



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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## *Editorial*

### Just A Little More Effort

This particular Editorial is directed to those who make only the minimum effort to assist the Association in all its wide ramifications. Those stalwarts who year in, year out, come along to most or the functions and who take part in Working Bees need read no further as this is not for you.

Every year a hard working Executive plans and arranges a diverse number of meetings and socials, some of which should find the taste of every member. Despite wide publicity and all sorts of methods of improving attendance, the roll up figures are below expectations. It was shown during the Games Re-Union period that if members put in a degree of effort that attendances can be excellent. Therefore the solution is obviously bound up with effort on the members' part rather than the fact that the type of entertainment is failing to attract.

One particular activity which always brings the poorest response in respect to its importance, is the Commemoraion Service in Kings Park. As this is held on a Sunday afternoon and therefore does not cut into any normal leisure activities surely it is not too much to expect most metropolitan members to be present and so pay a short

yearly homage to your war dead.

Recent Working Bees in Kings Park with the object of making this memorial area a thing of beauty, have been left all too often to the hard working dozen. Surely, once again, a minor effort on behalf of members can assure a good attendance and consequently less work for everyone.

Monthly meetings are always a bone of contention and it is realised that being held as they are in the mid-week that some are precluded from regular attendance owing to shift work and numerous other reasons, but surely you can make the effort to attend at least a couple per annum and this would raise attendances to a level commensurate with the effort put in by the Committee in arranging suitable and diverse entertainment. It is most frustrating to go to the trouble of getting a Guest Speaker along to talk on subjects of intense general interest and then note the paucity of numbers attending. This also applies to picture evenings when outside help is solicited in providing films and projectors and then the attendance seems hardly warranted to this outside helper.

It is realised that many members due to the age of their children

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are now taking an interest in various parent organisations and this is only proper but this is not all precluding as far as your Association is concerned and I think you will realise that the demands on your time are not such that you could not afford a wee bit more effort for your organisation.

Please do your utmost in the future to attend at least a few of the functions especially the Annual Re-Union, Commemoration

Service, Anzac Day, Children's Christmas Party, and possibly one or two meetings per year. This would be quite a small percentage of your leisure time and believe me the enjoyment derived would more than offset the effort to get along.

Make this year the start to a greater effort on your part to put the Association in the position it deserves in your affection.

## West Australian Whisperings

### Association Activities

#### AUGUST MEETING

This proved to be one of the best monthly meetings for many a long day. A rifle shoot was arranged and this method of entertainment appears to be most popular judging by the response.

Cannot chronicle any really outstanding marksman among us although Geo. Fletcher did manage a very nice possible and Bob Smyth once again went extra well but generally speaking the shooters were only average but then it would have been extremely hazardous to present yourself as a target to anyone of them so suppose that is a satisfactory state of affairs considering that old father time is catching up on all of us.

A team shoot between Visitors, H.Q., "A", "B" and "C" was won by H.Q. from "B", "A", "C" and Visitors in that order.

At this meeting we were able to welcome Jack Rice who was holidaying in W.A. from Tasmania. You will remember Jack as a tall, gangling lad who joined up with us ex the 2/40th and carried a Bren Gun with "Smash" Hodson in Don Platoon. Jack had a wonderful evening and met a bundle of the old Sapper boys he hadn't seen for 20 odd years.

Also down in Perth was Peter Campbell from Gibson and he brought along a couple of mates and they too had a great time.

All the years we have been conducting meetings the only time we have been able to sport a pianist is when we hired one. At his meeting we had two—Jack Rice

and a mate of Peter Campbell. This enabled the gang to get around the piano and bellow their heads off for the first time for ages. Truly a great night and Arthur Smith, your newly elected President, was all smiles for his first meeting in his new job.

#### ANNUAL RE-UNION

Saturday, August 17, saw our 17th Annual Re-Union under way. The weather couldn't have been more unkind. The rain came down in bucketfuls at about starting time and this no doubt deterred quite a few who might have normally made the grade. Also the murder scare of the previous week probably cancelled a few leave passes and understandably so.

There were 52 of our members present which isn't to be sneezed at but way below last year's magnificent turn up.

The evening went with a will from the word go and everyone was in a mood to enjoy themselves although it is noticeable with the passing of the years that everyone has slowed down and takes things much more quietly.

Catering arrangements this year were in the hands of Jan Wicki, and he did an excellent job providing both the dinner and a supper at a later hour. Thanks Jan for a good job. Col Doig once again acted as Toast Master and kept the game flowing with a few stories, etc.

Now for a round-up of those present. Country visitors were down a bit on numbers this year, this was probably occasioned by the state of the roads after the

vicious winter. Stan King was down from Pingaring and this must be Stan's 17th Re-Union. In good form too. Eric Weller probably came from farthest afield making the trip from Geraldton. Gordon Barnes was there coming from Rocky Gully in the Albany area. Gordon Holmes made it from Cranbrook. Ernie Bingham from Wandering. "Robbie" Rowan-Robinson from Bridgetown. Bernie Langridge from Donnybrook. Arthur Marshall from Harvey. Jack Fowler from Wongan Hills, and I think that accounts for most of our friends from the country.

The Fremantle gang were once again well represented by Mick Morgan, Joe Poynton, Roy Watson "Ping" Anderson, Merv Ryan, Mick Calcutt, Alby Friend, "Curly" Bowden and Jack Cary. The south of the river crowd never fail and this year Arthur Smith, Fred Sparkman, Jack Pengfasa, Jack Hasson and Dave Ritchie made the function. Others present were Bill Epps, "Dusty" Studdy, Harry Sproxtton, Geo Fletcher, Laurie Tapper, Syd McKinley, "Slim" Holly, Ralf Finkelstein, Ray Aitken, Fred Griffiths, Col Hodson, Harry Holder, Charlie King, Ron Kirkwood, "Bloss" Lawrence (excuse me, another country member from Northam), Gerry Maley, "Spriggy" McDonald, Fred Napier, Bob Smyth Lew Thompson (another from the country, this time Wannamal), Clarrie Varian, Doc Wheatley and Col Doig.

Arthur Smith proposed the toast of "The Unit" very ably and Fred Napier handled the response in his usual inimitable manner bringing forth bundles of laughter. Ray Aitken proposed the toast of "Portugese Friends and Native Helpers" in only the way Aitken could touch on such a subject. Jack Fowler handled the toast of "Allied Services" which was responded to by Dave Ross representing the Air Force and Les Wheatley (brother of "Doc") representing the Navy. Bob McDonald looked after the toast to "The Visitors" and most had a chance to respond.

Our visitors for the evening comprised Dave Ross, Alf Lay and Ron Hargreave from M. & L. Soldier's Bowling Club, Les Dingle from 2/16th Bn., Jack Middleton 2/5th Cdo. Assoc., Laurie Branigar and Wilf Ferrier from City

of Perth Sub Branch R.S.L., Don Tonkin R.A.N., Les Wheatley R.A.N., and Bob Forrest who acted as barman.

Les Dingle in responding paid a tribute to the excellence of the Opening Prologue used by us at these functions.

Mr. Wilf Ferrier took the opportunity to present to our retiring President, Bob McDonald, a plaque of the Commonwealth Games as a mark of recognition of "Spriggy's" term of office as President of the Association during the Games Re-Union.

I think it can be said that another great Re-Union was enjoyed by those present and they look forward with eagerness to the next such function.

### COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Quite a reasonable attendance of 29 members made the Service in Kings Park on Sunday, August 18, despite inclement weather.

Arthur Smith read an inspiring address to those assembled, and Bob Smyth read the names of the fallen. The march through the avenue was marshalled by Mick Morgan and all in all a truly impressive but simple service paid homage to our gallant dead.

Once again tribute must be paid to Bob Smyth for the provision of three flag poles to carry the Union Jack, Australian Flag and our Unit Flag. Bill Epps had the area in excellent condition having just mown it the day before. The service was the more impressive for these touches which added the necessary excellence to the service

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### SEPTEMBER MEETING

A film night has been arranged for the September meeting to be held on the 3rd at Anzac House Basement. This is being presented by B.P. (Australia) Ltd. and is the film in colour of the Perth Commonwealth Games and good supporting films. You are requested to bring along your wives to this show as we feel it will be of interest to them also. You are also permitted to bring along a guest if you so desire.

To make certain the refreshments will be adequate for the evening please ask your wife to bring along a plate of eats.

This is a great chance to entertain the wives so roll up in your masses we will guarantee a good night's entertainment.

### MONSTER WORKING BEE AT KINGS PARK

The Association proposes to hold a monster working bee at Kings Park on Sunday, Sept. 22, 1963. The object of the exercise is to plant with BUFFALO grass those areas not at present responding to couch. This measure has been advised by Kings Park Board who consider that couch will not grow successfully under Sugar Gum trees. We want the biggest possible roll up (in the vicinity of 50 if possible) so please make every endeavour to attend and bring along a bag of buffalo runners (this should not be difficult as most people have buffalo lawns), a spade or rake and the kids as they should be good for an hour's work planting the runners.

Properly handled this working bee could overcome most of our difficulties so please do your best to come along and make the job as light as possible for everyone.

### COMMANDO CABARET

The Second Commando Cabaret is swiftly looming upon us and will be held at Cottesloe Surf Pavilion on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

The evening is being organised in conjunction with the 2/5th Cdo. Assoc., and will be similar in form to that conducted during the Games Re-Union last year. The price for the full evening's entertainment including liquid refresh-

ments, is £1/1/- per ticket. Tickets are now available from the organiser, C. D. Doig, Box T1646, G.P.O., Perth, and you will be receiving same through the mail shortly. If you can take these tickets and intend to be present retain them, but if it is not possible for you to attend please return them as soon as possible to enable re-allocation.

Members may organise small parties to attend this function but due to restricted space are specially requested to keep them down to about six in all. Please get in touch with the organiser for your extra tickets for your parties as soon as possible.

Members of 2/5th Cdo. Assoc. are requested to get in touch with their secretary, Mr. Jack Middleton, who will be only to glad to do business with them on a similar basis to the above.

Just to give your organisers the best possible break and keep the ulcers at bay please make your arrangements through him as soon as possible.

### Heard This?

#### JUST FOR NATURAL

Wilbur was a very intelligent little boy for a five year old, but his mother was somewhat taken aback one day when he asked if the stork had brought him.

Caught off guard, the mother assured Wilbur that he had. "And did he bring you, too?" came next. "Yes, certainly. I think you'd better go up to your room now." "How about Grandpa?" "Yes, he brought Grandpa too," said the mother, rather testily. "Now get up to your room."

From the stairs came, "And great grandpa too?" "Yes, great grandpa too, and if you don't get up to your room I'm going to spank you."

When Wilbur got to his room, he took out his diary and wrote: "I just discovered today that there has been no sexual reproduction in my family for the past four generations."

\* \* \*

"Did you have a good time on your date with the Siamese twins?"

"Well, yes and no."

### Committee Comment

The usual monthly Committee Meeting was held at Anzac House Basement on August 20. The business was primarily concerned with washing up the Annual Re-Union and Commemoration Service and attending to details for functions within the next couple of months.

Members expressed themselves as quite pleased with the Dinner and also the Service. A minute of appreciation was placed on the books regarding the provision of flag poles at Kings Park by Bob Smyth and the mowing of the area by Bill Epps.

It was decided that the September Meeting be open to ladies and visitors and that ladies be requested to bring along a plate of refreshments.

Mr. Doig and Mr. Carey reported on the progress of the organisation of the Cabaret. It was decided that the widest possible publicity be given this in the next two "Couriers".

Mr. Varian and Mr. Smyth reported on the sub-committee activities for the Children's Christmas Party. It was decided that this year presents be confined to children 12 years of age and under. All children would be welcome to attend but it was felt that presents were best appreciated by the younger children and for this reason the upper limit was fixed at 12 years.

Correspondence was received from the Victorian Branch of the Commando Association of Australia regarding a proposed memorial at Wilson's Promontory. As our Branch of the Association is at present fully committed to improvements of our area in Kings Park and also because of the fact that a memorial already exists in the Shrine area in Victoria, it was felt that we could not support the present appeal but that members who desired to contribute could do so on a personal basis. An address list of members would be supplied to the Victorian Branch of the Australian Commando Association.

Mr. Doig reported that the sweep was well in hand and that the draw would take place at Anzac House Basement on Sunday, Sept. 1.

### Personalities

It is with regret that we have to announce the passing in N.S.W. of one Stanley A. (Blue) Beresford early in August. "Blue" will be remembered as one of our really genial souls who was always in good spirits. He had been sick for some time. We extend our most sincere sympathy to his wife and family in their sad loss.

Our sympathy is also extended to Gerry Maley on the passing of his father and to Don Turton on the death of his mother during the past month.

It was real good to see Jack Rice, of Tasmania, once again. Jack came to this State determined to meet as many of the old gang as possible and although he is not on the mailing list he smartly got in contact with Jack Carey through the R.S.L. and we took it from there. He was put in touch with Gerry Green, Col Doig, Slim James and Joe Poynton. He did a tour of the south west and tried his best to contact Don Turton without avail, also Gordon Rowley. Did contact Arthur Marshall and got from "Marsh" the Unit copy of the film "Men of Timor" which he has taken back to Tassie to show his mates, returning it at a later date. Jack's attendance at the August meeting enabled him to meet a bundle more of the gang. Jack Carey took him to see a footy match and Slim James a tour of the night spots so all in all he got a look around. Jack is in the timber trade in Tassie as a tree faller and log hauler for a couple of timber mills in the Launceston area, and says he is doing very nicely, thank you, having three big trucks and three bulldozers in operation.

Peter Campbell looking real fit and full of beans was another at the August meeting and along with his two mates had a great time. Apparently Esperance had missed out on most of the rain and could do with a bit of the excess from other parts.

Jack Fowler said that his cropping programme had been severely curtailed this year but that the feed was super abundant and that he hoped to catch up on the stock roundabouts what he missed on the cropping swinging boats.



Bernie Langridge looks younger than ever and tells me that coming down to the Annual Re-Union is his idea of just topping off the year perfectly. He says that at present he is mainly concerned with the fruit growing aspect of his farming operations as this is economically a better proposition than stud sheep and cattle breeding.

The country air must be good for the lads as Ernie Bingham looked in wonderful fettle and says he is going along real fine on his job with the Wandering Road Board and that his farm is slowly taking shape.

Eric Weller certainly doesn't mind the miles and his trip from Geraldton makes him a near hero this year as the roads are atrocious. Eric is busy building in the Geraldton area and says he is quite happy at his prospects. He also said the Geraldton boys are looking forward to the Convention in November.

As mentioned earlier Stan King is a proper regular at Re-Unions, and does he extract his modicum of fun. He is one of my greatest mates when it comes to sweep time as he sells bundles of tickets without any problem at all. Not looking his best at the Commemoration Service. I wonder why? (Neither was I!)

Gordon Holmes and Gordon Barnes travelled a long way to be at the Re-Union and took plenty of enjoyment from the show. Holmey said his trip to Darwin shooting had fallen through and thus he was able to come to the Re-Union. Barney was another who did not look so hot at the Commemoration Service. Must have been something he ate!

That eternal youth "Bloss" Lawrence was down from Northam looking very debonair and pounding sundry ears on the merit of the C.M.F. Good to see you, Barry. Hope to see you at the Cabaret.

It would hardly be a Re-Union without Lew Thompson as I just cannot remember one he has missed. One of these days Lew that face of yours will crack with your ever loving smile. Boy, how can anybody appear so happy as Lew.

"Robbie" Rowan-Robinson as always enjoyed himself. He is an-

other who seems to have discovered the secret of perpetual youth, especially as he is the father of practically grown up boys.

Arthur Marshall generally manages to make the Re-Union arriving just as everyone has given him up for dead or something. One of these days Marsh I'm going to turn on Jim Griffen at a Re-Union just for your enjoyment.

Saw Don Hudson briefly during the month as he was down from Carnarvon on leave. Thought he would be certainly at the Re-Union but something must have gone amiss. "Huddy" still with the P.M.G. line gang at Carnarvon.

Bert Berges dropped in to see me as he was in the city to pick up his lad who had just finished a term at New Norcia. Bert looked well and was quite complimentary regarding the Editorial on "Defence".

Alby Friend wishes me to inform all his mates that his lad is making an excellent recovery from his car accident and his doctor assures that it will be a 100 per cent recovery. That is wonderful news Alby and we are real pleased for everyone's sake.

Must say that one of the most pleasing things for me at the Re-Union was to see so many faces we either had not seen before or not for some time. A first up was Laurie Tapper and he says it will always do him and that we will see a lot more of him. Syd McKinley was there for the first time for a long while and he could easily turn into a regular now that his employment is not so demanding. Geo. Fletcher was having his first go at a Re-Union but he is now one of our regulars as far as monthly meetings are concerned so he was not so unexpected. Hope these chaps are just straws in the wind and that in the next few months or years we will see many more of the "mavericks" of the show.

## Heard This?

After two hours defensive infighting in a parked convertible Ginger managed to protest to her date, saying: "Do you know what good clean fun is?"

"Naw," he answered, reaching for her again. "What good is it?"

## Victorian Vocal Venturings

We had a very enjoyable evening on Friday, August 2, with Jack Denman who was over in Melbourne doing a school with Vacuum Oil Co. I did not know he was here until the last week of his stay and we quickly organised a night at the London. Those present were: Bert Dowsett, Bert Tobin, Johnny Roberts, Jim Wall, Gerry O'Toole, George Kennedy, Alan Munro, Geoff Laidlaw, Gerry McKenzie, Dave Dexter and self. It was good to see Jack again and he was looking particularly fit. Dex was taking Jack home for dinner. We had apologies from Bruce McLaren who was off to Sydney and Pete Krause who was in Sydney and both expressed their sorrow at not being able to meet Jack.

Self and family went up to Poo-

wong last Sunday to visit Ken and Margaret Monk and to see their pride and joy in the shape of a brand new home on their property. They have had to rough it a few months while their place was being built as the old home had to come down first and the new one built on the same site, but it has been well worth the discomfort as the home is very nice and in fact we had the honour of being the first to eat in the new kitchen. All Ken has to do now is earn enough to pay for it. The Monk family are all well and looking forward to a good season.

News is very scarce at the present so I'll sign off now and hope for better results next month.

Until then, cheers.

—HARRY BOTTERILL

## Random Harvest

**PETER BARDEN, of 6GN, Box 310 Geraldton, W.A., writes:—**

First of all, let me heartily congratulate you on yet another excellent Editorial on "Australia's Defence" (I should say, lack of defence). At last night's R.S.L. meeting we once again discussed the very same subject and many of us were shocked to hear from our President, who was a delegate to the recent State Congress, that the Chief of the General Staff did not think there was a need to worry about preparations for defence within Australia itself. Surely if we have a decent defence system, including National Service Training, then it will make any planning "bully" think twice before casting his eyes towards us. If there was ever a time when adherence to the R.S.L. motto of "Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty" was needed on an Australia-wide level, it is NOW! We were just as amazed to hear from our R.S.L. Sub-Branch President, Bill Cunningham (Nip's brother) and other Congress delegates that the Chief of the General Staff did not think there was any need for Civil Defence organisations. Geraldton has a Branch of the State

Civil Emergency Service and I consider that it is setting a splendid example, because anyone with common sense would realise the value of such an organisation in case of a civil emergency or in time of war.

I would like to thank the Association for the confidence it has placed in me by re-electing me to the country Vice-Presidency for the northern area and hope I can continue to give the 2/2nd Commando Association the recognition it deserves by mentioning it and its members at every opportunity.

I would also like to take this opportunity of congratulating all office bearers on their excellent work, with particular reference to "Mr. Editor".

Jack Carey advised me of the decision to hold a Convention at Geraldton on the long weekend of November 9-11, but I have not taken any action in this connection because he said not to do anything until I heard further from him. In the meantime, it would be appreciated if you would have a brief news item typed out for me, which I would arrange to be given publicity locally, just before the Geraldton Convention. Fur-

thermore, I have in mind an approach to the Town Council, for a small reception to the Convention visitors, and in this regard a brief item about the 2/2nd Squadron would enlighten our civic fathers prior to any such reception.

Geraldton has been in the news again, with the discovery of a wreck at the Abrolhos Islands which it's practically certain is that of the Dutch trading ship "Batavia", which crashed to its doom on June 4, 1629. I was fortunate in being able to obtain a "scoop" as far as the discovery of the wreck was concerned, and, in fact, worked in with the discoverers and kept the news quiet until almost a week later, in the knowledge that if I co-operated in this manner I would get a "scoop". Relics recovered from the wreck and a nearby island, including coins, pottery, huge cannons (all well preserved despite their age of more than three centuries), will be on display during our Sunshine Festival from August 24 to Sept. 1, so if any of you are able to make Geraldton for the Festival there will be plenty of interesting items to see. The idea is to later establish at Geraldton the first maritime museum in W.A.

Football umpires are certainly in the news, and Geraldton is not dragging its feet in this regard. Last Sunday my team, Brigades, got defeated by Rovers, and as the umpire left the field there was a big demonstration and he was hit on the head and back by stones thrown from the grandstand by children. He had to be given police protection and for a period was locked in the secretary's office to keep the irate crowd away from him. Personally, I do not believe in demonstrations of this nature, and I am sure that many players of today deserve the so-called "victimisation" they receive from the umpire, because they make the man and not the ball their objective.

Well, I must be away for now, so kind regards to all the boys.

**JIM FENWICK, of 35 Picnic Point Rd., Panania, N.S.W., writes:—**  
Herewith butts and a bit over to cover cost of same.

Sorry for delay but wife has been in hospital. Nothing serious as we now have another daughter,

Ruth Mary. That makes two boys and two girls so we are doing well.

I have been speaking to Harold Newton on the phone but have not sighted him as yet. I see Tom Tierney frequently as we often catch the same train of a morning.

Well, away I go as I want to catch the mail. Regards to all over there.

**J. BRAND, of Ogilvie, W.A., writes**

Please find money for tickets, my fees and anything over to the Association.

I see all the boys have got motor boats up this way. It is the only way to get around the farm these days. In fact I heard that Big Bill had to get a helicopter to rescue his sheep dog which had got bogged chasing his sheep.

Good luck to all.

**W. HISLOP, of Dwellingup Community Hotel, Ltd., Dwellingup, W.A., writes:—**

Please find enclosed money for tickets and the remainder to do as the Committee sees fit.

It is a long time since I dropped a line and I would like you to wish all the boys the best for me.

Good luck in the coming sweep and a lot of success to the Christmas Tree.

**R. JOHNSON, of Box 7, Koorda, W.A., writes: —**

Enclosed butt of tickets and a cheque for same and also the names and ages of my children which I have been going to send for a long while.

It looks as if it is going to dry up around this part of the globe now and about time. I have had getting bogged each time I move.

Hoping you are all happy and well, so say cheerio for now.

**FRED OTWAY, of 98 Wecker Rd., Queensland, writes:—**

It's a long while since I wrote, but better late than never.

I was interested to read of Don Turton's find of a wild shrub which was taken into Pingelly. Pingelly, originally known as Pinger's Gully, the place where I was born. I had quite a joke with Peter and Pongos about the cosmos hmm.

Sorry to hear of Ajax Harrison's death. It was never long before Ajax had everyone laughing, but time caught up with him, as I read

also of Jim Corney and Frank Freestone.

The figures given out as to the mailing list brings to mind how the composition of the Unit changed. The original Section of "A" Troop was all W.A. except Dave Dexter.

I see Angus Maclachlan and Eddie Timms quite often. Saw Kel Carthew recently and Freddie Bryant, whom I hadn't seen for 20 years. Poor old Doc Wheatley has got the same treatment as me—too much water. The trees went to growth, I think, hence too little honey, something beekeepers can not control. However I am only part time and will keep on trying.

After seven years in Brisbane it should not be long before we have the water and sewerage on. A big thing for us at the moment our tanks are nearly empty through a dry spell, this despite all the earlier rain. If it doesn't rain soon we will be carrying water from the creek.

I hear there will be two oil refineries going up in Brisbane and I hope that a few more factories will be attracted to the State, because of the oil. I have three and a half acres of industrial land, just waiting for it to grow.

Good luck to Col Criddle in the parachute revival. I've got some photos of the ex-2/2nd para boys. We are all there Crid, but I have no negatives, sorry.

Not long ago I painted a house and the tenant was a chap from New Guinea. He knew Frank Tom masetti, but not that well. I can't think of his name now. There is a chap at work whose son is in New Guinea. He tells me Goroka is a sort of holiday place. How the place must have changed.

I hope to get Geoffrey apprenticed as an electrical fitter mechanic next year. The big plan is to do a diploma course and then perhaps a year at the Uni, then emerge as an electrical engineer. Anyway such a plan starts off as an apprentice.

Hope this makes your job a little easier. Am enclosing butts for the sweep.

**P. ALEXANDER, of 48 York St., Boulder, W.A., writes:—**

Returning sweep butts and money, also subs. There's not much to write about from Kalgoorlie.

Met up with Steve Rodgers a couple of times also Eric Thornander. Can that man talk? Finished up selling me a new fridge.

Hope to be holidaying in Perth again at Christmas. Best wishes to Keith Hayes, Merv Ryan and Arch Campbell, also Ron Dook. How about dropping in and having a look at the old town the next time you are over, Ron? The Hannans is just as good as ever. We wouldn't be able to have a night out at the "Westy"—she's closed down.

Shirl and I both enjoyed the night out at bowls. Tell the Calcutt he had better watch out the next time we meet on the rink. I have been getting in a bit of practice.

**P. CAMPBELL, of Gibson, writes:**

Enclosed butts for sweep and subs., etc., for year 1963.

Enjoyed ourselves very much at the last meeting. The friends I took along were very much in praise of the whole Association as a whole and want to thank all for a nice evening.

We are going through a very dry time down here. Missed out on rain all the time so far, well below average. All the crops look well but feed short.

Hope to see you at the Kalgoorlie Cup.

Regards to all.

**BOB PALMER, of Cowaramup, W.A., writes:—**

Just a few lines with the sweep butts. The extra on the cheque can go to subs or what you like if subs are up to date.

Sorry I will not be able to make the dinner this year again. Hope it is very successful which I have no doubt it will be.

As you will probably be snowed under with letters just now I will end.

**E. H. CRAGHILL, of 169 Vincent St., Nth. Perth, W.A., writes:—**

Please find enclosed money for the tickets.

**F. P. CUNNINGHAM, 132 Augustus St., Geraldton, W.A., writes:**

I am enclosing a money order with sweep butts, wishing the Association every success with same.

Bill Drage and Joe Brand came to Geraldton with the Northamp-

ton R.S.L. to form a guard of honour for the Royal Visit. After the parade was finished we adjourned to the Mercantile Club where we had quite a natter and consumed several lagers. Brus Fagg had intended being with us but unfortunately had to go to hospital a couple of days before. Gordon Barnes again spent his annual holidays here and on several occasions twisted my arm severely which was an immense pleasure with such an old stalwart. A friend of mine reported seeing Jack Spencer still working at Wim Creek a couple of days ago.

**GEORGE SHIELDS, of Bowen, Queensland, writes:—**

At long last I have finally got around to this much delayed letter. As you have probably heard from Spriggy I managed to arrive home safely and since then have been trying to get these small crops of mine going. The prices have been really good lately (up to 40/- per  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel) but unfortunately my main crop will be in September, October and November and all I have sent so far is about 1,500 cases. However I still have 18,000 bushes to pick plus cucumbers, rock melons, capsicans, pumpkins and mangoes, so something will come good. The old farm looks like a farm now with all the green bushes in different stages of growth and we are having rain at the moment which we could well do without. We have good supplies of underground water about 40 feet down and prefer the dry weather as we can control the flow much better. I have three two inch pumps in this farm which are at an average depth of 35 feet. I have three inch spears down 35 feet with up to 20ft. to 22ft. of water in the pipe so have no trouble obtaining water as required. I am gradually changing over to all electric motors on the pump which are much easier to start. During the driest years these pumps can still throw their 6,000 gallons per hour each day and night if required so I really have no problems as regards water.

I hope to market at least 12,000 cases of tomatoes for the season, plus about 3,000 cases cucumbers and rockmelons so during the next three months I hope to be really mobile and should reach my peak

of 1,500 cases a week about the end of September. At present the Bowen growers are gradually heading towards their peaks and the output should grow from the present 20,000 cases weekly to 60 or 65 thousand cases weekly. We only hope everyone in the southern cities are hungry for tomatoes. However the future as usual with agriculture, is problematical as weather can change the outlook within 48 hours. This rain, if it continues for three or four days at the rate of fall, could mean cactus to portion of the crops so we don't want too much. I see by the papers and letters written in by the chaps over your way that you have had a good doing over by the old rain.

I must take this rather belated opportunity of thanking you and all the chaps in the West for the very grand time you gave me during my stay in your State. I cannot really express in words how much I appreciated it but can assure you that it will live for ever with me as one of my most pleasant memories. It was great to meet so many of the old Unit and to see the work carried out by the Association, especially in Kings Park, and the whole show is a credit to the hard work of your Committee and organisation. Thanks once again, Col and chaps, and any time any of you have the opportunity of coming to Bowen, Qld., I would be greatly disappointed if you did not contact me and give me a chance to partly return the favours received while in your city. I did have the pleasure of enjoying a few beers with Dick Crossing and his wife while he was travelling around. I was pleased to see him looking so well and believe he also spent some time with Alan Soper and Bulla Tait on his way further north. I don't want to be deprived of the pleasure of your company and a few beers, so don't forget to call.

I am including sweep butts with cheque for same, also a bit toward the funds and hope you are successful in raising the do ray me for the Kings Park area.

Give my congratulations to the incoming Committee on their appointments and also to the outgoing ones on a job well done.

Tell Spriggy I'll drop him a line before Christmas I hope.



Well, I'll close this for now and write a good long letter on tomato growing in Bowen and more news as soon as I get around to paper and pen again.

**RAY COLE, of Box 38, Belmont, N.S.W., writes:—**

Thanks again for the opportunity to say hello and pass up my small offering to the funds. Butts and cheque are enclosed.

Kindly pass on my kindest regards to Gego, Buro and Archo.

**GEORGE GREENHALGH, of Post Office, Mungindi, writes:—**

It is considered bad form to write personal letters on the typewriter, but it's a bloody sight easier for you to read I can assure you.

I offer my apologies for not replying to your letter of May 20, but I am a born procrastinator. My wife says a lazy bugger too. However, many thanks for the Shell book on wildflowers which I can assure you is muchly appreciated. I cannot think of a nicer memento of my trip over to your State. Quite frankly if you had nothing else to offer a trip West would be worth it to see those glorious flowers alone.

Added to our trip of course the fact that I realised a dream of almost 20 years in seeing all the old mates again made everything perfect. It often happens that anticipation is let down by realisation, but in this case such was not the case and I feel sorry for those who were unable to make it for the Games and the get togethers we had. I certainly will get over to the West again some day and it will not be a delay of 20 years between visits.

I did tell you previously that I had a perfect trip home without any holdups at all. No punctures there and back so was rather interested when I read Max's report of a couple of blowouts. Probably the result of travelling in those Valiants. Too many herbs, man.

As you can see above am still in the same old place. I intend trying for a transfer to the coast when a suitable place becomes vacant. Perhaps when I do I will see more of the old gang as I am at present quite out of the way with Blue Jones and Angus Evans my nearest neighbours and both of

them about 120 miles away. Have not seen either since returning but no doubt will before long. Will pass on your regards when I do.

Am enclosing sweep butts and wish you well for a financial success. Kind regards and please remember me to all the boys.

**JIM DENT, of Wirrinya, N.S.W., writes:—**

Enclosed butts and cheque, including subs. Haven't much time to write but can see by the "Courier" that the firm seems to be operating with success in most quarters as leaves us fit and well here.

**JIM SMAILES, of Roleystone, W.A. writes:—**

Enclosed is check covering books of tickets and balance for funds generally wherever needed.

Have sold the Williams business and bought a house in Roleystone for a while. Am going into Hollywood on July 3 for a few weeks, then to Malaya on a consulting job.

Will see you around. Regards to all.

**SYDNEY DUBBER, of 67 McEvoy St., Waterloo, N.S.W., writes:—**

Please find enclosed sweepstake tickets. Hoping to hear from you soon.

## *Heard This?*

### SMART GUY

The applicant for a job as maid was being interviewed by the agent and was asked if she had any preferences as to the kind of family she would like to work for.

"Any kind," she said, "except highbrows. I worked for a pair of them once and never again. Him and her was fighting all the time and it kept me running back and forth from the keyhole to the dictionary till I was worn to a frazzle."

\* \* \*

### NOISY

She: "Stop it. Now stop it I said. Stop! Stop!"

He: "Shut up, or I will!"

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### Write to Your Editor:

Col. Doig,  
Box T1646,  
G.P.O., Perth.



***Remember These . . .***

**TUESDAY**

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3  
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT

B.P. FILM ON COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN COLOUR

**BRING THE WIFE — AND A GUEST**

**MONSTER**

**WORKING BEE  
KINGS PARK**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

**COMMANDO CABARET**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1  
COTTESLOE SURF CLUB PAVILION

**NOVEMBER MEETING**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

**Geraldton Convention**

WEEKEND — NOVEMBER 9 - 11

**Children's Christmas Party**

DECEMBER — AT A DATE TO BE ARRANGED