



2/2 COMMANDO Courier

Registered for transmission by post as a periodical — Category "A"

Address all Association correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth 6001

Vol. 30. No. 259

February, 1978

Price 1c.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY, 29th. POYNTON PICNIC to be held at 169 ORMSBY TERRACE, MANDURAH. Bring your own steak and chops. Every other thing will be supplied.

What about making it as it is one of the best outings of the year, thanks to the generosity of Helen and Joe Poynton.

FEBRUARY, 7th. DISCUSSION NIGHT to assist the Committee with ideas for the 1978 year. Bring the Ladies and make it a good night and let them submit ideas. R.S.L. CLUB, SHERWOOD COURT, PERTH.

MARCH 7th. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, at R.S.L. CLUB, SHERWOOD COURT, PERTH. Members make this a must and at least give one night in the year to the Association and let the Committee see that you are interested. The success of the Association lies in the support from the members, so what about it. Don't forget the date.

BUY A TICKET AND SELL A TICKET. DO IT QUICKLY AS TIME IS NOW STARTING TO RUN OUT AND THE SUCCESS OF THE SAFARI DEPENDS GREATLY ON THE SUCCESS OF THE RAFFLE. ADVISE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE EITHER TO THE PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY IF YOU INTEND TO BE IN ADELAIDE FOR THE SAFARI.

BUY A TICKET AND SELL A TICKET.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT ANZAC CLUB, ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1977.

THE President Mr. A. Wares declared the meeting open at 8.05 p.m.

PRESENT: A. Wares, P. Hancock, J. Carey, D. Ritchie, B. McDonald, R. Dhu, H. Sproxton, G. Fletcher, C. Doig, D. Ritchie and L. Bagley.

APOLOGIES from D. Fullarton and D. Darrington.

MINUTES of Meeting held on Tuesday, October 11, 1977, were read and confirmed on the motion of P. Hancock, seconded C. Varian.

TREASURER'S REPORT: P. Hancock presented the following statement of accounts as at November 15, 1977:

Balance brought forward \$591.01

Balance as at November 15, 1977 \$391.11

Financial Report was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of C. Doig, seconded B. McDonald.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward from Mick Devlin, Ron Gurr, Max Davies, 'Smash' Hodgson, George Vandelaar, Bob Smyth, Sir Bernard Callinan, Senator J.L. Carrick, Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. It was moved by C. Doig, seconded D. Ritchie that inward correspondence be received.

TIMORESE MIGRANTS: Correspondence was received from the office of the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, who will examine the case of the Madeira family. Sir Bernard Callinan has written to Senator J.L. Carrick, who in turn has contacted Senator M. MacKellor regarding the migration of the Madeira family.

SAFARI RAFFLE: Seventy two tickets have been sold to date. It must be remembered that our Adelaide members are depending on the success of this raffle to conduct Safari '78.

Frank Freestone is in Hollywood Hospital after suffering a heart attack.

Ernie Dinwoodie is also in Hollywood following a stroke.

Alf Brady is now in a C class hospital at Embleton.

Colin Criddle has just had a very serious operation.

Tom Crouch passed away in the Warren District Hospital on November 22, 1977.

THE Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS GENERAL MEETING

On 6th December the final general meeting for 1977 was held at the R.S.L. Club, at Sherwood Court. This took the form of a Xmas get-together and it was heartening to find that in spite of the many social commitments at this time of the year, twenty five of the Association met for a pleasant evening of chat and bon homie. Among those present were Thelma and Henry Sproxton, Dorothy and Len Bagley, Dot and Gerry Maley, Elsie and Scotty Wares, Ivy and Dave Ritchie, Delys and Jack Carey, Mary and Charlie King, Lexie and Clarrie Varian, Grace and Clarrie Turner - making a special trip to be present at this meeting - always great to have our country members along - Dorothy Boyland, Jess Epps, Sid Jarvis - good to see you again Sid - Ron Kirkwood, Ron Nieuwerling, Percy Hancock, Dick Darrington.

VALE TOM CROUCH I

It is with the deepest regret that we have to advise of the death of Tom Crouch, after a fairly long illness. Tom faced death in the same way in which he faced life with outstanding guts and fortitude. He knew weeks before that he would not live but handled the whole situation with the same power that was his attitude to life, sheer Guts.

Tom was one of the outstanding soldiers of the 2/2nd Cdo. Sqn. He was a member to the end of the war with 9 section. He was completely beloved of his comrades in the

section and of 'C' platoon on Timor and N.G. and N.B. He was eventually a corporal and carried his duties in an outstanding manner. On return from the Army he came back to his old home town, Manjimup and started a career as an outstanding Citizen. Firstly Captain of the Tennis Club, then Captain of the Bush Fire Brigade, eventually he became a member of the local shire, and was President of the Shire of Warren just prior to his death. He was also a member of the Warren District Hospital and worked hard for the Warren District without thought of his own property.

Tom was Country Vice President of the 2/2nd Association on many occasions and served us very well. He attended the 1968, 1971 Safaries and went to Timor in 1969 for the opening of the Timor Memorial. Just what more can you say about a great bloke.

The Association thought enough about this member to travel from all parts of the State to attend his funeral. Jack Carey and Henry Sproxtton were two of his pall bearers and the following members formed a guard of honour, President Scotty Wares, Ron Kirkwood, Jack Wicks, Col Doig, Mick Morgan, Jim Smailes Roy Watson, Joe Poynton, Arthur Smith, Gordon Barnes Mick Holland, Vince Swann, Peter Campbell, Don Turton, Ernie Bingham, Ron Sprigg, Tony Bowers, Bill Rowan-Robinson, Bernie Langridge, Clarrie Turner, Gordon Rowley, Alec Thomson. It was a most impressive service and the local minister gave a quite inspired address at the church, granted he had good material to work on. The funeral cortege was probably the largest seen in Manjimup and would have comprised at least 100 cars. In passing it was wonderful to see a dear old soldier of 84 years in Salvation Army Uniform blow the Last Post and Reveille on the cornet.

The Association's sympathy to Tom's mother, brother and two sisters. Specially we would like to thank Jean and Jack Little for all they did for Tom both during his

life time and his last days, their devotion to Tom was something to be seen to be believed.

VALE TOM CROUCH. GREAT SOLDIER, GREAT GENTLEMAN AND GREAT CITIZEN.

VALE. ERNIE DINWOODIE

It seems that the wheel of fortune never stops turning. Only eight days after the death of Tom Crouch we have to record the passing of another member of 9 Section in Ernie Dinwoodie.

Ernie was of course an original of the 2/2nd but only served on Timor. Shortly after the war he contracted T.B. and after a long convalescence was retrained under the DM & W.T.S. as a motor mechanic - Auto Motive mechanic and achieved a degree of excellence at the latter trade.

Gradually bad health caught up with him and he retired. Quite recently he had two massive strokes which ended his life. The funeral was at Karrakatta Cemetery on Friday 2/12/77 and the following members of the Association attended Scotty Wares, P. Hancock, C. Doig, H. Sproxtton, J. Carey, G. Maley, F. Napier, A. Smith, R. Kirkwood, R. MacMahon, J. Hasson.

Our most sincere condolences to wife Mary and the family.

VALE. RON EASTICK

It is with regret that I have to announce the passing of Ron Eastick of Melbourne on 23/11/77 after a severe heart attack.

Ron and his wife Carmel had not long returned to Melbourne after a holiday in W.A. where they both enjoyed themselves and met quite a number of the 2/2nd boys and their wives.

To Carmel and the family we extend our deepest sympathy.

Because they could not stop for Death

He kindly stopped for them

The carriage held but just themselves

And Immortality.

Goodbye Our Comrades.

WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS

INGLEWOOD

Kindest regards to all, sorry this is so late, the Secretary has been too busy in the garden!!

Mary Martin.

GIBSON

Just a note to enclose cheque for two tickets in raffle and remainder for the Courier. We hope to see you all at the Poynton Picnic on January 29th.

Everything going well here after a very dry time - crops surprisingly good but weather a bit of a hold up with harvesting.

Peter sends his regards to all but is very busy organising the two boys and generally being the rouse-about.

Regards to yourself and Elsie -

Pat Campbell.

LUDLOW

Hi everybody, don't drop dead when you see who this is from, but after going to Tom Crouch's funeral on Friday, and seeing so many of the 2/2nd boys there, I thought I would write a few lines. I think it was fantastic the way so many travelled many miles to be there. Tom's mother must have been proud and honoured to see so many. I could not help but notice how many were wearing the double red diamond tie pin and lapel brooch, and was wondering if they are still available and the cost of them as I would like to get them for Alex. You may send them COD to above address or let me know the cost and I will send the money.

Our family have grown up now, 3 married, 2 still at home working in the forestry like dad, one doing a mechanic apprenticeship and the other carpentry. We have 3 grandchildren. Alex is keeping very well but has writers cramp when it comes to putting pen to paper. We often see Ted Loud, Clarrie Turner and Bob Palmer. Ted is having a lot of trouble

with his foot. There seems to be a lot of the boys gone to live at Mandurah. I guess it is a good retiring village.

Well I guess I had better sign off as everyone else has gone to bed. A Happy New Year to all.

Wyn Thomson.

(Sent the tie pin and lapel clip. Hope you received it O.K. - Scotty)

WONGAN HILLS

Enclosed is a cheque to cover two tickets in raffle. Blanche and I are still on the farm, but not for long. We are having a house built in Wongan and expect to move in about April. I am not really looking forward to the move, after 50 years on the farm it will be a bit hard to take. However Charles is in there and he seems to have adjusted well to the move, and I guess I'll do the same.

It will not be complete retirement from the farm as I reckon I will be out every day fiddling around. Peter, our boy, is very capable now and I think in fairness to him I should hand the reins completely over. I have been doing it gradually. He is very interested in building up a stud of pure breed Limousin cattle - French Breed - and has been artificially inseminating cows for four years. This is a long programme and takes about twelve years to build up to a pure breed herd of any number. Last year he purchased a Limousin Heifer from New Zealand, the only country you can bring them in from, because of quarantine regulations. He sent the heifer to Broomehill for ovum transplant. In ovum transplant the donor cow is dosed up with fertility drugs and then inseminated with pure breed semen of the same breed. Six days after that, the heifer or cow is operated on and the fertilised eggs are flushed out and transplanted into recipient animals. The recipient animal must be at the same stage of heat as the donor cow. The result was that the heifer Peter sent down produced seventeen

fertilised eggs which were transplanted into heifers. However only about 60% of these transplants are successful on average. In this case 12 of the 17 recipients were tested as pregnant. There is a possibility that Peter will have 20 pure bred French Limousins on the farm in 1978, all from one heifer. It costs about \$1200 for each pregnant recipient. It is a gamble like most things on a farm. I sure hope the beef market looks up a lot and these Limousins might sell well. I hope this is not too boring but I thought it might be of interest to some of the chaps.

Charlie mentioned in his note last Courier, that we were going to Exmouth for a fishing holiday. We did go, seven of us, but we left a lot of fish for the next ones. We caught a lot of small fish but it was not very exciting. The weather up there was good in August and I find it the most relaxing holidays you can have. Strangely while we were up there we had good rains on the farm.

The crops are very poor here and will not yield much more than half of last years and feed can be described as terrible. Peter has enough hay to feed his cattle on and should have enough oats to see him through

Saw Reg. Harrington at golf in Bolgart on open day. We had a few drinks together after. Sorry to hear that Ron Sprigg was ill and had to interrupt his northern holiday. He and Win called in and stayed with us overnight on a previous trip and it was great to see them.

Regards to all -

Stan Sadler.

(Very interested in your letter regarding the breeding. Editor.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

G TIMMS
1 Alston Ave,
Como. 6152.

J. WICKS
30 Third Ave,
Kensington. 6151

ADDRESS BOOKS RETURNED

J. Laffy (NSW) R. Splatt (VIC)
G.R. Lewis (WA).

R.S.L. SHOP 570 HAY ST., PERTH Gents Outfitters

Prices are more than
comparable with other
shops in the City.

All profits to the War
Veterans Home.
10% disc. to members

Dave Ritchie, Manager

The President wishes to thank the following for donations towards the Courier publication - J.R. Smith, A. MacLachlan, T. Snowden, K. Dignum, K. Monk, R. Rowan-Robinson, P. Campbell, John Poynton, A. Hodge, A. Martin, E. Hoffman.

A number of members from the Eastern States have visited Perth recently and had contacted some of the W.A. boys and had a few beers and talked of old times. The first arrival was Bob Williamson from South Australia who was on a business trip. He wished to meet the boys at Mandurah and Jess Epps drove him there and made sure that he was back in Perth to connect with his air flight to Adelaide. From all accounts Bob really enjoyed seeing the different ones.

Peter Mantle arrived from Queensland and met up with quite a number of members and had the usual chat and drinks. He left to cruise back to Sydney by way of Singapore, Hong Kong and Bangkok. We hope that Peter enjoyed himself and returned safely to Allora.

George and Dot Robinson were over in the West for a month and they certainly tried to meet as many

members as they possibly could. After meeting as many Perth members in the few days between Xmas and New Years Eve, they then left to spend two days in Mandurah, before heading south to contact those living in that area. He spent most of the 2nd January at the residence of Arthur and Beryl Smith's where he again caught up with Scotty and

Elsie Wares. After lunch they departed to continue their trip. We do hope that everything went as they had planned.

It is certainly great to have visitors from the other states contact us and for us to extend hospitality, and we certainly appreciate the way we are looked after when we visit other states.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

SOUTH WEST ROCKS

Again I have joined the ranks of those who have not written for a long time. Time just seems to fly lately. The arrival of the Courier this afternoon has activated me.

Have been fairly busy this year one way and another. In February my wife Angie and myself visited our daughter and family in Labrador, Newfoundland, Canada. It was mid winter of course and they told us we were lucky it was a mild winter. The temperature was down to -39oC, while we were there. I could not be an Eskimo and have that for six months of the year. The family have now returned to Aussie and have settled in Nowra where the son-in-law has taken up a Medical practice.

Since returning we have done a major maintenance job on the light-house dome. We have renewed some of the steel work, which necessitated stripping the whole dome.

Usually see Bill Walsh when at the Kempsey RSL Club but it is almost 8 weeks since I last saw him. Must call and see Bob and Joyce Smith next time we go South. We have had a dry winter. Last good rain was in May. The long range forecasters say we are in for a drought next year.

It is good to get the Courier and read the names of chaps and suddenly see them as a flash back of 34 years. I guess we have all changed. Had a letter from Ron Archer about June - he was on the sick list but by being careful hoped to get back to work in due course. He told me of Tony Adams retirement and that he

was hoping to do some caravanning. Hope he calls in to visit us.

Enclosed cheque for the raffle and I hope to make S.A.

My regards to all the fellows,

Harry Handicott

(Ron Archer not on mailing list was he 2/2nd and if so let me have his address, and I will make sure he is. Editor.)

GRIFFITH

Sorry to be late with the Courier sub, never any intention of giving it away, it is just a matter of getting around to it.

I am sort of semi retired, I do a little harvest work now, and just to keep the joints moveable, as they have certainly rusted up a bit over the years.

It is still a pleasure to receive the Courier, as without it all would have been lost years ago.

We are having a drought around these parts, except of course on the irrigation, it hasn't rained for months, and would do more harm than good now. There is the odd crop around here that is fair, one wonders how they manage to survive on so little moisture.

Xmas will soon be here again, my best wishes to you and your family, also to all members and families for a bright Xmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Your work on the Courier is greatly appreciated, and I hope we are around for many more years to receive it.

Enclosed cheque for two tickets in raffle and balance towards the Courier - all the best - Alf Hodge.

CANBERRA

This is only a short note to accompany request for two tickets in raffle, enclosed cheque to cover cost of tickets and balance for Courier fund.

Hope that all is well with you folk in the West, my wife and I are eagerly looking forward to meeting you in Adelaide next year. I have been enjoying good health myself, but Bonnie has not been the best for some time now. Do not see many unit members although I do contact Roy Martin and his good wife occasionally, they have a married daughter living in Canberra. Sorry I missed seeing Mal Herbert when he was over here for the rifle shooting, but when he had free time I was working. My daughter and her girlfriend are motoring to the West in January and as they are going for 6 weeks there is a good show that she will call on some of you good people. I think she has Mandurah 29th on her list.

The country over here is frightfully dry, have had no rain for ages and do not look like getting any. Was down in Melbourne last weekend and things are the same there.

Our very best wishes to everyone for Xmas and the New Year.

Regards,

Tom Snowden.

YOUNG

Dear Everyone,

This year I feel there is not very much to tell everyone except that we are all well and seem to be managing all right. We seem to have spent a quieter year not going out quite so much, and not having quite as many visitors. As you know Janette and Stan are now living at Townsville, and it is just over 12 months since they left. Keith and I went up for 3½ weeks in Sept. this year. We spent some time with Jan, as Stan was on a course, Sergt. course, which he passed, and within the next month, will have his third stripe. Janette is working a couple of evenings a week, packing the

shelves at one of the new supermarkets. We found Townsville a most uninteresting town and area, and to me it seemed very bare and of course it was dusty, because of the drought. The shopping is very good and Jan hasn't far to go only about a block to a complete shopping area, which isn't really big, but she can get all she needs. About 4 blocks further on, is the big Woolworth and Coles Supermarkets, which are quite huge complexes, and the shopping there is really very good. The houses are of course all on stilts, but are quite comfortable, and quite nicely furnished. The furniture is fairly heavy wooden furniture and well polished. While up that way Keith and I went up to Cairns on a bus tour, and we enjoyed it very much. We did a one day tour of the Atherton Tablelands by bus, going to Kurunda on the little train, and then by bus. We stopped at Redlynch on the train, and Keith was able to take some photos of where he was camped during the war. We enjoyed this day very much and the next day did a boat trip to Green Island, where we saw the underwater observatory, saw the Barrier Reef through the Glass Bottom Boats, went to the Theatre on the Island where they showed films on the Barrier Reef, bird and fish life, which was most interesting. We also saw the aquarium which was interesting, and also had a great number of carvings etc. from New Guinea. Keith was most interested in them, and he was able to take some quite good snaps of some of the exhibits. Our trip out and back on the boat was quite rough, but very enjoyable. That evening we did a bus tour to a sugar mill to see how we rot our teeth. We saw the cane come in, being tipped, sampled and processed right up to the raw sugar. We were interested in the cane growing and the area up that way is far better than Townsville area. I also saw tobacco growing for the first time and the funny little shed, with many chimneys where they dry it out. I wasn't really impressed, although it did look nice and healthy.

Both Keith and I say that it would be quite a nice place to retire too, Mareeba, Atherton or somewhere up on the tablelands.

I just had a 'phone call from Janette and Stan. They are well and Jan is looking after a Stamp Shop for a week, while the owner is away in Sydney-Melbourne buying. They are both very keen on stamps, and Stan has a really wonderful collection, especially of Australian stamps. Phillip's is more extensive, as he went in for a lot of overseas ones as well. However it is a good hobby. Phillip is well, but won't be home until early January this year, so we have decided to have Christmas come Keith's Birthday all in one, as it is not worth him driving home in all the traffic for 1½ days, and then having to drive back in the traffic as well. I would rather he kept out of it especially at that time of the year.

Keith and I have been doing a bit of Old Time Dancing this year. We have been doing the rounds of the area, going to Temora, Cootamundra Grenfell, Boorwa and Young. We met up with a couple at Temora, and they have been to Young to show us some of the steps, and we are now having practices with a few friends, and having a great time. I haven't done some of these dances for 30 years, like Swing, Doreathea and Palma Waltzes, Boston Two Step, Evening Three Step. They are so

graceful when done properly, and we are enjoying every minute of it all. We have a lot of the good music taped, and every so often go to the little church hall and practice away, and really have a ball. Last weekend we went to a German Dinner Dance. It was really good too. Wonderful food, good music and really relaxed atmosphere. When we came back from Townsville we had a couple of days in Sydney, and saw Marjory and Mervyn Jones, and Joan Darge on our way up, but haven't been anywhere else, except that we hurried through Dubbo at Easter to see Keith's father, and didn't have time to call on the Sharpes. Next time. At the moment Keith's father is in Sydney and will be up to see us shortly. He was 93 a few weeks ago, and is really well.

At the moment my sister Val from Goulburn is in Adelaide visiting our youngest sister, husband and children, and she hopes to be back here with us for Christmas and the New Year. We took her to Bowral with us, when we went on the bus to see the Tulip Festival. The gardens were lovely, and I wish we had the soil here, although our garden is a credit to all the work Keith puts into it.

Now all the best to everyone, and hope all are well, and Christmas and the New Year will be good to everyone -

Keith and Betty Craig.

VICTORIAN NEWS

BALWYN

Many thanks for the 1977 address book just received, and particularly thanks to those who have worked to produce it.

Just reading through the names brings visions of young atebryn-yellow faces, sometimes happy, sometimes weary, but overall purposeful faces showing confidence in themselves, confidence in their mates - good mates. Reading through the book brings quiet

pleasure and some sadness for the names that are not there.

Enclosed is cheque, very belated for Courier and Association.

Association activities very quiet here, and its time we got off our asses and get something done.

All the best -

John Southwell

(It is a pity that Victorian Association seems to have lacked interest. Editor.)

Both Keith and I say that it would be quite a nice place to retire too, Mareeba, Atherton or somewhere up on the tablelands.

I just had a 'phone call from Janette and Stan. They are well and Jan is looking after a Stamp Shop for a week, while the owner is away in Sydney-Melbourne buying. They are both very keen on stamps, and Stan has a really wonderful collection, especially of Australian stamps. Phillip's is more extensive, as he went in for a lot of overseas ones as well. However it is a good hobby. Phillip is well, but won't be home until early January this year, so we have decided to have Christmas come Keith's Birthday all in one, as it is not worth him driving home in all the traffic for 1½ days, and then having to drive back in the traffic as well. I would rather he kept out of it especially at that time of the year.

Keith and I have been doing a bit of Old Time Dancing this year. We have been doing the rounds of the area, going to Temora, Cootamundra Grenfell, Booorwa and Young. We met up with a couple at Temora, and they have been to Young to show us some of the steps, and we are now having practices with a few friends, and having a great time. I haven't done some of these dances for 30 years, like Swing, Doreathea and Palma Waltzs, Boston Two Step, Evening Three Step. They are so

graceful when done properly, and we are enjoying every minute of it all. We have a lot of the good music taped, and every so often go to the little church hall and practice away, and really have a ball. Last weekend we went to a German Dinner Dance. It was really good too. Wonderful food, good music and really relaxed atmosphere. When we came back from Townsville we had a couple of days in Sydney, and saw Marjory and Mervyn Jones, and Joan Darge on our way up, but haven't been anywhere else, except that we hurried through Dubbo at Easter to see Keith's father, and didn't have time to call on the Sharpes. Next time. At the moment Keith's father is in Sydney and will be up to see us shortly. He was 93 a few weeks ago, and is really well.

At the moment my sister Val from Goulburn is in Adelaide visiting our youngest sister, husband and children, and she hopes to be back here with us for Christmas and the New Year. We took her to Bowral with us, when we went on the bus to see the Tulip Festival. The gardens were lovely, and I wish we had the soil here, although our garden is a credit to all the work Keith puts into it.

Now all the best to everyone, and hope all are well, and Christmas and the New Year will be good to everyone -

Keith and Betty Craig.

VICTORIAN NEWS

BALWYN

Many thanks for the 1977 address book just received, and particularly thanks to those who have worked to produce it.

Just reading through the names brings visions of young atebri-yellow faces, sometimes happy, sometimes weary, but overall purposeful faces showing confidence in themselves, confidence in their mates - good mates. Reading through the book brings quiet

pleasure and some sadness for the names that are not there.

Enclosed is cheque, very belated for Courier and Association.

Association activities very quiet here, and its time we got off our asses and get something done.

All the best -

John Southwell

(It is a pity that Victorian Association seems to have lacked interest.

Editor.)

ST. KILDA

Bill has had this cheque made out for some time, waiting for the urge to write, have decided whilst on the job to pen a few lines and send it off. Bill was granted the Service Pension in July, so it meant that I had to give up work. Can recommend the life to anyone - have been so busy, will never know how I found the time to go to work. Last month, we came back home through Bendigo and Bill spent a few happy hours with Kevin Curran - on leaving there called in at Lake Eppalong where we enjoyed a short visit to Bluey Sargent and his wife. Bill also saw W. Moodie and his wife in Shepparton a little while back, where they enjoyed a chatter about old times. He is out visiting John Roberts this afternoon - we usually pop up and see John any time we are in the city. John and Kath are expecting their eldest daughter over from England for Xmas, so will have the family together once more.

Hope that there are still some tickets left and we are able to make the Safari next year.

Regards to all,

Eileen and Bill Sharp

POOWONG EAST

It is time again for me to write our Christmas letter to relations and friends near and far. The year has just flown by. It seems no time since I wrote to you all a year ago. The saying that three years pass quicker as one gets older is certainly true. We celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary on 26th April so I guess that is one reason time seems to go quicker these days. Ken and the family join me in sending best wishes for a Happy Christmas and we hope 1978 will be a good year for you. We are both well here and are still milking cows for a living. However, we intend easing up a bit for a couple of months this coming year. The season has been really kind to us compared to other parts of Victoria and we have a lot to be thankful for.

Ken and Colin have made one stack of ensilage here. There wasn't as much grass as last year. Now they are cutting a paddock for hay so we hope the weather will be helpful. Colin didn't put in any summer crops this year. He has hay to do soon so they will be busy for the next couple of weeks.

Now for our family news - Barbara Owen and two little girls are all well. Megan will be a year old on 9th December. She is a lovely little blondie with blue eyes., Barbara thinks she may be walking for her birthday. Barbara's back still aches a lot so she hopes Megan will hurry and walk as little 1 year old girls are rather heavy. Angela is a blondie too, but has brown eyes like her mother. She has enjoyed Play School this year. She is growing quickly and will be 3 in March. Owen has a busy time with work, garden and 3 ladies to keep in order.

Elva, Rod and Finlay are a happy family too. Elva passed her last exam recently and now has her A certificate for teaching. During the year she was promoted to a Principal which means she could be head of a school of 65 - 225 pupils. It may be some years before she can take such a position. Rod has completed his 3 year course and now has a Degree. Next year he will attend Hawthorn Teachers' College 2 days a week and teach 3 days. Then in 1979 he will be ready to teach at a technical school full time. Finlay will be 4 on 13th December and is really growing up. He is looking forward to starting kindergarten next year. He has occasional holidays with us and really loves the farm life especially the tractor. Colin and Joan are well. They are milking almost 90 cows so are kept busy. The farm is looking really nice and responding well to the hard work that Colin, Joan and Ken have all put in. Joan has a nice garden with lots of trees, shrubs, lawn and flowers. It is nice to be near them and so see them fairly often. 22nd December will be an exciting day as we will all be going to Tullamarine to welcome Robert home from his 20½ months trip

overseas. It has been a wonderful experience for him. He enjoyed his time working on the farm in Denmark. The only drawback was the extremely cold winter with its ice, frost and snow. Since last May he has travelled a lot throughout Europe and the U.K. and stayed with many friends he'd made while working in Canada. We have eagerly looked forward to the letters, cards, tapes and photos that he has sent. He left London on 24th September and is travelling by bus to Kathmandu. An 80 day trip and due to arrive at K on 12th December. Then he is booked to fly to Bangkok and Singapore staying for 2-3 days at

each - then on to Sydney and home. We are all getting excited as time for his homecoming draws near. It will be just great to see him again. Ken and I have had a busy time in the garden in our spare time this year. We have quite a good vegetable garden which keeps us in vegies all the time. Our flower garden is quite pretty. We bought 11 new roses and 18 new iris this year and have enjoyed seeing the blooms as they come out.

I must say cheerio now. We finish by saying we hope this finds you in good health. Season's Greetings to all.

Margaret and Ken Monk

QUEENSLAND NEWS

BRISBANE

I have just read, in the Courier, of the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Nora and Paddy Kenneally. I said to myself, "Self, if Nora can put up with Paddy for twenty five years without too much complaining, surely you can sit down and write at least one letter a year to the Courier without it appearing a hardship". So here I am and I'm sure that I have a much easier task than Nora. Congratulations Paddy, for being lucky enough to win and hold a prize such as your good wife undoubtedly is. Nora, congratulations for having the patience of Job and the wisdom of Soloman to be able to manage, encourage and pacify the man from County Cork without you yourself finishing up in the loony bin.

Had a very pleasant surprise visit, a few weeks ago, from Ron Trengrove, Dorothy and Mother. Ron, my monument to the Queensland State Forest is completed and Lois is very happy with the results, so much so that she has threatened to look out some extra jobs for me. A lesson for the home handyman,

never finish a job and never, never make too good a job of what you are doing for you will never have a free moment from then on. We don't have many Interstate visitors up in the Deep North and it is a nice bonus when one drops in.

The Mac household has been blessed with a brand new grand daughter, hale and hearty and good looking like her paternal grand father. That makes our score three grand daughters and one grand son. I always was one for the girls myself. All four are very lively and it will be a difficult task growing old while they are around. That is, if they don't wear me to a frazzle before growing old time arrives.

Sorry I have no news to pass on of any of the boys up this way. One sees each other on very occasional times. Find enclosed money for 78 raffle and a few extra cents for the Courier. All the best for all you good folks in the West for Christmas and the New Year. That goes also to all the boys where ever they may be.

Till next time and may it not be so long.

Angus Maclachlan

BUY A TICKET AND SELL A TICKET.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

SEATON

Please find enclosed amount for a ticket and the balance to the Courier.

I am still roaming all over the State and enjoying it. See Dud Tapper regular and occasionally Alan Hollow. Alan gave me a run down on his W.A. trip, he must have had a good time.

We have joined the ranks of the caravanners and hope one day to make the West, but will see you all before that, when you are over the Safari.

Well Scotty will end now and write later, may be more news then.

Regards,

Keith Dignum

TASMANIAN NEWS

LAUNCESTON

Can you accept two recruits for the Safari 78. We have TX numbers but don't own the Casino. Lola and I will be going to Perth for two weeks per Indian Pacific, prior to or after the Adelaide trip. It will be our first trip to the West and I will be looking forward to meeting some of my old mates of Timor days. I am not known to very many 2/2nd chaps but that should be corrected before the end of Safari. Shall be looking forward to

future Couriers for news concerning Safari.

I am mighty pleased Tasmania made their debut in Sheffield Cricket in October 77 and not 1978. It is a long way off to Adelaide 78, but both of us are looking forward to it immensely. Two tickets please and balance to Courier and Association funds.

All the best,

Mark Conroy

**BUY A TICKET AND SELL A
TICKET, AND BE IN ADELAIDE
FOR 1978 SAFARI.**