



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

(Registered at the G.P.O. Perth, for transmission by post as a periodical)

Vol. 9. No. 96.

JUNE, 1955

Price 1d.

## *West Australian Whisperings*

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1954-55**

Gentlemen,

It is my pleasant duty to report to you on the activities of the Association for 1954/55.

The year just concluded can be said to be among our most successful from a point of view of work achieved. Membership is steady at our figure of 180 and is unlikely to grow beyond this figure except by interstate transfer. As stated in previous reports, the peak has been reached in membership. Collection of subscriptions remains satisfactory. Although it might be noted that some members may be in arrear with subscriptions, these same members may be among the better revenue producers in respect of sweeps, raffles, etc.

The social side of activities has been maintained and in most cases improved during the year. Monthly meetings can be said to have improved in attendance in the main, although this is an activity which can definitely be improved upon and should have high priority in the discussions of the incoming committee. This year, nine normal monthly meetings were held comprising one annual general meeting, two picture nights, two guest speakers, one sports, two debate and one guest night in the form of a Xmas social. Picture nights were again the most popular as far as attendance and the Guest Night at Xmas was a great success as far as numbers and enjoyment went. Guest speakers also proved to be popular and our thanks are due to Mr.

Colin McDonald and Mr. Sam Fulbrook for their efforts during the year. The sports night with the Association Championship, which was won by Fred Napier, was a real success and the provision of a belt for the winner by Mr. Green was most appreciated. This year no meeting was held in either January or February and, judged by attendances in past years, consideration should be given to eliminating the May meeting as attendances seem to be affected by the proximity to Anzac Day. I give it as my opinion that a complete review of monthly meetings should take place in the year to come and now we are completely sure of the fact that the Association will live for many years to come and members are becoming more settled in homes and able to devote more time to Association affairs this side of activities should be completely overhauled with a view to attracting greater patronage at meetings.

Our special activities this year were our greatest success. Ladies' Night held in Royal Show week proved to be a great evening and the switch back to Crawley Bay Tearooms was apparently justified. The cosier atmosphere of this venue is excellent for a show such as ours.

The Xmas Party for children was once again voted an outstanding success. Some 140 children took part in this party and presents were sent to those in the country who were unable to attend and whose names we were in possession of. This party is definitely a winner and

**Stop Press. Address all Association mail to Box T1646 G.P.O. Perth**

should definitely be continued in its present form for a few years to come. This party serves to show just how well the Association members will work when given something to get their teeth into.

The Annual Re-union was once more held in early February and I think the most successful social function yet. Attendance was slightly below the previous year but the spirit of the evening had to be seen to be believed. The catering was once more most favourably commented upon by all concerned especially our visitors and reflects great credit upon Ron Dook and his helpers who attended to this side of activities. The provision of an entertainer proved to be a good innovation and was much appreciated by all present.

Commemoration Day was held the day following the Re-union and a record roll-up of over 50 ensued. The form of service is now becoming concrete and is in need of very little change. This service can now be conducted by anyone as it is in the form of a script and has only to be read. The care and worry attendant to this Service upon the President is gradually becoming less. My thanks to Mick Calcutt for his excellent organising of this Service and to Geoff Laidlaw for the grand manner of marshalling the parade.

The Country Convention at Geraldton was a most enjoyable outing and although attendance was below expectations as far as city folk were concerned everyone had the time of their lives with hospitality at its top by the Geraldton folk. All the Geraldton members and their wives are especially thanked for their splendid effort with special thanks to Eric and Mrs. Smyth as organisers. These Country Conventions should be encouraged and will, I think, grow in attendance with the passing years. This is one function where we have the edge on like Associations and in taking the Association to the country members we are doing a very worthwhile task.

The Unit marched on Anzac Day and we mustered a record attendance under the leadership of Geoff Laidlaw. The show after the march was one of our best ever and once again the provision of food by Ron Dook and Bill Hollis was much ap-

preciated. A wreath was laid at Dawn Service by our Warden and Committeeman K. Bowden, and once again the quality of the wreath evoked laudatory comment.

Twelve Committee meetings were held during the year and attendances were adequate but not spectacular. Much work of great moment to the Association was handled by the Management Committee including the Kings Park Reticulation Scheme which will be dealt with later in this report. The Association can count itself fortunate in having such a hard working and conscientious body of workers to guide its destinies.

The Editor carried on the good work of the 'Courier' under adverse circumstances once again this year. Apart from a heavy influx of letters during the currency of the sweep and raffle, news was very scarce—this applied particularly to Eastern States items. My thanks to Wilf March for a job well done. I would once again bring to the notice of members the necessity of providing more items of news to allow the Editor, whoever he be, to enable him to produce a paper worthy of the name.

The Melbourne Cup Sweep which once again provided us with the bulk of our finances was a great success. Great credit to Jack Carey for his fine effort. A raffle conducted in 1955 also meant a great life in our financial position.

The Financial Statement will reveal that the Association's finances are in a healthy state but that we showed a loss on the year accounted for mainly by the Kings Park Scheme. The reporting on this side will be left to Treasurer and Auditors.

The Association's greatest effort in its brief history has been the completion in this year of the Kings Park Reticulation Scheme. The piping has all been laid and sprinklers adjusted, grass planted and the seed which was also planted has germinated and we can look forward to the future with pride and I am sure this area will be nicely grassed and a credit to our efforts. The overall cost has been in excess of £300 and over £220 has been voluntarily subscribed by members towards its cost. The added amount has been met by accumulated surpluses over a period of years. Five work-

ing bees were required to put this scheme into operation and most of them were well attended, especially the first one at Kings Park to lay the piping. It is not usually my policy to select Unit members for special mention in regard to Unit activities but I would be lacking in my duty if I did not make reference to the Herculean efforts of Gordon Prendergrast who not only supplied most of the technical know-how but a considerable amount of the actual work and he has tended the scheme like a baby since it has been laid. Others who must be mentioned are Gerry Green and Merv Ryan who supplied rotary hoes and operated same. Gordon Craig and Sam Evans who assisted us to lay the scheme, Tom Nisbet and Mick Calcutt and others who have kept up the programme of watering. I must say that I am personally most pleased that this scheme has been completed during my term as President. My thanks to all who have made this laudable scheme such an outstanding success.

The preparatory work in conjunction with the Olympic Re-union in Melbourne in 1956 is now under way and has been started with a special issue of the 'Courier' on this subject. To make this a success it will be necessary for the incoming Committee to hammer it at every opportunity. The organisers in Melbourne must not be let down by inferior information. This Re-union can mean a tremendous amount to the future of the Association.

This year has seen the welcoming to Western Australia of our ex-C.O. Geoff Laidlaw. Geoff has taken a keen interest in Association affairs since his arrival and has been a regular fountain of information as he meets considerable numbers of the lads during his tours to the country. Another interstate visitor during the year was Jack Servante from Victoria on a business trip and full of information on the Olympic Re-union. Jack was given the usual West Aussie hospitality and thoroughly enjoyed his brief stay.

This report would be incomplete without due reference to all those who helped to make this such an

outstanding year. Firstly, Mick Calcutt who has, as in the past, proved to be the ideal 2 i/c and lightened the burden of Presidency in no small manner. Next is that incomparable Secretary, Jack Carney. Jack is as brilliant as he is conscientious and his reporting of meetings, etc., is a pleasure to read. It will be a sorry day for this Association when Jack cries 'enough'. Alf Walsh, as Treasurer, and Geo. Boyland, as Gen. Secretary, have both had their efforts for this year impeded by bad health but have given excellent service to the Association. As mentioned earlier, Wilf March has most competently carried on as Editor. The rest of the Committee in the persons of K. Bowden, F. Napier, G. Green, G. Strickland, Bill Willis and Ron Dook have proved to be a tower of strength and each in his own way has added considerably to the structure of the Association. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the City of Perth Sub-Branch R.S.L., for making their premises available for meetings, also the C.O. 16th Battalion for making available the Drill Hall for the Kiddies' Party and Anzac Day.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have made my term as President one of enjoyment and practical result. Without the unstinted efforts of Executive Officers, Committee and members this would have not been such a wonderful year to report upon. I wish to inform you that I will not be a candidate for office this year as I find my health is not what it should be and plus added commitments, both at work and at home, I find that I can no longer do full justice to office. May I suggest to you all assembled that, when searching for a President, you could do no better than appoint the man who has acted as my deputy for the last two years. If ever a man has qualified by long and faithful service for the highest office this Association has to offer, it is Mick Calcutt. 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. DOIG, President.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Was only reasonably well attended by 22 members. Why don't more attend the A.G.M.? May be you're worried you'll get elected to an Executive position. That is secondary. The A.G.M. is primarily to growl at or congratulate ourselves on the past 12 months and to make plans for the next year. The bigger the attendance—the more enthusiastic. The more enthusiasm—the better results.

## Don't miss next year!

The following were elected: President, Mick Calcutt; Vice President Ron Dook; General Secretary, Wilf Marsh; State Secretary, Jack Carey; Treasurer, George Boyland; Editor, John Burrige; Auditor, Dick Geere Committee, Curley Bowden, Gerry Green, Bill Willis, Dutch Holland, Blue Pendergast, Arthur Smith.

A Working Bee was decided upon for the first Sunday in July. One good working bee should clean up most of the weeds in Kings Park. The couch has taken hold and a good weeding will really send it ahead when the warmer weather arrives.

Due to heavy losses at monthly meetings, the ante for beer has been raised to 5/- per head.

It was decided to try to secure a G.P.O. Box number to facilitate handling of inward mail. (This has been fixed and the number will be advised in next 'Courier'—Ed.)

A very pleasant function at the A.G.M. was the conferring upon Ron Dook and Alf Walsh honorary life membership. Both have been hard workers and regular attenders at meetings and working bees ever since the Association began. Ron was first treasurer and has since been Catering Officer and has assumed responsibility for a thousand and one jobs every year. Alf was first auditor and has ever since been treasurer (and on one or two occasions—entertainer!). Both fully deserve the honour bestowed upon them and the congratulations of us all go to them.

Very little else was discussed and as no complaints were lodged, it must be assumed that last year's progress was thought to be entirely satisfactory.

## COMING EVENTS

The following is the programme arranged for the next 12 months at the last Committee meeting on June 21:

JULY: Guest night. Films.  
AUGUST: Musical evening and amateur hour.  
SEPTEMBER: Sports night.  
OCTOBER: Ladies' night.  
NOVEMBER: Visit to W.A. Glass Manufacturing Co. Ltd.  
DECEMBER: Kiddies Xmas party.  
JANUARY: No meeting.  
FEBRUARY: Annual Re-union.  
MARCH: Davis Cup film. Guests.  
APRIL: Guest speaker.  
MAY: In abeyance.  
JUNE: In abeyance.

\* \* \* \* \*  
BLOOD

The Blood Bank still requires blood and many of the boys are regular donors. Sometimes it proves difficult to be a "regular" owing to the summonses coming at difficult daylight hours. However, the Blood Bank will welcome a visit from you at any odd times which you may find free. Blood is cheap to us but valuable to others. Get into the habit of giving a pint every now and then. YOUR blood may save some bloke's life.

"DO YOU REMEMBER,"

In an effort to promote simultaneous nostalgia among members we introduce a new paragraph in the 'Courier'. Contributions will be welcomed from any member caring to bring forward a much remembered incident. Providing there is no "Breach of Privilege" involved, we will be happy to publish it.

Today's touch of nostalgia deals with the great Paddy Knight. Who will ever forget Terowie and the barbecued sheep? The cost was fifty bob and do you remember the "Knight's" famous remark: "The b—— must have had gold teeth to be worth that!"

(Printed for the publisher by "The Swan Express", 10 Helena Street, Midland Junction, W.A.)

## Personalities

Ray Parry called in to see the Doig the other day and looks very fit. He is in the throes of house-building at Salters Point. He is going to attack the job self-help and reckons on saving quite a few dollars.

"Hash" Jensen is now back in W.A. and domiciled at Victoria Park; he is working in the "pionk" game with Orlando Cellars. Glad to welcome you back, Hash, and hope to see you at a few of the meetings now and again.

"Brush" Fagg sends in a cheery note from Northampton and reports that the Drage, Joe Brand and himself are all in good fettle. Bill and Joe were flat out getting their crops in and in view of the welcome heavy rains "Brush" is hard at it making rainwater tanks. He reports having seen Jack Denman on several occasions and also saw "Irish" Hopkins a couple of weeks ago. He makes a nasty suggestion that "Irish" was only up that way to have a few beers owing to the beer strike in Geraldton. We cannot understand "Brush" why you have not received your 'Couriers' in recent months. You are all on the mailing list so possibly something has happened to the Northampton mails recently.

Kevin Waddington reports having had a holiday at Murchison Beach and enjoyed a wonderful time. He saw quite a bit of Joe Brand and Bill Drage. Ken says that Joe is now a real dinkie-die home man and has a lovely daughter. His property at Ogilvie is a real beauty and Joe at the moment is on top of the world.

A welcome letter from Clarrie Turner at Elgin. Don't worry about the tickets Clarrie. We all have these lapses of memory at times. Sorry to hear that the past year was not successful and we have heard that others in the clover game were similarly affected. However, better luck next year. We hope that you will be able to make the Olympic Games and if so, note that you would be able to arrange your own accommodation. Thanks for your reference to Ken McIn-

tosh. From other reports we have heard of Ken, we can understand your reference to his condition. Everyone says how well Ken is looking at the moment.

Another letter in from Stan Sadler, of Wongan Hills. Thanks for your cheques Stan and for the donation towards the kiddies Christmas party. We note that it is unlikely that you will be able to get away for the Olympic Games, but we fully appreciate that it comes at a difficult time for most cockies. We all remember "Sully" Sullivan well but few of us have seen him for many a long day. Tell him not to fail to drop in and see us next time he is in Perth. It was good to hear of the Crossing boys and we note that "Wock" is taking serious notice of his matrimonial responsibilities! Stan makes reference to Reg Harrington, Alf Brady, Jack Fowler and Jack Hassen. There is quite a gathering of the old clan in Wongan Hills. Thanks for your eulogistic reference to the Kings Park Scheme. We are all very proud of it.

A chatty letter came in from Bill Rowan-Robinson in Bridgetown which, however, had its tragic side. We all understand why you could not attend the Re-union Robby, as we had heard of the disastrous fire. For the information of those who have not heard, a fire swept past Robby's property and did a tremendous amount of damage, not only to his neighbours but also his own place. He saved his house and sheds with the exception of one hay shed but everything else on the property was burnt black. 500 bales of hay went up in the shed that was burnt. Many fences were spoilt and many fruit trees were burnt or badly scorched. We all sympathise with you in your troubles and hope that at least the place was fully insured. Robby mentions the great Sparkman who still keeps fit and works like a son-of-a-gun. Thanks for those apples Robby. They were not too ripe after all.

Two more letters to hand from ERIC WELLER or to be more exact, Mrs. Weller. It appears that Eric suffers from writer's cramp and an allergy towards ink, pen and



paper. Congratulations on the new arrival Mrs. Weller. Eric really doesn't deserve it. Thanks for your cheques covering subscriptions and sweep tickets.

The Wellers are starters for the Olympic Games and add to the growing numbers of W.A. folk who will be visiting Melbourne. Eric wants to know if there are any of the old Unit in the Merredin district so if anyone is out that way he would be glad to see them. We bring two to mind—STAN PAYNE at Nukarni and MAL HERBERT at Nungarin.

BERT BURGESS writes to us from Broome Hill and it is pleasant to see that he also is a starter for the Games. Bert writes that he is experiencing the best season since he has been down that way. This is good news and we hope that your next crop will be a bumper one. Glad to hear also that the Anzac Day parade down your way was a complete success, but we are sorry you were not up here with us.

Two letters in also from 'PIDGIN' PIERCE, of Hazel Vale, Ma Denmark. 'Pidgin' had an unfortunate accident with his car which is now a complete wipe-off. He will, however, be replacing it and is definitely attending the Games and will be travelling overland. He suggests that a convoy of cars be arranged and this definitely will be done. Regarding a baby sitter in Melbourne, we have no definite advice from the Victorian boys, but doubtless this angle will be well covered. Thanks for your cheque 'Pidgin'. We have credited 30/- account your subscription. We will keep you informed regarding the Melbourne Games and in the meantime, feel that lounge suits will be all that will be required in Melbourne.

It was nice to get a letter from HARRY FOSTER, father of our TOMMY FOSTER. Mr. Foster, Sen., did a tremendous amount of work in the early days of the Association and in conjunction with the late TOM MURRAY and many others, formed the nucleus of our present Association. Thanks for your letter Harry. We hope that you are keeping well and thanks also for your cheque for £2. Sorry about the wrong address but this

will be rectified in future.

GORDON ROWLEY has written us again from Manjimup. When selling sweep tickets Gordon do not worry about the bottled beer angle. Should the prize be won in the country, the beer will be made available locally, or the cash equivalent. We are sorry to hear that you will not be over at Melbourne for the Games and we will pass on your regards to the boys you mention.

JOE BRAND writes to us again from Ogilvie enclosing a donation and subscriptions. Many thanks, Joe. He writes of a most successful Anzac Day and from many letters received, it would appear that Anzac Day takes much the same form no matter where the boys happen to be. Your remarks about big Bill were not worn out during his last visit to Perth. It appeared to us that on that occasion at least, he could raise the right elbow as well as he ever could.

ERNIE DINWOODIE is unfortunately back again in Ward 16 in Hollywood Hospital. Glad to hear that your operation has been successful and we hope that you will soon be up and about again. We have made a note of your change of address so from now on the 'Courier' should reach you promptly. We look forward to the time when you will be able to attend our meetings again.

TOM CROUCH has written us again from Manjimup. Thanks for your letter Tom. We are pleased to hear from you. Sorry to hear of your decision to miss out on the Melbourne Games. However, you may change your mind again before then. It is a pity you missed the "Bull" when he was down in Manjimup, but doubtless you will catch up with him again on his next trip. Tom has just relinquished chairmanship of the local branch of the Farmers' Union. In view of the fact that he is still vice president of the Zone Council, president of the local tennis club, chairman and captain of the Voluntary Bush Fire Brigade and possible nominee for the Road Board, we can see that his time is more than fully occupied. Tom tells of GORDON ROWLEY'S misfortune recently when his utility caught fire and left him strand-

ed 14 mile out in the bush. That was tragic enough, but to add insult to injury, the poor old Swede had to walk 10 of the 14 miles home before getting a lift for the rest of the way. Tom, you wanted to know where JACK CAREY went for his holidays. He actually went to Augusta and reports having had a b—— of a time and is only sorry he did not accept the invitation. Tom is a good correspondent and we look forward to further letters from him.

JACK FOWLER writes from Worgan Hills advising that he and his wife are almost certain starters for the Melbourne Games. It was quite right Jack, sending in four guineas as there is an advance payment of two guineas per head. At the time you wrote you were needing rain, but recent reports indicate that your district is now receiving plenty. Thanks for your letter. We look forward to hearing from you often.

---

**WORKING BEE**

Will all available metropolitan members read this carefully.  
 THE PLACE: Lovekin Drive.  
 THE TIME: Sunday morning, 3rd July.  
 THE JOB: Clean up our Honour Avenue of weeds.  
**Please Be There If You Can.**

---

**DON'T FORGET — BUSY BEE — KINGS PARK — SUNDAY, JULY 3**

**Random Harvest**

A short note from GERRY MALEY. The receipts have gone forward, Gerry, and we in the West hope you have a successful Annual General Meeting. The jarrah will be despatched forthwith—sorry for the delay. Quite a few W.A. boys will be attending the Games but we will be writing about that officially.

DUD TAPPER sent us a nice long cheery letter from 54 Colingwood Avenue, Flinders Park. Dud writes:

"A short note to dispel rumours that I have passed the great divide. Many would be right in thinking such, the only excuse is laziness, poverty and pressure of toil on which I seem to thrive and never

*Heard This?*

"Are you in favour of a tax on bachelors?" bawled a heckler to the woman candidate.

"I thought," replied the erstwhile politicianess, "that I made it clear that I was not in favour of a tax on raw material."

\* \* \* \*

The new hired man found he was required, in his duties, to date each day's eggs.

"Nothing doing," said the hired man. "This is where I resign."

"What's the matter? Can't you write?" asked the farmer.

"'Course I can write, and I've done a lot of hard work in my day, but when it comes to being secretary to a bunch of hens—well, I draw the line."

\* \* \* \*

Tony's young and lovely wife had just died, and on the way back from the burial a friend was doing his best to console the sad one. "Teresa, she was da lovely girl. But she happy now. She wanta you to be happy, too. So pretty, soon another pretty one come along; maybe not so long either; maybe two, three months; maybe you get married soon, eh?"

"Two, three months!" wailed the bereaved one. "What am I gonna do tonight?"

seem to put on weight. Apart from losing quite a lot of hair, I haven't changed much since days of yore. As you find me so I write. My time is curtailed working seven days a week, the reason being I am helping KEITH DIGNUM build his house on weekends and we have nearly topped the walls. It's a cream brick outside and red brick inside.

"I received your Xmas screed for which I thank you. We went to Yorke Peninsula for a week at Xmas and called in and saw GEORGE LEWIS, both on the way down and back. He hasn't changed any, made us welcome and turn-

ed on a roast duck dinner with invitations to return. A mighty fine man and wife.

"Easter time we went to Mildura to meet MAX DAVIES and family by arrangement from many months previously. We camped together for three days on the banks of the Murray, had many grogs and a good ear bash and a good time was had by all. We spent an evening with NORM TILLET who really showered us with hospitality; showing us through the various clubs of Mildura, including the renowned Workers Club. Believe me, she is a beautiful bar—23 barmen during peak periods of business; the reading rooms and bowling greens are marvellous—second to none I would say. Norm also showed us the swimming pool designed after Helinski. A marvellous pool all tiled and divided into three compartments, diving board, swimming and one for the children. Mildura is really a nice town; the gardens in the main street maintained by the council must cost a penny or two to maintain. Most of the Murray towns are rich towns. On the S.A. side they have the citrus trees under irrigation from the Murray, such orchards you have never seen. They go for miles—mostly grapes and if you look hard you can see the £.s.d. hanging on every vine and tree. It is a trip really worth doing—from Adelaide to Mildura.

"MAX DAVIES I have met three times since discharge. We always have a slashing time when we get together and his wife Grace, is a scout and a half. The Davies and Tappers have an appointment in Melbourne in 1956 and have hopes of meeting the BASHER ADAMS around about the games time. In regard to the Games, as you can guess, we are going, but up until the time we leave, anyone travelling overland from W.A. can use our house here as a staging camp. We don't want any notice, just print our address and leave the rest to the individuals when the time comes. If anyone wants the use of our domain they are more than welcome. I will remind you again just prior to the Games and will

probably be able to cater for up to 20 caravans a night.

"Yours truly and family are enjoying good health and can still enjoy a grog or two or three or more. I am still in the building trade and just holding my own. A little State news for general information: We have just had a week of heavy rains, good for the cockies—no good for builders. S.A. in general is prosperous having really no labour pool. The State housing schemes are still going ahead, mainly building a new town together with houses, shops, theatres, hospital, schools—the whole works. Finance has played a major part in building in S.A.—many people wishing to build haven't the money or are unable to borrow enough to go ahead, the latter mostly young people just married, or men without military service. The Premier has made land available and made moves to establish an oil refinery at Port Adelaide—we have to keep up with W.A.! After years of work, they finally piped the Murray water to Adelaide, but have had to turn off the water as the intake is now greater than the consumption. We are short of water in summer and too much in winter.

"The Barossa Valley is another rich area in grapes, but from reports they seem to have more wine than they can sell. It is really a good drive not far from the city—100 miles would see you through the lot, very picturesque with £10,000 houses—owned by the heads no doubt. I couldn't guess as to the cost of the distilleries of which there would be about 12.

"Well, I seem to have rambled on quite a bit so will bring this to a close. It's your job to try and decipher same. I am enclosing £1 as subs for the Association (not before time). Please send my regards to all the mob and specials to JERRY HAIRE, NORM THORNTON, TED LOUD, ALEX THOMPSON, RAY PARRY, BILL DRAGE, BROOKER, YOUNGY, MERRITT and the rest of 5 Section and the "BULL", NESBITT, etc."

**DON'T FORGET — BUSY BEE — KINGS PARK — SUNDAY, JULY 3  
MONTHLY MEETING — MONASH CLUB — TUESDAY, JULY 5th**