

If you see a queer figure walking about mumbling to himself in queer jargon it will be yours truly trying to find a new way of starting these newsletters. I'm thinking of writing in to one of these newspaper columnist birds to get a book of a hundred new openings to letters and so make my task a little easier.

You will find a number of enclosures with this letter to give you all the details of the Association's progress for the last year. These are Expenditure and Income Account, Profit and Loss Account, Balance Sheet, Treasurer's Report and Secretary's Report. Your close perusal of these is invited and then you will realise the sound position of your Association. There is no necessity for me to elaborate on these as they are self-explanatory.

Anzac Day has come and gone and once again we took part in the celebrations. A wreath was laid on the State War Memorial at the Dawn Service in memory of our fallen and then we took part in the March. Our numbers with all squadrons was up a little but the roll up of our members was definitely down. This is to be deplored as we go to no end of pains to make the matter known to all and with 100 members in the metropolitan area, there is no need for such a poor result. The "grog on" afterwards was enjoyed by all and generally it was voted a great day by those who attended.

The usual monthly meeting was held on 3rd May and once again the roll up was below standard and I appeal to all to try and get along to these monthly shivoos and have a good night out with the lads. It was decided at this meeting to hold a Ladies Night and a small Committee was elected to furnish details of the form it should take and when it should be held. The report of this Committee will be given at the Annual General Meeting on 7th June.

Now for a word about the Annual General Meeting. As stated before, it will be held at Monash Club on 7th June and will commence at 8 p.m. sharp. Much business of importance to the Association is transacted at this meeting and it behoves all to make a supreme effort to attend. The Annual Election of Officers takes place at this meeting so come along and vote for your nominee. The retiring officers are: President, Jack Denman, Vice President, Tom Nisbet, General Secretary, Col. Doig, State Secretary, Mick Calcutt, State Treasurer, Ron Dook, Auditors, Jack Carey and Ron Kirkwood, Committee, Mick Morgan, Joe Burrige, Alf Walsh, Bill Epps and Jerry Haire. We have also to elect a member to the Welfare Committee in place of Ray Aitken who resigned on leaving the Metropolitan area. Other business, of course, is the receiving of Accounts and Reports etc. and an agenda of extreme importance to the Association has been drawn up by the Committee. A notice of motion regarding the Association's attitude to Communism is listed for debate.

Subscriptions for the coming financial year fall due on 1st June and all members are enjoined to be prompt with payment and so save your Treasurer the trouble of chasing you for them.

It is with regret that we chronicle the death of Jack Cary's father, the sincere condolences of the Association go out to Jack and his people in their bereavement.

Mick Morgan has become the proud father of a baby son thus making it a pigeon pair. Congrats Mick! Bill Rowan-Robinson is also among the proud parents, his being a girl after a couple of boys. Our congrats to you also, Bill.

Advice has come to hand of a Book by Freddy Spencer Chapman (our instructor of Foster Days) of his amazing exploits behind the Jap lines in Malaya. The name "The Jungle is Neutral"; price 28/- at Alberts or other booksellers. This book has been excellently reviewed by "John O'London Weekly" and is said to be one of the two best books to come out of this War. Brief reference is made to the Stay on the Promontory.

Now for some notes from my correspondents:

George Merritt writes from Balingup that he has just returned from Victoria complete with wife; congrats Geo.. He said he saw very few of the lads in Vic. but did see Dan Thomas (Combined Ops.) and Alf Harper. Bill

Rowan-Robinson also among the writers this month telling of his recent parenthood, also that he has acquired a new house with all mod. cons and is now very comfortable. Alby Martin writes most interestingly from South Australia, giving details of the Anzac Day Celebrations in that State. He said that besides himself in the march were Bob Williamson, Fred Gowns (in a carrying business) Frank Sealy (with Kelvinators) H.G. (Carl) Marks (a farming type at Monash) and Lew Marchant. Alby says the pubs open in S.A. after 12 o'clock and thus they were able to rush around and have a very convivial afternoon at many of the well known hostelries. Also few rail fares are provided for people travelling within the State during Anzac Week which encourages people to attend the functions in Adelaide on that date. Alby wishes to be remembered to all his old mates and sends his regards to all. Gerry O'Toole who is now in Victoria, writes to Percy Hancock. Gerry has had a rough spin as far as health goes, but manages to bear up under the strain. Gerry says he is practically a teetotaler these days. Has hopes of seeing quite a few of the gang again this year at Anzac time.

Well, that completes the points from correspondents for this month. Don't be afraid to write in and give me all the news from your particular area so that I can dispense it to the gang in the Newsletters. Owing to the fact that so much other stuff has to be sent out this month, there will be no personalities column this letter, but will give you another batch next month.

Now for a few memory joggers. Don't fail to attend the Annual General Meeting at Monash Club, 10a King St. on Tuesday 7th June at 8 p.m. sharp. Send in your subscriptions for the coming year as soon as you can. If you have a mate who has not yet joined the Association, get on his back to join up and make our show a 100% effort.

Well, with those few remarks, I will say Cheerio, and hope to see you all on the 7th.

C.D. DOIG.

HON. EDITOR.