



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

RE-UNION!

Any form of re-union between members is an outstanding occasion whether it be two or three members in the local hostelry or a big crowd at a specially arranged function.

Members in W.A. are given the opportunity yearly to get together and enjoy one another's company in excellent surroundings. The big function takes place this year at Anzac House Basement on Saturday, Sept. 27.

This get together is timed to coincide with the Aussie Rules Grand Final which is held on the same day. This arrangement allows country folk to come to town and enjoy a double benefit of the footy match and the Re-Union Dinner. These events in the past have been well attended by country members but there seems to be a big fall down in city members. This is very hard to understand as the average city member now has little in the way of commitments to keep him from such a show and has to make the minimum of effort to be present. Surely it is not asking too much of the metropolitan lads to make a supreme effort to attend this one function per annum.

This year we will have the added pleasure of meeting Nicolau Gonslaves, one of our creators from Timor, who is in W.A. as the guest of the Association and in particular of Ray Aitken and Norm Thornton. We have already had a great

night out with Nicolau as his arrival in Perth coincided with a visit to our city by John Southwell from Victoria.

We were able to get together with these two at Anzac Club and prove once again what a wonderful thing re-union really is.

Also had a re-union of another nature with Frank (Curly) and Betty O'Neil who are returning to Sydney after a three year stint in England. Thanks to Norma Crossing who met the couple at Fremantle and brought them to your Editor's place of abode a wonderful and precious hour was spent only going to show the value of re-union.

As your Editor and probably because I am centrally placed I have the wonderful pleasure of meeting many of the gang over the year and each of these meetings is in the nature of a re-union and I always feel elated and uplifted by meeting members of the Association and talking over old times and current affairs.

The point of re-union is being belaboured to try and prove to the tardy that if they make an effort to get together with their mates they will receive ample reward in the way of uplifting.

Saturday, Sept. 27, is your chance to make a start on re-union and we hope that you get the message and make a supreme effort to be with the gang.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

FILM NIGHT SATURDAY, AUG. 23

This evening to show films and slides taken on the Timor trip was held at South Perth R.S.L. Hall, and proved to be a wonderful evening. The attendance exceeded our wildest expectations. People from all corners of the State arrived with their wives and quite a few brought their children. It gave Len Bagley who was mainly responsible for the arrangements, a wonderful morale boost to get such an attendance.

Mal Herbert and Jack Fowler showed their movie coverage firstly and these proved to be well above ordinary amateur standards. Then slides taken by Harry Sproxtion, Don Turton, Reg Harrington, Lou Thompson, Bob Smyth and others, were shown until time caught up and there still remained many that could have been shown.

The standard was amazingly high and was commented on most favourably by all present.

Supper and refreshments were provided and these again were much appreciated.

Among those present were: Ray and Muriel Aitken, Len and Dot Bagley, Tony and Carole Bowers, Jack Cary, Rod and Doris Dhu, Col Doig, Bill and Jess Epps, Geo. Fletcher, Jack and Jean Fowler, Fred Gardiner and wife, Dick Geere, Fred Griffiths and wife, Percy Hancock, Reg and Dot Harrington, Jack and Norma Hasson, Keith and Val Hayes, Peter Alexander and wife, Alf and Jean Hillman, Harry and Maisie Holder, Gordon Holmes, Slim and Katie James, Ron and Gwenda Kirkwood, Gerry Maley,

Sprig and Betty McDonald, Mick and Jean Morgan, Fred and Glad Napier, Bob Palmer and Wife, Ray Parry, Jac kPenglase and wife, Joe and Helen Poynton, Dave and Ivy Ritchie Steve Rogers and wife, Dave Ross, Harold Rowan Robinson and wife, Dulcie Ryan, Arthur and Beryl Smith, Harry and Thelma Sproxtion, Geo. and Coleen Strickland, Geoff and Pam Swann, Lou Thompson and wife, Norm Thornton, Clarrie and Grace Turner, Don Turton, Clarrie Varian, and a heap of other visitors too numerous to catch the eye of your scribe.

This was truly a remarkable evening and probably one of the best ever conducted by the Association.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The usual monthly meeting was held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, Sept. 2. It was decided to hold a carpet bowls pairs competition and this proved to be most popular. I don't think anybody worked out who won the event but everyone had a nice surfeit of bowls.

During the evening President Bill Epps took the opportunity of presenting this year's Life Member, Ken Bowden, with his badge.

It was nice to see Bernie (Boomer) Giles present and enjoying himself. He was down from Goldsworthy on a brief holiday. He is a building supervisor in that fast growing town in the north west among the iron ore.

RE-UNION WITH JOHN SOUTHWELL

John Southwell who was President of the Victorian Branch during the Great Safari, was in W.A. on a business trip and thanks to Bill Epps we were able to get together

ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER:

SATURDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT

MAKE THIS A MUST!

with him at Anzac Club on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

John is an engineer with Humes Ltd., and was over in the West looking over the various establishments.

We were also lucky that his visit coincided with the visit of Nicoleau Gonslaves to W.A. As a matter of fact they travelled from Adelaide on the same aircraft. Ray Aitken brought Nicoleau along to the meeting with John.

Among those there to say welcome were Joe Poynton, Harry Sproxtion, Jack Carey, Bill Epps, Mick Holland, Col Doig, Ron Kirkwood, Ray Aitken, Len Bagley and Jack Hasson.

It was most pleasing to sit down and enjoy a few beers and talk over all sorts of subjects with John who looks fit and young.

ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER

As stated in the Editorial this function will take place on Saturday, Sept. 27, at Anzac House Basement. We can give you a written guarantee that this will be a good night. The catering should be excellent if the supper provided by the same people at the film night is any indication.

Make a point of being there even if it is your first occasion.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

As usual this will be held in our area in Kings Park on the Sunday following the Dinner (Sept. 28). You are requested to make every endeavour to make this service and pay your annual homage to our fallen comrades. These services have received excellent patronage in the past and we hope this will be no exception.

The service will start at 2.45 p.m. prompt.

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Committee Comment

Your Committee met on Aug. 19, at Anzac Club and an excellent attendance was appreciated by the President. The major business of the evening was the final arrangements for the film night and pre-arrangements for the Annual Dinner.

It was also decided that it was essential to give our finances a boost and a special raffle was arranged. Members will be further advised of this in the near future.

Clarrie Varian was requested to obtain a quote for a bus if it was decided this year to have a day out for Sister Kate's Orphanage. This will probably take place on Oct. 26 if it can be fitted into our rather tight schedule.

Geo Fletcher advised that Kings Park boards had been taken down for repair and that he and Mick Holland would see to their eventual reconditioning.

Heard This?

At her engagement party, Ruthie approached her Uncle Jackson and asked: "Do you think Benson will still love me after we're married?" "Of course he will," Jackson assured her. "Benson has always been crazy about married women."

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COMMEMORATION SERVICE:

KINGS PARK AREA
SUNDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER, at 2.45 p.m. sharp

You Are Duty Bound To Come To This

Personalities

As advised in earlier copy Nico-leau Gonslaves is in W.A. as the guest of Ray Aitken and Norm Thornton. He looks in wonderful nick and to date has enjoyed every moment of his stay. Later he will see the Royal Show and go down to Denmark to Norm Thornton, also Don Turton wishes to show him around his area. We feel nothing but good can come from such a visit. Nick was feted at Darwin on his way through by the local R.S.L. who gave him a membership badge of their local Club. Although the local press turned up at our function with John Southwell and Nicoleau and took photos, etc., nothing came of it and as usual we were treated with great heaps of ignore in W.A. whereas the Melbourne and Sydney press has had news items on the visit. Just as well we have the "Courier" or we wouldn't know we were alive.

Bernie Giles in town for a short visit and looking real well. He is a building supervisor with Jaxon Constructions at Mt. Goldsworthy and says there is a ton of work going on in that area.

Eric Smyth and Twy have gone on a boat trip to Darwin and from there they will be going over to Timor for a week and later returning via the centre to Adelaide and back to Perth. We know they will have a wonderful trip.

It was truly wonderful to see Frank (Curly) O'Neil and wife Betty, the other morning. Thanks to Norma Crossing who met the boat (Anglura Lauro) and conveyed them to my menage I was able to have a chat for about an hour prior to their return to the ship for the trip back to Sydney. Curly and Betty both look extra well and the sojourn in London appears to have agreed with them although Betty says no more U.K. for her. They caught me at a distinct disadvantage as I had been out the previous night and had only hunted Jack and Norma Hasson and Ping and Marg Anderson home at 5.30 a.m. in the morning and to be awakened at 7.30 a.m. by the intrusion of Curly, Betty and Norma

into my bedchamber was a most terrifying experience, especially after imbibing so freely. Visions of the D.T's. were uppermost in my mind. After shaking off the grog fog was able to bring Curly up to date on quite a few of the gang and enlighten him regarding the Timor Trip. Thanks for calling in Curly and Betty, it lled my day up to the full.

Marvellous to see so many country folk in town for the Film Night. Most appeared to be in good spirits despite the drought and most said things were not too bad in their areas. Was lucky the previous night to get together with Geoff and Pam Swann and have a few beers and a feed and talk.

Harry Sproxtton went to Kalgoorlie during the August school holidays and took his slides with him and was able to show them to the Kalgoorlie boys and he said they had a wonderful night at Tony Davidson's place and Jack Sheehan really lapped up all the slides.

Nice to see Ken Bowden at the last meeting after quite an absence. Still wrapped up in the yatching business and will be sailing his Flying 15 again this year.

The film evening also dragged Fred Griffiths out of his cocoon and he and his lovely wife had a wonderful time. Let's see a bit more of the handsome visage Fred.

Jerry Maley has finally given up service station life. He found as the years rolled by that the legs were starting to object. Jerry is now with John Court Motors handling quality new and used cars and he would appreciate a recommendation from you to any acquaintance who is seeking a good car. You can get in touch with Jerry at home 49 4530 or at work 61 5422, 74 Canning Highway, Victoria Park.

An old and valued friend of the Association passed away during the month in the person of Mr. Arthur Calcutt Snr. Mr. Calcutt, father of Mick, was in his 94th year. He it was who donated the Mick Calcutt Memorial Trophy for perpetual sport ing competition within the W.A. Branch. He had enjoyed remarkable

health up until five weeks of his death and had played competitive bowls until a few years ago. A fine old gentleman has passed to a higher service.

Rip McMahon still enjoying the fleshpots of the city and giving the T.A.B. a hiding (winning too).

Steve Rogers has also moved to the city and will shortly be taking up duties as Bakery Requisites Manager for Henry Berry & Co.

Mick and Jean Holland have opened a Gift Shop and Paint Centre at Victoria Park and Mick says they are doing very well.

FIESTA GIFT SHOP OPENS (Extract from "Victoria Park Post")

Interesting and inexpensive gifts for all the family with a special

Random Harvest

JOHN SOUTHWELL, of 2 Terry Street, Balwyn, Vic., writes:—

I have often heard of the hospitality of the West—now I know that it has to be experienced, before that expression can take on its true meaning.

I have had a wonderful week. From the time I was met at the airport—and what a happy coincidence to find Ray Aitken there to meet Nicoleau from Timor—to a very pleasant evening with Harry and Thelma Sproxtton and their children, including meeting Jack and Norma Hasson and Len and Dot Bagley, and seeing the very interesting slides of the Timor Memorial opening ceremony, all on that Saturday, to the time a week later when Jess Epps and a neighbour unexpectedly arrived at the airport to farewell me, I felt as if I was on a holiday amongst old friends.

It's only now when I begin to review my notes preparatory to writing my report on the visit, that I realize I was worknig also—in fact killing two birds with one stone and enjoying both.

Sunday was a day to remember. Being driven around Perth and suburbs, and then our slow drive up and back along our memorable avenue in Kings Park certainly brought

range for teenagers are available at a new shop opposite the Victoria Park Hotel.

A toy corner is a treasure trove for children and there are gifts for that very special occasion with greeting cards and attractive wrapping papers to enhance the gift.

Another feature is a wide range of wallpapers and paints and this is the special province of Mr. Michael Holland, a member of the Master Painters' Association.

Mr. Holland is well qualified to help with your decorating problems and time and money will be saved if you seek expert advice.

The shop's colour consultant will give free quotes and advice for your individual colour scheme whether you are the handyman or if you prefer to have an expert paint and paper your home.

back memories of long ago. It was a moving experience to see this for the first time.

Sunday dinner at Arthur and Beryl Smiths, including a demonstration of Arthur's waterworks—then back along the beaches to your home and tea. Yes, a day to remember.

It appears I did some work on Monday and Tuesday, then on Tuesday night 12 of us, including Nicoleau, resplendent in a new suit, enjoyed a get together at Anzac House, when many tales were told, none better than by Col Doig—I'll laugh every time I see a pumpkin!

What's more I even survived a night out afterwards with Dutchy Holland—who certainly knows his way about town.

Next day I had lunch with Dutchy and Jean, and they insisted that I have one of their cars for the remainder of my visit—what mates!

Returning the car on Friday morning I saw Dutchy and Jean's new Gift Shop and in driving me to the factory Dutchy insisted detouring "slightly" so that I should see the wildflowers and views at Kalamunda and Lesmurdie. What country, and I'm glad I saw a bit of it.

Well, I really knew I was home this morning. After a week of sun—I actually bought a pair of sun-

glasses in Perth—I'm mowing the lawn this morning, when I get caught in heavy rain and hail—no kidding!

Many thanks for arranging for me to see so much and meet so many old mates at such short notice. If one incident more than any other typifies the lasting spirit of the 2/2nd, it was the look of wonder and joy on Nicoleau's face when he was introduced to Ray Aitken's handsome son.

Best wishes and I hope you will come over here again and see Melbourne when it's not all burnt up by drought.

PETER MANTLE, of P.O. Box 120, Biloela, Queensland, writes:—

I'll soon have a licence to grumble, with a massive transfusion from the bank, and selling a pile of unearned income scrip, we are buying a farming property about 12 miles from where we live.

We'll still carry on our little newspaper, but as time goes by we'll develop this 984 acre block through contractors and perhaps do a bit of work there ourselves on the weekends. Not quite a gentleman-farmer: perhaps just a gent-farmer.

You probably know that brigalow country has its merits, but whereas you push over a decent W.A. jarrah tree and it stays pushed, this darned brigalow (which is a legume incidentally) keeps sending up suckers. It's down but it won't stay dead. You have to deep plough to bash the suckers. And next year you deep plough again. And the year after. In between whiles you may get a crop of sorghum or something. But turn your head away too long and you're back to square one with suckers up 20ft. just sneering at you.

This is what has happened to this particular block. Only 60 acres of it is virgin: most of the rest is . . . by regrowth which needs the clearing process all over again. And about 300 acres has been deep-ploughed and could take seed if there were rain.

But this district is in its 13th year of virtual drought. In fact there hasn't been a good wet season since the first Christmas we came here. We have, for instance, just missed a planting season for lack of rain—next in January if our Christmas stockings become rain gauges.

I realise that I'm flat ignorant on farming/grazing, and am seeking advice all over the place, and reading up on brigalow control and similar fascinating subjects. But it's interesting.

My chief mentor is the chap I'm buying it from. And he keeps saying that there's no great hurry, etc., in farming. This is such a contrast to the newspaper business where you simply MUST bring out a paper on Thursday morning every Thursday come hell or high water, ample news or scanty, ads or no ads—that I'm quite looking forward to the co-adventure of farming.

After three years of cultivation on Brigalow-cleared land you can think about grassing and running cattle. So then I'll go in for selling yearlings (and I only found out this morning what a yearling was) and wear a big hat and say why doesn't the Government . . .

MRS. INA KEST, of 111 McKenzie St., Wembley, 6014, writes:—

Sid and I very much regretted having to miss the film evening (Timor feature), owing to previous plans. We journeyed to Mt. Barker for the weekend.

At your Commemoration Service in 1968 I was made very welcome, and at that event I took the enclosed slides. Maybe some of your loyal members can recognise themselves. Please accept the slides with my best wishes.

JOHN P. KENNEALLY, 28 Willins St., Yagoona, 2199, writes:—

I read in a Sydney paper yesterday (23/8/69) that Nicoleau Gonsalves was coming to Australia on Sept. 5 on a sixweeks tour. Is he visiting all States? If so I put in right now for his stay in Sydney. He's my guest. Nicoleau I will remember. He was only a boy when he was Norm Thornton's creado but he was an exceptional boy. We'd never be able to repay the boys like Nicoleau who stayed with us in those days 27 years ago.

Kevin Curran arrived in Sydney today on his way back from a cruise to Fiji. He wouldn't find the weather much different from there, moisture wise that is. It's been raining here since last Thursday. Anyway we will be entertaining Kevin and his wife at the St.

George Leagues Club tomorrow night.

Speaking of St. George, it's only a shadow of the team it was. It made the semis. I reckon it will bow out next week when it plays Manly in the semi final. Not that Manly is anything to write home about, one week playing like champions and then following up with a Z grade performance.

Sth. Sydney is the team, chock-a-block full of speed, and ability in the backs, with a goal kicking mach-

ine playing full back. Eric Simms, he broke Dave Bruins points scoring record which has stood for 34 or 35 years. Sth's forwards are a fast, tough crowd. If they lose the premiership the bridge is likely to sprout wings and fly. I can hear Mick Devlin chortling from here.

Our general meeting will be on 1/9/69. You should have plenty of correspondence after it and much more news concerning N.S.W. Branch. So I'll toddle off to the cot, it's damned late, and I must be up early.

Historically Yours

CDO. NEW BRITAIN

As an addition to Historically Yours, and with thanks to Bob Palmer, we are reprinting the following extracts from "CDO. New Britain" with the hope that they rekindle a few memories for those who served in New Britain

4th ANNIVERSARY

COMMISSIONED

It is not wise to live too much in the past. While there is yet work to be done, it is dangerous to regard with complacent satisfaction the achievements of past years. However, on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of our Unit's formation, I think it is fitting that we should pause for a moment to look back over these past four years and consider, with pride, a job so far well done.

These last four years have not been easy ones for the Unit. We have had our share of trials and tribulations, we have suffered some grievous losses and disappointments, we have experienced the hazards and dangers of war.

We have seen our Unit, bereft of all aid and support from outside sources, stand alone in splendid isolation before the advancing enemy hordes, and for ten long weary months, bloody but unbowed, fight back magnificently against overwhelming odds and refuse to admit defeat.

We have seen our Unit develop through the years into an efficient and hard hitting team of fighting

men. In the grim, lonely hills of Timor, in the fever ridden jungles and precipitous mountains of New Guinea and on the parade grounds of Australia, we have built up, through the years a worthy tradition of indomitable courage and fighting spirit. By our united efforts, by our own toil and sweat and blood, by our determination and self confidence in the face of adversity, we have written a proud and gallant battle record for the Unit.

This, then, is the background with which the Unit enters its fifth year of war, a background of which we may all be justly proud, a background that should inspire us with the thought, that what we have done in the past, we can do again in the future. Let us then look forward with confidence and courage to whatever fate may hold in store for us, determined that the Unit traditions built up during the last four years, will be reflected in the pattern of our future achievements.

By united effort we have achieved success in the past, by united effort we will assuredly achieve success in the future.

(More Next Issue)

ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER:

**SATURDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT**

MAKE THIS A MUST!

COMMEMORATION SERVICE:

**KINGS PARK AREA
SUNDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER, at 2.45 p.m. sharp**

You Are Duty Bound To Come To This

OCTOBER MEETING:

**TUESDAY, 7th OCTOBER
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT**

NOVEMBER MEETING:

**TUESDAY, 4th NOVEMBER
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT**

FINAL NIGHT OF CALCUTT MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR 1969

This is your big chance to win this coveted trophy

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL:

**HIGHWAY HOTEL, CLAREMONT
SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER**

What a beauty last year! Get swiftly on the ball for this year
