

June 24

CIRCULAR NEWSLETTER NO. 27.

Firstly gents, I would like to point out to all members that another financial year has come and gone, and we can to some extent feel gratified at the progress that the Association has made. Membership has risen considerably and very few chaps who served with the Unit have failed to become members of our Association. Financially we are going very well, and socially we are improving, and the coming year augers well for both these activities.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the outgoing officers for the splendid work they have performed on behalf of the Association, and I would also like to welcome the incoming executives and wish them all success in their efforts on your behalf in the year to come.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Monash Club on 7th June, and I think can be said to be the most successful yet held. We had an excellent attendance and all present took a keen interest in the matters under review.

The Election of Officers took place with the following results:- President, Mr. J.C. Burrige; Vice President, Mr. D. Murray; General Secretary, Mr. C.D. Doig; State Secretary, Mr. R. Kirkwood; Treasurer, Mr. A. Walsh; Auditors, Messrs. J. Carey and G. Boyland; Committee, (which was extended to seven) Messrs. A. Smith, W. Epps, C. Hodson, F. Freestone, R. Dook, H. Calcutt and F. Napier. Mr. J. Burrige was elected to fill the vacancy on the Welfare Committee in the place of Mr. R. Aitken. The Photographic Committee was also reconstituted and the following three members were elected, Messrs. C. Hodson, R. Parry and W. March.

Mr. Carey gave the Auditors Report and commented favourably on the method by which the Association's Books had been kept and pointed out several ideas by which improvements could be effected in the future.

At this stage I would like to digress to point out to all the amount of work and energy which our retiring and only President, Mr. J. Denman has put into the affairs of the Association. Jack has been a Rock of Gibraltar to us and we are going to miss him keenly.

The matter of the Association's attitude to Communism was debated strongly and the following motion was carried - "That this Association whole-heartedly endorsed the attitude of the R.S.L. and other kindred bodies towards Communism".

The meeting decided that the Association have a Commemoration Day. This day to be the Sunday following the 20th of February in each year, the ceremony to take the form of laying of wreaths on Unit Trees in Kings Park. You are all asked to take due note of this fact and mark the date prominently on your calendars and make every endeavour to be present.

It was resolved to change the date of the Annual Reunion also. The new date will be the Saturday preceding the Commemorative Sunday. This new evening being towards the end of February should make it possible for country folk to attend more readily. The two dates next year will be the 25th and 26th of February respectively. You will be further apprised of venue, etc., at a later date.

A Ladies Night to take the place of the normal September meeting was also approved, and this is another date you are asked to keep pasted in the hat and be sure you attend (6th September).

We want to make this first Ladies Night something to remember and make sure everybody goes away determined to come again next year.

Subscriptions for the year 1949/50 are now due and if you haven't already paid in advance you are requested to forward same as soon as possible. Mr. Alf Walsh, your new Treasurer, will be only too pleased to forward you a receipt, and if you send them to me, C/o. Department Labour and National Service, 9 Barrack Street, Perth, I will hand them to Alf on your behalf. Please give this matter your urgent attention and so that it doesn't skip your memory, do it by return of mail.

Your attention is drawn to the next meeting which will be held at Monash Club on Tuesday, 5th July, and we hope all will make an effort to attend and so start the year right. Once you start coming you will find the habit will grow upon you. Mr. Dave Ross of Dilli fame will attend and is to give us a talk on his war-time experiences. This should prove to be exceedingly interesting and enthralling. This feature of either a guest speaker or something of the kind to brighten meetings will be a permanent feature of future meetings. So boys, roll up in strength and make it worthwhile for the Committee to arrange these things on your behalf.

I have to report some births in the last Month. Tom Nisbet is the proud father of a boy, Jack Denman has a girl and Merv Cash a boy - Our congrats to all three.

Don Hudson has been in Hollywood for the past 8 weeks and reports few visitors. This is a bad show and considering the few of our lads who are in hospital from time to time, we should be able to muster a few regular hospital visitors to cheer their stay. So lads rally round and go and see Don and any others who might be in hospital.

Have had a little mail since last newsletter. Peter Mantle who seems to have constituted himself as our official Indian Correspondent again writes most interestingly. He says he saw the playing of the "Aga Khan" hockey Tournament and can those boys play hockey!!! Also saw our own Bobby Marshall play billiards at his Club, says Bob was a bit worried by the heat and humidity. Peter is the proud owner of a 1937 model Wolsley. Peter's letters are full of little tit bits and I only wish I could find space to print them in their entirety.

Ray Aitken wrote to Mick Calcutt and breezily gave him the low down on Onslow. Apparently from what Ray says there is a slight preponderance of persons with the name of Clark. Also although the fish reach mammoth proportions there is quite considerable aqua in between fish. Apparently the purchasing of any surplus you may catch is left to a bloke with similar ideas as Ned Kelly. Ray says his Scotch ancestry will not allow him to be robbed so flagrantly so he gives it away!

Dudley Tapper writes from Adelaide where he has a house in the course of construction and says that the usual rope round the neck has in his case turned to a steel hawser. Dud says Ron Gurr has a property at Mt. Gambier under the Repat. "Shorty" Stevens calls on Dudley from time to time from down Snowtown way and he is going along very well.

Eric Weller is another of my correspondents from Bunbury. Eric has started football again but says they are having trouble in fielding teams. Alec Thomson called on me recently, he is on 3 months long service leave, and is spending it in the city. Alec is looking very fit and reckons he has a crackerjack job with the Forestry Department. Tony Bowers also called in. Tony has just taken unto himself a wife (congrats to you from us all Tony).

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION.

At the Annual General Meeting last month, through some error of judgment, I was elected President of our Association for the next 12 months. I assure you that what little I can do will be done willingly.

Reading through a magazine last week, a very apt paragraph took my attention. It was headed:-

"Points on how to kill an Association"

Some of the points were not applicable to us: Others were downright rude: But a few were very true and bear repeating. They are:-

1. Do not come to the meetings, or if you do, come late. Do not think of coming if the weather does not suit, or if you have another engagement of less importance.
2. Never be nominated for the committee, it is far easier to criticise than do things.
3. If you are asked by the chairman to give your opinion on an important matter, tell him you have nothing to say, and after the meeting tell everyone what should have been done.
4. Vote in favour of something and then do exactly the opposite.
5. Agree with everything that is said in the meeting and disagree outside.
6. If you are asked to pay your overdue subscription resent such impertinence.

Like nearly all similar Associations, ours is guilty of allowing too few to do the organising while too many sit back and take the benefit of such organisation.

Country members unfortunately cannot assist very actively. Their duties however, are fourfold:-

1. Paying subs promptly.
2. Sending an occasional letter.
3. Attending meetings whenever practicable.
4. Sending suggestions.

The last named is important. If you are ever struck with an idea - any idea - from nominating a team of 20 Icelanders to help with the stocking; to nominating Mick Morgan for the next Miss Australia Contest - all ideas are welcome.

Metropolitan members are more fortunately placed. They are able to take a more active part. Too many however, are apt to withdraw from active participation on the plea of too much work, etc., with the result that the willing horses have to carry on yet another year. There have been a few changes in the executive this year, but (without offence to the present office bearers!) I hope there will be even more next year.

Attendances have not been good at monthly meetings. Perhaps this has been the fault of the Committee in not making the meetings more interesting. Commencing with the July meeting, there will always be some attraction apart from the keg, and we look for greatly increased numbers. In July, Mr. Frank Beste, ex airman and P.O.W., will be giving us a talk, and in August, Mr. Dave Ross, whom most of us know, will be the guest speaker. Please turn up to these meetings and make them successful.

To the new Executive I extend congratulations combined with the hope that their offices will be interesting and successful. From other fellow members I ask for support. Our little Association is a good one - a worthwhile one - with praiseworthy objects, not the least important of which is the fostering of wartime comradeship. To date we have been successful: Let us be even more so.

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Tony also has just started his saw mill going at Kojonup. Bob Palmer and Gordon Holmes were both visitors to the city and made the Annual General Meeting.

I will now try and give you a few more personalities in my scrap book of thumbnail sketches.

BATEMAN, T.M. Married man, and I believe infanticipating. Address, 9 Sussex Street, Victoria Park. Tom is a clerk with State Crown Law Department and doing quite well. Saw Tom at the meeting the other night - hope this will only be a forerunner of more appearances at meetings.

BLUNDY, A. Single. Address, 21 Albion Street, Katanning. Alf is with the local Flour Mills at Katanning. I believe going along quite well.

CRAGHILL, E. Single. Address, 53 Ruby Street, North Perth. Eddy is a welder with Tramways Department, and tells me it is quite a good job except that it entails quite a bit of night shift.

CRIDDLE, Colin. Married man with two children. Address, 30 Traylen Road, Bayswater. Colin is a driver on Midland Railway Company's parcel service to Geraldton.

DARRINGTON, R.G. Single. Address, Steere Street, Bridgetown. Dick works for the local baker at Bridgetown having done a course in this trade under Rehab.

GALLAGHER, J. Single. Address, C/o. P.O., Kojonup. Jim is with Tony Bowers at his timber mill at Kojonup. Tony tells me that Jim is going along real well.

HARRINGTON, R.G. Married man with one child. Address, Wyening. Reg is another of our many farmers and has his own place at Wyening, a wheat and sheep proposition. Reg, I believe, still takes an active part in sport, playing football in the winter.

HERBERT, M.S. Married man (don't know if any children). Address, Hungarrin. Also a farmer and doing extra well. Has a very nice place at Hungarrin, also a wheat and sheep place.

HODSON, C.C. Married, no children as yet! Address, 108 Nelson Cres., East Perth. Colin is an engraver with Cumpsons, Perth. He makes lapel badges, etc., and is doing very well. Colin is a new addition to our Committee.

YOUNG, D.C. Single (can't land a wife he reckons). Address, Box 164 P.O., Bridgetown. Don is truck driver - general farm hand with his cousin, Mr. Wheatley, and says it is a good job and that he likes it very much.

WHEATLEY, M.L. Married with one child. Address, C/o. P.O., Byford. Doc is a market garden type having hewed his own place out of the bush at Byford and built his own little home. Doc assures me that he is doing alright.

THORNTON, N.D. Single. Address, Denmark. Norm is a building contractor at Denmark and the one and only Geo. Smith is offsidng to him. Like everyone in the building game he is having a ton of trouble with materials.

Well boys, I will give up the ghost for now and finish up with a few joggers for your memories. Don't forget next meeting on 5th July. Pay your subs as soon as possible and remember to visit Hollyweed occasionally to see any of your mates who may be sick.

Till next month, Cheerio.

C.D. DOIG,

Honorary Editor.