



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

Address All Association Correspondence to Box T 1646, G.P.O. Perth

Vol. 10. No. 110.

MARCH, 1957

Price 1d.

Editorial

OLYMPIC SPIRIT

"The Olympic movement tends to bring together in a radiant re-union all the qualities which guide mankind to perfection."

At this time when Australia is honoured with the privilege of holding the Olympic Games it behoves us to take stock of ourselves.

The great spirit which has been in evidence throughout the series is worthy of being noted and a serious endeavour to emulate those great sportsmen and put aside our petty differences and make a real effort to make this world of ours a better place to live in.

It has done Australia a lot of good to see these clean living young sports men and women, intermingling. Black, white, yellow—no difference. Only that innate sense of fairness which is a MUST for those who choose to follow the great ranks of amateur sport.

Let us bear in mind the hours of sacrifice to training and preparation for these sports. If they can show us the way surely we can accept the challenge and prepare ourselves to become better citizens. Are YOU prepared to do this small thing?

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

At the last Committee meeting the Minery for the balance of the year was discussed. While this is the basis of the curriculum of coming meetings it will necessarily remain fluid as sometimes it is not always possible to adhere strictly to the schedule.

March: A bowls night (indoors). This is something new and it is hoped will prove very popular with the lads. Incidentally Gerry Green has a cup which he is going to donate to the winner on the night.

April: Guest speaker yet to be decided upon. Incidentally chaps if any of you happen to know anyone who would be willing to come along

and give an interesting talk we will always fit him in.

April 25, Anzac Day: Try and make this chaps as we have always had a good turn up in the past and wish to keep this day sacred to the Association.

May: A film night was decided upon and as these evenings have always proved popular we look forward to a bumper meeting on this date.

June: Looks like being either a rifle shoot or a Judo exhibition. Both these are new to us and either should prove a good drawcard.

July: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Keep this in mind as it is our most important meeting of the year.

Association Activities

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting was an impromptu affair and was organised, if you can call it that, in a hurry. Arthur Smith, the secretary, was in hospital at the time and no special evening had been scheduled. The committee decided that we MUST have some sort of a gathering and decided to have a discussion on past projects of the Association and also to give attention to the future. While this developed into a more-or-less get-together some good suggestions were put forward. Jack Carey brought a couple of visitors along, complete with half a chaff bag of crayfish legs, etc. You can just imagine what the boys did with those. They were dealt with in no uncertain fashion. Together with a drop of the doins they went very well. Jack's visitors were "Rusty" Christensen and R. H. Gabriels. "Rusty" was quite an artist and rendered a couple of songs and ditties which were received very well.

COUNTRY CONVENTION WONGAN HILLS

11th NOVEMBER, 1956

On Saturday, Nov. 10, those who were able made the journey to Wongan Hills, the venue of our Convention.

We were agreeably entertained by our Wogan Hills members and after a community evening meal we adjourned to the place of entertainment selected for that evening. After 9 p.m. we went with our respective hosts to their various homes.

At 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11, we met at the Wongan Hills R.S.L. Hall for a Convention, those present being: Messrs. G. Green, S. Sadler, C. A. Sadler, R. Wilkerson, R. W. L. Crossing, J. Hasson, R. Harrington, G. Pendergrast, W. March, F. Napier, A. Smith, and R. M. Harris who was over here on holidays from New South Wales.

The President opened the Convention with a few words on how pleased he was to preside at such a function and congratulated those concerned on the number of local boys who were present.

The Secretary then read the minutes of the last Committee meeting to give the Convention a start.

The subject of our annual Xmas Tree was then discussed. It was suggested by Mr. Hasson that a small subscription be charged in order to assist with finances for the Xmas Tree. This was agreed to by members present. The giving of books for Christmas presents was also praised by these members.

The question of members' yearly subscriptions was raised. This resulted in quite a considerable discussion and the Treasurer promised those members something definite after he had consulted his members' subscription book.

Our annual Dinner was then discussed at length, and the Wongan members favour the first week in February for this event. Mr. Stah Sadler suggested that entertainers at this type of function were not necessary.

Mr. Harrington then spoke about the work done by the city members of our Association in which he praised them a great deal. This member also suggested that the Editor of the 'Courier' publish his name in each issue of the 'Courier', as people, or our members, would perhaps rather write to a person than just a name.

It was then moved by Mr. Napier seconded by Mr. March, that each member present donate 10/- toward convention expenses. Carried.

As there was no further business to discuss the President closed the meeting at 12.10 p.m.

All then adjourned to a certain building where about the first person one saw was Fred Sparkman.

After 1 p.m. we all went out to Messrs. Stan and Charlie Sadler's farm where we were to be entertained in the afternoon and evening.

A most sumptuous meal was provided by all our hosts, and when one thinks of 12 members and their wives and children, some idea of the members present can be arrived at. Roughly 25 adults, all hungry, and 15 children of all ages also all hungry.

There was liquid refreshment for all and during the afternoon a rifle shoot was conducted for ladies, gents and the older children.

Mrs. Smith won the ladies' shoot. Reg Harrington won the mens after a shoot-off with Gerry Green and Dick Crossing and Fred Hasson won the children's shoot.

Steak, chops and sausages were barbecued for the evening meal and were very much enjoyed by all. A

sing-song followed until time and fatigue caught up with most, and after a safe journey home ended one of the most enjoyable days it has been my lot to enjoy.

On Monday we met in Wongan and after helping the effects of yesterday along adjourned to the local tennis courts for a Country v City tennis match.

This match, what it lacked in talent was made up for in enjoyment and at its conclusion our hosts supplied us with another of those lunches which one reads about but seldom sees. The time then was about 2 p.m.

When we finally left about 5.20 p.m. it was with the feeling that something definitely had been achieved at this Convention. Our hosts had certainly given us a marvellous weekend, and if it were possible had deepened, and I'm sure strengthened that feeling of trust, respect, and good fellowship that was borne in past years, and makes this Association of ours the worthwhile thing that it is today.

(Sorry for the late inclusion of this news but with the trip to Melbourne and a host of other work to catch up we were not able to compile it sooner.—Editor.)

Personalities

Our old friend Arthur Smith has been very sick. He has had a sojourn in St. John of God Hospital in Subiaco.

Arthur is one of those unfortunate coves who seems to be on the wrong end of the stick all the time. After all the accidents he has suffered since the khaki days one would think that he had well and truly served his apprenticeship in this field but no—he had to be rushed off to hospital recently with a block age in the intestine. Despite a hasty operation peritonitis set in and he has had a really tough time of it. Still and all he has weathered this storm and is up and about again and while not 100 per cent he is still smiling and worrying about what he can do to help the Association along.

I have kept in constant touch with both Beryl, Arthur's wife, and himself and they assure me that there is nothing we can do to help him around the home. Everything is already taken care of through the good graces of his many friends.

Arthur knows that he has only to drop the hat and we will turn up in numbers and go to work but until that time comes we must mark time.

Shortly Arthur will return to hospital for a further operation, so for the time being we will have to do without his very valuable services as secretary. Nobody knows better than I the work that our old pal puts into Association affairs and we must all join in and wish him a speedy recovery.

JACK CAREY. It is fitting at this juncture to thank Jack for having voluntarily stepped into the breach and taken over the secretarial duties. Jack, as you all know, is no new hand in the secretarial field, having rendered a great service in the past, before he decided to have a well earned rest from the position. We are all very grateful to you Jack for your very decent gesture in helping us out in our time of need. Thanks pal, it is a great thing when a man has had a real tummy full of the job, when he can come in as you did and organise right from the start.

JACK SERVANTE. The last news I heard was that Jack was home for a spell. I hope that this is the beginning Jack and that you will steadily improve and be able to take your place in things again as you would wish. Once again, please inform me if there is anything we can do around the homestead and we will arrive post haste. We don't want you to feel that it is any trouble for us—because it isn't. A few hours collectively by the boys can cover a lot of the laborious work that you are unfortunately not able to manage yourself.

We are pleased to inform Jack's mates that his disability has been accepted by the Repatriation Department as relating to war service. The affect of this decision dates from March 10, 1956, so once again the Association has managed to help a worthy member.

MERV RYAN. Also in the same boat as Jack. Unfortunately Merv is in and out of hospital and looks like having quite a spell of it in front of him. Once again Merv if there is anything we can do for you let me know and we will organise a bee and be up and do the job post haste.

JACK HASSON. While visiting Arthur Smith in hospital I also saw Jack who had been doing a spot of

hospitalisation himself. Nothing very serious but enough to keep him from the hard yakka of farm life for a while. Jack is now back in Ballidu and getting stuck into it again so we are all very happy on that score.

CHARLIE SADLER. Wogan Hills let us have the loan of Charlie at the February meeting. We were very pleased to see Chas' as his visits to Perth are limited and they don't very often coincide with meeting nights. I hope that you enjoyed yourself, Charlie, and always make it a must when in Perth to look us up. If we haven't a meeting scheduled well we will organise a get together of some sort.

STAN PAYNE. Of Nungarin, also made it at the February meeting. It's sure great to see you country members able to meet us over a few jars of the amber and have a natter over old times. Thanks once again Stan for popping in. We can use a lot of your enthusiasm in the Association.

Address Wanted:

Col Hodgson requests an address: Allan Soper, Hoey Street, Ayr., Q.

"LEST WE FORGET"

JANUARY

Cole, Tpr. A. J., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 7, 1944. Age 33.
Hopper, Lt. P., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 27, 1944. Age 28.
Ramshaw, Tpr. D., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 10, 1944. Age 20.
Beardman, Tpr. R. L., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 10, 1944. Age 22.

Random Harvest

The latest donors to our Honour Avenue Watering Scheme are **Smash Hodson** and **Paddy Wilby**. Our thanks to both these members. These were paid to the Secretary while in Melbourne. Paddy Wilby also paid £1 in subs. Thanks Paddy. Any time you want to pay in the odd pound or two we are always pleased to accept it.

Kevin Curran is now mine host at the Fleece Inn Hotel, Bendigo. Anyone going that way is assured of a very warm welcome. This I

FEBRUARY
Airey, Pte. Donald H., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 21.
Alford, Pte. Frank J., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 21.
Gannon, Sig. B. I., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 29.
Lane, Pte. A. J., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 21.
Murray, Pte. R. H., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 23.
Pollard, Pte. J. A., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 22.
Simpson, Cpl. J. F., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 36.
Walker, S/Sgt. J. W., died as P.O.W., Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 23.
Chambers, Pte. R., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 23.
Chiswell, Sgt. G. A., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 23.
Stanton, Pte. C. L., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 22.
Marriott, Pte. H. W., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 35.
Hogg, Pte. K. T., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 22.
Crowder, Pte. F. T., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 25.
Alexander, Pte. R. G., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 24.

MARCH

Mitchell, Pte. E. H., killed in action, Timor, March 2, 1942, age 35.
Stewart, Cpl. Alex., killed in action, New Guinea, March 19, 1944, age 24.
Mulqueeney, Pte. G., killed on service, Queensland, March 22, 1943, age 37.
Knight, Pte. P., killed in action Timor, March 2, 1942, age 31.

can personally vouch for. (More about that anon.) Your letter is being looked after, Kev, and I will return it to you very soon. I'm afraid I must claim ill health as the excuse for not having sent it to you before this.

Bob Williamson. I am still waiting for that screed on our journey from Melbourne to Adelaide. I would very much like it as soon as possible Bob. My regards to self and your good wife.

Some of our members will no

doubt remember Mr. and Mrs. Naylor, of Brisbane. I had the pleasure of meeting them both on the Strathmore on Feb. 15. They brought news of Edgar Timms. Edgar is a P.M.G. worker now and I think a technician. Understood you have just passed another exam., Edgar, sounds like a senior tecks to me. Congratulations and good luck to you.

Bert Burges, of "Burlands", Broomehill, writes:

Having at last caught up with most of the seasonal work plus several improvement projects recently undertaken, am now looking forward to a few weeks of relatively easy going. Always of course nothing unusual or unexpected crops up which on a farm as elsewhere cannot be counted on.

We now realise that for ageing folk we (wife and I) undertook too many jobs to be completed in a given time and found the going a bit tough. However it is now very nice to look back upon. Can at least be assured of full sympathy from Don and Vida Turton who have probably moved into their new house by now.

Read in Elders Weekly a most flattering and pleasing paragraph concerning Reg Harrington and his wool clip and prices. Reg gained top price for agricultural wool in Elders January catalogue. A most creditable performance. Congratulations, Reg.

A Christmas note from Tony Adams who says 1956 was a good year for the Adams and family. They are expecting to move into a new house being provided by Tony's bank.

George and Mrs. Timms from Qualeup were out to a clearing sale near here in December. Both very well and happy, particularly with their wool prices. They have promised to visit us before next Christmas.

Ran into Don Murray in Katanning one night. Fortunately it was about 8.55 p.m. so no harm to anyone. Don looks well and happy in the services of Ampol.

Recently had a tour of Denmark and some of the surrounding farms and the research station. Called at Norm Thornton's garage and joinery works and though we were told he was working in town didn't catch up with him. Sorry, Norm, but was with an agent from Katanning and we had a pretty big programme.

The official opening of the Broome

hill R.S.L. Hall is to take place on Saturday, Feb. 23, and the ceremony performed by Mr. Laurrie. Alf Hillman and I have a special interest both being members of the building committee.

Am hoping to make Perth for the Farmers' Conference commencing March 11.

Regards to all.

Gerry Green, of 158 Lansdowne-rd., South Perth, writes:

Reflecting on our Christmas Tree just passed and our temporary editors (Col Doig) remarks in the 'Courier' wherein he gave a few of us credit for its apparent success, don't think Col, we did not appreciate the bouquets but for members' info. we would point out that he omitted his good wife and his own endeavours which you can all imagine would be in some proportion. Thanks Col and Jess.

The object of this gathering, of course is to see that the kids enjoy themselves and from observations they did and we are sure this is attained by the way each family group strives to see that things go right and the kids are well attended. Without this full blooded interest we'd get nowhere, consequently Xmas 1957 is a MUST.

Credit must go to our country members who attend. What sacrifices they make to be present it's hard to say, but they do and regularly. Tom Nisbet gives his all on this particular day. He acquires the hall and amenities and also seems to keep a stern eye on the social side of this event.

Mistakes: these are always made. Maybe your child's age was wrong, maybe a new baby has arrived, maybe a whole family group has been forgotten or missed. We would stress that we do our best with what records there are plus Col Doig's futile memory. So don't be offended, write to the Secretary and help us adjust our records. For your info we now have 240 odd children listed under 15.

We don't know about you but we are all looking forward to Xmas 1957 with a good possibility of once again seeing Fred Napier (Father Xmas) crash through the woolly bush.

In a letter to Col Doig, Alby Martin, of 74 Harold Street, Hawthorn East, Victoria, writes: Had hopes of seeing something of you round about the G... ..

but apparently this was not to be possibly for the same reason that prevented me from taking in a drop of real sunshine with real warmth in it. There was a time when I thought I might make Perth this coming Christmas but such a trip would push me right under financially, as it is a case of barely keeping afloat. However I have no doubt many thousands of others are in the same position and we do occasionally get a drop of fun out of life so it's not much good complaining.

Managed to get to several of the functions organised by the local Association boys. Everything appeared to go off 100 per cent. I have not been able to keep close contact in recent years but do occasionally see Bert Tobin and Bruce McClaren. Bert usually phones me when he has a visitor from interstate. My office is a bit embarrassingly close to the old London in Elizabeth-st. Last session at this pub was with Kiwi Harrison. Bert Tobin despatches them off to the London then phones me to break the news. On this occasion Kiwi was in fine form and I only just beat the thrower out at about 6.15 p.m. Thank goodness we have respectable 6p.m. closing here.

Was in Bendigo on Thursday of last week. Called in to see Curran but he was in Ballarat for the day at the races most likely. I put a couple on the slate just to let him know I had called and headed for home. The locals told me that Kevin had cleaned up to some order at a race meeting—presumably Bendigo some weeks earlier—that the subsequent party was on for a week. His pub is at the saleyards and so far as I can see it is about the only serve yourself pub I have ever come across. "Get 'em yourself," says Curran, and off they go to pull their own beer.

Smash Hodgson was at the Dedication but could not have more than a few words with him. The Sappers were later together in considerable strength at a pub at South Yarra.

This brief note is to wish you and yours all the very best. Am racing it off at the office with still quite a few jobs to round off in what little time there is left before knock-off time.

I hope you do not think too harshly of me over the enclosed bit of

Isobel Servante, of 71 Robert Street, Como, writes:

I would like to express my thanks for all help given since Jack has been ill.

Also to thank those connected with the successful appeal to the Repatriation.

Jack is now a patient at Hollywood and after a recent setback we both hope for a better year.

Rocky Williams, of Dept. of Civil Aviation, Cocos Islands, writes:

Please find £5 cheque enclosed to cover dues and 'Courier'. I hope this is enough if not please let me know how I stand.

The 'Courier' is an excellent little edition and is received with thanks to all who make it possible. Quite an effort I'm sure.

Cocos as you know is just on 2,000 miles from Australia and as we have only one aircraft per fortnight news is scarce up here. However it may increase the editorial if I write a little on the life, wild and not so wild, which lives here. I myself have a very comfortable home and equip. to go with same.

There is a small garden which is not so lively as there is very little soil in the sand around the atoll, this being coral. Coconut trees and paw paw abound, the rest of the foliage is green but unsubstantial. Around about we have a very hard tree called Ironwood and this is used extensively in the construction of a small boat and called, by the natives "dukang" which they sail with an extreme amount of skill. The larger craft 16ft to 18ft. are sea going and can be seen fishing off the island at all times of the day. The fish which are most coveted are called green fish which have a delicious flesh very similar to the dhu fish of W.A. Some green fish weigh as much as 200 lb. and it is no easy catch to haul hand over hand from maybe 12 fathoms of water, when caught. One notices the very large scales some measuring four inches across. These scales grow from pockets in the flesh and can be fanned out like a fowl's feathers. The lagoon which is quite extensive, abounds in smaller fish, also the large fish enter at certain times of the year and can be caught by trolling. I myself have caught barracoota weighing 50 lb. and 5ft. 8in. long. These boys are real vicious and have a very nice set of teeth.

Bird life, of which we have very little, is made up of sea birds, the main members being the "booby bird" (sea eagle) of which there are thousands. They mainly nest at an island called North Kieling, which is some miles north of the main atoll.

Land life is made up of crabs (land), mango crab, a very pretty little pheasant called Malayan pheasant, booby rates, mosquitoes, and of course the residents, who I think enjoy their life here. We have the usual amenities such as movies, dances, tennis, golf, cricket, a rifle range and of course fishing, craying, etc. Just at present the Xmas festivities are in full swing and being enjoyed by one and all to the full, in fact a little too fully at times—hic!

Being a little late to wish all a happy Xmas I'll say all the best for the new year and keep up the good work on the Association.

OLYMPIC ROUNDUP

CLIFF PAFF. Looking like the side of a house. As jovial as ever and really enjoying the hospitality of Pete Krauss and Melbourne in general. Cliff popped down to Melbourne from N.S.W.

ALAN LUBY. Also from N.S.W. accompanied by his wife. Alan looks very much the same as during the old days although not quite so robust. Alan was the guest of Harry Botttrill during his stay.

JACK HARTLEY. While in Melbourne the guest of Gerry Mailey. Jack looks as if he hasn't a care in the world and enjoys the kind of health one dreams about. On a real good paddock in the near suburbs of Sydney I should say.

MAX DAVIES. Max was always a big chap and he hasn't disappointed me inasmuch as his cheerful smile and appearance speak for itself. Going a little grey—but gracefully.

ALBY MARTIN. Hasn't changed much apart from a little snow in the hair.

GERRY MALEY. Looking really well. Gerry has had a tough trot in regards illness but seems to have got right on top of it again. He is a tireless worker for the Association, local sub-branch R.S.L. and also the Combined Commando Association. All in all one could say that Gerry gets the most out of life.

He has had Jack Hartley and yours truly staying with him.

PETE KRAUSE. Did you ever see another grin like Pete's? Just like a cheeky little boy. Well, he's still got it. Pete is a great host and a very popular member of the Victorian Branch. He has had Cliff Paff and Bill Holstein as his guests.

"SMASH" HODGSON. No personality parade would be complete without a few words about our one and only "Smash". Just as ready as ever with those little witticisms we came to love. Quite a lot leaner than "back in those days" but still looking well. Plenty of hard work seems to be the answer for "Smash".

BOB WILLIAMSON. Paid Melbourne a belated visit from Adelaide. Boy has he packed on the avoirdupois! Bob is recuperating from a recent operation and informs me he has lost a couple of stone in weight but he still has plenty to get around with.

HARRY BOTTRILL. Another tireless worker for the Victorian Branch. A lot of thanks must go to Harry for the organisation of entertainment during the Olympic Convention. Harry looks very well and still seems to have quite a boyish look about him. He has been host to Alan Luby and wife.

ALF GRACHAN. A little heavier—a little less hair but much the same as I first knew him. Alf was contemplating making a trip to Perth but has shelved the idea for a while. Alf is in the interior decorating business and we may see him in Perth when the building trade comes back into its own.

BERT TOBIN. Another of those Victorian stalwarts who still manages to find time to devote to organising and helping his fellow mate out. While Bert isn't of the robust type he has a lot of energy and devotes it to good causes.

DICK ADAMS. Remember Dick with his little accordeon and songs about the "Blue Velvet Band", etc.? Well he's just the same. When I renewed acquaintance with him the first words were, "Have a beer". Just like old times, eh, Dick?

KEN MONK. Another of those lean, cow-cockie types. That ever-ready grin of his has been much in evidence. Ken and "Smash" Hodgson journeyed many miles during the Convention to the different functions and displayed the true Aussie spirit of "What's a few miles anyway".

PADDY WILBY. As ever Paddy hails from around Cairns, North Queensland, these days. I'm not sure what he is doing but it's probably driving a pack train of "koodas" loaded with rice. Paddy is still in single harness, lean, brown and as tough as leather. Paddy has really enjoyed himself in Melbourne.

IVAN BROWN. Not a great deal of difference with Ivan these days. He is very interested in the swimming side of the Olympics and is an official with a Tasmanian Swimming Club. Ivan is a sign writer in private life.

BILL BENNETT. Down from N.S.W. and one of those fortunates who have worn well with the years. Bill doesn't look a day older than when he was discharged.

BILL HOLSTEIN. Another New South Welshman down for the Games. Bill had a real good time and was stopping with Pete Krause. He has a garage and is a real hard toiler.

KARL MARKS. An orchardist in South Australia. Karl and Bob Williamson motored from Adelaide and have been "seeing the sights". Their programme has been one of "go where we like when we decide". Bob's been doing most of the driving around Melbourne and Karl with his map has played navigator—quite successfully too. It beats me how he finds his way around the suburbs of Melbourne.

GORDON STANLEY. Didn't manage to have a great deal to say to Gordon, but he looks really well and the years have treated him kindly, too.

GEORGE KENNEDY. Complete with moustache seems to be the same as ever.

THANKS VICTORIA

Not to be outdone by the Olympic Sports Committee our Victorian Branch has put on something which created a precedent in our Association. They have very successfully completed the entertaining of interstate visitors at an Australian-wide Convention. N.S.W., Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia and W.A. were represented.

On behalf of all these visitors I wish to thank all those who helped so unselfishly to make our stay in Victoria a really happy one. Apart from official entertainments our individual hosts and hostesses made our stay a bright and eventful one.

A special word of thanks to the little ladies. While behind the scenes in most of the official functions they came into their own in the environs of their own homes, picnics, etc. We love you for it and our dearest wish is to be able to return your hospitality ere long.

The main functions on the programme were: Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games where a whole block of seats were filled by Association members and their families. This was a grand sight and truly a wonderful curtain raiser for a Convention such as this.

In the evening a social gathering at Kelvin Hall saw us all having the time of our lives and renewing old acquaintances.

The next function was a dinner-dance arranged by the Victorian Commando Association.

The following day a very impressive ceremony at the Shrine where a tablet was dedicated to all fallen Commandos.

Last but not least was the kiddies Xmas picnic at Maroondah Dam.

Hoard This?

A contributor timidly asks us whether we pay writers as writers or do we pay them ransom money for the jokes they kidnap! That hurt.

* * * *

"And," enquired admonishing Aunt, "do you know where bad little girls go?"

"Yes," replied the awful child. "Everywhere."

* * * *

Susie can't decide which half of her two-piece bathing suit to wear as a one-piece suit.

* * * *

Patient: "Why stick me in the ward with that crazy guy?"

Doctor: "Hospital's crowded, is he troublesome?"

Patient: "He's nuts! Keeps looking around, saying, 'No lions, no tigers, no elephants—and all the time the room's full of 'em.'"

* * * *

Grand Opera: Where, when a fellow is stabbed, he sings instead of bleeds.

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

Victorian Vocal Venturings

OLYMPIC OPENING CEREMONY

The long awaited day finally dawned and our weather did an about turn and turned on a really good warm day, the first good day we had had for months, and we all wended our way to the M.C.C. to see the opening ceremony and meet the boys and their wives and friends. We were situated on the top tier of the new stand and it was a perfect position from a panoramic point of view, and what a beautiful sight it was—the ground looked perfect with the green grass centre, and the red cinder tracks with the white running lines on them around the outside, and it being a warm day the people were out in their summer refinery and it added a lot of colour around the ground—a sight that will not be forgotten by those fortunate to witness it. A lot of people did see it on television but television could not show the colour—which in my opinion was just out of this world. We were entertained by the Marine Band before the ceremony started and they turned on a terrific exhibition of precision marching which would be hard to beat anywhere in the world. The marching on to the arena of all competing teams provided extra colour with their walking out uniforms and each team looked very neat and trim as they marched around the arena and then took up their places in the centre of the

ground. The Australians were last to appear (being host nation) but they put on a terrific exhibition of marching. The ceremony itself went off very well and right on time throughout and was a credit to all who helped organise it. The highlight being the runner with the Olympic torch running on to the ground, doing a circuit and then running up the stairs to the main torch and plunging in his own torch and lighting up the main torch which burnt night and day throughout the games. It was a memorial day and one to remember.

We had a very good time meeting up with our visitors and wives, etc., at the ground, seeing faces, some easily remembered, others a little changed, but the owners still the same blokes we spent years with during the war years. Jack Fowler and wife, Wilf March, Arthur Smith from Western Australia, Dud Tapper and wife, Keith Dignum and wife from South Aussie, Alan Luby and wife, Bill Bennett and wife, Cliff Pail, Bill Hostein, Bob Fields, Roy Cofin, Happy Greenhalgh from New South Wales, and Bill Tomasetti and family down from New Guinea on leave. Norm Thornton sent a telegram saying he could not make it and the same with Lionel Newton from Broken Hill. Paddy Wilby from Queensland, Merv Jones and wife from N.S.W., Ivan Brown from Tassie, and Joe Burridge from W.A.



Group of members attending Olympic Re-union in Melbourne

That night we had a social dance arranged at Kelvin Hall and what a night it was. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gave us all a chance to really get to know everybody else and find out a little bit about each other, the family, how our kids (who each thought they had the worst) were getting on, what we did for a crust, etc.—with plenty of dancing and refreshment and plenty of novelties, thanks to the efforts of Alan Munro who organised it all. The inevitable bunch of blokes here and there living the funnier incidents of war years over again. You would go past one bunch and hear someone say: "Remember so and so, etc." Follows a little story and then terrific bursts of laughter. A sight to see and every indication that all and sundry were enjoying themselves and a preview of what followed over the next few days.

XMAS PARTY TO MAROONDAH DAM

SUNDAY, DEC. 2nd

Again the weather held out well for us, and although it was cloudy it was warm and was a very pleasant day. It rained on the way home but it did not matter then.

We left from Flinders St. railway station at 9.30 a.m. in three parlour cars which were really full. Picked up a few bodies on the way

and duly arrived at Maroondah Dam at approx. 11 a.m., where we spent the rest of the morning looking over the dam and surroundings which is a very beautiful setting and one we Victorians are very proud of, and judging by the remarks of our interstate visitors they agreed also.

We had our lunch under ideal picnic surroundings, parties spread out over the lawns and tables, with the kiddies racing about and having a great time on the swings, etc. We started the Xmas party just after 2 p.m. with oodles of soft drinks and ice cream, blowouts, trumpets, lollies, party hats and balloons. We gave the kiddies a little time to get over this burst and then they received a present all round which made them all happy, and us parents also to see the kids enjoying themselves. Ivan Brown, from Tassie, came along looking his old self, also Bob Williamson and Carl Marx from S.A., and they were delighted to see all the familiar faces from other States—just another re-union in the endless stream since these Games started.

At 4.30 we called it a day with happy and weary kids and equally happy and weary parents embussing and returning to town, agreeing it was a great day.

This was our last organised function and a perfect finale to what has been a wonderful Olympic Re-union.



Most of the 2/3 folk attending Aust. Commando Association Christmas Party during Olympic Re-Union festivities. Incidentally the photo was well and truly to the fore at this show.