



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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The President's Report 1953-54

Gentlemen,

It is my pleasant duty to report to you on the activities of the Association for 1953-54.

The year just completed can be said to be one of steady progress for our Association. Membership has held steadily and it can now be considered that the peak has been reached in this matter as practically everyone entitled to be a member is now enrolled. The collection of subscriptions from members remains satisfactory.

The social side of activities has been well maintained with increased attendances at monthly meetings. This year 10 monthly meetings were held comprising one Annual General Meeting, two Picture Nights two Guest Speakers, one Debate Night, one Guest Night and two Sports Nights. The Picture Nights proved most popular in regard to attendances and the two nights with guest speakers also proved to be popular. I think this side of our activities is definitely gaining ground and should improve steadily as members become more settled in their homes and are in a position to devote more time to Association matters. My thanks to the two guest speakers, Mr. John Burrige and Mr. Alf Winter.

Ladies' Night held in Royal Show week was a most successful function and although the attendance was below that of the previous year the evening was voted terrific success by those present.

The Xmas Party for children was quite easily our most successful show for the year. Some 120

children took part and a wonderful time was had by all. We have definitely a winner as far as the party is concerned and it must be recorded how excellently everyone worked to ensure its success.

The Annual Re-Union was once more held in February and was quite definitely a record as far as attendance goes. The whole evening seemed to be enjoyed by all and financially a small profit was made. Great thanks are due to all who helped to make the evening so successful with especial thanks to Ron Dook and Bill Hollis who did the catering. Since we have catered for these shows they have been turned from a large loss into a small profit without in any way detracting from the enjoyment of the evening.

Commemoration Day was held on the day following the Re-Union and once again a good roll up ensued. The form of service is gradually becoming standardised and I think is now in need of very little change. This service is easily the most onerous performed by the President and every co-operation must be given to him to enable him to do it justice. By laying down a standard practice this will reduce the care and worry for the person conducting the service.

The Country Convention at Wongan Hills was one of the most enjoyable outings I have personally attended. Great credit must go to the organisers at Wongan—Jack Fowler and the Sadler Bros.—for the tremendous work they did to make everyone happy. The Sec-

retary's report published in the 'Courier' did full justice to this function. These Conventions definitely should be encouraged and possibly further meetings should be held each year at different country centres, after all the greater number of our members live in the country.

The Unit marched at the special parade held for Her Majesty the Queen and this was a big disappointment as the roll up was most minute. Whether due to polio epidemic at the time or just plain lethargy on the part of members I don't know but it is one function of which I am not particularly proud.

The Anzac Day functions were also below our best standards as the march was poorly attended. All who made the grade had a great day. A wreath was laid by our Warden and Vice President at the Dawn Ceremony and the wreath provided was stated to be really wonderful.

Only one working bee was called for the year. This was to clean up the area in Kings Park prior to Commemoration Day. The response was excellent and a good job was done on the area.

Twelve Committee meetings were held during the year and attendances were adequate without being spectacular. Much work of interest to the Association was carried out in Committee and the debates brought out much to the advantage of the Association.

The Editor has carried on the good work of the 'Courier' under adverse circumstances this year as apart from a heavy influx of mail when the Melbourne Cup Sweep was run, news has been very scarce and has taxed his powers of ingenuity to provide a monthly issue. My thanks to Wilf March for his good efforts. I would like to bring to members' minds the necessity of providing news to the Editor so that he can supply a readable paper for you each month.

The Melbourne Cup Sweep once again provided us with the bulk of our finances and was a great success. Much credit is due to Jack Carey who conducted this year's sweep.

The financial statement will reveal that the Association's finances are in a healthy state and that pro-

gress was made financially as well as socially during the year. I will leave the reporting of this side to the Treasurer.

The Reticulation Scheme for Kings Park is now well on the way as far as planning and finance are due and although there still remains one or two minor details to straighten out this scheme should be completed before the summer. Our thanks are due to Mr. Fred Napier who has provided the liaison with the Water Supply Department who are doing the planning on our behalf. The appeal for funds for this project was launched in March and already the response has been excellent. This scheme should prove to be the best yet undertaken.

This report would not be complete without due thanks to all who have helped to make this such a good year. Firstly to your Vice President, Mick Calcutt, who has proved to be the ideal 2 i/c and has lightened the burden of Presidency in no uncertain manner at all the functions held by the Association. The work of General Secretary Geo Boyland, who unfortunately is confined to bed with a broken leg at the moment, has been full of merit and he personally conducted many of the functions run by the organisation, such as the Ladies' Night. I wish Geo a most speedy recovery and return to full health so that he can further assist the Association with his undoubted talents. Jack Carey has proved to be a brilliant Secretary, his minutes of meetings are a pleasure to read and generally he is the sort of Secretary who makes an organisation such as ours function really well. Alf Walsh has once again proved to be the ideal Treasurer and it will be a sorry day for the Association when we lose him. The Committee has proved to be hard working and conscientious in the interests of the Association and command your highest regard. As mentioned earlier, Wilf March has worked hard to make the 'Courier' what it is today. I would like to thank Tom Nisbet for making available to us the 16th Battalion Drill Hall for our various functions as this central place is ideally situated for our purposes. I would also like to thank City of Perth Sub-Branch for the use of these premises for monthly meetings.

Finally, I would like to thank all who have made my year as President one of enjoyment and practical result. Without the unstinted efforts of executive officers, committee and members, this would not have been such an easy year to report upon but your efforts have been freely given and we have had a good year.

I wish everyone concerned with the Association all the best for the year to come and hope that incoming officers have the same ready co-operation as has been my lot.

—C. D. DOIG, President.

* * * *

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There was quite a good roll up, those present being: Henry Sproxtton, Jack Carey, Colin Doig, John Burr ridge, Ron Dook, Mick Calcutt, Fred Napier, Charlie King, Jack Pen glase, Curly Bowden, Jerry Green, George Strickland, Alf Walsh, Dick Darrington, Jim Cantrell, Bill Willis Blue Pendergrast, Arthur Smith, Sprig McDonald and Wilf March.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Monash Club, 10a King-st., Perth, on Tuesday, 1st June, 1954.

The president, Mr. Doig, occupied the chair, 20 members being present.

Minutes:

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed on the motion of Messrs. Burr ridge and Smith.

Business Arising:

There being no business arising out of the minutes the meeting proceeded.

Reports:

The president, Mr. Doig, read his report which was received with accord and adopted on the motion of Messrs. Cantrill and March.

The secretary's report was read and adopted on the motion of Messrs. Calcutt and Cantrill.

The treasurer, Mr. Walsh, presented a preliminary financial statement of receipts and expenditure for the year. Mr. Walsh explained that as the financial year closed on the 31st May and the Annual Meeting was on the 1st July, he had not enough time to prepare a balance sheet. This would be available later and would be published in the 'Courier'. Mr. Burr ridge suggested

the transfer of monies from the Current Account to the Savings Bank was worth consideration. In reply Mr. Walsh said that as the Honour Avenue Watering Scheme would be a call on funds he recommended the Current Account be left intact. After answering a few minor queries the treasurer's report was adopted on Messrs. Doig and Napier. Mr. Doig commented favourably on the effort of Mr. Walsh over the previous 12 months.

The president advised the auditors' report would be published in a later copy of the 'Courier'.

Notice of Motion:

Mr. Calcutt after explaining his reasons, moved his notice of motion, that to rule 3 under membership of the rules and constitutions sub clause E be added to read: "Life membership shall only be conferred upon a member by the recommendation from the committee." Motion was seconded by Mr. Napier and carried unanimously.

General Business (appertaining to past year):

Mr. Napier moved honorarium of £5 be allocated for typistes for work performed. Seconded Mr. Smith. Carried.

On the motion of Messrs. Calcutt and Dook it was moved that a letter of welcome be forwarded to Arch Campbell who had returned to W.A. after many years in the Eastern States, during which time he had performed great service to the Association. Carried.

Mr. Burr ridge moved that in the interests of Australia wide solidarity of the Association principal office bearers in other States be cordially thanked for their services in the way of a letter of appreciation from the W.A. Branch. Seconded Mr. Canbill. Carried.

Election of Officers:

Mr. Willis was appointed returning officer.

President:

Mr. Doig was elected, with acclamation, to the position of President for the second successive year on the nomination of Messrs. Napier and Burr ridge. Mr. Doig thanked members present for their confidence and assured he would do his utmost for the Association.

Vice President:

Mr. Calcutt the only nominee was elected on the nomination of Messrs. Burr ridge and Dook.

General Secretary:

Mr. Boyland elected unopposed on the nomination of Messrs. March and Napier.

State Secretary:

Mr. Carey elected unopposed on nomination of Messrs. Doig and Calcutt.

Treasurer:

Mr. Walsh unopposed, on nomination of Messrs. Doig and Napier.

Editor:

Mr. March unopposed on the nomination of Messrs. Doig and Calcutt.

Committee:

Fourteen members were nominated for six vacant positions on the committee. The following were duly elected: Messrs. Green, Strickland, Dook, Bowden, Napier and Willis.

Auditors:

Messrs. Burridge and Geere were re-elected on the motion of Messrs. Calcutt and March.

General Business:

The question of raising the prize money in the Melbourne Cup Sweep (as suggested in secretary's report) was debated. Mr. Calcutt suggested the Association might consider running an art union in place of the sweep. This did not meet with general approval.

On the motion of Messrs. Napier and Penglase that "The Melbourne Cup Sweep continue and the major prize be raised £5", was defeated.

It was moved Mr. Bowden, seconded Mr. Cantrill "The Melbourne Cup Sweep be run on the same lines as previous year". Motion carried.

Mr. Bowden said he had attended the last two Country Conventions and in his opinion they should be run more often. Messrs. Doig and March spoke in support of Mr. Bowden. Mr. Calcutt said seeing country members had travelled great distances to attend the Annual Re-unions, city members should be prepared to reciprocate, and visit distant centres.

Mr. March moved that "the incoming committee contact members in different country centres with a view to conducting frequent country conventions." Seconded Mr. Bowden.

Members spoke with concern of the lack of interest by members in the Association activities. Mr. Burridge asked whether there were any statisticians available of attendances

of members at meetings. The secretary replied an attendance book had been procured for members to sign when they attended meetings, but it had not always been on hand. However he would make certain it was for the coming year's meetings.

Committee Comment

The new committee held its first meeting since taking office in Colin Doig's office in Barrack-st., Perth. Present: Ron Dook, Jerry Green, Geo. Strickland, Jack Carey, Colin Doig, Fred Napier, Mick Calcutt, Bill Willis and Wilf March.

Ron Dook, Jerry Green and Geo. Strickland were welcomed as new committeemen.

The Kings Park Water Reticulation Scheme came in for discussion again and it was decided to devote the July committee meeting to a full discussion on this subject as very little could be accomplished by hurried decisions.

Greater part of the evening was taken up with discussion re the calendar for the year.

Fixtures for the year are as follows:

August: Film night.

September: Sports night.

October: Ladies night (Hill's Crawley Bay Tea Rooms).

November: Visit to Fremantle Power House.

December: Sports night. Kiddies' Party Dec. 5.

February: 5, Re-Union. 6, Commemoration Service.

March: Davis Cup Film night (guest night).

April: Guest speaker.

May: Debate night.

June: Annual General Meeting.

Country Conventions

Considerable discussion took place and numerous country centres were given thought. More about conventions will be given later on.

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Personalities

George Boyland:

Graduated to crutches now. George as you may not know was unfortunate enough to break a leg a while ago. Boyland family hope to move into a new home at Double View in a couple of weeks.

Ron Dook:

Now serving on the committee. Ron has given very freely of his services to the Association throughout the years in many different ways. It will not be a new experience for "Dooky" to quietly handle some job necessary for the well-being of the Association.

Jim Smaile:

Now General Manager of the New Lancefield Gold Mine at Laverton. Jim has really taken to the outback and this job of his will really mean a very good salary so good luck to you, Jim. The hard study at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines has really paid off.

Arthur Smith:

Last seen sitting on an upturned barrow—situation home—time one Sunday when he should have been tending those new shrubs he has been planting. You must remember Arthur that you live right on the bus route so if a little bludging is to be entered into, well then, hide around the back.

Jack Carey:

Your State Secretary, was eulogised by Mick Calcutt at the Annual General Meeting. Mick drew attention to the fact that Jack Carey hasn't missed a meeting since he first became State Secretary—that's a grand record Jack and something to be proud of.

Jerry Green and George Strickland

Both did a grand job at their first meeting as committeemen. New blood and ideas should keep us on the ball and help the Association to keep the upward trend which we have made since inauguration.

Eddie Craighill:

At Leederville last Saturday to give West Perth an urge on to victory over Claremont. Hadn't seen Eddie in an age and he looks particularly well. By the way Eddie, try and get along to the next meeting, we would appreciate having a bit of an ear-bash with you.

Eric Smythe:

Had an unenviable experience the other day. A little boy who was staying at his home in Geraldton while doing his schooling became lost. He eventually returned home in the early hours of the morning, having fallen asleep in a vacant allotment. You sure must have been a worried man, Eric.

Random Harvest

Bernie Langridge dropped a short note stating that he had received numerous letters requesting apples.

Hope you receive your 'Courier' this time Bernie—have to blame the postal authorities for your copy going astray.

Major Love wrote a very interesting letter informing us of the arrival in the West of Neville Shute the novelist who wrote the introductory chapter for Bernie Calinan's book "Independent Company".

To those of you who have not met Major Love, he was in command of training operations at the Chalet, Foster.

Heard This?

Three bulls escaped from a slaughter house. One was a big bull, one was a medium sized bull, and one was a very small bull.

The big bull ran into a "No Exit" street and was captured easily.

The medium sized bull stopped to look in a shop window and was roped without any trouble. The small bull, however, made straight for the country and led his pursuers a merry chase. Which is why a little bull goes a long way.

* * * *

The youthful curate, calling on his parishioners, arrived at a home in which there was a new baby. The proud mother exhibited the infant, and the curate was lavish in his praise of its beauty.

"How old is it?" he asked.

"Just two months old today," was the reply.

"How interesting. Is it your youngest?"

Victorian Vocal Venturings

The main item of news this issue is the report on the visit of 10 metropolitan members to Traralgon. On Saturday, June 5, George Kennedy, Rod Dhu, Bruce McLaren, George Humphries, Bert Tobin, Alan Munro and yours truly met at the Kerry Family Hotel, and proceeded to Dandenong for our rendezvous with Jack Servante and Harry Botterill. We were right on time, the only incident on this, the first stage, being Darby Munro's astonishment at my battle-worn Standard 8 giving the Holden a start and a hiding. Admittedly, some local knowledge helped, but after all it's the results that count.

Jack Servante sprung a leak in the fuel line of his Prefect before leaving Dandenong, but fortunately he found a garage with the proprietor or nearby and was able to obtain a replacement. Other than one puncture on the way home, we experienced no other mechanical trouble for which we were truly thankful.

We managed a few stops on the 80 odd mile trip from Dandenong to Traralgon, but despite these, we made up all our lost time and arrived at Ryan's Hotel within five minutes of our estimated time of arrival, 5.30 p.m. Tom Coyle and Blue Sargeant were there, with Arthur Mills, Blue's brother-in-law, and a few enjoyable rounds were partaken.

From Ryan's we went to our quarters at the Winston Roadhouse where we were agreeably impressed by our rooms. Campbell Rodd arrived at this stage in his Daimler, and proceeded to take care of us. Cam knew the proprietor of the Roadhouse, and was able to organise our dinner. Unfortunately, due to a slight misunderstanding, it was rather a scratch meal, but all the same it was filling.

By now we were beginning to take notice of a peculiar odour permeating Traralgon. This, we discovered came from the Australian Paper Mills Pulp Paper Factory, a few miles out. We grew heartily sick of this stink by the time we returned home, it was worse than rotten cabbage water, we were told it was that famous smell so well known to schoolboy chemistry students, sulphuretted hydrogen.

After dinner we adjourned to the Traralgon R.S.L. Hall for a Smoke Night cum informal meeting. This was a great night, lashings of ale and a very nice supper kindly arranged by Mrs. Coyle and Mrs. Rodd. A roaring log fire was also very welcome as it was an extremely cold night. The Rodd wood supply suffered accordingly. It was very late when we wound up, we decided later on it must have been almost 3 a.m., but with the fund of stories and experiences that were retold, the hours flew by.

Harry Botterill was chairman of the meeting, and in declaring it opened he explained that it was the desire of the Victorian Branch to give all members an opportunity to express their views on the manner in which the affairs of the Branch were being handled. Bert Tobin presented a preview of his annual financial statement, and explained the various transactions to those in attendance. He also carried on with a report on the progress being made with regard to our Olympic organising, and advised that with Bernard Callinan an interview had been attended at Victoria Barracks.

Ted Mulcahy proposed a vote of welcome to the visitors and explained the difficulties surrounding the attendance of country members to city functions. He expressed the hope that they would be present more often in the future.

Campbell Rodd, in a very interesting and instructional talk, covered the early history of Traralgon, and compared its prosperity and growth with the building and production of the pulp paper mills. As Cam has been with them from the inception of the project he was in a position to speak with authority on the subject, and all appreciated his most knowledgeable dialogue.

Other than the visitors from Melbourne, those who attended the function were Tom Coyle, Cam Rodd, Blue Sargeant, Ted Mulcahy, Harold Bickerton and Bill Roberts (2/4 Company). The success of the evening was ensured by the grand preparations made by Tom Coyle, and we are deeply appreciative of his efforts. Cam Rodd also spared no effort to ensure an enjoyable gathering.

We received several apologies from members unable to attend, namely B. Callinan, M. Davies, A. Claney and Pete Krause, from the city, Ken Monk, whose family are on the sick list, Ted Hodgson, who has not been too well of late, and George Merritt, who was on night shift. George would like the 'Courier' to record his address as 6 Griffiths Court, Traralgon.

The next morning, Sunday, after a really fine breakfast at the Roadhouse, we located the Rodd manage and got the head of the house out of his bunk. After one or two snorts we did the same to Harold Bickerton. We then located George Merritt and under the guidance of Campbell Rodd, with Tom Coyle also guarding us, we looked over the pulp and paper mills. It was an eye-opener to most of us and was well worth seeing. We follow-

ed the timber through until it became rolls of brown paper, an amazing business.

We were then escorted to a point at a safe distance from Traralgon where no doubt the locals thought we would be harmless, but the irresponsible George Kennedy and Rod Dhu unearthed half a dozen and we were able to fittingly farewell our hosts.

The travellers arrived at their various abodes between 5 and 6 p.m. on the Sunday afternoon after what had proved a really worthwhile weekend, the fore-runner, I hope, of many more.

My apologies for having no other notes here. I am only in for a day or two, and am taking the opportunity of getting my 'Courier' notes away.

Cheers 'n Beers, Gerry Maley.

New South Wales News

Guess I've been falling down on the job lately lads, but unfortunately I seem to have been in a state of mental stagnation this year, due no doubt to having too many interests requiring too much of my time. I was rather sorry that a new State secretary was not appointed this year, for I think the job needs some new blood, preferably a newspaper reporter type—you whistle and I'll point.

Since it has been several months when I last managed to contribute a few notes to the 'Courier' I had best go back a bit and pick out the most interesting items of news. Just prior to Anzac Day I had a visit at home from Jock Campbell, who is over here from Melbourne for about six months. Jock is with the printing ink manufacturing firm of Coates & Coy., and was not keen on the transfer as it interfered with his building and marital plans. Also heard from and subsequently met Cpl. Bobby Burns on Anzac Day. Bobby is a Westralian doing a tour of duty over here at Ingleburn, and looks as though the army agrees with him.

General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Gallipoli Legion Club on April 9, with the President, Mr.

Allan Stewart, in the chair. Arrangements were made for Anzac Day, followed by a report on the Ward Appeal, secretary's report, financial report and general discussion. The following Association officers and committee were then elected: President, Bill Coker; Vice President, Eric Herd; Secretary-Treasurer, J. Hartley; Trustee, Bob Field; Committee, J. Kenneally, F. O'Neill, R. Trengove, J. English, R. Teague, C. Anderson, M. Mannix, T. O'Brien. I was pleased to be able to report that up till the meeting date an amount of one hundred and nine pounds had been paid to Mrs. Jim Ward. Twenty-five pounds coming from our funds and eighty-four pounds from contributions. Since then the Victorian Branch has very generously forwarded twenty-five pounds for Mrs. Ward and further donations from N.S.W. members have added another five pounds. Mrs. Ward has asked me to express her gratitude to all for the help she has been given. Legacy has also been assisting Mrs. Ward with the children and all things considered they are doing fairly well.

Anzac Day

The roll up for the march was excellent this year and several new

faces were seen. Prior to the march we met at Bob Field's office and knocked over a couple of dozen bottles, and after the march we adjourned to Eric Herd's home at Glebe. Eric's charming spouse, Heather, and her sister did a wonderful job with the supper and made the invading force very welcome. Les Collins and Les Isenhoo were most entertaining with their singing, as also were Heather and her sister and we all had a grand time. When the ten dozen beer were finished at Eric's some of us went on out to the Arncliffe R.S.L. Club. Bill Coker and I left early and I don't know how it finished up, but I haven't been game to ring Betty O'Neill since. Joining in the fun for the first time in many years was Bobby Larney, a very subdued character these days and not as robust as we remembered him in days of old. Hope we see more of him in future.

Have been suffering with a strain ed back lately, but thanks to the expert attention of physiotherapist Russ Symons, it is much improved. Russ has a very good practise in the National Mutual Building in George-st., but unfortunately is having trouble retaining his tenancy of his rooms as the bank which owns the building wishes to clear all tenants out in order to remodel the building and add several more floors to it. Russ says office space is so difficult to obtain here that he may go to Brisbane if he loses his premises. I for one hope that doesn't happen as Russ is a great scout and one of our staunchest supporters, and his loss to another State would be keenly felt.

Well chaps, all for this issue. My apologies to any correspondents I have not replied to and especially to 'Courier' Editor Wilf March.

—JACK HARTLEY.

Addresses You May Require:

Editor:

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Attadale, W.A.

N.S.W. Correspondent:

J. F. Hartley,
Creek Road,
Benowra, N.S.W.

**Balance Sheet 1953-54
N.S.W. Branch**

| Receipts | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| | £ | s. | d. |
| Subscriptions | 17 | 14 | 0 |
| Melb. Cup Sweep | 143 | 19 | 0 |
| Donations Ward Ap. | 84 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 245 | 13 | 0 |
| Cash in bank 1952-53 | 148 | 4 | 8 |
| Profit for 1953-54 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash in bank | | | |
| April 1954 | 167 | 18 | 3 |
| Petty Cash, Stamps | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| Bal. April 1954 | 169 | 4 | 8 |
| Expenditure | | | |
| | £ | s. | d. |
| Anzac Day | 13 | 12 | 0 |
| Courier | 39 | 3 | 8 |
| Sweep | 38 | 0 | 0 |
| 8th Div. Dues | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Postage | 9 | 5 | 10 |
| Stationery | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| Room Rent | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| Gift to Mrs. Ward | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Don. Ward Appeal | 84 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 224 | 13 | 0 |

Heard This?

Father was deep in his easy chair relaxing after a hard day at the office. Johnny, aged five, was bedevilling him with an endless succession of unanswerable questions.

"Daddy, what do you do at the office?" he finally asked.

"Nothing!" grunted Daddy.

Johnny pondered this extraordinary statement for a moment, then: "Daddy, how do you know when you're finished?"

* * * *

Mrs. Doyle confronted her husband, Dinty, and said she needed some money for a new cradle.

"And what will you be needin' a new cradle for?" asked Dinty.

"Don't you know we've had 15 children," she said, "and every one of them has been in that same cradle and now it's rickety."

"All right," consented Dinty. "Here's some money for a new one but see that you get one this time that's gonna last."