

THE SECOND-SECOND
COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
General Newsletter

17

12th August, 1948.

As you will see by this letter we have decided to also enter the "New Look" field and dress up a bit. We thought the letter was getting a bit on the drab side so hence the new heading and a slice of colour. We are indebted to Keith Hayes who has made this possible. We invite your suggestions for further improvements and criticisms of the present letter.

I would like to draw your attention to the prominence Members of the Association are gaining in the realm of sport. Firstly we point with pride to Jerry Haire's effort in coaching John Winter, winner of the High Jump at the Olympic Games. Jerry is in no small measure responsible for this success to W.A. - this State's first in an Olympic contest. Then Kevin Curran has played with Victoria once again, this time in Perth, and has had the distinction of winning the Simpson Medal awarded to the Fairest and Best Player in the first match between W.A. and Victoria. Tom Nisbet is next on the list. Tom is Captain of the W.A. Team in the present Baseball Carnival being conducted in Perth and that is no mean accomplishment. Jack Carey is a Member of the State Amateur Football side which is also contesting an Interstate Carnival in Perth. Jack was most prominent at half-forward in Saturday's game against Victoria and was unlucky not to kick the winning goal, his hurried shot dropping short. Joe Poynton has been selected to represent W.A. in Rugby Union, this being the second time Joe has represented the State. This completes a very formidable list for a crowd as small as ours and we offer our sincere congratulations to all the above on their achievements and are justly proud of the fact that once all these were our colour patch.

The welcome to Kevin Curran at our last meeting was an outstanding success. The boys turned up in droves and when I first took a count there were fifty present but as the evening wore on and I tried to count them again there seemed to be hundreds present but perhaps I forgot to allow for the lager and should have divided by three. Kev, I am sorry to say, took a terrific pummelling that day at football and was a pretty sick chicken and had to depart early but before leaving for Victoria he asked me to thank everybody for all that was done to make his stay in W.A. such an enjoyable one. Tom Nisbet brought along Bruce Dooland, the South Australian Baseballer and Cricketer who is a mate of Barry Lawrence and who was a member of Z Force during the War. Bruce assures me that he had a wonderful time. Press photographers from the West Australian and the Listening Post were present and much flashing of cameras took place so keep your eye on the Western Mail Listening Post, etc., for results.

The time is swiftly approaching towards our Annual Reunion. The date this year is Tuesday, 5th October, at Monash Club. Both country and city folk are asked to keep this date well in their minds and try and make the necessary arrangements to be present as we are hopeful of breaking all existing records for attendance at this function. The dinner will be the evening preceding People's Day at the Royal Show

and will thus give everybody a chance to recover. It is anticipated that the cost will be the same as in past years, namely ten shillings (10/0d.). With this letter a form is included which you are requested to fill in and return to me as soon as you are in a position to know whether you will be able to attend. We require these details to assist us with catering arrangements so don't fail to send your form back at the earliest possible date.

As funds are running low your Committee has decided to run a sweep on the Melbourne Cup to augment funds. Tickets in this sweep will be sent to Members at a later date and you are asked to do your utmost to dispose of your quota. I must impress upon you the fact that it is only by the success of these sweeps that your Association can remain solvent as the subscription fee little more than covers the cost of circulars to Members.

That brings me to the evergreen subject of subscriptions. These have rolled in very well this year but there are still quite a number outstanding and we are eager to get everybody financial as soon as possible so if you haven't remitted yours for the year send it in to Ron Dook as soon as you can.

Before proceeding with other news I must tender an apology to Alby Friend for crediting him with a baby girl in the last newsletter. Alby most forcibly declines the honour and at the last meeting in an effort to get rid of the unwanted child I met with further set backs. This comes about by trying to keep things in the skull so from henceforth I will smartly commit everything to paper when chaps give me items of news for the letter.

Once again the Hatch, Match and Despatch Section is a bit light - the only birth I could find since last month's letter was a daughter to Ron Sprigg. Congratulations Ron and may there be many more!

Correspondence was below par for the month but to some extent this is made up for by a very interesting circular from Jack Hartley in N.S.W., but more of this anon.

Now for my correspondents. Geo. Patterson writes from Wallanbah, via Gloucester, N.S.W., to say that he now has his own timber mill in that area and is going very well, reckons he could do with Ted Loud and Alex Thomson in his set up as skilled labour is very scarce. Bob (Beaky) Smith also writes from N.S.W., Point Perpendicular Lighthouse, to be exact, to say he is in the pink and wishing to be remembered to all his old mates - reckons that these lighthouse jobs give him a ton of time for writing.

Had a letter from Rod Dhu who is at Derby - says the weather is hell in the day-time and very cold at night. Rod is getting a bit worried at the number of chaps down south who are getting married, thinks to be safe he better stay up north. Geo. Carrier, Gerry Edwards and Bill Howell all wrote short notes and wished to be remembered to all the gang.

Saw Alf Blundy and Boyo Hewitt in town during the month. Also heard that Wendel Wilkie and Eric Smyth were down but afraid did not see them. Kev Curran said he saw Arthur Marshall who was looking very well. Don Turton is doing the Rural School at Harvey and he also says he saw Marsh and Peter Barden down at Harvey.

Now for some N.S.W. news. They have just had their annual dinner which from all reports was a crackery-ack show with all the trimmings. A crowd of seventy were present with

ever. Ted Monk, from Latham sends his regards. From the far away place of Wittenooms Gorge, "Irish" Hopkins sends his greetings to all, and a word of warning to anybody who contemplates a trip up there for occupational reasons. Apparently the rosy pictures that are painted when you sign on, does not eventuate in practise. Even miners up there sometimes only make wages. Thanks for the tip "Irish". Our old friend "Bruss" Fagg writes from Northampton and forwards his appreciation for our efforts in keeping the Association a living and virile force. "Bruss" informs us that Bill Drage is now doing well, and Joe Brand has taken on a farm at Ogilvie under the Repatriation Scheme. Two interstate letters come from Jack Hartley and Tom Foster. As Jack Hartleys letter deals with something about which I am not too conversant, I will leave it for Col to deal with. Tom Foster has been looking for some news of Don Murray, but without success. We know you work long hours Don, but how about doing the right thing? As Tom has only seen the Big Smoke once in two years he sees very few former associates. He does see Bill Hawker quite a lot though. One of the last letters of the month was from Ted Loud who wrote jointly for Alec Thomson and himself, both send their regards. Alec is to be married on June 17th and Ted is best man, so guess a lively show will be had by all.

The only birth of the month comes for "Killora Stud", to Mr. and Mrs. Clarrie Turner and we send our congratulations on the birth of their daughter. Clarrie forwards his appreciation of the newsletters and extends a welcome to all who pass through Elgin

Two circular Newsletters from Victoria and New South Wales Branches constituted some good reading and interesting tit bits. Here is an extract from the Victorian Sheet dealing with a letter from "Smash" Hodson, that should raise a smile on most faces - Smash is "denuding wood grubs their lawful rights" by timber cutting, but is crooked on the cutters who have gone before him, as the only trees they have left are "as tough as bookmakers and as twisty as corkscrew". However in Smash's own words - "I'M still getting three feeds, and a bed at night, and rejoicing in the glorious uncertainty with which purveyors of those articles must be viewing their chances of being paid for said articles. Yoiks but it is a good life". - The Victorian reunion was a big success and it is little wonder that some members were still drinking at 3.0am when 27 gallons were divided amongst 32 bodies - Jack Servante is the father of a baby daughter. Tom Coyle and "Blue" Sergeant are working at Glengarry. Another proud papa is Bob Field. Ron McArthur is a successful farmer in the Dorrigo District, and Jack Peattie is back at his old profession of teaching, in Tamworth - any of the local members desirous of catching up on interstate news can call and see Col Doig who holds copies of all newsletters.

Jim Smailes poem has not yet been printed, but on being done, copies will be forwarded to those members who have paid for it in advance. Although the Questionnaire sheets are rolling in there are still quite a few members who as yet have not submitted them, so without delay, send them in so as we can complete our records.

This is all for now, so until you hear from Col next month, all the best wishes, with a special little prayer for the farmers in their hour of need for continued rains.

Cheerio,

Cordially Yours,

(Ron Dook.)