs, Trevor Ingram of the 2/16th and our 39th Battalion Association friends who were instrumental with Parks Victoria in creating that wonderful venue.

This year for the first time, we took part in an Anzac Day service at Our Lady Of The Way Primary School in Kingsbury; that was another small step in supporting students' understanding of honour and respect for all those who serve their country. We greatly value the relationship with our school partners, as we know that our veterans firmly believed that young people are so important to the future of this country they fought and died for.

It's also been a busy year with planning for the 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. We are working very hard with our friends from the 39th and 2/16 Battalion Associations and can promise you some great events throughout the latter part of the year.

So, please note in your diaries to be at the Shrine of Remembrance at 11.00 am on **Saturday 26 August** for our national Kokoda memorial service. There are other services as well: Yandina, Qld at the recently refurbished 2/14 Memorial on **Sunday August 6**; Cascade Gardens Gold Coast Kokoda Memorial on **Tuesday August 8**; Kings Park in Perth at 11.00 am on **Sunday 17 September**; and Kokoda Memorial Walkway at Concord in Sydney on **Friday, November 3** at 10.30 am.

On 8 April this year, speaking at the Bomana War Cemetery, Prime Minister, the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull said of the Kokoda Campaign: "the battles fought in PNG were a turning point, a 'hinge of fate' that ensured the freedom of Australia and PNG." "All of them died so that we may live... Without their sacrifice we would not be the free nation we are today and nor would PNG be the free nation it is today... This shared sacrifice, this shared heroism, this endurance, this mateship - this is what kept us free. We honour them, we thank them." So in this 75 anniversary year of the battles on the Owen Stanley Ranges, let us remember, honour and thank our heroes for what they achieved.

We do have some challenges this year. The costs of producing Comradeship continue to rise and the Government grant money we receive towards its production is being reduced. We may have to consider cheaper printing options against the current high quality production of which we are so proud. Mailing costs are also high, so please consider receiving Comradeship by email only. That will help us financially.

We and all WW1 and WW2 units have an ongoing dispute with the ADCC re the Melbourne Anzac Day March. The organisers want all our banners massed at the front, carried by Scouts and Guides, and all descendants to march in a massed group at the rear of the march. This would completely disassociate families from the banner our men fought under. We did get a dispensation this year as we had veterans taking part in the March. But at this stage it looks like descendants will not be able to march with the banner in Melbourne in 2018.

We will not give up our banner and we will continue to fight for our right to represent our 2/14 men. But, if this worst case scenario does come into being, our options are to either comply and lose our family connections in the March, or take our banner and find a relevant and accessible Anzac day venue that would welcome our group. I would be very pleased to hear members' thoughts on our future role in Anzac days in Melbourne, so please drop me a line with any suggestions or comments.

Thanks and regards,
Craig Iskov
President

The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels

Many a mother in Australia,
When the busy day is done,
Sends a prayer to the Almighty
For the keeping of her son,
Asking that an Angel guide him
And bring him safely back
Now we see those prayers are answered
On the Owen Stanley track,
For they haven't any halos,
Only holes slashed in the ears,
And with faces worked by tattoos,
With scratch pins in their hair,
Bringing back the wounded,
Just as steady as a hearse,
Using leaves to keep the rain off
And as gentle as a nurse.

Slow and careful in bad places,
On the awful mountain track,
And the look upon their faces,
Makes us think that Christ was black.
Not a move to hurt the carried,
As they treat him like a Saint,
It's a picture worth recording,
That an Artist's yet to paint.
Many a lad will see his Mother,
And the Husbands, Weans and Wives,
Just because the Fuzzy Wuzzy
Carried them to save their lives.

From mortar or machine gun fire,
Or a chance surprise attack,
To safety and the care of Doctors,
At the bottom of the track.
May the Mothers in Australia,
When they offer up a prayer,
Mention those impromptu Angels,
With the Fuzzy Wuzzy hair.

Sapper H "Bert" Beros
NX 6925, 7th Div., RAE, AIF

Bert Beros served in both WW1 and WW2. He wrote this poem at 4 am one morning on the Kokoda Track after having been on stand-to. It may never have been printed but for the fact that an officer sent a copy home to his mother and she was so impressed that she had it published in the Brisbane Courier-Mail.

BALIKPAPAN 2017

This is the last call for expressions of interest in the trip to Balikpapan from 1 to 7 October this year.

The tour offers the chance for participants to visit the sites where the 2/14 Battalion fought during the campaign to retake the oil town, now in Kalimantan, Indonesia, during July - August, 1945. For more details see the December 2016 issue of Comradeship or the Battalion web site.

Please forward Expressions of Interest forms to Ian Hopley
- SA representative by 1 June.

MELBOURNE REUNION 2017

The 2017 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, **VX 92324 Max Caldwell** and **SX24140 Keith Lambert**, President Craig Iskov read the poem *Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel* by Sapper Bert Beros, (reproduced elsewhere in this edition,) reminding us of the debt our troops owed to the Papuans who ensured their safe medical evacuation. 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.



Veterans Keith Lambert and Max Caldwell catch up at the Tree Ceremony

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, **Max Caldwell** and **Keith Lambert** 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, Chris Waters, founder and president of the Descendants of the 14th Battalion 'Jacka's Mob'.

Chris spoke of the link between the two Battalions, forged with the passing on of the 14 Battalion colours to the 2/14 Battalion. He also shared his passionate determination to march in memory of his great grandfather and the 14 Battalion for as long as he is able. **Con Vapp's** two sons, Gary and Rodney, were delighted to celebrate the connection they have with Chris. Their maternal grandfather, George Bullen, and Chris's great grandfather, Vincent Lacon, were best mates in the 14 Battalion.



Gary and Rodney Vapp, with Chris Waters (centre)

In proposing the toast to the Battalion, **Max Caldwell** paid tribute to Battalion heroes: Bruce Kingsbury VC, Lindsay 'Teddy' Bear DCM MM and Charlie McCallum DCM.



Chris Waters delivering his address

Kingsbury Award recipient, **Matilda Fordjor** (Reservoir High) spoke most convincingly about the spirit of Anzac, and the inspiration she takes, not just from Bruce Kingsbury, but from all those who fought so courageously alongside him.



Kingsbury scholar, Matilda Fordjor, sharing her thoughts

Adding a lighter touch, **Keith Lambert** shared the story of his near drowning in the Faria River in New Guinea in 1943. Keith, only 5 ft 3, was positioned between 'Ox' who was as big as his nickname and 6 footer, Norm, when he fell off the log they were using to cross the storm swollen river. His mates immediately came to his rescue, but the surge was too strong to get Keith out. 'Ox', on the downstream side of the log, advised Keith to dive under the log and he'd catch him as he came through. "Just let go", he told a less than convinced Keith, who nevertheless did as he was told, and was duly caught by 'Ox' as promised.

The three of them were not impressed to see the carrier train of locals crossing the river a short time later in less than 6 inches of water!

Thanks are once again accorded to the President and the Mess Committee of Victoria Barracks for permission to hold the Reunion in such an appropriate and historic venue; Tamara Goodsall, catering supervisor, and Brad Sutton of Brighton Manor Catering; and Rob Newland and his team for facilitating our access to the base.



Keith Lambert with his granddaughter and her husband, Tammi and Richard Portakiewicz, & Ian Hopley

The ANZAC Day March

Despite the early rain, about 40 descendants of 2/14 veterans joined **Max Caldwell** and **Keith Lambert** for the Melbourne ANZAC Day march. Our two special vets rode in style in an open Cadillac, enjoying being seen and cheered by the crowd that lined the route.



Max and Keith travelling in Cadillac style, with Ron Rafferty, son of bandsman, John (Jack) Rafferty

Following the March, about 70 descendants & family members of 2/14th, 2/16th, 2/27th & 39th Battalion Associations enjoyed lunch and a chat at the Rising Sun Hotel in South Melbourne. The gathering illustrated the increasing bond that is growing between these associations.



Craig Iskov following behind the fins



2/14 Battalion group



Wayne Bolton with his Kingsbury kids



Craig Iskov presenting the caps to the students from Kingsbury Primary

ANZAC DAY IN BRISBANE

In the absence of Trevor Pryor, who was in Port Moresby for ANZAC Day, Ken Boyne took responsibility for organising the marchers in Brisbane. His report follows:

ANZAC Day in Brisbane presented us with a beautiful warm morning with a light breeze and no threat of rain.

The 2/14th group comprised Greg Dillon, John Hay, Lachlan Priestley and Ken, Jennifer and Richard Boyne.

We were ably led by Association member and veteran of the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB), Greg Ivey; and George Knox, another veteran and member of the Clayfield RSL, also accompanied the group.

Fran Ralston joined us at the beginning of the march and took photographs. We later caught up with her and Robyn McCreedy at Emma Miller Place where they arranged refreshments.

We took up a position within the Army Associations Section behind the PIB NGIB HQ PIR ASSN and ahead of the 39th Battalion which featured students wearing historic army uniforms.



Greg Dillon, Lachlan Priestley, Ken Boyne, Greg Ivey (PIB), George Knox, Richard Boyne and John Hay

Since ANZAC Day 2016 the supporting poles of the banner had been reengineered by the Windsor Mens' Shed so there was no difficulty managing it.

The crowds were warm, supportive and appreciative.

At Greg Ivey's request we performed a second 'Eyes

Right' as we passed ANZAC Square. Greg's PIB unit does this as a matter of tradition. The banner was also lowered at this time.

I thought this action was note and appreciated.

Not long after passing ANZAC Square we spotted a Papuan bloke in the crowd who enthusiastically applauded the unit, gave us a 'thumbs up' and mouthed 'Thank You'.



Greg Ivey (PIB) led the unit

After the March we retired to Emma Miller Place where we enjoyed delicious sandwiches and ANZAC biscuits with tea and coffee courtesy of Fran and Robin. Robin Boyne also joined us with soft drinks.

Overall I thought our participation, though small in numbers, was respectful and appropriate and I cannot think of any reason why the authorities would not countenance our continued presence.



Post-march picnic at Emma Miller Place

EVENT CALENDAR 2017

Committee Meeting

11.30 am, Sunday, 4 June 2017
East Malvern RSL, VIC

Queensland Reunion

10.30 am, Thurs, 27 July 2017
Riverside Receptions, New Farm, QLD

Yandina 75th Anniversary

11 am, Sunday, 6 August 2017
Tinarra Cl, Maroochy River, QLD

Cascade Gardens

10.30 am, Tuesday, 8 August 2017
2730 Gold Coast Hwy, Broadbeach. QLD

Kingsbury Services

Friday, 25 August 2017
9 for 9.30 am Reservoir High School,
855 Plenty Rd, Reservoir, Vic
11 am Remembrance Garden,
Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital
Waterdale Rd, Heidelberg, VIC

75th Anniversary of Kokoda Campaign

11 am, Saturday, 26 August 2107
Shrine of Remembrance,
St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Perth 75th Kokoda Anniversary Service

11 am, Sunday 17 September 2017
Kings Park, Perth, WA

AGM and 1st Committee Meeting

10 am, Sunday 24 September, 2017
Rats of Tobruk Hall, 44 Victoria Ave,
Albert Park

Annual Pilgrimage

2 pm, Sunday, 24 September, 2017
Shrine of Remembrance

2017 Balikpapan Tour

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

2/16th reunion luncheon

Sat 21st October
Old Hepburn Springs Hotel

Sydney 75th Kokoda Ceremony

10.30 am, Friday, 3 November, 2017
Kokoda Memorial Walkway,
Concord, NSW

1st Committee Meeting

11.30 am, Sunday, 3 December 2017
East Malvern RSL, Vic



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOKODA CAMPAIGN

The combined committee of the 39th, 2/14 & 2/16 Battalion Associations continues to work towards delivering a wonderful Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign at 11 am, Saturday, 26 August 2017 at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

The Governor of Victoria is now confirmed as a guest, and we have invited a number of other dignitaries and special guests who are yet to confirm their attendance. Of course our most important guests will be the veterans who served in the battles of the Kokoda Trail. As well, all other veterans are invited to attend and commemorate this special day in Australian history.

Following the service there will be a luncheon at the RACV Club in Bourke St. Melbourne. This will be open to Battalion Association members and friends at a cost of \$100 pp. There is no cost for our veterans. Lunch will include meeting the veterans, an army band, a keynote speaker and Kokoda memorabilia for each person.

Note: Parking is available at the RACV club and Bookings will be available shortly through the 39th Battalion Association website www.39battalion.com/shop

We are pleased to announce that we have received a total of \$19,000 in grants from Dept. of Premier and Cabinet in Victoria and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs in Canberra. These funds will go some way towards the costs of commemorating this very special occasion.

We hope you will share this notice and the day with our veterans and friends. Regular updates will be provided so watch these spaces:

www.39battalion.com

www.2nd14battalion.org.au or

www.facebook.com/214association for further details.

For ceremonies in other states, see details in the Events Calendar

THE 14TH BATTALION

The following is the text of the address to the Annual Reunion in Melbourne, given by Chris Waters, President of the Descendants of the 14th Battalion, 'Jacka's Mob' on 24 April this year.

The following is the text of the address to the Annual Reunion in Melbourne, given by Chris Waters, President of the Descendants of the 14th Battalion, 'Jacka's Mob' on 24 April this year.

Thank you Rob, and thank you to Craig and the entire 2/14 Association, for inviting me along to your annual luncheon

I would like to discuss a few topics with you today,

- I want to talk about my personal link to the 14th Battalion through my great grandfather, and a little of that history and my memory of him;
- I would like to cover a little of the link between the 2/14 Battalion and the original 14th;
- And I would like to open up a discussion on the future of Anzac Day, our continued participation in the Anzac Day March and what alternatives are available to us.

My great grandfather, who was in the original 14th Battalion was on my mother's side. His name was Vincent Lacon



Vincent Lacon of the 14th Battalion AIF

Now most people my age are generally talking of their grandfather as a WW1 descendant, however, Vincent enlisted when he was 33 years old, almost 34, and had turned 34 by the time he sailed. He was married with 2 children, and his wife was pregnant with their 3rd child when he left for war.

Like many others of the time, I am sure he was attracted by the pay they were offering, and the common belief that they would kick the Huns butt back to Germany in 6 months and be home!

He arrived at Gallipoli in August 1915, as a member of the 7th Reinforcements, just after the August offensive and remained until the withdrawal from the Peninsula later in the year.

Vincent was a crack shot with a rifle and had won many competitions with his shooting, so it is not surprise that not long after arriving in France, he was part of a group selected to participate in the first trench raid of the campaign. From my reading of what they did it would seem to be the precursor to what our modern Commandos do now. The group were taken behind the lines for 2 weeks and practiced in a mock section of trench, rehearsing the entire raid.

The raid was conducted at night, and all members did not have any insignia on their uniforms, they also blacked out their bayonet blades.

The group was made up of a trench party, whose job was to jump into the trench and take out the occupants, and a right and left parapet party, whose job was to stay up on the top of the trench, to stop other Germans coming to aid their comrades, and to prevent any of the trench occupants from escaping. The raid was conducted using mainly bayonets and spiked clubs called 'knockberries', and with pistols and rifles as a last resort.

Vincent was in the left parapet party.

The raid was a success and all members returned, with only a handful of wounded.

The Germans knew the Australians had arrived opposite them, and the idea of the raid was to send a message to the Germans that: "We could come and get you any time we wanted." Of course, they tried to counter which was a complete failure.

Vincent survived the war and returned home to his family almost 4 years later. He was 93 when he died.

I was just into my teens when he died, and while I knew him quite well - he taught me how to play cards and we would often sit up way past my bedtime playing when they stayed with us - he never spoke of his war experiences.

I only know from my aunts and snippets that they heard when mates would come over, he was clearly very bitter about the war, particularly the British commanding officers and the sheer sacrifice they caused. He was heard to say that "they strutted around like peacocks and were very wet behind the ears".

At one point he was a corporal, however was busted down to private for insubordination. I can just imagine him taking orders from young mid 20 something officers who had just arrived on the scene!

He was very loyal to Albert Jacka VC and his mates from the 14th Battalion.

An auntie passed on to me all of his medals and stuff he collected during the war; I have a real treasure trove at home. When I opened his medals, they were still in the box they were delivered in, and the ribbon folded how it came.

If he were alive now and saw what I was doing with the Anzac Day March, he would very likely be saying to me "what the hell are you doing, boy!"

Despite what he would think of what I am doing, I believe that holding and honouring the memory of what he and so many others did, is crucial to our history.

Armed with Vincent's medals and his other stuff, and a trip to Gallipoli on Anzac Day 1999, I returned home determined to do something to make sure they were never forgotten.

I commenced the Descendants of the 14th Battalion 1st AIF, 'Jacka's Mob', late in 1999 by writing to everyone around the country who had responded to a newspaper article on the re-publication of the book 'Jacka's Mob'.



14th Battalion marching on ANZAC Day in 1944

I started looking for the 14th Battalion marching banner, and after chasing down people at the Shrine, the RSL, the City of Port Phillip, St Georges Church in East St Kilda, I finally located the banner,

in a duffle bag, in the vault under St Kilda Library, run by the St Kilda Historical Society. It was just sitting in a corner amongst some other papers and boxes, and likely lost to us forever had I not found it.

And up until the debacle of the 2015 March, other descendants and I proudly marched behind the banner on each Anzac Day.

Clearly there was and is a strong link between the original 14th and the 2/14 with their history and personnel.

After the finish of the First World War the 14th Battalion was again re-formed in 1921 as a militia unit, however in 1922 when the government cut the defence budget by 50% they were reduced in number to 409 men of all ranks. In 1927, territorial designations were introduced and the 14th Battalion adopted the title of the 'Pahran Regiment'.

At the outbreak of WWII, the militia units were used to provide a core of experienced men to raise the 2nd AIF.

Now, I have no direct information as to actual numbers, but I think you could guess where many of the original 14th men, who planned to go around again, would want to join!

On the 18th August 1940, the 2/14 was presented with the Regimental Battle Flag in a ceremony at Puckapunyal, by members of the original 14th Battalion who had served in WWI.

Later, in early October the 2/14 changed its unit colours from a black over blue diamond to the yellow over blue rectangle of the original 14th. That change occurred on representations from several WWI battalions, including the 14th.

And of course, the 2/14 went on to serve with great distinction, which I don't need to remind you all of!

So, what do Anzac Days of the future hold for all of us?

As I think you are all aware, the RSL & ADCC made a decision this year for all WWII descendants to be massed at the rear of the march and not behind unit banners.

They later changed that decision, but only for units who had veterans participating in the march, and only for this year, in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign.

Now I know many groups are intending to march in their place regardless, however it will be interesting tomorrow to see what, if any, confrontation may come from it.

The organisers have also made it very clear that next year, in 2018, all descendants will be massed at the rear!



So, what can we do for 2018 and beyond?

Last year the group of WWI descendants decided to hold our own commemoration march, separate to the main event.

Clearly as we were banned from representing our forefathers behind their unit banners in the main march, we chose to take this step in order to honour the wishes of the ANZAC diggers, and at this point in time, to not create any confrontation with marshals on the day; it is after all our most sacred commemoration day.

Tomorrow, in the absence of any reason from the RSL & ADCC, we are again holding an alternative commemoration march.

The fact that the RSL & ADCC initially tried to ban the WWII descendants for this year, clearly shows their intention, and they are simply getting bolder with only a small reaction from units, and virtually none from the public who are largely unaware of the situation.

We believe the only way to achieve any change in attitude from the RSL & ADCC is to publicly embarrass them; and if that doesn't work, then continue to build on our alternative commemoration march.

From tomorrow on, and throughout the remainder of 2017 and leading up to Anzac Day 2018, we will be engaging in a constant media campaign.

What we are offering all affected groups is an opportunity to join with us in that campaign, and also to have an alternative to just being massed at the rear of the march.

What does this opportunity give us: –

1. A chance to honour the memory and last wishes of our ANZACs, who actually created this day 102 years ago tomorrow;
2. Honour the memory and sacrifice of our WWII forefathers, and for some of you, your mates;
3. An alternative commemoration march will give any remaining diggers who wish to, the opportunity to actually march behind their unit banners.

Thank you all once again for having me here today.



Massed WWI banners near the start of the March



Descendants of WWI veterans, marching without their banners at the rear

DAWN SERVICE AT BOMANA 2017

Trevor Pryor represented the Battalion at the Dawn Service at Bomana War Cemetery, at Port Moresby, on Anzac Day. Here is his report:

Is there a more perfect setting than the War Cemetery at Bomana for the ANZAC Day dawn service?

The PNGDF provided the ceremonial guard which marched into place at 0445, followed by the mounting of the Catafalque Party which included 3 ADF members, 1 each from army, navy and air force and 1 from the PNGDF.

Dignitaries were introduced, including: Sir Peter Cosgrove, GG Aust; Peter O'Neill, PM PNG; Bob Dadae, GG PNG; and Bill Shorten MP.



Defence Force representatives who formed the Catafalque Party

Before the formal service commenced, a single headstone was illuminated and the MC gave a brief report on that soldier. This was followed by three others. It was moving that the first was Bruce Kingsbury and the third was George Pearce, both from the 2/14 Bn. Very moving also was the final headstone – one of the 700 which read,

"A Soldier of the '39 - '45 War,
Known only to God."

As the service progressed, the encroaching light revealed the more than 6 000 headstones perfectly placed around the immaculately groomed grounds.



Trevor Pryor laying the wreath in memory of the 2/14 Battalion

The addresses were followed by a lengthy wreath laying ceremony during which both Aidan Grimes and I laid tributes to those of the 2/14 Bn.

The emotion of the occasion was noticed by my host, WO2 Matt Christophers (Force Support Bn) and very proud Commander of the Catafalque Party, who commented that he had never seen such a deep breath as mine when I stepped back from laying the wreath. And he was right. I felt both honoured and humbled.

The emotion continued for me as the estimated 3 500 strong crowd joined in singing the three beautiful anthems of PNG, Australia and New Zealand. It was briefly interrupted by a flyover of three MRH helicopters followed by two Super Hornets.

A wonderful service.



The crowd at the Bomana Dawn Service

My trip started with a visit to Owers Corner in time to see a group of teachers, students and supporters from Tumbaramba, where I was a school principal, complete the Track. One young fellow's first comment when he saw me was, "We shed a few tears for you at the Bisset memorial." Stan used to send messages of support to these groups. This year 39th Bn member George Palmer sent his support.

So, my visit to PNG was a sensational experience. I should add that Aidan Grimes attended after completing treks 107 and 108 during April.



2/14 Battalion wreath at the Cross of Sacrifice

REMINDER 2017 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Just a reminder that subscriptions are now due for the year April 2017-2018.

If you have not yet paid your subscription and returned your form, please complete the enclosed form and return it with payment to Karen Brkic. Note that payment by direct deposit is available.

If you joined the Association between October and December 2016 your membership subscription will not be due until April 2018.

Please note:

- Payment for veteran membership is optional.
- Widows of 2/14 veterans are not required to pay the membership fee.
- Please keep us updated with changes of address, phone numbers or email addresses.

ANZAC CEREMONY FOR SCHOOLS IN THE DANDENONG RANGES



School students at the Ferntree Gully ANZAC service

Over 400 school children attended the 20th ANZAC Day Ceremony on a beautiful autumn day at Dandenong Ranges National Park in Ferntree Gully on Wednesday the 19th of April 2017.

The children were joined by two of our veterans Max Caldwell from the 2/14 Battalion and Bill Stuart from the 39th Battalion together with representatives of the 2/16

and 2/27 Battalion Associations, invited guests, including the Mayor of the Dandenong Ranges Shire, local politicians and community leaders.

The program was based on previous programs conducted by Legacy and included hymns, addresses, readings, prayers and wreath laying; the key note address was given by retired Colonel Terry Beaton who spoke on the horrors of the POW camps in Burma. Our President, Craig Iskov, spoke on the ANZAC spirit and that this spirit is still alive and well today.

The Upwey High School band and the Ferny Creek and the Tecoma Primary School choirs provided the music and the choral items.

Many wreaths were laid by the invited guests and the school children and the ceremony concluded with everyone singing Advance Australia Fair.

A special aspect of the ceremony this year was the involvement of students and staff of Kingsbury Primary School for the first time and it is hoped that Kingsbury Primary School will continue its involvement in future years.

Another feature of the ceremony was the display of memorabilia which was put together in a very professional manner by Darryl Thompson. At the end of the ceremony a large number of students, staff and guests viewed the items that were on display.

This was the first of these ceremonies that the 2/14 Battalion Association has organised after Legacy indicated that it did not have the resources to run these events. A big thank you goes to Parks Victoria for all its support, and especially to local staff, Matt Hoogland and Julia Pickwick, in helping to run this event.

We were fortunate to receive sponsorship from the Upwey/Belgrave RSL Sub Branch and the Bendigo Bank, Dandenong Ranges Community Bank Group for this event and we are most grateful to them for providing it to us.

The Association will continue to organise this function and my thanks go to all the 2/14 members involved and in particular to Christine Ingram and Michael Ralston for their support.

David Webb



Chris Ingram and Max Caldwell laying the Battalion wreath



Students laid wreaths at the memorial



The display prepared by Darryl Thomson

OBITUARIES

VX50929 Private Maurice Edward SHANAHAN



According to Army records Maurice Shanahan was born at Panmure on 21 October 1919 and enlisted in the Army at Royal Park on 10 March 1941. He listed his occupation as farm labourer. After two weeks in recruit training Maurice

was posted to the Australian Army Service Corps Training Depot on 21 March 1941 and then 6th Division Supply Personnel Company on 21 April 1941.

Perhaps thinking that the War would pass him by, Maurice transferred to the Infantry and was posted to 4th Infantry Training Battalion on 9 May 1941 and sailed for the Middle East. During the voyage he was transferred to 2/14 Battalion in the 5th Reinforcements group. Upon landing in Egypt on 28 June 1941, he marched in to 21 Brigade Training Battalion.

Maurice finally marched in to the 2/14 Battalion on 4 October 1941, after the Battalion had suffered

many casualties in the Syrian Campaign. He was posted to 14 Platoon in C Company as a rifleman. With the defeat of the French, the Battalion was part of the occupying force in Syria and Lebanon until it sailed for home on 30 January 1942 to meet the growing threat in the Pacific war.

Maurice was in a group on special duties who remained and he did not leave the Middle East until 28 March 1942.

However, the journey home for the rest of the Battalion on the Ile de France was quite eventful with the Battalion caught up in a growing political war. The Australian Prime Minister, John Curtin, wanted the troops home to defend Australia but the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, wanted them to go to Burma to fight the Japanese invaders there. Eventually Curtin prevailed and the convoy set sail for Australia from Colombo, but was confronted by threats from German and Japanese submarines until safely reaching Fremantle on 15 March 1942.

Maurice eventually caught up with the Battalion in Queensland as it trained for the forthcoming jungle war which was to cost it dearly.

On 12th August 1942, the Battalion landed at Port Moresby and immediately set out for the Owen Stanley foothills, about to commence one of the most famous campaigns in Australia's military history, - Kokoda. The Japanese landed on the north coast with 12 days rations intent on capturing

Port Moresby.

A Militia Battalion, 39th, had met the initial Japanese onslaught and fought a delaying action at Kokoda until deciding to create a defensive position at the village of Isurava. It was here that one of the most decisive battles of the war was to take place. On 26 August 1942, the Japanese began to attack the position to determine the defences and it was during these actions that Maurice's 14 Platoon entered the area to take over the defensive positions held by C Company. These overlooked the main track and were considered to be the key to the position.

The following day the Japanese attacks increased in intensity as the rest of the Battalion moved into the battlefield. It was during these attacks that Maurice was seriously wounded and evacuated by those gentle souls, the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels.

In the days that followed, the Battalion was forced from the position with many casualties but not before they had seriously disrupted the Japanese timetable with its subsequent effect on their supplies. It was during this battle that the Battalion's Private Bruce Kingsbury was to be posthumously awarded the first Victoria Cross to be ever won on Australia soil.

Unfortunately Maurice's wound was such that he was not fit to resume duties in an infantry capacity and was transferred back to the Australian Army Service Corps and on 5 October 1942 marched in

to 13 Field Bakery Platoon.

"An Army marches on its stomach," Napoleon is alleged to have said and this stresses the importance of support for infantry troops in the field. For every infantry soldier in the front line there are said to be at least 10 behind him providing him with the equipment and food he needs to successfully operate.

Maurice served in this capacity in New Guinea until 6 February 1944; then returning to Australia and serving in various Bakery units until 27 March 1946, when he was discharged from the Army.

Maurice was proud of his army service, particularly with the 2/14 Battalion, and would regularly participate in ANZAC Day events at Warrnambool. In February this year, in relation to joint Panmure events between here and New Zealand, the local member, the Honourable Dan Tehan MP, laid a wreath at the Australian War Memorial on behalf of Maurice.

N445281/NX146385 Leslie Frank WHITE



Army records show that Leslie Frank White was born at Broadmeadow, near Newcastle on 24 June 1924. It was a requirement after the outbreak of war that males reaching eighteen years of age be called out for mobilization.

Les's Army record shows that he attended the Newcastle mobilization centre on 11 February 1942 to complete his paper work. He listed his occupation as a labourer working with wire cables. He was called up for full time service on 12 December 1942 and posted to 1 Recruit Training Brigade at Dubbo.

On 9 February 1943, Les transferred his enlistment to the AIF to enable service overseas and transferred to 28 Infantry Training Battalion on 6 March 1943, still at Dubbo. Then, on 24 April 1943, Les was transferred to the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra in Queensland until 11 June 1943 when he marched in to 2/14 Battalion as a reinforcement.

At that time the Battalion was based at Ravenshoe, Qld, recovering from the heavy losses of the Kokoda Track and Gona fighting during the Papuan Campaign. Les was posted to 11 Platoon in B Company.

In late July the Battalion travelled to Townsville by train and boarded the Troopship "Duntroon" for movement to Port Moresby for the next campaign. Disembarking on 2 August 1943, camp was established at Austin's Crossing near Bootless Bay and intensive training commenced for the forthcoming fighting.

At short notice, the Battalion moved to Wards Strip

and emplaned for Nadzab in the Markham Valley on 15 September 1943. The initial objective was the capture of Lae which was achieved on 16 September 1943. The Battalion was tasked with patrolling into the Atzera Mountains around Boana to prevent the Japanese from escaping over the Finistere Mountains to the north coast.

This was followed by a chase up the valley that ultimately ended at Shaggy Ridge. Occasional skirmishes and ambushes saw some casualties including the Commanding Officer, Lt-Col. Ralph Honner. The Japanese suffered a significant defeat in the action to recover the wounded CO.

The principal action at Shaggy Ridge was the capture of Pallier's Hill by 9 Platoon with B Company providing some support. Eventually, the combined pressure of 2/14, 2/16 and 2/27 Battalions told and the Japanese were pushed out of the area. Active patrolling became the norm to ensure the enemy didn't return, with B Company forward at John's Knoll.

On 8 January 1944 the Battalion was relieved and flew out to their former camp at Austin's Crossing in Port Moresby. In late February, the Battalion began to progressively ship out to Australia for well-earned recreation leave. Then, in late March the Battalion regathered to participate in marches through each of the capital cities as part of the 7th Division.

The Battalion returned to Queensland for more training, but this time with a difference. The war was moving on into the islands and there was an expectation that the Australians would assist the Americans to recapture places like the Philippines. The training became amphibious - how to jump out of a landing craft under fire.

After a long period of uncertainty, the Americans finally admitted they didn't need the support of the Australian infantry. Australian Commander in Chief, General Blamey had to find a task for his force, and it was to mop up the islands that the Americans by-passed.

Landing at Morotai on 8 June 1945 and with the end of the war a distinct probability, the Battalion began preparing for the invasion of Borneo. 7 Division was to capture the oil town of Balikpapan and its surrounding airfields.

The landing occurred on 1 July 1945 and the town was quickly captured. B Company led the advance to Seppingang airfield with A Company in support. A Company then led the advance to Manggar airfield with B Company in support. The three platoons of B Company then embarked on a series of patrols to locate enemy installations. During the course of these, 12 Platoon was shelled heavily causing serious casualties, but Les's 11 Platoon was lucky and suffered no losses during this part of the war.

Following the end of the war, the Battalion went into peace-keeping operations, initially on Borneo then the Celebes (now Sulawesi). This entailed re-establishing local civil government, capture of local communist insurgents, reconstruction of civil infrastructure and services, and the destruction of live ammunition, bombs and booby traps.

At this stage those members of the Battalion who were not eligible for early release from the Army

were detached from the Battalion and transferred to other units. The remainder boarded HMAS Kanimbla on 22 January 1946 for return to Australia for demobilization from the Battalion and the Army. The Battalion officially ceased to exist in the Army's Order of Battle on 22 February 1946.

Les was fortunate that he was able to return to Australia with the Battalion, although not eligible for early release. After home leave he was attached to Recruit Training Battalions in New South Wales until 21 October 1946 when he was discharged.

The largest cause of casualties for the Battalion was the range of tropical diseases brought about by jungle warfare such as malaria, dengue fever and dysentery, to name a few. Les suffered from all of these and was frequently evacuated for treatment, both on active service and during home leave.

In later life, he looked forward to reading about Battalion matters in the regular issues of Comradeship.

Leslie passed away 13 March, 2017 in Newcastle, NSW, just 7 days after the loss of his beloved wife of nearly 70 years, Mavis. He was one of the many who made a simple but valuable contribution to Australia's war effort.

N160900/NX127152 Private Patrick Jerome BROUGHAM

Army records state that Patrick Jerome Brougham was born at Lansdowne, north of Newcastle, on 19 May 1923. He registered for mobilization under the Defence Act at Moorland, NSW, where he was living on 15 November 1941, and was called up for service on 30 December 1941. He listed his employment as a Railway Gatekeeper

He marched in to 16 Motor Regiment, and on 30 May 1942 was transferred to Gympie. Motor Regiments were light armoured units created for the Militia to assist the defence of the Australian mainland. However, as the threat eased and it was recognized that armour had only limited capacity in jungle warfare, these units were disbanded and troops became available as infantry reinforcements.

Pat transferred to the AIF on 10 July 1942, after transferring to 2/14 Battalion on 6 July 1942, as a reinforcement and was posted to 11 Platoon in B Company, where he served alongside Les White, sharing the experiences outlined above. He sailed with the Battalion to Port Moresby for the Markham-Ramu Campaign and subsequent Borneo Campaign in 1945.

Being a later enlistment, Pat was not eligible for early demobilization when the Battalion returned to Australia after Peace was declared. However, he was allowed to return to Australia where he was transferred to a Recruit Training Battalion to serve time until eligible for discharge which occurred on 2 July 1946.

Like many of his comrades he suffered from the usual tropical diseases and was hospitalized on numerous occasions including after his return to Australia.

Lest we Forget

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AROUND THE TRAPS



George Shores

Those of you who took part in the 2013 trip to Balikpapan will be saddened to hear the news that George Shores passed away in Cairns on 25 March after a long illness.

George served in the RAAF, (including Vietnam) for 25 years. He was the son of VX21993 Cpl T.M Shores who was one of the few 'Originals' who served with the Battalion for the entire war. Shores remained in the army and went to Japan with the occupation forces where he met his wife, a Japanese national who became one of the first Japanese war brides to return to Australia.

On the trip to Balikpapan, the Shores family gave the participants real insights as to what it was like growing up in Australia after the war with a Japanese born mother. We pass on our sincere condolences to the entire Shores family, especially Nina and Gus Gerace, Jenny Enright, Kathy Cummings and Steve Shores.

Charlie Timmermans works at Seasons Private Aged Care in Caloundra where **VX142459 Jack Thomson** lives. He organises the ANZAC Day service each year and this year wanted to acknowledge Jack as part of the service. Jack will be turning 100 in November this year and is the oldest WW2 soldier in Caloundra. In recent years he has attended the RSL service but he has agreed to attend the service at the aged care centre this year which will be easier for him to "get around". Charlie has spent many hours with Jack who is always proud to share his stories about his time in New Guinea with the 2/14th. We organised for a Certificate of Service to be presented to Jack on the day.



Jack Thomson with Charlie Timmermans

2/14 BATTALION MEMORIAL AT PUCKAPUNYAL

Major Mark Sommers, currently posted to Puckapunyal army base, has sent us some photos of the recently upgraded memorial to the 2/14 Battalion that is in the grounds of the Base.



The text of the memorial reads:

2/14 Battalion Association
Planted the trees in this vicinity
In Commemoration of
Their Fallen Comrades
In the War 1939-45
28 Sep 1952

Major Sommers has issued an invitation to members to visit the Base and have a look, so long as you give him prior notice so he can organise entry. Contact his office on 03 5735 6444 to make arrangements to visit.

