



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. 111.

APRIL, 1957

Price 1d.

Editorial

ANNUAL DINNER, 10th AUGUST, 1957 COMMEMORATION DAY, 11th AUGUST, 1957

Many W.A. members of our Association may be unaware why these important events have not as yet been held in 1957. As the event was a major topic at our annual general meeting you must realise that to have made such a drastic change from January to August needed reasons; well, 1956 attendance figures although good, showed a decline and the meeting's feelings were, mainly: The long weekend in January constitutes an ideal break for our family groups and with good summer conditions they like to migrate to their favourite haunts, and mind you that's how it should be!

Then again country members have problems, fire hazards, etc. I believe too that this is a busy period for our South-West members.

Catering is difficult, when dinner is officially to be served its still broad day and most members still dallying at the locals, consequently late start results in late finish and too little time to mix and yarn to old friends.

King's Park service is also marred by heat wave conditions so in all a change was voted for.

It was thought August had these qualities—nobody has weekend plans and may welcome this diversion.

It is dark at 5.30 p.m. meaning we have a good chance of starting on time.

King's Park ceremony should be conducted in cool weather, even if wet, shelter can be arranged.

It's worth a try, gents. Give it your usual support and don't let period or climatic conditions stop you from getting to Shenton Park R.S.L. Hall on the above date.

Busy Bee, King's Park, April 7
Anzac Day, April 25
Annual Dinner, August 10
Commemoration Service, August 11

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Monash Club, on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

PRESENT: Messrs. Green, McDonald, March, Cantrill, Carey. Apology received from Mr. Smith, who was ill. Mr. McDonald occupied the chair.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

FEBRUARY MEETING: Treasurer reported an attendance of 18 members and the evening had been an enjoyable one.

OLYMPIC REUNION: Mr. March, the W.A. Delegate reported on Convention. Victoria, N.S.W. and W.A. were represented at the Convention. Mr. March spoke highly of the hospitality of the host state, Victoria. The social functions went off very happily and successfully and it was a pity more W.A. members had not been able to make the trip.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Green moved, seconded Mr. March, that "Each member of the Committee be instructed to write to at least two interstate members with the object of stimulating interest in the 'Courier'." This was carried. Mr. March said he was still finding it difficult to get news from members to put in the 'Courier'.

PROGRAMMING: The following arrangements were decided on for the meeting nights for the remainder of the year.

March: Bowls night.

April: Guest Speaker (Mr. Cantrill). Anzac Day.

May: Film night.

June: Rifle shoot or judo exhibition.

July: Annual meeting.

HONOUR AVENUE: Mr. Napier drew attention of members to our King's Park Honour Avenue. The grass had not spread and the general progress was disappointing. It was decided to defer further discussions until a report could be obtained from the Warden, Mr. Pendergrast. The possibility of getting assistance from the State Gardens Board was also discussed.

GENERAL: Mr. March moved, seconded Mr. Cantrill: "A vote of

thanks be recorded to Mr. Carey for taking over during Mr. Smith's absence." Carried.

Committee expressed regret at the Secretary's illness.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11 p.m.

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Monash Club, on Wednesday, March 20.

PRESENT: Messrs. Green, McDonald, Hollyand, Pendergrast, Napier, Smith and Carey. Apologies received from W. March (ill) and J. Cantrill.

MINUTES: Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed on the motion of Messrs. Napier and Pendergrast.

BUSINESS ARISING:

MARCH MEETING: Treasurer reported poor attendance. All agreed the bowls night had proved popular and should be retained for future meetings. The possibility of obtaining a carpet (feltex) through G. Strickland was mentioned.

APRIL MEETING: To be a Guest Speaker night. In the event of Mr. Cantrill not being able to obtain a guest speaker, it was decided to ask Mr. Doig to contact our old friend Colin McDonald and see if he would oblige.

OLYMPIC RE-UNION: Mr. Smith said the Victorian delegates had asked whether it would be possible to have Commemoration Plaques for members of the Unit who had been killed in other theatres of war since World War 2, placed in King's Park in our Honour Avenue. Mr. Smith said he would write to Victoria and obtain the names of the deceased concerned. The matter was left in abeyance.

ANZAC DAY: It was decided to finalise arrangements for Anzac Day at the April meeting. In the meantime Secretary to place an order with Wilson & Johns for the wreath and obtain a budget for cost of get-together after the march.

HONOUR AVENUE: The Warden, Mr. Pendergrast, reported our section was in very poor condition and recommended a busy bee be held soon. After a discussion it was decided to hold a working bee on Sunday, April 7. Secretary to advise members by circular. Rotary hoes to be obtained if possible and

Mr. Green and Mr. G. Ryan might be able to help out here.

ANNUAL RE-UNION: As Shenton Park R.S.L. Hall was not available for Saturday, August 3, it was decided to book the hall for the following Saturday, August 10.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

'COURIER': Treasurer reported a considerable outlay of monies in connection with the 'Courier' and apart from the Victorian Branch no re-imbursements were coming in. It was moved Mr. Carey, seconded Mr. McDonald and carried that "Members in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia and Tasmania, who are in receipt of the 'Courier' be asked to contribute the sum of 5/- a year to the W.A. Branch towards the cost of the 'Courier'."

FINANCE: To endeavour to raise funds the Committee decided to run a small raffle on Anzac Day. Mr. Napier said the finances were low, and a decision to run another small sweep was deferred to the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.50 p.m.

Association Activities

MARCH MEETING

A great night was enjoyed by those attending. The entertainment decided upon was carpet bowls and it certainly proved an innovation. We have been striving for some time to have some new way to pass a pleasant evening, and with the enthusiasm evinced over the bowls, well it certainly looks as though we have found it.

First of all we tried out the ordinary bowls (those without bias). After a few games someone produced the biased bowls and then the real talent came to light.

A knock-out competition was decided on and the eventual winner was Keith Hayes. Gerry Green had presented a cup for the winner and this will be suitably inscribed and presented at the next Ladies' Night.

The attendance was not all it could be but we saw a couple of lads who had been absent for a while. The usual refreshment was in evidence and very much relished as it was a very warm night.

CORRESPONDENCE

This has been particularly light on of late and it is a very necessary item for the continued success of the 'Courier'.

I would like to hear from the Eastern States so as to include in future 'Couriers'.

Paging Jack Hartley, in N.S.W., please see if you can start the ball rolling for your State. Surely out of all your number we should be able to rake up a correspondent.

Also calling Bob Williamson in South Australia. What about a note now and again, Bob? I am sure your host of friends would enjoy hearing from you.

Smash Hodgson, in Victoria. What about a letter from you old boy? Try and find a little time to give us a burst of your "Smashisms".

"Rocky" Williams and Syd McKinley at Cocos Island. What about a bit of a resume of life on the island? I am sure that we would all be very interested.

Bill Tomasetti, in Papua—now Bill, surely you could write a very interesting letter on your work. See what you can do chaps because the 'Courier' NEEDS YOU!

ANZAC DAY

April 25

There's no need to go to any great length to tell you about the Anzac Day arrangements. Meet at the fall in spot where the Unit will march as usual. After the ceremony on the Esplanade there will be the usual refreshments and ear-bash at the rear of the Drill Hall, Bazaar Terrace. It is hoped this year to take a short moving picture of the march.

Do your level best to be present at this very important function.

BUSY BEE

April 8

The committee has decided to hold another busy bee at the King's Park area. The grass is in a sorry state after our warm summer and water restrictions. A concerted effort can accomplish quite a lot if we can only get you up there. If you can manage to bring some couch runners all the better. Power mowers have been arranged.

As we anticipate quite a few of you boys being present we have arranged a keg to be on at the end of the busy bee. Now don't forget Sunday, April 7—9 a.m.

Personalities

I would like to send a cheerio to **Edie Pendergrast**. Edie, as you know has done a great deal for the Association catering for different functions. Now Edie is suffering from some mysterious back ailment occasioning her a lot of pain. Hope that this doesn't keep up for too long Edie. Don't forget to give us a whistle if you find things getting beyond you at home. I am sure that there are many who would be only too pleased to help out during your unfortunate sickness.

Percy Hancock's days as a grass widower are now over as his wife Val is back from Brisbane where she had an extended holiday. Welcome home Val and hope that the trip did your health a lot of good. I noticed that Percy has painted the house out and looks very nice—quite a surprise for a returning wife I can't even get on the loose for a while without a wife around the homestead let alone painting the house out.

Random Harvest

In a letter to Jack Carey, Jack Servante, of 71 Robert-st., Como, writes:

I understand from Arthur Smith that owing to his illness you are acting as Secretary to the Association.

I would be very grateful if you would table these notes at your next Committee meeting for I wish to thank all the chaps who were so helpful to my wife in my illness and time I was in hospital.

I have been home for some weeks now taking it easy and hoping time will clear up for good all the troubles.

Have not seen many of the Unit chaps. Rip McMahon was down, rang me and was coming out but was called back to the country and did not make it. I would be very pleased to see any of the boys who may be passing and again please pass on my thanks to everyone for a helping hand extended.

Also enclosed a cheque for £1.

Arthur Smith is back in St. John of God's Hospital, Leederville, and has recently undergone another operation. At the time of going to press he was feeling quite well and the operation was successful. It won't be long before "Smithy" is with us again. Can't seem to keep that blighter down for long. Arthur's wife, Beryl, assures me that all is O.K. at home and that no help is required. All the best Arthur, and hurry up and be back again with us.

"Gig" Green is back again at work (April 3) after three months long service leave. Gerry has had quite a good holiday and has spent a lot of time at his beach home in Rockingham. No doubt he is feeling a bit collar proud but if I know anything of Gerry he is probably doing twice as much work as any other in his gang.

"LEST WE FORGET"

APRIL

Barclay, Tpr. C. J., died of illness, New Britain, April 6, 1945.

I know I'm not financial, please pass to the treasurer.

(It's good news to hear that you are feeling so much better Jack. Let's hope that you are at last on the way to permanent recovery. It has certainly been a long row that you have had to hoe. If any of you lads can visit Jack please do so at the above address.)

In a letter to Gerry Green, Doug Fullerton, of Colonial Timber Co. Sariki, Sarawak, writes:

My wife forwarded the December 'Courier' up here and pleased to see you battling along with the Association. Had intentions of joining you at one time but the abode has changed places too often these last few years. Guess when the old frame starts to crack will be happy to settle in the City of Perth. In the meantime the climate here is healthy and the cash reasonable without the bugbear of income tax. As long as the bank balance remains

healthy I can put up with these parts.

Stationed about 40 miles up river from the mill at Sariki. No roads in these parts, and all transport is by river. Upriver is not actually true for I am nearer the sea than Sariki. Actually the part of the delta where we are logging comes out on the South China Sea. Our railway line runs within 50 yards of the coast. The usual beautiful tropical beaches that we know of old, mud, clay, sand flies, mosquitoes and last but not least the stink. Luckily there are no malaria carrying mosquitoes in the area, the local type having nuisance value only.

On Jan. 30 the Chinese celebrated their new year. Sounded like a miniature war when they started letting off their crackers. There are two khedives here both run by Chinese and they had a competition to see who could keep up the racket the longest. The crackers we have in Australia are very insipid compared to these. Even the small size must be well packed with powder the noise they make.

Had an invitation to a feed at one khedive on the evening of the 30th and at the other at midday on Feb. 1. Believe me the constitution is just recovering. On arrival my friend handed over a glass of neat brandy. Personally I would have been content to sip away for half an hour but it was not to be. Don't know if you have ever struck the Chinese custom of "Yam Sing" (equivalent to our bottoms up) but that is the way it went. After a couple of these we settled down to the business of eating. The first course started at 8 p.m. and the last about midnight. Very tasty throughout. Prawn, fish, poultry, beche-de-mer, abalone, sharks fin, etc. Imagine the awakening next morning. At midday had to go through the same performance at the other khedive. As I say it has taken me a week to become somewhere near normal. The hospitality of these Chinese is a little too much for Douglas Raymond.

Well, I will finish off for the present.

Could you get the Secretary to forward the 'Courier' up here? Also will send some cash to cover my subs the first time I am in Sib. Guess a bank draft to the Secretary

would be O.K. Just let me know what bank and branch you use.

Be seeing you in 18 months. Will be going West, via N.S.W. and Victoria, so will dig up some of the team on the way round.

(Thanks for letter to Gerry, Doug. You are certainly "hitting the cup" trying to match the Chinese in their drinking customs. Gerry passed your letter on to me for publication and it was very acceptable as we are very light on from the correspondence angle. Will send you a 'Courier' direct while you are in Sarawak.)

Heard This?

The polite stick-up man poised his black-jack over his victim's head and inquired: "One lump or two?"

Did you hear about the baby kangaroo who ran away and left his mother holding the bag?

Dr. Magee, Archbishop of York, wrote in the visitors' book at a popular seashore hotel in England: "I came here for change and rest. The waiter has the change, the landlord the rest."

"Horn broken on your car?" asked the passenger.

"Nope, just indifferent," said the hillbilly, "Don't give a hoot."

Here's to the happy bounding flea. You cannot tell a he from she, Both look alike to you and me; But he can tell—and so can she.

An Address You May Need:

Treasurer:
Fred Napier,
65 Branksome Gardens,
City Beach, W.A.

Editor,
Wilf March,
3 Bricknall Road,
Attadale, W.A.

President:
Gerry Green,
158 Landsdowne Road,
South Perth, W.A.

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

GLOSSARY OF WEST AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS

Printed hereunder is a glossary of W.A. members. These are facts as far as we know them. At any time this proves to be wrong please write to the Editor and he will amend accordingly.

DICK GEERE: c/- A. & N.Z. Bank, Perth. Unmarried, but responsible as guardian for several children of his sister. Accountant with A. & N.Z. Bank, Town Hall Branch. Dick is hon. auditor to the Association and has carried out this office for last four years.

T. B. (Boomer) GILES: 135 Gregory-st., Geraldton. Widower with two children. Carpenter and joiner by trade and at present foreman for Geraldton Building Co. Unfortunately Boomer lost his wife quite recently.

LES GLASSON: 35 Picadilly-st., Kalgoorlie. Married. Undertaker and cabinet maker upholsterer at Kalgoorlie.

IVOR GOODALL: c/- Council, Albany. Married. Traffic inspector, Albany Municipal Council.

CHARLIE GORTON: 138 Marmion-st., East Fremantle. Married, five children. Waterside worker Fremantle wharf.

FREDDIE GRIFFITHS: 166 London-st., Joondanna Heights. Married, five children (includes three step-children). Lead miner somewhere north of Geraldton. Has worked several lead shows in partnership with others out from Onslow.

GERRY GREEN: Landsdowne-rd., South Perth. Married, two children, both girls. High tension foreman with State Electricity Commission. Gerry is the present President of the Association and going like a bomb. He previously served on Committee for two terms.

JERRY HAIRE: 59 Monk-st., South Perth. Married, one child. Master in English at Perth Modern School. Just returned from six months long service leave in England. Jerry served on the Committee in the early days of the Association.

LES HALSE: Canning-rd., Kalamunda. Married, four children. Truck driver and express delivery man between Perth and Kalamunda which is 17 miles from Perth.

PERCY HANCOCK: 13 Strome-rd., Applecross. Married, three children. Clerical worker with West Australian Government Printer. Percy has been a keen worker for Association, once starting a branch at Kalgoorlie.

REG HARRINGTON: Wyening. Married, four children, three boys, one girl. Farming on own account at Wyening. Reg's original place was War Service to which he has added considerable country. He is reckoned to be a most progressive type of farmer. Still plays football and cricket. Keen supporter of Association.

W. E. A. (Ajax) HARRISON: Address unknown. Unmarried. Barman at Critereon Hotel. Usually enlivens proceedings on Anzac Day with witticisms.

JACK HASSON: Ballidu. Married, three children, two boys, one girl. Farming in wheat and sheep business at Ballidu. Keen supporter of Association. Never misses Annual Re-union and quite a few other functions.

KEITH HAYES: 147 Nicholson-rd., Subiaco. Married, two children, boy and girl. Duplicator salesman with E. C. Stott & Co., Gestetnor agents in W.A. Keith has been one of the Association's hard workers over the years supplying bundles of duplicating and special programmes etc. Has served numerous terms on the Committee.

MAL HERBERT: Nungarin. Married, two children. Farming on his own account at Nungarin. Still most keen on rifle shooting.

H. (Bongo) HEWITT: 236 MacDonald-st., Kalgoorlie. Unmarried. Working on surface at the Great Boulder Mine. Still manages to train a race horse as a hobby.