



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth

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JULY, 1958

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## *Editorial*

This article is written with one purpose in mind only and that is to pay a true measure of praise to the man who has edited your "Courier" for the last five years or so—Wilf March.

This journal has come to you with a high degree of frequency through thick and thin (and it has been mostly thin) over the whole of this period. It has chronicled the doings of your Association in a most readable manner and has been highly commented upon by other organisations who would like to have an organ as good as the "Courier" has proved to be. The assistance that your Editor has received has been less than he should expect. Contributions have been scarce over the period and he was at his wits end at most times to provide a reasonable amount of news. But with all the adversities we have had a paper and the inter-communication has been maintained. Add to this the duties of General Secretary who had to keep

contact with branches in other States and you readily realise the amount of good work that Wilf has given your Association. This good work has not been done the easy way either as his health and that of his family has not been all that it could have been over the past five years, plus the fact that he has had to hold down a most responsible job of work for his bread and butter. This makes the effort he has put into his editorship and secretaryship the more valuable.

Your Association would be most wanting in the common decencies of life if a high compliment was not paid to Wilf March for all he has done to make the Association grow and progress and we can say to him as he steps down from his office in the new financial year: "A good job well and faithfully done and our cordial thanks for all your many efforts on behalf of the Association. We wish you well in the future and hope you will be spared to assist us once again in the future."

### **REMEMBER!**

#### **ANNUAL RE-UNION**

**Saturday, August 16, at Shenton Park R.S.L. Hall**  
Starts at 7 p.m. sharp. Kegs tapped at 6.45 p.m.

#### **COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

**Kings Park, Sunday, 17th August, at 3 p.m.**

**MAKE A POINT OF BEING PRESENT**

## West Australian Whisperings

### A FURTHER NOTE FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR

In taking up duty as Editor once again I can only hope that my efforts will be equal to that of my predecessor. The task will not be easy and a greater degree of co-operation from **everyone** will be required to make our official organ function in its true manner. I stated when nominated for the office that I was going to be a prickly in everyone's underwear and that was no idle statement. It is my intention to needle all and sundry into making contributions if only in self defence. The standard of literacy in the Unit was exceedingly high and therefore nobody can say that they cannot write. Are you aware that this "Courier" goes out to approximately 480 people? If only 20 people wrote a letter a month then there would be copy in plenty for the Editor to work on. That means if everyone wrote a letter every two years we would be on velvet. **By the way, how long is it since YOU wrote to the Editor and told him of your doings?** If it is more than a year ago what about a letter by the next mail. Remember, what you may consider is insignificant may be of great interest to your mates elsewhere in the continent.

Many of you must have vivid memories of events that occurred in the Unit which you would like to have recounted. Just pen them in and they will find their way into print. So make your slogan "A contribution every time I can and at least once a year!"

Watch this editorial space for further prickles every month.

—C. D. DOIG.

### THANKS, PALS

During the last few years when I have been Editor of our paper I have had occasion to winge a few times. This has always been regarding lack of copy—lads not writing to their Editor and generally non-co-operation.

There is another side of things. This is what I feel I must put onto paper.

My period of editorship was helped along the way by quite a few of you boys who wrote regularly and gave the kind of news necessary for the functioning of a courier such as ours. My big wish is that you all accord Colin Doig, your new Editor, the same service of NEWS, NEWS and still more NEWS.

Our "Courier" cannot improve without your wholehearted support, and I earnestly entreat you to keep that copy coming in.

To our Eastern States' contributors I have a special word of thanks as I realise only too well how hard it is to dig up the necessary copy.

Business and health reasons precluded me from standing for selection as Editor this year but you can rest assured that my wholehearted support will go to our organisation and our new Editor, Colin Doig.

The infusion of new blood into an organisation keeps it alive. I realise this perhaps more than the average reader. I ask you one thing—**write at least one letter per year to your "Courier"**. Please don't leave it to the other chap. Do it yourself.

Well, boys, thanks again for helping with our grand little paper and don't forget write to Colin Doig and tell him all about your nights out on the ran-tan—your new born—your worries—tell him anything—but you must write!

—WILF MARCH.

### Committee Comment

The Management Committee has met on three occasions since the last edition and much of future moment to the Association has taken place.

Firstly on June 17 the final full committee meeting of the old Committee took place at Monash Club. Routine business to wind up outstanding matters for the old year before handing over to the new Committee took place. Mr. Gardiner brought up the matter of availability of land at Point Peron through the National Fitness Council for the establishment of beach camps for associations. This mat-

ter was referred to a sub-committee to obtain further details.

The Committee's nomination for life membership was made and this was referred to the annual general meeting for approval or otherwise.

The President, Mr. Green, thanked all members for their loyal support during the year and hoped for a successful year in 1958-59.

At this meeting all life members of the Association were asked to be present and with the exception of Mr. Burrige, who sent along an apology, all made a point of attending.

A special Committee meeting was called for June 24 to discuss the outcome of negotiations by the sub-committee dealing with land at Point Peron. This was found necessary as there was need for speed in making application as the land was rapidly being appointed to various associations and it was necessary to get in an early official application to enable the Association to have the benefit of this proposition.

A motion was carried empowering the President, Secretary and Mr. R. Dook to make the necessary official application and also to ask for the allocation of a number of huts from Alawah Grove to be made to the Association. The Committee felt that these reservations could be acquired and if at a later date it was found that the scheme could not be carried through no harm would be done and if the Association could go on with the scheme the ground work would at least be prepared.

The first Committee meeting of the new financial year was held on Tuesday, July 15, at Monash Club with the new President, Mr. Kirkwood in the chair. The muster of members was excellent with apologies from Mr. Burrige and Mr. Doig.

The programme for the new year was discussed and it was decided to hold the usual monthly meeting on August 5, this to take the form of a discussion night.

A lengthy discussion on the Annual Re-union took place. This function will be held on Saturday, August 16, followed on Sunday, 17, with the Commemoration Service. Most of the final details for these events were left with the Secretary to complete. Generally speaking

these functions will take very much the same form as last year with an early start to the dinner at approximately 6.30 p.m.

Elsewhere in this issue is a list of functions up to Xmas this year.

As no further advice had been received from National Fitness Council with reference to our application for land at Point Peron discussion on this subject was deferred to a later date.

### Association Activities

The Annual General Meeting of the Association took place at Monash Club on July 1, and an excellent turn up of 40 members took part in what proved to be most animated discussions.

After the reading of minutes of the last Annual General Meeting the reports of the President (Mr. Green), Secretary (Mr. Smith), Treasurer (Mr. Napier) and Auditor (Mr. Burrige) were presented. (These reports elsewhere in this edition.) The reports showed that the Association had made progress during the year and that we were in a healthy financial position.

Mr. Jack Carey was unanimously elected a life member of the Association, an honour much deserved by Jack for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Association over its whole life of 12 years.

The rules of the Association were altered to allow of the granting of Honorary Membership to individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the Association.

After the passing of the motion to alter the rules Mr. Bill Hollis was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Association.

The election of officers then took place and it was found that few persons were readily available to fill the more onerous positions on the Executive either because of prior commitments or just plum lack of desire to stand for office.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing 12 months: President, Mr. Ron Kirkwood; Vice President, Mr. Ken Bowden; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Smith; Treasurer, Mr. Fred Napier; Editor, Mr. Colin Doig; Committee, Messrs. Gerry Green, Jack Cary, Ray Aitken, John Burrige, Tom Nisbet, Mick Calcutt



and Joe Poynton; Kings Park Warden, C. Holly (for the second year in succession); Auditor, Geo Boyland.

A perusal of the above list will show that quite an infusion of new blood or at least old blood returning to the executive has taken place.

A motion of appreciation of the outstanding efforts of Vida and Don Turton for their generous gesture in making land, seed, fertiliser and last but not least, hospitality available to seed over 10 acres of oats, the proceeds to go towards Association funds, was past with hearty acclaim.

A long discussion on the Point Peron project took place, various speakers outlining what had taken place in the past few weeks and it was finally decided that the Association make application for the land and that future steps be decided by the Committee at a later date in the light of conditions then prevailing.

One of the most animated and generally well attended General meetings ended at after midnight with everyone well pleased with a good night's work.

One can only hope that the success of this meeting is good auguring for a successful year in 1958-59 and that the new office bearers will receive the undivided co-operation of everyone in planning and organising the events of the year

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1957-58

This past year, for the most, followed a pattern of previous years, only changes were perhaps times of events altered in an experiment, trying to increase our already good attendances to something a little better. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, but on the whole we think interest was stimulated in the following undertakings.

Annual Dinner: Well attended (al though not a record). Excellently catered for and conducted. Ideal weather conditions for Commemoration day.

Ladies' Night: Marked improvement and most enjoyable evening, although we missed a few familiar country faces.

Christmas Tree: Most successful and easily one of our best efforts. Many family increases and generally one "wow" of a party.

Anzac Day: According to experts has never been bettered.

Monthly Meetings: A percentage increase in attendance.

Of Future Things: Could we mention ideas formulated by retiring executive. Firstly is Point Peron, Rockingham area opportunity has been offered to us to develop certain lands at Point Peron as a beach resort. We hope to secure approximately four acres with ideal beach frontages at an annual rentage of £1. It is hoped to be able to convert this site into a holiday area for Unit members. This will be one of the major problems for the incoming committee and members for the ensuing year. News of progress I imagine will be well promulgated through the "Courier".

Secondly, should the Empire Games be allocated to Perth we feel that an all-Australian Convention should be arranged to be held at the same time.

This quick summary leaves no doubt that at least we are moving forward and all of this can be attributed to members, their wives and families who give their loyal support in all our ventures. For this the management is most aware and most grateful.

Dealing with your Management Committee having worked with them in this past year, I would like to pay a tribute to the harmonious way with which the year's business was concluded. It was most pleasurable to join them each month at our usual Committee meetings. I would like to mention the following:

Vice President, "Sprig" McDonald, has worked hard all year. This is not unusual for "Sprig" who is always to the front in Association matters.

Secretary, A. Smith, gave another great effort. As we all know a secretary's lot is the hub of the Association and any successes this year are all ear-marked with Arthur's endeavours.

Treasurer, Fred Napier, kept a cold eye on our financial status as only Fred can, and you may see by his statement that we are still in business.

Editor, Wilf March, has once again given us a year full of news cover. This is a big job and as the "Courier" has maintained a high standard we must realise the

amount of work Wilf has put in for its continuance.

Warden, "Slim" Holly, also made great strides in Kings Park. Through his efforts we are assured of good lawn growths this year.

Committee members R. Kirkwood, K. Bowden, F. Gardiner, J. Carey, C. Doig, A. Campbell, D. Geere and not forgetting our Auditor, J. Burrige, have all in some way done their utmost for the betterment of our Association.

Life Members. J. Carey has been elected a life member. This meets with vast approval as Jack has given many long hours in most executive positions during the past 12 years. We are sure you all join in our congratulations to him.

Members like R. Dook and M. Calcutt have done large proportions of good work this past year. Ron Dook's right hand man Bill Hollis also rates high among ourselves for his valuable assistance without which our resources would be sorely strained.

But perhaps the most outstanding helpers of the season are Don and Vida Turton who planned a Country Convention at Wandering, plus organising a portion of his land, providing we formed it as a basis to augment our funds this coming season. A most enviable weekend was spent and a full description as to the extent will be contained in this "Courier". From the Association Don and Vida many thanks and congratulations on your fine home and farm.

Country Vice Presidents. Thanks also go to Eric Smythe, Jack Fowler, Tony Davidson, Bert Burgess and Bernie Langridge for their interest shown and the forwarding of news etc., of members within their districts.

Col Doig. We could write a book on this gent, but we hone it is enough to say "Thanks, Col".

There are many members not mentioned here who have done valuable work and made generous gifts without which we could not have carried on. To them we say thanks.

Concluding might we wish the incoming management every success for the ensuing year.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT 1957-58

Mr. President, Gentlemen, To the President's report I would like to add the following.

Your Committee had 11 normal meetings and one special meeting during their last term of office. All Committee meetings were well attended and our Association affairs really received a good going over.

The Annual Re-union and Dinner was held in August for the first time, and this proved so successful that arrangements are well in hand for it to be held at the same time this year.

One big disappointment was our annual Sports Night held in September, as has been usual for the past four years. The attendance at this event was very poor and I hope that more members can be enticed along to our next sports evening.

Our Ladies' Night in October was a very good night, but costs were much too high. What we require is a whole lot more people to attend functions like these then they do not become such a strain on our Association finances.

The Committee decided not to hold its Country Convention in November but postponed it until Easter. In April however, our Geraldton members were unable to help us so it is with regret that I have to say that we did not have our Country Convention.

December is always a big month. Our Children's Xmas Party once again proved a success as did the Bucks' Christmas Party. At the end of December our sweep organiser successfully closed our sweep on the Perth Cup. During December, with two big functions on its hands, your Executive did not meet as a committee but carried on from one function to the next.

There was no general meeting in January, but your committee met to review the past six months' work and organise the next half year's programme. A well attended busy bee was organised for Honour Ave., and that area cleaned and top dressed.

Kings Park Board was approached re the mowing of our section of Honour Avenue, but as their price was beyond the scope of our finances we then hired a private contractor who so far has done an

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excellent job. As we require four more trees and four more names on our Honour Roll this work was put in hand and is progressing satisfactorily.

During February we held an indoor rifle shoot which proved very enjoyable. It was during this month also that we received a very generous offer from Mr. Turton which was accepted.

For our March meeting we had an indoor bowls tournament which was won by Mr. Kirkwood. During this month arrangements were finalised for Anzac Day.

Anzac Day as everyone knows was quite a day. Our wreath laid at the Dawn Service was of such a high order that it caused quite a lot of comment, which was very flattering to both the makers and ourselves.

May was a quiet month with our monthly meeting taking the form of a darts and quoit night. In June Mr. Fullarton gave us a very interesting talk on Serawak and your

Committee used up its last ordinary meeting reviewing the work of the past year.

It was then found necessary to call a special meeting of the Committee the reason for which will no doubt be fully discussed at this, our Annual General Meeting.

As your Secretary for the past two years, gentlemen, I wish to state, and this without fear of contradiction, that no secretary could have been more fortunate than I in having such a co-operative and helpful executive.

I received all the help possible. It was given cheerfully and willingly and has made this term of office relatively easy.

This report would not be complete without reference to the enormous amount of assistance we have received from our very good friends Mr. Bill Hollis and Ron Dook. Whenever a catering job comes along Bill and Ron are the Secretary's true friends.

## Personalities

After a wonderful weekend at Wandering with the Turton family, I'm afraid the good host Don went down with pleurosy and pneumonia, but am happy to advise that Don is now practically 100 per cent once again.

Col Doig has been in hospital with a minor operation on his eye. Col is progressing well and will resume work again in a day or so.

Good to see Ning McCraig at the Annual General, looking so fit and well.

Charlie Gorton with large moustache, also sighted at the A.G. The first time for ages.

Jack Poynton was able to make it at the A.G. Says he is flat out as an executive with the E.S.&A. Bank and finds it most difficult to find spare time.

Sighted Ray Parry, resplendent in W.O.'s uniform, at the A.G. Ray looks fit and hale but says he is still very busy trying to build a new home.

Keith Hayes also made it for the A.G. Keith does a lot of country travelling for his firm, E. C. Stott and Co., and finds that it makes vast inroads into his spare time.

Extra good to see Dave Ritchie at the A.G. Says he hopes to be back in an executive capacity next year as by then he should have ironed out all his troubles.

Gerry Maley has been on a business trip to W.A. but afraid your Editor was not able to catch up with him as he moved so speedily. Perhaps one of those who met our good ex-secretary of the Victorian Branch, will be good enough to give a report for our next edition.

"Blossom" Lawrence has been on a trip East and met quite a few of the gang including Bert Tobin. "Blossom" brought back to W.A. a 16 m.m. copy of the famous Damier Parer film, "Men of Timor" which the Association can now have shown at one of the film nights.

A letter to hand from Jim Smailes who is now domiciled at Guyra, N.S.W. This letter is so interesting that it is printed in full elsewhere.

## ASSOCIATION CALENDAR TO XMAS 1958

Tuesday, August 5: Discussion night at Monash Club.

Saturday, August 16: Annual Dinner, Shenton Park R.S.L. Hall.

Sunday, August 17: Annual Commemoration Service, at Kings Park, at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 2: Annual Sports Night for Challenge Belt, at Monash Club.

Tuesday, Sept. 30: Annual Ladies' Night at Crawley Bay Tea Rooms.

Tuesday, Nov. 4: Film and Guest Night, Monash Club.

Sunday, Dec. 7: Children's Party, venue to be arranged.

Tuesday, Dec. 15: Bucks' Night and Xmas Good Cheer at Monash Club.

There, members, is a programme worthy of your best attention with plenty of variety and a great chance to meet your mates. Make a point of keeping these dates with your mates.

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

#### For Year Ended 31st May, 1958

Receipts:		Expenditure:	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Funds at 30/6/57:		Annual Re-union . . .	79 8 6
Com. Savings Bank . . .	41 9 5	Less Collections . . .	36 15 0
Com. Trading Bank . . .	63 16 6		
Com. Bonds . . . . .	546 10 0	Courier . . . . .	42 13 6
Cash on hand . . . . .	2 0 0	Less Interstate Con.	91 18 0
Sweep Perth Cup			23 10 0
£314/18/6			
Less Expenses			68 8 0
£60/6/5 . . . . .	254 12 1	Monthly Meetings . . .	101 15 8
Donations . . . . .	73 4 6	Less Collections . . .	54 13 10
Subscriptions . . . . .	42 0 0		
Anzac Day Collections			47 1 10
£71/0/4		Xmas Party . . . . .	80 11 4
Less Expenses		Less Donations . . . .	8 0 0
£70/1/3 . . . . .	19 1		
Fertilizer Fung Kings			72 11 4
Park £39/4/-		Ladies' Night . . . . .	79 13 0
Less Expenses		Less Collections . . . .	34 10 0
£22/10/- . . . . .	16 14 0		
Sale of Smailes Poems	1 2 0		45 3 0
Int. Bonds and Savings	24 19 3	Ex. re Late J. Servante	29 14 3
		Administration . . . . .	31 11 2
		Loan Account . . . . .	30 0 0
		Funds at 31/5/58:	
		Com. Savings Account	153 13 9
		Com. Bonds . . . . .	546 10 0
<b>£1,067 6 10</b>		<b>£1,067 6 10</b>	

**REMEMBER!**

**ANNUAL RE-UNION**

Saturday, August 16, at Shenton Park R.S.L. Hall  
Starts at 7 p.m. sharp. Kegs tapped at 6.45 p.m.

**COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

Kings Park, Sunday, 17th August, at 3 p.m.

**MAKE A POINT OF BEING PRESENT**



## Random Harvest

**Peter Mantle, of Biloela, Queensland, writes:**

Sir (which is the way you write to editors, isn't it?). Enclosed a small cheque to catch up on my subscription and to give a push along to any fund in need of it.

Haven't seen a soul from the 2/2nd for years now, and seem unlikely that I will in this pleasant little town of Biloela in central Queensland. One of these days I may get my head above water sufficiently to make a trip down to Brisbane on some pretext and catch up with somebody there.

Meanwhile life is pretty full and pretty good, with three meals a day coming in pretty regularly and health all that could be expected in middle age.

I'm proprietor, editor, advertising manager, and deputy printer's devil of a little country weekly newspaper which entails long hours during the day, attending and reporting meetings at night, work of some sort on the weekends, and generally a pretty flatout existence. But it's very satisfying, and by the time the various mortgage-holders are paid off, will be quite a small-scale gold mine.

Our town is in a valley, very rich soil which can grow a wide variety of crops successfully, and doesn't need fertiliser. There is a regular stream of farmers from down south who sell out and come here, hardly able to believe that land could be so cheap. In fact I'd go on the land myself if I was 40 years younger, £2,000 richer, and if I cared for the farming life—which I don't.

Although we're small and remote there's a terrific amount of social life here—both private and through organisations raising money. You could easily be out every night of the week at some do or other.

A thing we badly need here is a swimming pool. I'm secretary of the committee which is trying to raise £7,000. At that figure the local Shire Council will start seeking a loan for its share, then the State Government will pay its subsidy, and all we have to do then is fill it with water. But £7,000 takes a lot of raising.

A pasture grass that has done great things for the valley here is

Rhodes Grass, but it's a pain in the neck to the householder. I've a whole yardful of it, waving in the breeze, a constant reproach to my lack of gardening activity. But hope soon to see a start on a War Service home which will occupy a bit of the space.

As one who'd always lived in cities until I came here, I'm constantly being surprised by some of the things that turn up in country life. For instance we have here in Biloela a genuine White Russian ex-professional ballet dancer. My eldest daughter and lots of other local kids are learning from him. And the other day I was in court (reporting, not participating) and struck a chap who had been in Australia 50 years and couldn't make himself understood in English. He is a Sikh by birth, but not a practising one apparently, as he doesn't have the uncut hair, iron bangle, and so on which Sikhs have. One of the local solicitors asked me what was the Sikh equivalent of the Bible, and enjoyed himself telling the judge very carefully that the old boy couldn't very well take the oath on the Bible, and that the Oaths Act of 1881, etc., etc., which the judge obviously didn't know.

As something of a printer I realise the great amount of setting that goes into each copy of the 'Courier' and marvel at the consistent devotion of those responsible for getting it out.

Rotten letter this, but I've had a long day and my eyes are just about dropping out. All the best.

**Jim Smailes, of Box 7, Post Office, Guyra, N.S.W., writes:**

Well I find I have a few moments to drop you a line and hope this finds you and yours all well and happy.

I often wonder if you passed on my address to the Editor of the "Courier," because I have not had a copy since last August. I wrote a few lines for Wilf in response to his call for copy, but don't even know if he got it, or accepted it. However, you may speak in the right quarter and get the paper posted along. I would like to keep in touch with the boys in W.A. and would also like to contact a few

over here. I believe Allan Luby is in northern N.S.W. somewhere as superintendent of an ambulance centre at either Belingen or Grafton. Any others that you may know of would be appreciated.

I am very happy here and kept very busy. My three children are all going to schools in Armidale and stay at hostels. This mine is 45 miles from Armidale and 35 from Guyra, in the New England district of N.S.W. It is very elevated and cool here, in fact it snows at times. The mine is not large, employs 30 men, but is the only antimony mine in Australia. The country is very hilly and hard to walk about. A fact that is hard to realise is the timber growing right at the mine, and so readily available as compared with Kalgoolie.

I brought my family over from Perth by car and really enjoyed the trip especially from Adelaide on. No doubt it is a huge country. I have now crossed it north to south and east to west, by boat, road, train and plane several times. I have a Zephyr car supplied by the firm and am boss cocky on this job.

Did I tell you that I had a very interesting job just before Xmas? I went up to Malaya by air and back to report on a mine for some Malayan and W.A. interests. Went right up into the terrorist country by armoured car, and it felt like old times with revolver on the hip and tin hat. Was a very successful trip but I turned down the offered job because of education of the children and the disturbed political situation up there.

This job was the better choice and I'm not sorry. The children are in good schools and doing well. They are learning music, tennis, football and all the rest of it, and costing Dad plenty to be sure.

The R.S.L. at Armidale put on a great turn out on Anzac Day and included a march through the town and dinner to follow. A thoroughly good day was had by all. Many of the men working here are ex-service men so we declared it a holiday and partook of the celebrations and the amber fluid to follow. A two-up game later in the day proved very profitable for me. Couldn't help feeling that the old Sheehan would have liked to have been in it. The police raided the school just after I left, so I escaped.

Well, I must away again as there is work to do for the master. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help the Association. Always willing to help with a few bob if the cause is urgent.

Any Eastern States addresses would be welcome. Cheerio and regards to any of the boys you see.

**Bert Burgess, "Burlands," Broomehill, writes to Arthur Smith:**

I have been very lax in my letter writing and must apologise for not answering your screeds. Just one thing after another crops up just when I'm about to write.

Did you get the seeding done at Don Turton's? It should have been a most enjoyable weekend for you city slickers! With the good rains that have been experienced there the crop should get away to a good start.

When in Albany in March last we had a most enjoyable evening with Ron Sprigg and his wife. Ron is very keen on Association doings and to help in any way possible. They have made a wonderful job of additions and renovations to their house and some of their colour schemes are a joy to behold.

Also met Ken Dook. Ken is having serious trouble with the blood circulation in his legs. He was then going to Perth to a Repat. Tribunal in an endeavour to get some assistance for himself, wife and family as there is a strong possibility that he will not be able to continue with his work. Ken is now foreman of lineyards in Albany. Ken would like to be admitted to the Association but feels there is opposition and therefore reluctant to make further approaches. I feel there is much we could do to help Ken and he would appreciate it if offered. Could you make some discreet enquiries from various angles whether he is in need of help and if same can be offered. When I saw him he considered he was getting a fair hearing and wanted to give the Repat. the chance to come good without calling in help from the Association.

At the moment can't see how I can make the Re-union but, of course don't mark me absent until the time arrives. Will do my best to be there.

When is or was the Annual Meeting? Afraid I have been a flop as

a Country Vice President. I wrote a lot of letters to members in this area but only one reply to those I had posted so saved the postage on the remainder. Can't see what advantage it would have been for me to attend a meeting as I had no mandate to speak for members. Personally can't see any point in continuing the appointment. That of course is a matter not for me to decide.

However to those whom I have been able to contact are in favour of consideration being given to the possibility of arranging the Kings Park parade and the Annual Dinner on the same afternoon and evening. This would make it possible for many to attend both who owing to circumstances cannot do so now.

The season here opened late but very promising but unfortunately a dry cold June followed and the feed

## History of Kings Park Honour Avenue

In March 1947 the R.S.L. Sub-Branch responsible as Wardens of Honour Avenues in King's Park, the Public Service Sub-Branch, advised through the press that 300 trees were available in Lovekin Drive. These trees were sugar gums planted some eight years previously and were in a thriving condition. These trees were available as living memorials to those members who died in the service of their country in World War II.

The Committee of the W.A. Branch decided immediately to obtain 50 trees in a block to commemorate the fallen of the Unit. This was managed through the then Secretary of the Public Service Sub-Branch, Mr. Max Brice, at a cost of a guinea a tree which covered the cost of the plaque which is affixed to each tree.

This section of 300 trees was dedicated by the Archbishop of Perth, Dr. Moline, on Dec. 16, 1948 and our avenue in King's Park was under way.

Working bees were conducted in 1949 to keep the area in reasonable condition and disperse the dry leaves and trash. These working bees were conducted usually twice per year.

In February, 1950, the first com-

position looked pretty grim again. Fairly good rains this week have given us fresh hope. Most of my crop is on new ground and so free of the web worm and other wogs that are so prevalent. Crops really look very good—the frosts, lack of good rains and red mite, etc., are keeping the pastures in a backward condition.

Went to Bunbury and back yesterday. Beautiful rich green pastures over there.

You may get a few scraps of interest to the Editor out of this. Print any parts you like.

Kindest regards to all.

### LEST WE FORGET

#### JULY:

Thomas, Tpr. L. G., died of illness, New Britain, July 9, 1945.

memoration service was conducted in our area in King's Park by the then President of the Association, Mr. Joe Burridge.

These services have been conducted by the various Presidents of the Association each year since on the Sunday following the Annual Re-union.

An attempt to lay the area down to couch grass was made in 1951 when the area was rotary hoed and raked and narrowed and sown with couch grass at a huge working bee conducted in September, 1950. This attempt proved to be abortive as the seed in the main failed to germinate.

The committee then decided to reticulate the area with water and a drive for funds was made. This proved to be most successful and over £350 was subscribed by members and relatives throughout Australia. By using the good offices of trade firms mainly Stewart & Lloyd, most of the material was obtained at greatly reduced prices and things were in readiness to lay the water scheme. This had taken until 1954 to accomplish.

After some delay the Metropolitan Water Supply Dept. supplied two three-inch tappings of the main pipe line which fortunately ran

along Lovekin Drive. These tappings were carried across the roadway giving in all four points from which the water scheme could be advanced.

The big task of actually laying the sprinkler system was now about to be accomplished and the necessary working bees were arranged. Firstly a small working bee with Gordon Pendergast in charge was required to cut and tap the piping and prepare it for laying the following Sunday. The main working bee at King's Park took place on Sunday, Nov. 14, 1954, with 48 members in attendance from 8 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. We were fortunate to be able to enlist the services of two licensed plumbers, Mr. Gordon Craig and Mr. Sam Evans to assist Gordon Pendergast with the technical knowhow.

Gerry Green and Mervyn Ryan supplied rotary hoes to plough up the area. The task of trenching for the piping, the laying of 1,600 feet of piping, fitting 160 sprinklers, fixing taps, filling in of trenches, setting sprinklers for height, ploughing of area and seeding with couch grass was accomplished in one morning. A truly remarkable effort by all concerned.

The scheme comprised eight sections in all, two sections from each stop cock, comprising firstly two inch piping graduated to 1½ inch piping. In all there is 600 feet of two inch piping, 1,000 feet of 1½ inch piping, 160 sprinklers with the necessary reducing sockets, tee pieces, ½ inch connecting piping, fullways, etc.

The total cost of piping for the area was £212 to which must be added £61/10/- for Metropolitan Water Supply tappings. Couch grass seed amounted to £12.

Once again the seeding of the area failed to supply the lawn required.

The scheme was opened by the then President of the Association, Mr. Colin Doig, on Sunday, Jan. 30, 1955, at the Annual Commemoration Service by having the taps turned on.

Further working bees were conducted later in 1955 to plant the area with couch runners and the area is now slowly becoming nicely covered with a green sward of couch lawn and although not yet quite as required this summer

should see the area well on the way to being a show place of King's Park.

To date over £300 has been expended on the water reticulation scheme and allied lawn plantings.

Wardens of King's Park Honour Avenue are appointed each year and change duties at the Annual Commemoration Service. Wardens to date have been G. Boyland, A. Walsh, W. Willis, G. Green, G. Pendergast and "Slim" Holly.

It is the duty of the Warden to keep the area under surveillance the whole year, to perform such minor tasks as keeping plaques screwed to trees and to report to the Committee on the desirability of working bees to keep the area in good order.

Members are rostered for duty to turn the water on and off and to date this has proved to be most satisfactory.

This dedicated area is something of which the Association throughout Australia can be justly proud and provides us with the most fitting type of memorial that an organisation such as ours can hope to have. The Committee in W.A. are always alive to provide improvements to the area and within the by-laws of King's Park Board will do all they can to carry out suggestions for betterment.

Alphabetical lists of names, tree numbers and names thereon and area lists have been compiled by the Warden Sub-Branch and are held by their President and also by the Secretary of King's Park Board and anyone wishing to discover a particular tree can easily do so by getting in touch with the Secretary of King's Park Board.

### Heard This?

A woman complained to her neighbour, who every evening walked his dog by her house, that the pooch always paused by her new shrubs.

She got this answer: "Now don't you fret, Ma'am, I always start by going around the block, the long way, and by the time he reaches your bushes, it's only a gesture."

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## Victorian Vocal Venturings

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia, Victorian Branch, held at Kelvin Hall, Collins Place, Melbourne, at 8 p.m. on Monday, July 19, 1958.

Present: Mr. B. J. Callinan, in the chair. Messrs. P. G. Maley, G. O'Toole, R. D. Campbell, G. Humphreys, J. Robinson, R. M. Davies, F. C. Broadhurst, E. J. S. Southwell, J. S. Roberts, B. F. McFarlen, J. Wall and A. Stewart.

Apologies: Received and accepted from H. E. Tobin, H. Botterill and G. Veitch.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on June 25, 1956, were read and confirmed on the motion of R. M. Davies, seconded G. O'Toole.

President's Report: Mr. Callinan stressed greatly the importance to the Association of this meeting, and his disappointment at the attendance. He pointed out that due to the efforts of many hard and earnest workers, members and their wives and families had enjoyed numerous pleasant functions and occasions. Mr. Callinan stated that the time had now arrived when we must take stock of the future ahead, and give very sincere consideration to the question of how the Association could be kept going, and suggested that consideration also be given to the appointment, rather than the election of office bearers.

Convention and Adjourned Meeting: Notes taken of the Olympic Convention, and on the occasion of the 1957 Annual General Meeting which was adjourned through lack of quorum, were read to the members present, and were discussed.

Election of Office Bearers: Before calling for nominations the President emphasized the need for men to carry out the duties so necessary for the well-being of the Association.

Office Bearers elected were: President, Mr. B. J. Callinan; Vice Presidents, Messrs. H. Botterill, B. McLaren and H. E. Tobin; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. D. Campbell; Asst. Secretary, Mr. P. G. Maley; Hon. Treasurer, E. J. Southwell; Asst. Treasurer, Mr. J. Wall; Auditor, Mr. R. M. Davies.

Provident Fund Trustees: Messrs. H. E. Tobin, R. M. Davies, B. J. Callinan.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported as follows: General Fund £146/9/-, add Outstanding monies, N.S.W. Branch £40/5/-, Cheques not banked £9/11/-; Total £196/5/-.

Provident Fund: £115/3/8.

General Business: It was suggested by G. O'Toole that the Annual General Meeting be held in the future earlier in the year when weather conditions are more favourable. No action is being taken for the time being.

Social Committee: It was moved F. Broadhurst and seconded E. Southwell that a social committee consisting of the Secretary, Treasurer and three other members, be formed. The motion was carried, and F. Broadhurst, G. O'Toole and G. Humphreys were elected.

Aims and Objects: It was agreed that we must concentrate our efforts in the future and make the furtherance of the Provident Fund the target of our major aims and objects.

Insurance: G. Humphreys was appointed to enquire as to whether any cover was available that could be taken out on members against accident, illness and death risks.

Gerry Maley is now one of our chief suppliers of news as he does a lot of travelling about in his job. He recently had a trip to Sydney and tells of seeing quite a few of the boys, thanks to the efforts of Jack Hartley. Firstly I looked up Ray Cole at the Gallipoli Legion Club and spent a most enjoyable evening with him on Friday, May 29, eating at the Journalists' Club, and from there to his place in Blue's Point-rd. with a crowd for a very pleasant shindig.

Saturday saw me at Rosehill races, very nice too, only I was forced to leave prior to the second last race or else walk home. They really did me over, and it took more than my best efforts to stretch expenses to cover the loss.

After that fiasco I journeyed to Bondi spending the evening over a few snorts, yarning with Brace Wilson about that fabulous friend of ours—Jack (Bosun) O'Brien.

Sunday I toddled to Gordon and waylaid Jack Hartley, lost him a ruddy good fare, too, but nevertheless he seemed quite happy to see me. After swapping news I let him get on with the job of earning an honest penny, after extracting a promise that he would endeavour to round a few of the boys up for a snort or three on Tuesday evening.

Jack was as good as his word, too, ringing me at one o'clock Tuesday morning to tell me where to be some 19 hours later. The venue was at Northbridge, the home of Frank Coker, brother of Bill ex-No. 1 Company. It was a grand night with a feast of music (slightly crude, rude and full of strange sounds) and films. Incidentally Frank Coker is an electronics man and sure knows the right sort of songs for a bucks' night. The films were (lick your lips) both by Damien Parer, "The Kakoda Trail" and "The Men of Timor," what more pleasing reception could one have than a feast of entertainment as mentioned, topped off with the following humorists—Jack Hartley, Frank and Bill Coker, Bill Bennett, Ron Trengrove, Merv Jones, Jim English, all looking fitter and fatter than ever. Curly O'Neil also phoned through the evening. He was unfortunately tied up and could not get along.

You will be happy to learn as I was surprised and gratified to receive, that our N.S.W. comrades have obtained and presented to me for the Victorian Branch, a copy of "The Men of Timor". It was a thrill, and I hardly knew just how to express our appreciation. They also told me that they were getting another copy to send to Col Doig for the boys in the West.

They have also loaned us the "Kakoda Trail" film, which gives us a grand excuse for a night out. I think the Coker boys managed to wrangle the film and I know how grateful we must all be for their thoughtfulness.

Bill Bennett mentioned that he promised to buy Smash Hodgson a super-duper axe after the Games. He had the axe but did not know how to get it to Smasho. Leave it to Gerry. He brought it in to me the following morning prior to my heading home and here it is, three weeks later, and I've still got it. I

used it as an excuse to take a run up to Nyora and Poowong, called in at his home, but Mrs. Smash told me he was off painting the school at Poowong North. I found the school, and the other painter who was wondering where the devil Smash was, which of course made two of us. Went on to Ken Monk's and spent a very enjoyable few hours with Margaret and Ken, admired Ken's trophies. He's certainly winning some competitions with his herd. Returned again via Nyora, but still no luck. Hence I've still got the axe. Must try it on Mum some time.

Thanks Gerry for the news. Gerry has just left for a two weeks' trip to the West—but will be spending most of the time in the country but hopes to see as many of the boys as possible, so he should come back full of news.

I received a card from Ken Monk and family, sent from Mildura. Ken has taken a well earned week's break from the farm. Packed up the family in the car and took off for a trip to Mildura and back. Mentioned seeing Norm Tillet in Mildura and no doubt will have more news later.

Would like to know how Bill Tucker is making out in Brisbane, so if you should see this, Bill, write

Barry "Blossom" Lawrence called in on Melbourne Saturday, on his way to Sydney to do an army school course. He got in touch with Bert Tobin and spent the evening with Bert and family. Bert phoned me to let me know but I was unable to make it, it being such short notice and the fact that Blossom was going on next day, it was not possible to contact some of the boys for a get together. I phoned through during the evening and spoke to Blossom and at least his voice still sounded the same and Bert tells me that he has not changed much and is wearing very well. Blossom says he hopes to come over here with his family next year for a couple of weeks so we can have a get together then.

Was asked the other day the difference between "unlawful" and "illegal," and being a real sucker (and uneducated) said I didn't know. Was told that "unlawful" was against the law and "illegal" was a sick bird.

—HARRY BOTTERILL

## New South Wales News

Just a quick note to accompany this letter from Ron Trengrove, which I think covers all the news from this quarter for the last few months. Have been frightfully busy myself lately, except for the last 10 days when I've been recovering from a bout of 'flu followed by a nasal infection which made me look as though I'd gone the distance with Joe Louis. However, I'm back to about 95 per cent efficiency and will be back to pushing the hack tomorrow, so thought I'd best get this off my mind first.

Have shifted camp lately and have been missing out on the "Courier," so will you please change my address on your list and if you have any spare copies since February would be glad to have them.

We had a visit from Gerry Maley early in June and although I only had a very short space of time to contact the boys we managed to get a few together and we had a very enjoyable evening at Frank Coker's home. I must apologise to the many chaps who would have loved to have seen Gerry, but I only had one night in which to contact everyone, and although I rang everyone whose phone number I had there were quite a few not answering even though I was ringing till after midnight. Anyway we had a grand old time and ran off a new copy of the Timor film which Bill Coker secured through one of his many contacts in the business world. We gave this copy to Gerry to take back to Victoria as a present from N.S.W. in appreciation of their kindness to us at the Olympics. There will be a copy coming your way soon too, W.A., also as a present from N.S.W. and we hope it will bring you all a great deal of enjoyment for many years to come.

I am also enclosing the latest address list for N.S.W. and I think there are a good many changes, so will you please send it on to whoever addresses the "Couriers".

—JACK HARTLEY.

Hello the West.

This is the beginning of an attempt by some of us in N.S.W. to revive the 2/2 over here. Yours truly made a very rash statement

whilst under the influence of spiritual licker that I would endeavour to report on some of our doings, so here we go. My grammar aint grammatical and the punctuations may be in all the wrong places, but this is the English as she is spoke in Australia.

Well, fellers, this rise of our surging spirit came about last night at a get together sponsored by the 2/2 and the Arncliffe R.S.L. to welcome home Ron and Pat Hilliard and their little half and half, after a year in England. It was a rip roaring success and brought together more of the 2/2 than has been seen at any one time for a greater number of years than we care to remember. I will mention some of the names I can recall and will request Jack Hartley to supply the rest for as always Jack had to do the organising of cash extractions plus a few other items. Jimmy English who has been having a particularly bad run of health for the last year or so was the organiser general of the whole shebang and was ably assisted by Billy Buck and Silent George Warne of Arncliffe R.S.L. We noticed Jim didn't have a drink all night so he must have been awful sick. Those two wonderful women, Mrs. English senior and junior did a grand job of arranging the supper with the help of Joan Darge and numerous other good ladies, and what a supper it was, king prawns as big as lobsters, lovely fish cutlets, meat balls, garlic sausage, cocktail frankfurts, biscuits and cheese and salads.

Bill Coker, our current president, and always one of our strongest supporters, was able to secure an original copy of the Timor film and this was shown along with the Kokoda Trail and several Mickey Mouse during the course of the evening. Bill's brother Frank, who was a Spitfire pilot during the Battle of Britain, was good enough to loan us his projector. Unfortunately while some of the blokes seemed to get an attack of dysentery, or was it the cold beer taking effect? Anyway there were frequent figures passing across our lines of vision. Perhaps it was old memories being

refreshed by the sight of the mountains of Timor and the ceadors and their bearded bosses.

The guests of honour, Ron and Pat Hilliard, are looking extremely well and Ron still has that slim, graceful figure he went away with. He still talks like an Aussie too, so he hasn't changed much. The son and heir at six months weighs about half as much as Ron and looks even more like a Hilliard than his old man. If he doesn't develop into a St. George forward then I know nothing.

Babe Teague gave us an old memory stirrer by singing "White Dove" nearly as well as when I first heard him sing it at Hatu Bullico. Paddy Kenneally was requested to make a welcoming speech to Ron and Pat, but as he walked across to the dias someone who apparently knows him well said, "Tell us about Bob Menzies, Paddy," and threw him right off balance. His blood pressure shot up so fast, and I deny the insinuation that Paddy is a Pommy. Eric Herd in his usual manner started clearing the dead marines away early, so early in fact that someone remarked, "So that's where Herdie gets all his money from." That also is a lie. I know he has money in the bank because the bank is always asking him when he is going to make it an even shilling. John Darge and his wife were a great help in preparing things, and as Joan had to drive her log home she couldn't have a drink, but I saw John letting his head go.

Micky Mannix was in fine form. Can he gas? Yackity, yackity, yak.

Tommy O'Brien, Harold Newton, Tommy Martin, Doug Dixon and their respective wives, were aiding and abetting Mannix in his performance. Snowy Went was also doing well and being there without responsibilities was able to really go to town and the last I saw of him two blokes were trying to convince him it was time to go home. One a.m. and 2 mile to go. Merv Jones was mainly noticable cutting a rug with wife Marj every time the band played. Very nice too, if I may say so. Shadow Olde and Bluey Harris were rattling the ivories without respite with voice, beer, voice, beer, beer, beer, gurgle, gurgle. Blue incidentally, had some very interesting colour slides to

show of his trip over to the West.

To complete the list of those present there were Doc Gallard, Jack Iles, Ron Goodacre and wife, Clive Downe and wife, Bill Hoy and wife, Bill Bennett and wife, and last but not least John Greig and wife, who were making their first appearance since John went off to Japan after the war, but we trust we will see more of them in the future.

From these few remarks you can see that it was a jolly good night. We felt sure that our wives enjoyed the little bit of conviviality too, so a few of us asked each other in the words of that old song: Why don't we do this more often? Once every three or four months, keep expenses to a minimum, grog to a reasonable quota and I mean that one as too much grog can ruin any re-union. Those of us who have cars surely can arrange to pick up those nearest to us and deliver them home again. Homes could be used for the organising or a room in your local R.S.L. Those who are on the phone should supply numbers so that they can be contacted quickly when any of the interstate or country members arrive in Sydney unheralded. It could be the very bloke you've been wanting to see since God knows when, if only to clear up a point in a certain incident that happened when we were callow youths and full of fight and fun, serious or otherwise.

From what I saw and have seen on other occasions our wives would be interested if we were keen enough to get off our broads and make the effort. The main thing these days, I think, is to keep down the expenses and then we will get more to turn up.

Now a brief mention of Anzac Day. We had the best roll up for years and the day turned out fine after a very unpromising start. Frank O'Neill finished up very unpromising so I am told, arriving home at 3 a.m. next day and he even had the temerity to wake Betty up for the cab fare. He and Merv Clark and Alfredo Des Santos left Jimmy English's place at 9 p.m. and set out on a pub crawl back to town. Eventually as they left the last pub a cop told them to leave their car where it was or he'd pinch them all for drunken driving, hence the taxi home to Narrabeen. A disgraceful performance to say the



least and I think on all future Anzac Days Betty should lock him in the toilet, only letting him out at intervals to mow the lawn or chop wood.

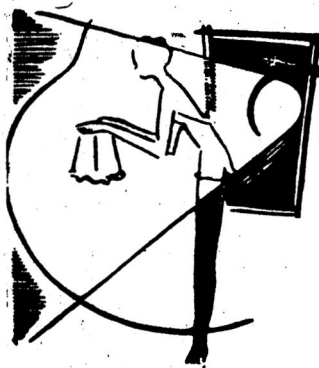
The more sober types who gathered for the fray included Paddy Kenneally, Ross Smith who came all the way from Newcastle with two friends, Gordon Olde, Roy Harris, Tommy O'Brien, Snow Went, Jim English, Merv Jones, Jack Hartley, Bill Coker, Arthur Birch who is a heavy transport driver and happened to be in town for the day, Don Woodhouse, Ron Goodacre, Fred Janvrin, Les Collins, Bill Hoy, Jim Hallinan, Jim Smith, Johnny Rose, Eric Herd and Jacky Keenahan, Bob Field and Micky Mannix. We gathered once more at the Arncliffe R.S.L. and had our usual entertainment plus the cup that cheers. I can't tell much of what happened after six o'clock as Eric, John Rose and I went into town for dinner, then home to Johnny's and Nancy Rose reckoned we were a good influence on her wayward boy (a bit hairy) but still a boy.

As this is my first letter to the "Courier" I would like to say hello to any of the gang in the West whom I know or who knew me.

Col Doig I first met at Malliana; Sproxtion my Mendilo dysentery mate; Wendell Wilkie also Mendilo; Sep Wilson, Ernie Dinwoodie, The Sadlers, Doc Wheatley, Arch Campbell, and all the Cailaco crowd. Jack Denman—remember "Beco" Jack? That's where I first met you and all you other fellows. I'd love to see you all again, particularly "C" Platoon.

Before I close, another few words on revival. I know we have responsibilities each and every one of us and none any more than the other, but we are getting older (you should see Jack Hartley's grey hair, and Merv Jones is not as blond as he used to be either), and we should try to see more of each other when there is a "do" on, because you come away feeling much younger and refreshed. If everyone who was there last night tells the truth they will bear me out. If it's only for a couple of hours, you're welcome. If you can't drink you're still welcome. If you can't get a baby sitter, bring the babies with you. If you can't get a leave pass (as some I hear could not) let's know and we'll try to contact Mum personally. But for lord sake turn up at least once a year.

—BOB TRENGROVE.



## Headlights

When a rather flat chested girl patient was instructed by her physician to remove her blouse so he could examine her, she exclaimed, "Oh, my, no!"

The physician, trying to put her at ease, said, "Come now my dear young lady, don't make mountains out of molehills."

Pert, pretty and in a hurry, she sailed around the corner. Tall and in equal haste, he came in the opposite direction. They crashed head-on, stepped back to apologise, then started off again—directly in the other's path. Five times they blocked one another, first on this side and then on that. Finally his exasperated drawl brought her to a dead halt: "Just once more, honey, then I really have to go."

\* \* \*

Mother: "Mabel, get off that young man's knee."

Mabel: "But, mother, I got there first."