



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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EDITORIAL

"BEST WE FORGET?"

Now living in a world in which old ideals, established standards and tenets of accepted social patterns have been subjected to derisive onslaughts and eroding attacks, we might occasionally find some of the new emerging concepts enlightening; perhaps the growing disregard could portend a more rational approach here and there but not in all fields steadfastly, we must not be afraid to step boldly in the path of this "cultural revolution" when it is sweeping away a former public acceptance of its obligations to a sector of society. In this category ex-service men and women must be growing more conscious of the attempts now being aimed at the frustration of the effective working of the repatriation system, as intended by the legislators. Certainly at the moment, several responsible authorities are examining the system, its benefits, and we hope its shortcomings. In these enquiries, response from servicemen generally (the R.S.L.) has been apathetic but some must surely be apprehensive of the blatant attempts to parade before the public, aided and abetted by headlines in the press, these odd cases be they ever so isolated, were some self appointed expert screams the taxpayer is being robbed. In all forms of compensation, - worker's, motor third party, breach of promise and contract, invalidism on pension — marginal cases will occur, mistakes in all honesty will be made and awards which seem hard to justify, will be received. One must admit that here and there individuals have received

repatriation benefits which, on the surface, appear to be lucky, but many the deserving case, sometimes hopelessly disabled has gone uncompensated and untreated without any noticeable clamour. Chief amongst the detractors seem to be the young inexperienced doctors, unfamiliar with the stress of war and full case histories; unfortunately, their chant is taken up by vociferous young radicals wishing to glorify a new philosophy born of blissful ignorance of the motivations that activated service in Wars from South Africa to Vietnam. Whether we will be engaged in another conflict in our time, or our children's time is not known. What does matter is that the obligations of this nation to those it sends into service, volunteers and conscripts alike, must be maintained. We should not be afraid to persevere in the assistance of those of the earlier wars, now aged and ailing those of younger years with a harder than normal life ahead, or those (pray they be few) of conflicts yet to come, who may suffer disability.

The methods of acceptance and assessmen are established under an Act of the Parliament and administered by distinguished persons duly appointed under that Act. Should our national responsibility to the disabled, the widowed and the orphaned fall from the care of the appointed administrators to the whims of the critics, a cause has been lost. Unfortunately, in recent years the government has not seen the need to keep repatriation compensation payable

with former standards, though awards in other fields continue to soar. If monetary compensation is to wither on the vine, it is not to say that general care should wane.

Moreover, we must strive to avoid the pitilessly unfair position where some ex-service man or woman, who until now has worn his or her disability until aggravation and age have caused a breakdown, should be de-

terred or discouraged from claiming lawful rights for fear of belittlement under the growing climate of rejection. Therefore, as members of this association, of the community, we must decide whether we are prepared to join forces to uphold and defend a just repatriation system for this and future generations, or is it to be — "Best we forget."

— Allen Stewart

New South Wales News

With sorrow I give the news of the death of "Slim" Lionel Webster on November 1st, 1972. I had seen Slim, in Sutherland Hospital the previous Saturday. He looked extraordinarily well, and little changed from the days I first knew him, over thirty years ago. The doctors reports on his condition were excellent so good, in fact that they discharged him from hospital on Wednesday 1st Nov., 1972, yet seven hours later later he died, it may take nine months to be born, but death is unpredictable. "Slim" was a member of No. 1 section in Timor, and more than likely in New Guinea also, a quiet unassuming man, with a wry sense of humour, I always remember him as being too gentle in his ways and manner to be part of the hurly-burly business of war, yet he acquitted himself with credit in a unit thrown on its own resources completely from the word go, and yet he retained that quiet gentle manner right to the end. the representative gathering from Carringbah R.S.L. and the district he lived in, from all walks of life at his Requiem mass, bore testimony to the high regard in which he was held. Alan Luby and myself represented the Unit, to Mrs. Webster, her two sons, and daughter. In Luis we extend our deepest sympathy in the loss of a fine father, a husband, and first class man.

Alan Luby, Bill Bennett and Mick Devlin just returned from holiday on the North coast did there share of dodging floods and catching up on news from their friends in the north. Pleased to hear from Mick Devlin that his cattle has a beautiful cattle

property in the Kyogle district, Jim is keeping fine and is now reaping the rewards of years of toil on his property.

Sunday the 3rd from a climatic point of view was not among the best I've seen, it was however quiet enjoyable, for those of us who gathered at the Darge home for our Christmas Barb-B-Cue.

The roll up was only fair, considering all and sundry were notified well in advance about the event. Present were Alan, Ede, Maria Luby Allan, Mary and Greg Addison, Bill June Bennett, Bill, Coral, Graham Mark, Coker, Mick and Betty Devlin, Merv and Mary Jones, John and Mancee Donovan, Jim, Jean, Pauline English, Tom and Mildred Fields, Ron and Dorothy Tengrave, Paddy, Nora and Gerald Kenneally. Our only visitors, Don and Dulcie Lattimer, Don is Secretary of the N.S.W. branch of the Commando Association, attends all funeral services of members of all commando units including ours, we thought it about time Don managed to have a bit of fun with us, instead of sorrowfully sending us on our way on our last journey. I reckon he and Dulcie enjoyed the company and refreshments.

In Pauline English a small present from the Association, as a token of congratulation from us to a quiet courageous girl. Pauline received the encouragement award from Channel 7 this year in recognition of her outstanding record in swimming, despite difficulties and handicaps. Once again Pauline congratulations

and by the way Pauline you are still the most beautiful girl between here and the far, far west.

To all our members and friends anywhere, we in N.S.W. extend a

merry and contented christmas and may the New year be both healthy and happy from start to finish. Goodnight and gless you all.

Paddy Kenneally

Victorian Vocal Venturings

It has taken a pulled muscle in my leg to lay me up and get down to the business of news from this part of the world.

We had our Melbourne Cup Sweep drawing at George and Dot Robinson's place at Blackburn on Thursday, 2nd November. Present were Bert and Wilma Tobin, Ken and Margaret Monk, Johnny and Kath Roberts, Sep and Ronie Wilson, Goerge Veitch, Dave Brown, Bert Dowsett, Bill Taylor, (representing the Commando Association) Alen and Beryl Boast, John (Bluey) Southwell and Jim Robinson (who called in to put his tickets in on his way to Adelaide) and Harry and Olive Botterill.

It was a very enjoyable night and our thanks to George, Dot, family for letting us use their home for the second year running.

We received quite a few letters from various members when returning their butts. Alan Stewart from Canberra writes that he was down in Melbourne during Caulfield Cup time, was tempted to stay and see the cup but thinking of the taxpayers money (he is employed by the Govt.) he returned the night before. He ran into Tom Snowden in the markets and says Tom is not in the best of health and having a battle with the Repat — looked well at the time and can still smile and joke and the spirits up. He is looking forward to the proposed Safari to Tasmania and all being well will make it. Sends his regards to all in Victoria..

Peter Stafford (he was the weapons instructor at Northam) sent along a note apologising for not making it. Sends his regards to all the boys.

Rus Blanch from Bangalow (NSW) writes he had a surprise visit from Cliff Paff who he had not seen since unit days. Cliff filled him in

with a lot of news of various members. He extends an invitation to any who are travelling to the Gold Coast or ports up north to pop in and see him—he has his own business in the main street which the main highway to Brisbane and his name is in big letters above his business.

Neil Devlin of Epping (NSW) sends his regards to all.

Dick Adams and his brother Alan his regards to all.

Alf Rodgers of Whitlow NSW sends his regards and says he is behind with the rice-sowing—said arthritis has slowed him down to a walk.

Jim English of Peakhurst (NSW) sends regards to all.

Betty Craig on behalf of Keith and family gives a lot of news about their family—they are looking forward to the next Safari.

Cliff Paff writes that he has moved—cannot make out the correct spelling but looks like P.O. Box 16, Tuncurry NSW. 2428 (just look up post code book and this is correct) (has asked to please note change of address) he will be travelling around the Lismore area and sends his regards to all.

Max Davies from Horsham, Vic. writes he was terribly sorry to hear the sad news of Cam Rodd. Tommy Coyle and Jack Wood had a trip North with Steve and Pete in August and called in on Basher Adams and Happy Greenleigh and found them both pretty well. Also called in on Bruce and Loraine McLaren but unfortunately they were both out and the office girls don't know how long they would be and a short time was short he had to go but he is sorry to have missed them but better luck next time. He is looking forward to seeing us all next year.

Wal Wiggins of Geelong writes asking for more tickets which is sweet music, sends his regards to all and hopes to get down to Melbourne sometime between now and Xmas.

Ted Cholerton of Bookra Carcoar NSW sends his regards to all the lads.

Paddy Kenneally writes and sends his regards to all the boys—says Nora is back home and things are getting back to normal.

Jack Peatie of Tamworth NSW writes that he and May are playing a lot of tennis—says having had a taste of the Safari to the east and then going to the West, my mouth waters at the projected next one but the timing of it leaves me out time.

Ted Smash Hodgson sends his regards to all. Alan Luby writes that he looks forward to seeing us all in 74 and sends his regards to all Victorian members.

Fred Otway writes that he will be coming through Melbourne on the 20th Nov. on his way back from the West—but as the stop is only for 24 hours will be unable to see anybody, but he and his wife will be a starter for the Safari 74.

Bob Smith of Shortland NSW sends his regards to all Vic members.

Bruce McLaren of Buckingham motel, Surfers paradise says they are settling in as Moteliers after some hectic weeks of familiarising themselves with the new kind of life. Stuart, his eldest son was married last Saturday week 14th Oct. and starts work at the motel next week and it will ease the problem. Basher Adam's wife called in on them a few weeks ago. Sid Jones who came from Tassie—and quite a few members of the Commando Association have dropped in.

I had a letter from Mrs. Pat Symons, wife of Russ who died in Melbourne recently—she is anxious to try and contact Kel Carthew, a great mate of Russ's—she last knew of him in Canberra in the fire brigade, but has not replied to her letters—we also have not had any reply or tickets yet, so if anybody knows the address for Kel please Mr. Symons, 4 Baley Road, Campbelltown, NSW 2560.

I was in Tassie early Oct on business and called in on Mark Conway in Launceston, who is looking well and sends his regards to all hte boys—Also had dinner with Vic and Ess at their home in Lenek Both very well.

In September we had a bus load of members and wives and families to the Commemoration Service at the 'Cairn' at Tidal River which is held yearly at this time — it rained quite a bit—but the service was very well attended and the day very enjoyable.

Well I had better sign off or will not fit in the Courier. I take this opportunity to wish all a very Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

Committee Comment

The management committee has met on two occasions since the last "Courier" was issued. Business was devoted to cleaning up the Mammoth Raffle which showed a profit profit slightly in excess of \$3,000.

Having regard to the illness of Bill Epps quite a lot of time was spent on discussing the future of the "Courier" which Bill has carried on his back since its inception. Ways and means have been devised to carry this on as best we can.

Treasurer, Ron Kirkwood brought up the question of finance in general and it was decided that a sub committee be formed to go into the whole matter of handling our reserve of Funds. This to comprise of President Len Bagley, Treasurer Ron Kirkwood and Editor Col Doig.

At the December meeting, the question of the lawn mower was brought up and it was decided to empower Geo Fletcher to go into the question of either purchase of a new mower or quite large repairs to the old job. At the January meeting Geo Fletcher advised that along with the Secretary Jerry Maley he had arranged to purchase a new 'ING' mower for \$375 with a trade-in on the old mower of \$45 making the nett price \$330. This was approved by the Committee.

The Sub-Committee appointed to look into the 1974 Safari, reported

that they had been fortunate enough to meet up with Alec Boast, who is on the Victorian Committee and was in W.A. on holidays. The whole itinerary was discussed with Alec and he was put into the picture regarding requirements in Victoria.

The Treasurer was empowered to remit cheques to NSW and Victorian branches for their share of the Mammith Raffle proceeds.

PROPOSED 1974 SAFARI TO VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

The itinerary as proposed and pre-

The itinerary as proposed and printed in September, 1972 issue of the Courier has been approved.

Tentative bookings have been made with the W.A.G.R. for the return trip to Melbourne.

The committee would now like to hear from all persons who think they can make the trip although it is 12 months off will bring its problems of accommodation etc.

Here is a reprint of the itinerary.

Leave Perth by train: Friday, Feb. 22, 1974.

Arrive Melbourne: Monday, Feb. 25.

Depart by Air for Tasmania: Tuesday, Feb. 26.

Seven or eight day tour of Tasmania with a Re-union in either Launceston or Hobart as can be arranged. on Saturday, March 2.

Return to Melbourne on either Monday, March 4, or Tuesday, March 5.

Jollification of various types in Melbourne and depart Monday, March 11, arriving in Perth Thursday, March 14.

The period in Melbourne will cover the Moomba Festival for 1974 and will make for excellent entertainment.

Interstate travellers should have no trouble joining in Melbourne for Tassie trip and then staying on for the "Melbourne Season".

Currently the return 1st class rail fare Perth-Melbourne is \$147 per person. Eight day inclusive tour of Tasmania (this includes air transport both ways) is \$158 per person. Seven days in Melbourne at say \$10 per person bed and breakfast is \$70 per person—a total of \$375 per person from W.A.

Concession rail fares from Brisbane to Melbourne is \$76.90 reduced by 20 per cent for a group of over six persons, and from Sydney \$42.90 with a similar reduction for a group of over six.

From the above it will be seen that this will be quite an economical tour and fit snugly into a period of three weeks this being the usual annual leave available to most persons.

Please give this tour some thought and then advise if you will be able to make it and give any suggestions for improvement.

Personalities

As reported in our last issue Bill Epps had suffered a severe stroke and his condition at that time was critical. Since then Bill has made quite good progress and is now receiving maximum therapy at the Restoration Ward at Mt. Henry Hospital. It will be a long road back but we wish Bill all the possible recovery and hope that Jess has him home fit and well in the foreseeable future.

Fred Napier has returned from a trip to Newcastle, NSW to see his son. Fred looks well but says he is not all that wonderful after his minor stroke. He reported meeting up with Ray Cole at Newcastle and reports Ray being very well and sending his regards to all the gang in W.A..

Alec Boast and wife and son have been in W.A. for a holiday looking over some of his old haunts and meeting up with relatives he had not seen for years. Was able to get next to Alec and his wife on a couple of occasions and it was most enjoyable to have a good chin wag and hear of people and events in Melbourne.

Geo Robinson and wife also in W.A. from Victoria. Met up with them briefly on New Years Eve and had a couple of snorts and a talk.

I believe they did a trip down South and met up with [redacted] and Helen Poynton.

Large news for the [redacted] is that Jack Casey is now a married man. He and Delye Kain have last done the trick and we [redacted]

our sincere congratulations. They have a new home at Bateman which is occupying plenty of their time knocking it into shape. A welcome party was held at Dely's parents home at Melville Heights and it was a most enjoyable evening with the old 9 section figuring prominently. Good to see Tom Crouch down from Manjimup for the occasion.

See Alf Walsh quite frequently and he is slowly but surely recovering from a heart attack. Does not look at all well at present but says he can carry on alright.

The 'Courier' takes this opportunity of wishing all its readers the Ringmaster's Toast "Health, Wealth and Prosperity" in 1973.

Association Activities

December Meeting

Since the last "Courier" went to press the Association has held only one meeting and this was held at Anzac House Basement on December, 5th taking the form of a mixed Bowls Night. The occasion also was used to have Sid Calcutt present the Calcutt Trophy for 1972, to winner Geo Strickland. Unfortunately Geo could not attend, the trophy was accepted by his wife Colleen and her son. There was a really good attendance and those present thoroughly enjoyed

the roll up. These night are undoubtedly very popular with the gang.

Working Bee, Kings Park

A most successful working bee was held at Kings Park on Sunday, 21st January, 1973 when the area was fully fertilized, sprinklers overhauled and area cleaned up generally. Geo Fletcher demonstrated the newly purchased mower which is a real beauty. He also used the mower as a tractor to pull a fertiliser spreader he had made and this made the task of fertilising the area considerably easier. The opportunity was taken afterwards to have a working bee at Jess Epps home to knock the laundry into shape and this was done in a most competent way by Geo Fletcher with assistance from Rod Dhu, Len Bagley, and Col Doig.

Annual General Meeting

This will be held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, 6th March, 1973 and you are asked to keep this date firmly in mind as on this occasion it will be most important as several changes in office bearers will be forced upon us due to ill health and resignations of some of the executive.

It behoves all members who can attend to be there and offer their services to see that the association does not flag in its hour of need. Remember the date, Tuesday 6th March at Anzac House Basement.

RANDOM HARVEST

NORMA HOOPER of Box 87 Roma, Qsld. 4455 writes:

Just to say "many thanks" to the Assoc. for the wonderful hospitality shown to us while we were in W.A. Although it was the first time I had met the members and their wives; they were all so wonderful that I felt completely at ease at all times. Neil, too found the old friendships still as strong as ever after 27 years and it is with great pleasure and pride that we will speak of the men and their families of the 2/2nd for many years to come—Our sincere thanks to you and Joy for your kindness, to Ray and Margaret Pitken, for their hospitality and plans which are all doing well and will serve to remind us of the Wanneroo Nursery—To Joe and Helen Poyntan for a beaut Sun-

day afternoon with them and their 2 lovely girls—To Roy and Vera Watson for the warmth of their welcome at their home and the pleasure of meeting their beaut family; To Ralph Finklestine, for entertaining us at the Busselton Golf Club. To Len Bagley the President who was so generous with his welcome to us on our first night at the Social. And lastly, to all the other members of the Assoc. who did so much to make our stay in W.A. so wonderful.

Our trip home was most enjoyable After leaving you at Yallingup, we drove down through the breathtaking beauty of the Valley of the Giants to Pemberton and Manjimup, then down to Albany and over to Esperance where we were quite amazed by the wonderful development in that

area—up to Norseman and across the Nullabor to Pt. Augusta. On to Adelaide where once again my navigation proved a little out, however, we found our way about eventually and it was on to Mt. Gambier where the blue lake proved to be well worth the trip—on to Melbourne where we were caught in the 5 p.m. traffic—Joy! oh! Joy! ulcers developed thick and fast, but not to worry, we reached our destination in one piece. Had four days in Melbourne, then up to Albury and over the Snowy's. The wild beauty of the Snowy's was fantastic and although most of the snow had melted we were able to find enough to have a snow fight, thankfully no cars came along, for I'm sure the sight of a couple of middle aged nuts racing around madly, throwing snow at each other would have been enough to make anyone think he was seeing things—from the Snowy's we went to Canberra and the War Memorial. The Hall of Memories proved to be quite beyond description — the fantastic mosaic figures; the beautiful stained glass windows and the magnificent dome which echos and re-echos the spoken word until it become the music in the background—was all so awe-inspiring that we were almost stunned by the feeling that seems to hold you quite spellbound.

From Canberra it was head for home and the end of 8 weeks of Friendship, pleasure and travel—I feel as if I know W.A. rather well by now and I have tried to tell everyone about the beautiful beaches, the wonderful scenic drives—the caves, the marvellous variety of your beautiful wildflowers, the stark beauty of the Giant Karris and the friendly people one meets at all levels. In all W.A. could well be invaded by a flock of tourists next year.

To get back to mundane things, drove almost 10,000 miles and we saw our first policeman 20 miles inside the Qld border when he handed us a ticket for doing 70 m.p.h. in a 60 m.p.h. area—we couldn't even plead ignorance—still all good things must come to an end and a \$10 fine served to remind us that the party was now over.

Once again thanks to all:

From,

Neil and Norma Hooper

•Peter Barden of 6GN Radio Station ABGW Channel 6 TV Station, Geraldton, W.A., writes:—

First of all, allow me to point out that a double red diamond type at Geraldton, Bill Drage, has had an honour bestowed upon him. Bill, who farmed in the Northampton district before retiring to Sun City some years ago, was presented with a life membership certificate at the wind-up dinner of the Northampton Golf Club. As with many of his colleagues, Drages' motto is obviously "Service in Peacetime as in Wartime" He attended the first meeting when the Northampton Golf Club was re-formed after World War Two, and had held the offices of President, Vice President and Committeeman before being Patron from 1964 to 1971.

While referring to Northampton I must congratulate Bruss Fagg on the efficient manner in which he handled the re-union dinner of the R.S.L. Sub-Branch in his capacity as President Although not large numerically, Bruss' Sub-branch is a very virile one, as evidenced by the presentation of two cheques towards the cost of the Regional War Veterans Home at Geraldton. One cheque was from the Sub-branch and the other was from the Women's Auxilliary. Also at the Northampton re-union Bruss expressed thanks for the donation of a photo of the first flagship of the RAN, HMAS "Australia" contained in a frame made from teak from the deck of this ship.

Nip Cunningham and Eric Smyth also wish to be remembered to all the boys. These two Geraldtonians are as sprightly as ever, and Eric's favourite Club, the Lysaght Club, is to be featured in our T.V. news — they are introducing mice racing to Geraldton, on a specially constructed 10 lane track, using mice purchased from Perth pet shops. These mice carry a patch of harmless coloured dye to distinguish the runners.

Eric had pleasure of having a chat with Ron Sprigg of Albany and Bob Palmer of Busselton who were visiting Kalbarri.

Eric is also a keen fisherman but the latest catch his wife Twy showed the male members of the party

a thing or two about this sport—she landed the biggest fish of the day.

On a recent visit to Geraldton, Bert Burges of Katanning was seeking information about our Library. Bert might be interested to know that it cost \$140,000 when it was built in 1968 and that the Town Council met 9/10's of the cost and the Greenough Shire 1/10th.

Sun City Geraldton continues to expand, and a Maritime Museum is now being erected. It will feature relics from ancient Dutch wrecks at the Abrolhos Islands, including the "Batavia", which was wrecked in 1629 and was found in 1963. I have just run a story about a plan by Museum divers to start work soon on excavation of the wreck and on recovery of further relics, including 24 cannons and an anchor.

The bowls season has got away to good start for myself and my wife Joan. We have won major trophies in two separate fours competitions among members and associates of the Northern Bowling League. I have just brought a new set of bowls and guess what symbol I selected. Yes (you're right, it's a double-red-diamond).

I'll be coming to Perth for my holidays during the Christmas New Year period, so I'll be looking up our Happy Editor, with a view to having the usual noggin or two (?)

J. P. Kenneally, 28 Wilkins Street, Jogooro, NSW. 2199 writes:

You have my deepest sympathy, unfortunately I cannot type the news letter and this lot takes me too long, and I'm a man in a hurry, so much in a hurry I haven't time to scratch myself only few lines. All due respects to Angus MacLachlen, but there were not four captains in the Kenneally household, whilst Nora and our public relations man were away, it was just one long battle for supremacy until Friday night Angus arrived, then we all knuckled down, as Mac will not break insubordination, unless of course he is the one being insubordinate, quote long gone being history, witnesses, Thornton and Lord, Prosecutor, Judge and Jury unnamed but one person comp-

prised the lot, and there was no doubt as to who was captain of that particular ship. I was only a guard and neutral. I awarded points to MacLachlen for honesty and subtlety, and although he paid the Piper (which is unusual for a heat). I've always had a feeling he called the tune also, and it was Mac's tune; Thank you Angus for an enjoyable interlude during a dull period of our army days.

No doubt as to the captain now, Chief Engineer as well. Keeps a well disciplined ship; ask the crew, particularly the Junior members. They are all busy in filling in Jobs at present awaiting results of their exams, and that won't be till the end of January, and are these youngsters tight with their money, when they earn it themselves. Shylock would go out of business in this place.

Congratulations to Max Davies on his Editorial, there is a message for all in it, not just youth alone, each generation must cope with its own particular problems. I've thought for a long time that our generation coped quite well, with the problems, it had in its youth, greatly helped I must add by our complete lack of money, and lack of a good job to beat, however I don't reckon we have coped quite so well since returning to army St., and an affluence most of us never expected to achieve, when we were younger, I always have a feeling that our example over the years have given the youth of to-day much encouragement in seeking a better mode of life.

I'm off before I reform myself too much, before I go I'd better unlimber, most of my life I've been dragging along at the tail end, I'm getting a little annoyed at the fact that when I take off, I'll be heading the procession (should they be able to find any mourners) and the only time I've ever been No. 1 I'll be cooped up in a bloody expensive box, and no chance to take part in the festivities, hope I'm looking down and not up at it, otherwise I'll be a failure after as well as during—Good night, good luck, and may the New Year treat you all well.

Paddy Kenneally

J. R. SMITH of P.O. Box 68, Kieta, Bougainville P45 writes:—

Recently an editorial in the Courier asked that we write to you about our various jobs, and so I write about a couple of facets of life up here.

Among other things the company I manage are buyers of Crocodile Skins. Nothing terribly exciting in that. Skins must be fresh salted, free of knife cuts and no slipping of scale Measured across the belly and only up to 20 "are allowed to be bought as the big ones must be left to breed; Shooters are all local native people who use a shotgun, a powerful torch (on a headband) and a canoe. At night, once the croc's eyes are spotted he will not move in the glare of light—the canoe can be moved right up and when a couple of feet away a shot gun blast does the trick, must be grabbed quickly and hauled ashore before he sinks. There are plenty on this island and in fact a lack of shooters. All the skins we buy are graded and shipped to Australian buyers.

I would also like to give a few details of the operation of Bougainville Copper at its mine about 25 miles from here at 2500 elevation in the mountainous centre of Bougainville.

Against huge odds of terrain thermal activity, 200 inches per year rainfall and tropical climate a \$400 million mine has been established and is now operating. A few figures:

Ore mined (open cut) 90,000 tons daily working 3 x 8 hour shifts.

Sufficient reserves to continue at this rate for 35 years.

Out put: 180,000 tons Copper in concentrate per year stepping up to 200,000 tons; also 700,000 ounces of gold yearly.

Equipment: 50 only 105 ton capacity. Euclid rear dump trucks costing \$200,000 each (tare weight of these is 60 tons) Each tyre costs \$2000—there are 8 per truck and each last about 2 months. 1000 P G.M. diesels—Allison automatic transmission and everything power operated.

6 only electric shovels of 17 cubic yard capacity (25 tons per bite) costing \$600,000 each, all trucks and shovels are operated by indigenes.

Concentrate is pumped in slurry form in one 5 eights steel pipe 15 miles to the coast (at 2400 P.S.I.) where it is reduced to 7 per cent water con-

tent and shipped in 20,000 ton carriers. These usually complete loading 24 hours.

Local people within a few years will comprise 90 per cent of the Bougainville Copper work force and to do this a huge training programme has been instituted.

Still enjoying the life immensely up here—climate a steady 82 - 87oF (a cold night would be 78) 2½ inches rainfall per week keeps everything moist and lush. Can throw a stone into the harbour from our flat, tons of fish, seldom anything caught less than about 8 lbs, best I've done is a 65lb marlin. Everybody has a power boat of some description and so Christmas found us on an uninhabited island where we camped for 3 days—Wouldn't swap it for quids!

Have spoken on the phone to Theo Adams at Goroka a couple of times lately. He is operating a picture theatre there and also has a store.

Must away now all the best Col. to yourself and all the blokes.

Sincerely

Jim Smith.

P.S. Our son Gavin returned to Australia yesterday and commences next week as a trainee with Elders G.M. at Rockhampton. As a young fella a long way from home he would be glad to see anybody from 2/2.

ALAN STEWART, of 39 Longstaff Street, Lyneham ACT 2602, 31st October, 1972, writes:—

Dear Col,

I realise you have a heavy task in getting views and news in the Courier, and feel we should perhaps all try and submit something from time to time so that you can pick the eyes out of it and perhaps make your job on the Courier, which after all is the main link between many of us, scattered as we are.

Accordingly, I am attaching a short submission which you may find suitable, either as an editorial or purely an article. Sorry it is not typed, but I put it to paper last night whilst waiting on papers to come over from the House, and you may wish to edit it anyway. I think the subject is topical, and certainly a lively one at time of writing. Later I will let you have an article on the Tropic

Trials Establishment, which may be of interest as I found the techniques of testing equipment for tropic service quite fascinating.

I met Tom Snowden a few days ago at the fruit markets. He is battling with Repat at the moment he tells me, and though not yet on the winning end, still cheerful. In not bad health myself though for past couple of years have been hospitalised around Xmas—aided and abetted by the working up festivities probably.

Hope this finds you well, cheers to all for Xmas in case I don't get pen to paper before then.

TOM SNOWDON of 112 Matina Street, Narrabundah, Canberra, ACT, 12604,

Dear Col and the Boys,

This is just a brief note in the way of a request so I will get that over first of all. My son Warren (aged 22 years). Would like to spend his vacation over there on a working holiday. He worked with the Dept of Trade and Industry for three years after matriculating from College. He is now completing his second year Honours in Arts following completion of this Arts course in another twelve months, he is going onto Law. That is if money is available and all such things taken into consideration. On other vacations he has done office work, laboring, practically anything. I don't want you to go out of your way in this regard as you have plenty troubles of your own. His vacation is from the beginning of December to the end of February.

Guess you have everything in control and ready for the drawing of the mammoth raffle. Kindly let me know the result of complete draw as it helps whenever the occasion arises again as the clients like to know full details for their \$20.00

How are all the 2/2nd. boys going over there? Hope that they are making the most of life in general. I was speaking to Alan Stewart last week he has not changed much except that like the rest of us is getting on in years.

I am getting a few more dollars from the Repatriation now by way of a 10 per cent increase in my pension, never the less my Dr. has advised me to appeal against this increase, as being insufficient.

Expect to be visiting Roy Martin Kevin Curran and a few more of the boys when I get my vacation in January. We are going as far as Adelaide but may miss Dud Tapper as I think I remember reading in one of the "Couriers" where he was heading for Queensland for his holidays.

However if possible I would very much welcome bumping into him somewhere.

We had an inch-and-half of rain here last week-end but really we could do with six or seven inches as the country over this way is in a very sad state with regards the farmers and all rural areas.

Well Col. I have to go to work to-night at midnight so must go and have some sleep as it is after eight o'clock.

Cheerio and best wishes to all those good people from the 2/2nd.

From Tom Snowden and Family

BERT BURGESS, "Burlands", P.O. Box, 224, Katanning, 6317, 29th Nov. Writes:-

Am enclosing the raffle ticket as no doubt you will require it. I can think of no one more worthy than Len Bagley to have won the major prize and I extend my congratulations to him.

Despite the early cut off of rains we haven't yet commenced harvesting but, expect to make a start today weather permitting. Crops look to be about average and we are hoping that they will come through the header that way.

Water position here is adequate and not looking for thunderstorms yet. There has been several isolated falls of quite heavy falls around about with some pollution of dams.

I think that I mentioned earlier that our Peter is in Sydney with Marist Fathers studying for the Priest hood, he has now completed two years and is to make his first profession into the Society on 21st January next. We are hoping that we shall all be able to go over and be with him and have made plane bookings accordingly. Will be in Sydney from 18th to 23rd January (me) and hope that we may be able to contact some members. Kindest regards and best wishes to all for Christmas and New Year.

JACK WRIGHT, 62 Andrew Ave., Tarragindi Brisbane 4121 Writes:-

A little news for the Courier which we enjoy very much up here.

Enclosed cutting from Courier Mail 30-11-72, Son of Peter 2/2nd., also Peter's daughter Marjorie who should be going to Outward Bound in Jan., 1973. Rang me last night for address of Ron Scott Vic. Sec., who are sponsoring her to O.B., as she cannot attend as she is going to U.S.A. on exchange student scheme.

Also, Sam Fullbrook is rebuilding after being burnt out lost many paintings.

Best of luck and every success to Courier.

FRANK SHARP of 22 Quinn Street, Dubbo, writes:-

Please find enclosed cheque for \$20 for payment of raffle ticket that Col. forwarded to me last week and I wish to thank you for saving me one. We are both looking forward to seeing you all again in 1974 on the next Safari.

Do trust that your raffle will be great success and that you all have a very pleasant evening together at the drawing of the winning tickets.

Had another visit from Keith and Betty Craig about a fortnight ago both looking extremely well and informed me that their money box was also started towards the 1974 trip.

Best wishes and kind regards to everyone.

PAUL COSTELLOE, of 25 Sunburst Ave., North Balwyn 3104, writes:-

I'm writing this note to you as I cannot remember who is now the Editor of the Courier. I have changed my address to:- 25 Sunburst Ave., North Balwyn, 3104.

I would appreciate the records being amended as I look forward to receiving the Courier with all its interesting tidbits of past and present.

How time flies! It only seems yesterday since we used to visit you at Moreland and here I am retired and presently laid up with a dose of Arthritis. I hope to get over to the West in the New Year and would like to share a noggin or two with you and the boys. Will get in touch.

All the best for the festive season to you and your folk and kind regards to all in the West.

FRANK PRESS of "Bobanaro" Carcoar, writes:-

Enclosed herewith is my cheque for the Mammoth Lottery with the fervent wish that I win it. By all reports this one is going to be equally as successful as the last and once again our thanks must go to your hardworking committee over there. I, and I think I can vouch for all of us over here, am very appreciative of the wonderful job that is being done to keep this Association the virile force that it is.

Only about sixteen months before the next Safari and you can almost certainly count Kath and I in. The proposed itinerary seems to allow for lots of variety and should satisfy the majority of us. Personally I would have liked a sea voyage of say 12 - 14 days, where we could have all been together, but this should be very good and I am looking forward to it, especially to Moomba Festival. It will be interesting to see that Melbourne has something to offer besides Australian Rules and Sir Henry Bolte.

We are still experiencing a pretty dry time over here, some parts of the state have received fairly good rain, but not just here and time is running out for the crops. Quite a number have cut their wheat for hay and I doubt if anyone in the Western part of the state will go anywhere close to filling their quota. One bright spot on an otherwise dull horizon is the big rises in the price both wool and lambs are bringing.

I like the idea of yours Col, of having members to write on their trades, profession etc. I know there would not be any interest in we cockies talking about our trade, but there must be many others who could and probably will tell of their work and the way they go about it. If you thinks a short preci on the way the R.S.L. operates over here in N.S.W. would be of interest to the members I will be willing to do one at a later date. As you know our set up here is somewhat different to what it is in most other states, so if you think it would be of interest just say so and I will do it.

This is all for this time, both Kath and I send our kindest regards and best wishes for the coming festive

season to all of our friends over there and we look forward to seeing as many as possible during the next Safari.

'HAP' GREENHALGH, of MacLean 2463, writes:—

Had a get-together of a few of the boys a couple of weeks ago at Yamba bowling club. Geoff Laidlow was holding at that seaside resort for a few weeks and as Ken Jones resides there (temporarily as it turns out as he is moving to a cattle property at Dorrigo on the 13th of this month) I contacted the North Coasters and we managed to round up the following.

Jim Cullen, Tom Yates, Russ Blanch, Col. Knight, Ron MacArthur, Ron Orr, Geoff Laidlaw, Ken Jones and Myself.

Had a nice Saturday afternoon with plenty to talk about and enough the boys look pretty well and I'm sure fluid to loosen a few tongues. All that a future event of this kind could be organised perhaps at Lismore-Gold Coast-Southern Queensland blokes as well. Just a thought. Alan Laby had called in on his way north only the week before and was thinking about getting back for the get-together but I've had a note since and he was regretful at having been unable to get back in time. Mick Devlin called about three days before too but had to be in Brisbane for that particular weekend. Both looked very fit as did their wives. George Coulson from Nabour was a caller recently and despite 20 years between visits was immediately recognisable. As a matter of fact the blokes off the land could go back over some of the tracks nearly as well as they did 30 years ago by the look of them. Says something for living away from the rat race and pollution.

I am, as usual, fit and well and have much to be thankful for health-wise. I do hope you are too and able to keep up your good work for many years to come. Give my regards to all.

JOE BURRIDGE writes:—

Just a short note to let readers know that I caught up with Scotty Taylor in Bristol last month. His new address is:— Flat 2, Old Police Station, Calcutt Road, Bristol.

I know the boys will be pleased to hear that Scotty is perfectly OK again after his illness and sends his best wishes to about 50 chaps in W.A. He says he most likely will retire in W.A. in a few years so lets hope he keeps to the plan.

Scotty figures that if Alg Walker would risk breaking his arm by taking up the pen he—Scotty—would also make the effort.

Great night at the drawing of the Monster Sweep last week. I can think of only one bloke I would sooner have won it than Len Bagley! All the best.

Heard This?

"How are your reduction treatments coming along?" asked Al of his friend the tattooed lady.

"Just fine," she answered. "You know that herd of elephants that I had tattooed on my tummy?"

"Sure," he admitted.

"Well, they're just a tiny nest of mice now!"

* * *

At a party celebration in Lenin-grad, a guest discovered a piece of rubber tyre in his stew. About to protest, he noticed the eye of a secret-police official fixed upon him, and managed a cheerful: "Well, everything is going according to our most optimistic calculations. Here we've been in power only 35 years, and already the automobile is replacing the horse!"

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