



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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JUNE, 1974

Price 1c

VALE — Bill Epps

It is with the most extreme regret that I have to advise of the death of Bill Epps on 30th April, 1974.

How does one write an adequate memorial to such a stalwart? Everyone who has ever read the "Commando Courier" is in his eternal debt. The printing of the Courier was Bill's brain child and also his lover for 25 years. Over most of this time it was my job as editor to supply most of the copy. This was forwarded personally to Bill and I then stood clear and watched a Courier occur and be despatched. Bill and Jess did this with such magnificent consistency that our paper became the cynosure of all Unit Associations in Australia and was considered by the Australian War Memorial officials to be absolutely the best of its kind in Australia. The production of three address books was Bill's personal task. These two efforts alone would be regarded as Herculean as they kept the Association together and enabled those great national reunions to take place. But as if the above was not enough he devoted 20 years to the care and tending of our area in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, and it was only a heart attack suffered on the 1968 Safari that put paid to this effort. Our area is in itself a memorial to Bill Epps. He was also one of the most energetic committee men we ever had. He was president for 2 years and led both the 1968 Safari

and the trip to Timor to open our absolutely untiring in his efforts memorial in that area. He was for our Unit Association from its inception in 1946. I could go on forever extolling the greatness of this Bill Epps, my life is going to have a great big void as a result of his passing.

Bill was also a colossal stalwart for the W.A. Baseball Association and worked like a demon for it as a player, official, and umpire. Readers will realise just how crammed his life was in doing good for others. Thanks to the wonderful co-operation of his wife, Jess, he was able to do all these things and always remain cheerful and smiling.

Let me say in conclusion that in my opinion Bill Epps was one of the best soldiers the unit ever spawned. Loyal, game and talented both as a infanterier and sapper. Never did he shirk any duty and also was in top morale and easy to get on with. This world is definitely the poorer for the passing of an outstanding citizen. He was my mate and when I say mate I mean it in its highest sense. I will never have another quite like him and my 26 years as editor have been a pleasure purely because Bill Epps carried the main burden.

The Association can only extend its deepest sympathy to Jess, Terry, and Pete in the loss of a first rate husband and father.

Goodbye, Bill, you were the best.
—Col Doig.

W.A. MONTHLY MEETING

MARCH MEETING

Owing to the Safari still in progress, only Rod Dhu, Col Doig, and Brusse Fagg turned up, and decided that a few beers in the Club were all that could be worthwhile.

APRIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is fully reported with minutes —reports in other portions of the issue. At this point I would like to welcome those new officers who have taken on new positions, namely Len Bagley, who took over the office of secretary from Gerry Maley, and our committeemen, Percy Hancock and Bob MacDonald. There is nothing particularly new about these three, they have returned to duty after a brief spell. Our thanks to Gerry Maley for a long and faithful job as secretary. Gerry retired due to ill health and we hope he recovers in the near future and will once again give us the benefit of his services. Arthur Smith retired from the committee due to the fact that he could not find the time from his work to continue. With Len Bagley taking over the duties of secretary, the office of Immediate Past President became obsolete and male for a further committeeman to fill the quota of 12.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Anzac House, on Tuesday, April 16, 1974.

The Chairman: Mr. A. Wares declared the meeting open at 8.30 p.m. and welcomed all Committee members for the ensuing year.

Present: G. Fletcher, J. Carey, D. Darrington, R. Dhu, C. Doig, A. Wares, L. Bagley.

Apologies: From R. Kirkwood, H. Sproxtton, C. Varian, R. McDonald, P. Hancock were accepted.

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, March 19 were read, and were confirmed on the motion of C. Doig, seconded R. Dhu.

Treasurer's Report: R. Kirkwood being absent there was no Treasurer's Report, but finances would be similar to that stated at the Annual General Meeting.

Kings Park: C. Doig reported on three recent working bees. Much work had been accomplished, especially with regard to the Memorial stone. Special cemented bases have been made for three flags. Dick Adams, who did the watering of our area, has passed away, due to a heart attack. R. Dhu has undertaken to see that the watering was continued to keep the area in good condition. A working bee for Sunday 21st for a general clean up was arranged; prior to Anzac Day.

Anzac Day: Liquid refreshments to be arranged by C. Doig and catering by J. Carey. Wreath to be arranged by G. Fletcher. Bus has been arranged by C. Varian and is to be parked at the back of Government House at the dispersal point, to transport members to C. Doig's residence.

Safari: A letter of appreciation to be sent to the Victorian branch for their efforts connected with the 1974 Safari, moved C. Doig, seconded J. Carey.

Kalgoorlie Convention: A cheque for \$40 be sent to the Commercial Hotel, Kalgoorlie to secure accommodation as per letter of April 9, advise at a later date the number of people participating.

Future Functions: Film night to be held on Saturday night, June 1, at the Imperial Hotel, to show Safari films, Ian Miller of MMA and his wife to be invited.

June and November to be set aside for Calcutt Memorial Trophy nights.

May to be a bowls night.

July—guest speakers: R. Smyth and J. Burridge to be contacted.

It was suggested that a copy of the monthly minutes go to all committeemen and a reminder note of the date of the next meeting of the committee.

Committee Dinner to be discussed at the May committee meeting.

Country Vice-Presidents: To be notified of their appointments as elected from the Annual General Meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

ANZAC DAY

We were favoured with perfect weather with which to celebrate Anzac Day. The dawn service was something to see. The sun arose in a light cloud and the pink tinge was something to see . . . but this then became expressed on the placid waters of the Swan River making it for all the world like a pink lake. Geo. Fletcher and Dick Darrington laid our wreath on the State War Memorial and boy, did they do a job. There right on the top in front our double red diamond dominated the situation.

The march at 10.15 a.m. was well attended and led by Scotty Wares and with Mick Morgan carrying the banner, we did our usual hop, skip, and jump down the terrace to the unmarching tone of the Salvation Army Band arriving at the Esplanade with a heap of frustration. The march off was even worse, if this was at all possible. Still I suppose we are lucky to have a band at all.

This year, because our venue at the W.A. Rowing Club had been condemned, it was decided to hold our re-union at Col Doig's residence, 77 Rosedale St., Floreat. We arranged a bus to pick those who did not have transport. There were early teething troubles with the bus but thanks to Clarrie Varian these were quickly ironed out and we had a glass of liquid in our hand at the Doig menage quicker than you would think. Rod Dhu and Gerry Maley saw to it that the grog flowed freely. Later, the magnificent catering of Jack Carey

was seen at its best as we fed like the proverbial Kings. A quieter day as we grow older but none the less enjoyable. It was voted that the venue was quite ideal and everyone had a most enjoyable day.

The only thing that marred the day was that for the second year in succession we had our flags and flag poles stolen from our memorial area in Kings Park. These flags were in position at 5.20 p.m. when the Park Ranger made his last run through the area but when Scotty and Elsie Wares went to pick them up at 6.00 p.m. they were gone. I hope the sick minded idiots who would do such a thing got some satisfaction from their purile efforts because no one else will.

Seen on parade, Ray Aitken, Ken Bowden, John Burrige, Jack Carey, Dick Darrington, Rod Dhu, Col Doig, Geo Fletcher, Jack Fowler, Doug Fullarton, Fred Griffiths, Jerry Haire, Percy Hancock, Harry Holder, Gordon Holmes, Bill Howell, Ron Kirkwood, Gerry Maley, Bob MacDonald, Rip MacMahon, Mick Morgan, Fred Napier, Bob Palmer, Ray Parry, Joe Poyton, Merv Ryan, Arthur Smith, Bob Smyth, Harry Sproxtton, Geoff Swann, Clarrie Varian, Scotty Wares, Roy Watson, Fred Wilkins, and from other squadrons, John Lillie, Digger MacEvoy, Barney Barron, and others whose names escape me at the moment. A real good roll up.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Safari Tour — Tasmania-Melbourne

This wonderful event took place between 26th February and 13th March, 1974. All reports have been excellent. We will not dwell on this as it has been fully reported by various participants. It is enough to say that these events have come to stay. Everyone who takes part seems to think they are a must and must occur with even greater frequency.

The thanks of the Association go out to firstly Ansett - Pioneer who handled the Tassie end of the tour, so efficiently and nothing but praise

has been heaped upon the organisation. To our Victorian Branch who looked after the Melbourne end of the Safari. This left exactly nothing to be desired and once again special reference must be made to the hard working efforts of Bert Tobin and Harry Botterill, without these two, who must have been the shoulders of Atlas, it would be difficult to know just how these shows would work. Thanks to everyone who took part, thanks to all who helped to make it work and thanks to those from all States who handled the organisation.

Kalgoorlie Convention — 12th-14th October 1974

Bookings have been made with the Commercial Hotel, Kalgoorlie, for a sufficient number. The price of accommodation is quite reasonable at \$5.00 per head bed and breakfast. It is proposed to travel by the Pros-

pector, so all those intending to participate please notify the secretary as soon as possible to enable him to confirm the hotel and rail bookings. Treat this as urgent.

'Personalities'

Have to advise of the death of Bill O'Connor at Busselton quite recently. Bill apparently developed a brain tumour and passed away after a brief illness. Bill, as a member of 5 Section, was with us in New Guinea and New Britain and served with distinction. After the war he returned to the Busselton area where he established a dairy farm, later going over to raising beef cattle. We did not see a lot of Bill because establishing a farm from the virgin bush is a colossal task. However, when we did see something of him he was always most cheerful. Our sympathy goes out to wife, Gus and the family.

Again a regretful task of advising of the passing of Edgar Timmins in Brisbane on Anzac Day from reports to hand Edgar attended the Anzac Day march and returned to a Club and was playing carpet bowls when he collapsed and died. Edgar joined us for the New Guinea show and continued on to the end with "A" Platoon. He was most highly regarded by all his mates in the Unit. Edgar and his wife were always most hospitable to any visitors passing through Brisbane and was especially friendly with Col Hodson, who passed on the news of his passing. The Association wish Mrs. Timmins and family to accept our most sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

Alf Hillman has been in St. John of God Hospital, Subiaco, and has had plastic knee caps fitted and has hopes this will rectify a lot of his arthritic trouble in this area. We hope the operation is a complete success, Alf.

Fred Napier returned from the recent Safari and entered R.G.H. Hollywood for an operation on his toe. It appears successful as Fred was at his best on Anzac Day giving a power of cheek.

Syd Jarvis is another who had been in hospital for an operation. Latest reports from Jess Epps is that Syd

was making a good recovery.

After all that bad news it is pleasurable to report a phone call from Theo Adams from Garoka, New Guinea on Anzac Day. He sounded very well and had quite a conversation with Col Doig and Mick Morgan.

Jack and Norma Hasson are on a caravan tour of Australia, having left over Easter, and latest reports were that they were in Sydney at the end of April.

Ted Loud was in the city recently but his visit was brief and not of a very nice nature as his brother, Bill, was in R.P.H. in a very poor condition.

Saw Leo Criddle briefly the day after Anzac Day and he was down in Perth for some treatment.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those Association members who made it their business to attend the last rites for Bill Epps. Those present numbered 42 and formed a guard of honour in front of the cortege. It was most impressive at slow march.

The service was really well conducted and great credit is due to the minister who handled the service especially his perseverance in obtaining the "Last Post" under great difficulties.

Jess Epps wishes me to thank all those members who contributed to the military style funeral for her beloved husband.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, 1st June, 1974. Imperial Hotel, Wellington St., Perth. Film night of films taken on the recent Safari. This should be a real good show.

June Meeting, 4th June, 1974. First evening of Calcutt Memorial Trophy. Please make a certainty of this meeting and try to win this unique trophy.

July Meeting, 2nd July, 1974. It is hoped to enlist the services of a couple of our members in Bob Smyth and John Burridge to speak of their recent tours overseas.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

Anzac Day saw a fair gathering of our members for the march, and reunion. The following were on parade: Alan Luby, Mick Devlin, John "Snow" Went, Merv Jones, Bill Coker, Jack Darge, Bill Bennett, Ron Hilliad, Jim English, Jack Hartley, Bill Hoy, Ron Hyland, Fred Dennis Ex 2/40th, Tomi Felds, Mick Mannix, Frank Press, Pat Costello, Paddy Kenneally, visitors Ray Whitely, Ken Glover, Eddie Cranney, Joe Murray, Robert Darge, Jack Keats. All of these did not march, however all were on the job at what was at one time Hasting Deerings in Riley St. where we have been assembling after the march for years for a few beers and an ear bash before proceeding to Arncliffe R.S.L. to settle down to the reunion in real earnest. One visitor I forgot to mention was Bill Hoy's father, 82 years of age, Remained straight and as alert as ever.

This year I went on the ferry with the combined Commando Association for the Reunion, I had seen a few of the 2/4th blokes at the march and decided to renew old friendships from Dubbo camp in N.S.W. and Foster. Gordon Harte, looking as fit as ever, Jack Ellis, Bob Hampden, Chesty Bennett, Ron Kemp, all from No. 4 section in the 2/4th company. I was in that section too until Captain Dan O'Connor decided the fourth company could do without me, and sent me off as a reo to the 2/2nd, that is how no 4 section in the 2/2nd were saddled with me for the remainder of the war. I had a great time on the ferry, I was full of good intentions and had made up my mind to disembark, with the early finishers on its first return to Circular Quay, on the way to the gangway I ran into a big Highland Piper who offered to play me an Irish tune on the pipes, he was pretty good too, so good in fact, when I went to step ashore the wharf was about 20 feet away and we were heading out to see again. I didn't want a swim so I got the Highlander a whisky and a beer for myself, and listened to a few more Irish and Scots

tunes on the pipes. He was a real nice jock.

That ferry must have come to land again at a later time I however cannot remember getting ashore, what Ellis, Kemp, Hampden, Chesty Bennett put in my beer I know not, it certainly wasn't memory reviver. Maybe I said goodbye to them the next I remember I was up in Millers Point renewing old friendships from school days and my first arrival in Sydney—I was certainly having a reunion. I was reunioneing everything from my eleventh birthday to my fifty-eighth. I survived, the good Lord only knows how. Wending my way home from Yagoona station, I ran into what looked like a full regiment of Policemen apparently, there had been something bordering on riot at one of the local pubs and the law was out in force, and not a bit fussy who went into the paddy waggon, I managed to evade their out posts and made base. Tired, weary and hungry. The cook attended to the hunger side of it, I was surrounded with tucker all day. Sausage rolls, meat of all descriptions, and prawns. I ate one roll, one prawn and three leaves of lettuce. No wonder I was hungry, I starved in the land of plenty. I was still tired and weary next morning, pretended I never felt better and headed for the job, poured a couple of storm water pits, and 50 feet of dish crossing, strangely enough I had it all done by about three p.m. and felt much better. At tea that night Helen said, "When you got home last night, Dad, you looked about eighty." I told her, "I may have only looked about eighty, but I was feeling about ninety." That was Anzac Day—I enjoyed every minute of it, the company, the talk and the humour, the drinking is only a side issue, a man can get a drink any hour or day of the week but it's only on Anzac Day can we manage to meet so many of our comrades at the one time and I add during a Safari which has been a feature of our Association over the last few years.

I am calling it a day—all the family enjoying good health with the exception of Gerald, he's nursing a stomach complaint at present, Nora says too much chocolate, I doubt if Gerald blames the chocolate. I'm feeling fine again. Hope all the boys survived their Anzac Day, wherever they spent it. Goodbye and good luck to all.

—Paddy Kenneally.

P.S. John Donovan is in the Concord Repat. Hospital and he has been a mighty sick man. John was one of the sibs from the Dutch end who put in so much work with our chaps on minnie the war winner. I hope you have a speedy recovery, John.

VICTORIAN NEWS

In the last issue of the Courier a portion of Harry Botterill's letter was somehow omitted and it was as follows: Special thanks to our hosts, John and Shirley Southwell, Gerry and Mary MacKenzie, and Bernie Callinan for helping out at the functions. Was very sorry that Alan Munro, our President, was not well enough to make an appearance—he had done a good job in the organisation earlier and it was due to Alan that we were lucky to get the Carlton Bowling Club as a venue. Hurry and get well, Alan. As usual Bert Tobin did a tremendous job and it is a real pleasure to be able to work along side him and the other members of the committee for a good job of work—which they can feel very proud to be a part of this Safari.

—Harry Botterill.

BERT TOBIN, 15 Beatrice Street, Burwood, Vic., 3125, writes:—

Many thanks for your letter of 3rd April—we were pleased to hear that you had arrived home safely and that the journey was pleasant, with the company of the Sproxtons and the Swanns. Pleased also to hear of your appointment as Secretary of the Association. Your interest and enthusiasm for the Association will guarantee your success in the job and members throughout Australia will no doubt benefit as a result.

A week or so ago we received the last accounts for the Safari and this enabled me to finalise a financial statement for our Safari activities. Some copies are attached and you will see that the net cost came out at \$1,600.73. It is pure coincidence that that is only 73 cents off our budget figure.

We had an informal meeting of the Victorian committee on Anzac Day

and it was decided that, in view of the figures, we were not justified in keeping the \$400 cheque which Scotty Wares handed to us while the visitors were here. I was asked to return it and so it is enclosed. It is not that we are too proud—we did appreciate very much that the cheque was given. However, we enjoyed having your company so much that we feel we must contribute to the cost of the Safari functions to the extent shown on the statement. I do feel the statement, or parts of it, are worth publishing in the "Courier", that would have our blessing. Members generally may be interested in how it all panned out.

Very sorry to hear by phone from Col Doig today of Bill Epps' death last night. We know how much you thought of Bill in the West and many members in the other States had the same high regard for him. It is to be hoped that Jess will find comfort in the sympathy extended by so many friends.

Keith and Betty Craig from Young, N.S.W., have been down in Melbourne for several days and we were pleased to see them on Anzac Day. Phillip, their son, who is in the Army, also came down from Puckapunyal. Wilma and I took them for a drive to the Dandenongs on Saturday and Harry and Olive were taking them up to Ken and Margaret Monk's farm on Sunday.

Ray Splatt also turned up on Anzac Day. He has been living in Bali and intends to return there soon and take out naturalisation papers. Ray finds the life much more interesting in Bali. He is painting quite a lot these days.

Guess that is all for now, Len. Give my kind regards to Dot. All the best to yourself.

2/2nd Commando Association — Victorian Branch

1974 SAFARI — FINANCIAL STATEMENT

EXPENSES (Cost per Head)

Welcome, Carlton Bowling Club, 25/2/74

PAID BY VICTORIANS				Net Cost
Food 95 at \$3	\$285.00	(3.00)		
Liquor	179.50	(1.89)	37 paid \$4.50	\$166.50
	<u>\$464.50</u>	<u>(4.89)</u>		<u>\$166.50</u>
				\$298.00

Dinner Dance, Carlton Cricket and Football Social Club, 6/3/74

Dinner 110 at 4.50	\$495.00	(4.50)		
Liquor	260.00	(2.36)		
Band	80.00	(0.73)	32 paid \$7.00	\$224.00
	<u>\$835.00</u>	<u>(7.59)</u>		<u>\$224.00</u>
				\$611.00

Coach Trip to Lorne, 10/3/74

Two coaches at \$105	\$210.00	(2.21)		
Gratuity to drivers	6.00	(0.06)		
Lunches 95	123.50	(1.30)	40 paid \$4.00	\$160.00
Beer 18 gallons	40.00	(0.42)	5 paid \$3.00	15.00
Spirits and soft drinks	42.63	(0.45)	(own transport)	
	<u>\$422.13</u>	<u>(4.44)</u>		<u>\$175.00</u>
				\$247.13

Farewell, Carlton Bowling Club, 12/3/74

Food 84 at \$3	\$252.00	(3.00)		
Liquor	240.00	(2.86)	32 paid \$4.50	\$144.00
	<u>\$492.00</u>	<u>(5.86)</u>		<u>\$144.00</u>
				\$348.00

Sundry Expenses

42 Moomba Programmes	\$21.00			\$96.60
Taxi Truck for luggage	2.00			
Taxis to take visitors to functions	73.60			
	<u>\$96.60</u>			

TOTALS	\$2,310.23		\$709.50	\$1,600.73
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Sources of Finance

West Australian Branch—Asian Tour Raffle	\$1,000.00
Donations from Victorian Members	151.50
Victorian Branch Funds	449.23
	<u>\$1,600.73</u>

Bank Balances, 18th April, 1974 (after all of the above)

General Account	\$1,089.51
Provident Fund Account	675.52
	<u>\$1,765.03</u>

RANDOM HARVEST

GERALDTON

First of all allow me to express my sincere thanks for the confidence you have displayed in me by re-electing me Country Vice-President for the Northern District for my 15th term. I assure you it gives me great pleasure reporting on the activities of the double red diamond in the area. In this regard let me tell you that after all these years I have at last caught up with Roy (Plugger) Watson. Now that we are very conveniently situated in new ABC premises near the Victorian Hotel in Marine Terrace, I was having a few noggins and a game of pool when I walked Plugger and a mate from Western Transport—the mob that transports our rock lobsters to Fremantle for export to the U.S.A. We teamed up for pool and showed our opponents how the game should be played—and when one chap for Plugger very smartly had the situation rectified, Plugger said he had just spent a very enjoyable weekend at Mandurah with Joe Poynton and some of his colleagues.

Now that Bruss Fagg has retired from the Wate Supply, I seem to be seeing more of him. There was no prouder man than Bruss when I vitited Northampton with Brigades, the footie team that one of my sons, Ross, plays for, and for which I do the best and fairest voting. The Northampton Club has new clubrooms and a lot of the money was raised by rounding up about 1200 wild goats worth more than \$6,000, and by cropping and fishing projects. Bruss was for many years the propertyman for the footie club and is currently the treasurer and vice-president of the Northampton R.S.L. Sub-Branch. Apart from attending the two Anzac Day parades in that town, also attended the service at Nabawa, a small town in the Chapman Valley.

I had a very early morning chat with Bill Drage on Anzac Day. He was at the service at Birdwood House after the dawn service and he also met up with Nip Cunningham at the traditional gunfire breakfast that followed. Bill sends his best wishes to all the boys.

Nip and I marched together in the dawn and general parades and I assure you that the way he marched and swung his arms would have done justice to a Duntroon Military College graduate. Nip and I and our wives, attended the R.S.L. reunion dinner two days later and it was my pleasure to propose the toast to our R.S.L. Auxiliary. The State President, Percy Pearson, congratulated our Sub-Branch on winning the Collett Cup for the 12th time as the best country Sub-Branch. The women's Auxiliary won the Country Cup for the 11th time as the best country Auxiliary of the year.

Eric Smyth continues to be a leading light in the yachting sphere and was guest speaker at the Rotary Club. Geraldton of course has an international interest in yachting, as a local boy, Wayne ~~McKenzie~~ has gone to America as a lawman for the Southern Cross in the American Cup series.

Another double red diamond type who has been in the news is Irish Hopkins of Morawa. He received a Certificate of Service in appreciation of his work as President of the R.S.L. Sub-Branch.

If any of Eric Smyth's old mates are visiting Geraldton (as Gerry McKenzie did earlier this year), don't get the wrong idea and think Eric has joined "Campers Pride". The fact is that the Accountancy firm of which he is a partner has moved from the main street to half way down Fitzgerald Street.

My wife, Joan, and I continue to enjoy our bowls and we have had quite a number of success recently. Joan was in the team that won the associates fours championship.

As I write this letter my wife has just read of the death of that great 2/2nd Association stalwart, Bill Epps. The many tributes in the "West" bore testimony as to the high esteem in which Bill was held, so let me end this letter by saying to Jess and other members of his family:— "A great guy has gone to higher service after faithfully following the 2/2nd motto of Service in peacetime as in wartime."

Peter Barden.

LEN BAGLEY, 38 Armadale Cres., Mt. Lawley, 6050, writes:—

Another successful Safari has just been completed, Dot, Gavin and myself enjoyed it to the full. As usual there was plenty of humour throughout the tour, and no wonder, with such good company.

Thirty three of us boarded the Trans train on the night of February 22, and from that moment it was on, we were farewelled by many friends and members. Everyone was understandably excited and it was early hours of the morning before we retired, but not before we had sampled one another's going away presents, such as chocolates, wine, grapes and whisky — what a mixture. Cans of beer (13 oz.) on the train sold for 40c each, but that did not slow down their sale, and I believe the supply for the 1st class passengers cut out two hours before we reached Pirie.

Early Saturday morning we arrived at Kalgoorlie, stopping long enough to welcome aboard Peter and Pat Campbell and Ernie Hoffman. After a 3-hour stop in Adelaide we boarded "The Overlander" at 7 p.m. for the overnight run to Melbourne, arriving at Spencer St. Station at 8 a.m. on Monday. The Victorian members were there to greet us and soon had our luggage organised and transferred to the Spencer Hotel-Motel.

That night there was a "welcome party" organised for us at the Carlton Bowling Club, it was surely a night for meeting people and catching up on long standing friendships, the night was very enjoyable, with plenty to eat and drink, but it went too quickly. Hosts for the evening were John and Shirley Southwell. I was sorry to hear that Alan Munro, the Victorian Branch President was unable to attend any of the functions due to ill health. I hope you are well on the way to recovery, Alan, and that we meet at some future occasion.

At midday the next day, 2 Pioneer buses transferred us to Tullamarine Airport, once on the jet it was only a matter of 55 minutes and we were all in Launceston, ready to start an 8-day tour of that very pretty isle. It was disappointing that the Kennallys could not make the tour, but Nora had taken ill. I hope all is well now, Nora. Neal Bray also missed

the trip, due to ill health. Mam Smith decided at the last minute to join the party for the tour, and we were pleased to have his company.

The itinerary of the 8-day Tasmanian tour has already been published in the Courier, and reported on in detail by Elsie Wares. In reality it is truly a wonderful place, with ever changing scenery, which was highlighted by the good weather conditions. Tasmania is a tourists paradise as they have kept most of their early history in tact, such as the convict settlement at Port Arthur and numerous other structures, like buildings, bridges, churches, housing settlements, etc. The two bus drivers, Ken McKenzie and John Ferguson, who drove us a 1,000 miles round the island, were very good to say the least. Their knowledge of the country and its statistics were fantastic, they were good company and very helpful at all times, which made the tour that much better.

The Casino at Wrest Point, Hobart, was certainly something to see, but I think the organisers need to visit Kalgoorlie to find out how to run a two-up game. They soon lost me for a customer when I was charged a \$1 for two beers. Of the two beers sold on the island, Boags and Cascade, Boags was by far the better.

We were all sorry to leave Tasmania, the eight days had simply flown. Now back to the Spencer, for 8 days of outings and festivities.

Wednesday evening we all gathered at the Carlton Football Club for a dinner-dance, it was a wonder anyone could dance after having such a glorious 5-course meal. It was an excellent venue for such an occasion. Alec Boast's son was a member of the orchestra that played for the evening. Hosts for that evening were Gerry and Mary McKenzie.

Thursday morning Pioneer supplied a bus, and we all went for a city sights tour, covering a lot of ground and visiting both the old and new sections of that big city.

Sunday saw two bus loads of us leave at 9 a.m. for the journey to Lorne, via The Great Ocean Rd., a very pleasant and scenic drive. A barbecue lunch was had at the Lorne Golf Club—more life a feast—I have never seen such a well catered for

barbecue. The golf club is situated on the side of a hill and has panoramic views of the rugged coastline. Some of the healthy ones played golf, and you would need to be healthy to go up and down those hills chasing a little white pill. The management and staff of the club made us very welcome and showed us every hospitality.

Monday morning and nearly everyone made their way by tram to Swanston St. to watch the Moomba Parade. It was a spectacle of colour, which lasted for hours. The presentation of the vast number of floats and displays were a credit to the organisers and designers.

Monday afternoon at 2 p.m. Pioneer once again provided a bus, this time to take us to the Dandenongs, a very pretty spot in the mountains just east of the city. Passing through many fashionable suburbs en route.

Monday evening Ron and Win Sprigg, Dot and myself were guests of Bert and Wilma Tobin, who took us up to the Masonic Club for dinner. Thank you Bert and Wilma, it was a most enjoyable evening, and I welcomed the chance to have a chat with you.

Tuesday evening, a farewell night, was held at the Carlton Bowling Club and once again all the gang were together again to enjoy a very tasty smorgasbord meal. The host for the evening was Bernie Callinan. Trying to get round to have a drink with all your mates who were there, and say goodbye to them, took some doing. Some of them I had not seen for 29 years, and you just can't cram 29 years into 29 minutes—but I tried. It was very good to see them all and I hope I see them all in two years time on the next Safari.

Wednesday night the main party boarded the Trans train for home. Dot, Gavin and myself left by bus that morning at 8 a.m. for Canberra, arriving there at 6 p.m. We stayed a week there with my brother, who during that time took us for a few days to Bateman Bay, where he has a beach home. While in Canberra I tried to contact Dave Dexter and by the time I located his office he had just left for a meeting, but the next day I was able to have a chat with him on the phone. Jim and Joan

Fenwick invited us to their home for dinner and a very pleasant evening of talking and drinking followed. Thank you Jim and Joan, we enjoyed your company immensely. Of course we had to visit the one-armed bandit establishment at Queanbeyan, which is now under canvas due to a fire, but their new premises will be open by the end of this year. While we were there we contributed to the cost of the new building, and by the look of the new venue so have thousands of others.

Back to Melbourne by bus, which I don't recommend, unless you are with a crowd of your own, preferably 2/2nd people.

Wednesday, and after taking our luggage to the railway station, and Dot went off to the hairdresser, that left just Gavin and I. So we set off to find a little pub called the Mitre Tavern, which my father said he used to visit in 1916, and buy his whisky for 5/- a bottle. Sure enough there it was in Bank Place just off Little Collin St., so I had to have a nostalgic one or two in there. Later when we were passing the London Hotel, I suddenly remembered that Johnnie Roberts had a business close by, which we found. John promptly invited us to have a counter lunch with him at the Grosvenor, which lasted till afternoon tea time. A most enjoyable few hours, thanks a lot, John.

That evening Alec and Beryl Boast and their son Tony came in to have a farewell drink with us, and we were joined by Vince and Pam Swann who were leaving that night also. Pam caused a bit of excitement by showing us a dog she had bought in Sydney, a Maltese Terrier, which she was carrying in a shopping bag. It was only about 6 inches long, with a white curly coat. All the women were in raptures over it, and Dot said she would like to have him, I replied, "That's all I would need, a bloody dog in my luggage". We then all moved over to the station, where we met Harry and Theima Sproxton, who were also travelling back on the same train.

There to say goodbye to us were Alex, Beryl and Tony Boast, Bert and Wilma Tobin, Harry and Olive Botterill. Our thanks to you all for your friendship and hospitality.

The seven of us had a pleasant journey home, but once you've turned your head for home, it is good to get there.

Len Bagley.

ELSIE AND SCOTTY WARES,

writes:—

Having now recovered from writers cramp brought on by having been appointed official writer-up of the 1974 Safari. I would like to mention now the wonderful time Scotty and I were given by Joan and John Darge of N.S.W. Those two wonderful people planned a magnificent sight seeing tour for us and took us to see many beauty spots. Going back a little at the close of the Melbourne trip, Scotty and I, Dot and George Boyland and Nan Thomas took a Pioneer bus trip to Canberra, staying overnight at a beautiful little spot Khancoban, in the Snowy Mountains. It is a point of interest that the bus driver, Norm Kinghorn, turned out to be a member of the 2/40th Battalion and was actually taken prisoner in Timor. I understand that he had contact with some 2/2nd members and he well remembered Col Doig and Major Chisholm. Canberra is a beautiful city and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Joan and Jim Fenwick for their hospitality during our brief stay. Jim met us on arrival and drove us to many points of interest. Later we had a fabulous meal at his home where we met his wife, Joan, and his charming family of four.

On to Sydney and here we parted company, Dot and George and Nan going off to stay with friends and Scotty and I whisked off to Joan and John's home. Joan had our time in Sydney all planned out and it was wonderful to be just taken everywhere. On the six day drive we saw the breath-taking beauty of the coast south of Sydney, the steep mountainous country of the dividing range, the Blue Mountains, and the renowned Jenolan Caves. This place is a must for anyone touring N.S.W. We have beautiful caves in W.A. but at Jenolan it is the outside beauty of the place that is so lovely. Waterfalls, and blue lakes, little fern crowded paths leading up to awe inspiring views were everywhere. One of the greatest

pleasures I had was feeding the possums that abound in the trees and are so tame you can stroke them. These of course do not appear till twilight. There was one mother with a little one clinging to her back that was particularly appealing.

I forgot to mention that on our second day out, and when climbing one of the steep mountain roads our car was almost pushed over the edge by a descending car out of control. Joan who is a fabulous driver brought us to a sudden stop right on the brink of a steep drop. Luckily no one was hurt. We suffered a dented back door and were a bit shaken, but it shows how easily accidents happen.

Later in our travels we took in Newcastle where we met up briefly, in a pub of course, with that bright personality Ray Cole. The three fellows had a good afternoon gabbing while Joan and I sat and listened like good dutiful wives. On our return to Sydney Joan took us to many points of interest around Sydney itself including the Rocks, where we Spaghetti Factory, an old bond store had a wonderful meal at the Old converted to a restaurant. In this very old section we also discovered a couple of really quaint old pubs.

There is so much of historical interest to see in Sydney and we could have spent days and days there. We took a trip on the Hydrofoil round the harbour and across to Manly. All through our trip we found marvellous entertainment and fabulous (and cheap) meals at the league clubs and R.S.L. clubs. We have nothing here in the west to approximate these clubs, but we found them very good indeed. St. George's League club is the best and biggest of all and caters for all types of entertainment. These clubs are maintained, of course, from the profits from the poker machines and we gave these a good whirl too. We even took off a couple of minor jack pots.

I forgot to mention that during our first week in Sydney we had a delicious meal at Edith and Alan Luby's flat. We had been with Edith and Alan on the Tassie trip, but it good to see them again, and also to see Maria again although she was on crutches due to a motor cycle accident. Hope you are quite well again.

now, Maria. We also met Maria's sister, Peta, for the first time also present were June and Bill Bennett. It was really good to see them again and we spent a wonderful evening. Thank you Edith and Alan.

This stay in N.S.W. was wonderful and it is worth a thought that a similar trip to the one Joan took us, plus

a few days stay in Sydney could be a possibility for the next Safari. Believe me N.S.W. has immense possibilities.

Our time was running out, and at last it was good bye and back home. Thank you Joan and John, you were wonderful to us and we will not forget.

JUNE 1ST:

FILM EVENING, IMPERIAL HOTEL, 8 P.M.

JUNE MEETING:

FIRST TUESDAY, CALCUTT TROPHY.

JULY MEETING:

FIRST TUESDAY, GUEST SPEAKER.

OCTOBER 12TH-14TH:

KALGOORLIE CONVENTION

**MEMBERS, PLEASE MAKE THE MONTHLY
MEETINGS A MUST.**

ATTEND AND ASSIST YOUR COMMITTEE

being a unit, and want to
see if you have more
to say and if possible
send some more to the "PRINT," MIDDLE SWAN, PHONE 74 1404