



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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PRESIDENTS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 1981

Our new editor has kindly reserved space for me to send a Christmas Greeting.

In retrospect, I believe it is reasonable to say, we have had another good year and I am satisfied that the status quo has been well and truly maintained.

It is said, that notable events are almost always the culmination of effort in decision making, planning and carrying out, by notable people. The — Gold Coast Safari 1981 — Poynton Australia Day Picnic in January — Timorese "Getting to know each other" Picnic at Turton's Keysbrook hide-out in May — Timorese Club (Inc.) Constitution, recently — Breakthrough with Veterans Affairs Department — re approvals for T.P.I. and War Widows Pensions — are no exceptions.

This Association after 35 years of efficient functioning is lucky indeed, to still possess more members, with the interest and the willingness to give their time to arranging the occasions necessary "to promote and maintain the spirit of comradeship among all members".

On your behalf, I say, thank-you, to everyone involved for their efforts in support of the Association through 1981.

In particular I thank our efficient, helpful and energetic W.A. Branch Committee and those members who provided the venues, for their performance and support. They have made my position one of pleasant duration!!

Finally, I thank my wife, Mary, for her acceptance and support by taking over the Courier completion and issue duties, when we needed someone, and, together with her, wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous and Healthy New Year for 1982.

Gerry McKenzie

2/2nd Commando Association Gold Coast Safari, 1981

SUPERB

Monday morning the 5th October, 1981, when the invading force was met by the Queensland Committee it was the culmination of two years of planning that made this Safari one of real quality — from that moment the Reunion was set alight. Great credit must go to the organising Committee and we salute you:— Tony and Iris Adams, George and Edna Vandeleur, George and Mel Mathieson, Ralph and Sheila Conley, Fred and Phyllis Bryant, Angus and Iris MacLachlan.

Silverton was a magnificent residential choice and the units provided were first class in every respect. The "goodies" of Rum, pineapple juice, bananas, eggs and bread placed in our units, showed the fine detail given to our arrival by the Queensland Branch Organising Committee, and a touch of "old soldier" management.

The get-together at the Hospitality Unit in the evening of all members and their wives visiting Queensland set the pace for the fortnight ahead. It had warmth, enthusiasm, and the emotion of meeting friends of wartime years. Many have increased in stature, or diminished, according to their lifestyle, and many with grey hair to record the passing of the years. The clock was turned back a long way and everyone chatted with animation and drank with gusto — the success of the Queensland Safari was assured.

Our 2/2nd Commando Gold Coast Safari Dinner was held in the premises of the biggest R.S.L. Club in Queensland, certainly the most palatial, the Twin Town Services Club in Coolangatta-Tweed Heads. Point of fact we were in N.S.W. for the dinner, the club being outside the Queensland border gate.

The Toast List was capably handled by Chairman, Ralph Conley and following are the members and their assignments:

The Unit	—	Mick Morgan
Absent Friends	—	Alan Luby
Interstate Visitors	—	Tony Adams
Response	—	Henry Botterill

Guest speaker was Gar Adams who delivered an interesting and humorous dialogue involving individuals, war, then relating it to the 2/2nd Commando Unit achievements. The 'Vote of Thanks' to the guest speaker was given by Angus MacLachlan.

Great credit goes to the Queensland Branch Organising Committee for the meticulous arrangements made for the evening. It was a real glittering occasion,

made so by the ladies, who dressed beautifully to complement their immaculate escorts, setting the seal on an enjoyable, dignified, memorable Unit Dinner.

We were doubly indebted to the Twin Town Services Club for they allowed us to purchase our liquor requirements at a special price and made our group Honorary members of the club for the duration of our stay.

Mick Morgan's toast to "The Unit" is detailed elsewhere in the Courier for it is an interesting part of our history.

Our next special occasion was a **Civic Reception** by The Right Honourable, The Lord Mayor, Alderman Frank Sleeman, in the Reception Hall of the City Chambers, Brisbane. A Commando member in his own right, his Unit the ill-fated 2/1st Independent Company, Frank welcomed all with deep sincerity, particularly the members of the 2/2nd Commando Association on the occasion of their 1981 Safari to the Queensland Gold Coast. We were joined by the M—Z Special Units Commando Association with whom we have a close affinity.

Our Senior Vice President Jack Fowler responded with a brief but telling oration, the highlight being Jack's presentation of a Gavel, suitably inscribed, beautifully crafted, by Gar Adams, to the Lord Mayor and the City of Brisbane in token of their hospitality and the 2/2nd Commando Association visit to Queensland. It was inscribed thus:

'Presented to the R/Hon. Lord Mayor Alderman Frank Sleeman by the members of the 2/2nd Commando Squadron, dated October 1981'

It was a proud and happy reception for us all and shared by our ladies who again looked so lovely. They glowed with pride to be at the side of their husbands on such an auspicious occasion, which they have all made possible by their devotedness and loyalty over all the years.

Among the guests at this illustrious gathering were: G.O.C. 1st Division, Northern Command, Major General David Drabsch, and retired chief of the Defence Force Staff, General Sir Arthur MacDonald.

This culminated years of endeavour by the 2/2nd Commando Association and such recognition has made the organisation not only a success in the years of war, but more importantly in the years of peace.

WE GO TO THE RACES

The Association were the guests of the Gold Coast Turf Club on Saturday 10th October, 1981 and we owe a

debt of gratitude to that club and its Chairman, Mr. A.D. Hollindale, O.B.E. for a fine afternoons entertainment.

The members and their wives met with varying success and many horses we bet on are still coming into the turn. Despite that it was a happy group that wended its way, heavy laden, or minus their socks, back to the Silverton!! To the Chairman and the Committee of the Gold Coast Turf Club goes a big "thank you" for putting on the Timor, New Britain, New Guinea and Commando Handicaps and for their kind invitation.

Sunday dawned clear and fine, this was the day to honour our "**Departed Comrades**", the host club being the Surfers Paradise R.S.L. Memorial Club in Beach Road. We were joined by Bill McLean, President of the Queensland Combined Commando Association and other members.

Seventy-one personnel formed up for the march under the command of Mick Morgan and they showed all their old fire when the orders were given to "quick march" to the R.S.L. War Memorial. We were indebted to the Surfers Paradise Police, via Segreant Bunny Kruger for their eager and efficient co-operation.

A wreath was laid jointly by Tony Adams and Angus MacLachlan, the "Ode" was then given by Capt. Arthur Littler, M.C. President of the M-Z N.S.W. Commando Association. Two minutes silence followed. Alan Luby, President of N.S.W. 2/2nd Commando Association thanked all responsible for enabling the march to take place especially the President of Surfers Paradise R.S.L., Mr. Jack Taylor, for putting the facilities of his club at our disposal and granting Honorary Membership to all 2/2nd members for the duration of our stay.

At this stage Bill McLean handed to Alan Luby a pennant bearing the insignia of the M-Z Combined Commando Association to which Alan suitably responded. Here the "troops" were dismissed and all invited to partake of the hospitality of the Surfers Paradise R.S.L. which was enjoyed with great gusto.

Once again our ladies backed up their menfolk by attending en masse and as usual were an enthusiastic audience. What would we do without them?

This simple sincere and emotional service gave all the opportunity to pay homage to their mates who made it possible for all of us to share this grand "Safari Reunion". "Lest We Forget".

To add to the wonderful itinerary prepared by the Queensland boys, Monday the 12th October, 1981 saw a return to our old training ground of **Canungra**. We were joined in this by old mates Ted Cholerton, Arthur Birch and Arnold Webb. The scenery going up Springbrook Mountain to the lookout at Beechmont saw all wondering how the hades we ever climbed these mountains! Then we dropped to the Land Warfare Centre at Canungra where we were given a cordial welcome by our hosts, the Army Staff.

Morning tea, a sumptuous affair, was the forerunner of what was to be a mighty day, it took place in the Sergeants Mess. Then came the highlight. All the boys of the 2/2nd lined up by a modern day soldier in the person of R.S.M. W.O.P. R.J. May O.A.M., into ranks of three, grilled like recruits, then given sharp, snappy orders to be marched off to the Tactics Wing Theatre. The boys surprised all the local officers and N.C.O.'s with their precision and polish (but a bit rough), and to the plaudits of the ladies they moved off in column of route along the main street of Canungra Camp to the theatre. Here a brief resume was given on the history of Canungra by Captain Ryan, followed by a film and a question period.

Colonel Lewis, Commandant of Canungra then gave all present, officially, a hearty welcome and briefed us on the activities for the rest of the day. We boarded the buses, toured the camp, then headed for lunch at the Sports Club, which has in close proximity a 9 hole golf course! Here we were given ample drink, food served in Army Style and extremely well catered for in every detail. We are indeed indebted to Ralph Conley for giving us the "open sesame" to such a fine outing as this. To Freddie and Phyl Bryant, plus Sheila Conley for their help in the lunch preparations.

An official ceremony was held to present a plaque of the 2/2nd Commando Association to Colonel Lewis as a token of our thanks and esteem. This was very ably performed by Ralph Conley and the Commandant responded by assuring us that it would take pride of place in the officers mess. The plaque was neatly fabricated by Angus MacLachlan.

Two Life Membership badges were presented to members of the Association, one to Freddie Bryant by Jack Fowler who eulogised Freddie's contribution over the years to the Association. The other to Tony (Basher) Adams by Alan Luby, to one, who as Alan said, contributed greatly to the success of the Safari and for his continued support

over all the years. Well done Freddie and Tony, it was as you stated in reply, a proud moment, and you added your tribute that it indicated the work all the Queensland boys have done in their service to our Association. All members give you their hearty congratulations on such well deserved awards, and, in such an atmosphere.

Angus MacLachlan, who is already a Life Member, was mentioned in despatches for the sterling work he performed in all areas as Safari Secretary. A mighty job Angus!

That was not to be the end of the day, we were whisked off by bus to the Live Firing Range where we were treated to a rare exhibition of the power of today's modern weapons. Even our own lads had a chance to show they had lost none of their prowess. Captain Bevan and his demonstration group did a fine job. It rounded off a truly memorable day.

Numinbah Valley was our next outing on Wednesday 14th October, 1981 and it covered some ground familiar to the boys in their training period at Canungra. It is a valley of great beauty, fertile and extensively farmed. It is situated between the Beechmont and Nimmel Ranges, flanked by the Lamington National Park, carries some fine mountain scenery, part of which was the lunch stop at Purling Brook Falls.

A barbecue lunch prepared by all the members of the Queensland Committee and their ladies was thoroughly enjoyed. The "piece-de-resistance" being some beautiful home made apple pies by "Chef" Freddie Bryant who certainly has not lost his touch with the passing of the years.

The afternoon tour took the party through the Natural Arch or Bridge, passed the border gate into N.S.W., through Numinbah and onto Murwillumbah situated on the Tweed River. Onto the Pacific Highway, through Tweed Heads and Coolangatta then back to Silverton, after as everyone declared, a super day.

Friday dawned wet and windy. As it was the day trip to **Stradbroke Island**, via Moreton Bay, out came all the 'wet' gear and the seasick pills! Some of the head gear worn was out of this world, how the boys and girls thought of them, goodness knows. Not daunted in any way the party took off on their first stage by bus for the final outing of the Safari.

The weather ultimately caused no bother and the two hour trip each way to Stradbroke Island, a great barbecue lunch with the usual conviviality, proved again the versatile planning power of the Queensland Committee.

The whole concept, the venues chosen for the Safari outings, could almost be described as a "Fitzpatrick Traveltalk", and one felt a certain sadness that such a series of outings which brought us all so close together, was at an end.

Sunday night was the Grand Finale, a **barbecue at Silverton**. It was a night of varying emotions, of farewells and a drink to each others health. Again a fine contribution by Freddie Bryant in the culinary division. Sincere thanks from us all Freddie for a mighty effort. It was a thoughtful function by the Queenslanders to conclude a "magnificent Safari".

Then as always the women of our Association showed just how much they think about the lovely things of life when they came forward with the idea of presenting to our hostesses, tokens of gratitude for their part in making our 1981 Safari such a huge success. Yes, and for allowing their menfolk the time to organise the whole programme. Helen Paynton whom we believe was the mother of the idea, Jack and Jean Fowler ably handled the presentation area to our hostesses:— Iris Adams, Phyl Bryant, Sheila Conley, Lois MacLachlan, Mel Mathieson and Edna Vandeleur. To them goes the love of all who attended the Safari for their mighty contribution.

It would be remiss if we did not mention the sterling job performed by Gar Adams in manning the hospitality unit throughout our stay, dispensing our requirements with efficiency, good humour and extreme patience — Thanks from us all Gar for an exceptional performance.

Then it was "Auld Lang Syne", an emotional moment in a gathering of wonderful friends, cementing even further a comradeship which has endured over all the years. Proof positive that the most wonderful thing in ones life is, "people".

In the words of the Olympic Games closing "We will gather again in Perth in the year of 1983". All are invited to attend to carry on the traditions and friendships of this mighty organisation, the 2/2nd Commando Association.

In the interim period, God bless you all.

SAFARI SIDELIGHTS

The media were indeed aware that the 2/2nd Commando Association Gold Coast Safari 1981 had chosen their town for its venue, for the "Gold Coast Bulletin" published an article on Saturday 10th October, 1981.

In bold print was headed **"The Fighting Few Relive Their Life and Death Struggle on Timor."** Angus MacLachlan supplied the details and it was very well put together by journalist John Dwyer, with accompanying photographs.

The "Courier Mail" of Monday 12th October, 1981 ran a feature article, the heading, **"The Thin Green Line — They Fought an Unknown War"**. Journalist Steve Dangaard used the information from Sir Bernard Callinan's Book, "Independent Company" to present the article. It was supported by photographs taken by that magnificent photographer, the late Damien Parer.

In fact all the people of Queensland were well briefed that the 2/2nd Commando Association was in town. Our thanks go to both these papers for their co-operation in giving us such spontaneous publicity space.

Many humorous asides were heard during the Safari but one classic was from "Bulla" Tait, the man from Ayr. We of course had our Safari Reunion Dinner in the Twin Town Services Club, which is in fact just over the border in N.S.W. When we drove down to the venue by bus it was beautifully fine, when we came out at the conclusion, it was really wet. "Do not worry" said Bulla, "it will be fine in Queensland".

The Safari was not without its sad moments, for Merv Jones had the misfortune to lose his mother the day prior to the Numinbah Valley tour. Everyone was full of sympathy for Merv and Margery on their sad loss, but both of them stoically waved the buses good-bye prior to leaving for Victoria. Our sincere sympathy went with both these popular members of our Association.

The Army is still not without its discipline in the form of stern humour. One of the audience made a facetious remark to Colonel Lewis who waited for the laughter to die down and said, "You know, we can only have one idiot at a time!!!" We got the message.

One donation really worthy of mention in which the Association participated was the prize donated by T.A.A. — the winner of the sweep drawn prior to the Safari. It was: "A return air fare to Keppel Island, plus one weeks accom-

modation, all expenses paid for two people." It was a very attractive and extremely generous donation which Jack Hartley won — he and his family had a marvellous time. Thank you T.A.A. for such a magnanimous gesture.

It was great to see Ian McPhee, our old medico in New Britain, who has had a bad spin health-wise, and his wife Peg, join us at the Silverton for a weekend. We all trust Ian you will make a quick recovery to complete health, under Peg's ministrations you cannot miss. Good luck!

Another moment of the emotional past came to light by a plaque of the 2/2nd Commando Squadron seen hanging in the Surfers Paradise R.S.L. It was donated by Eric Harris who was a Sapper in Gerry Green's section, and, a very good friend of "Beaky" Smith.

Just to show all the degrees of courage do not exist in an area of war, Bob (Beaky) Smith, as he is affectionately known, has fought a fight against the dreaded scourge of cancer and is still waging that battle. Not only has he held it at bay, but his contribution to others in N.S.W. and elsewhere, is now a by-word.

He has devised a situation where he can pass on experiences and moral help to other sufferers in the form of a radio session called, **"Make the Day Count"**. This also carries over into the everyday life of those who require added strength for their stern fight. We are proud of you "Beaky", God help you in your endeavours and bless your wife Joyce for all her love and support.

Another in the same category of courage is Bruce McLaren, who despite his physical problems took part in all our activities including the march to the Memorial. Bruce sits on the edge of a precipice but he takes life in his stride, radiating happiness to all with whom he comes in contact, making light of his very heavy affliction.

We are behind you Bruce in your man-sized fight, but, with the love and tender care bestowed on you by your charming wife, Lorraine, you will win.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL MARTIN PLAZA SYDNEY, OF THE M-Z COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

Capt. Arthur Littler, M.C., President of this Association brought the above to the notice of all members of the Safari, for it will be a feature of the Martin Place Plaza. Dedicated to those

who saw active service with Commando Companies, "Z" Special Units and other such missions during the Second World War.

Permission has been received from the Sydney County Council to erect this Commando Memorial made of polished red granite, taking the form of a square seat where people can sit and dwell a while.

It will have a raised centre to contain the M-Z Plaque, all Commando Squadron patches will be featured, fabricated on polished enamel to ensure long life.

Target date, Anniversary Weekend, January 1982. Cost, in the vicinity of \$14,000. Donations can be forwarded to Mr. D. Latimer, 8 Cumberland Street, Blacktown, N.S.W., 2148.

All members of Commando Squadrons are invited to attend this unique occasion in the history of Commando Units.

SAFARI ATTENDERS

So you want to know, "who was there". The easier question would be, "who was not there?".

SILVERTON DWELLERS

ADAMS, Tony & Iris
ADAMS, Gar & Jan
ARMSTRONG, Bill & Dorothy
BAGLEY, Len & Dot
BOTTERILL, Harry & Olive
BOLNERS, Tony
BOYLAND, Dot
BRYANT, Freddie & Phyl
CAMPBELL, Archie
COKER, Bill & Coral
CONLEY, Ralph & Sheila
CRAIG, Keith & Betty
DENT, Jimmy
DEVLIN, Mick & Betty
DOIG, Colin
EPPS, Jess
FENWICK, Jim & Joan
GOODACRE, Ron & Marjorie
GREENHALGH, Happy
HANDICOTT, Harry & Amyss
HARTLEY, Jack
HEWITT, Rupert & Edie
HOLLOW, Alan & Hazel
HOLMES, Gordon
HOST, Ron & Betty
HUDSON, Don
HUMPHRIES, George & Win
JACKSON, Frank & Maisie
JONES, Merv & Margery
KLARIE, Olive
KENNEALLY, Paddy & Nora
KING, Charlie, Mary & Colin
KRAUSE, Peter & Elvina
LITTLER, Arthur & Gwenda
LOUDEN, Joy
LUBY, Alan & Edith
McGIVEN, Robert & Kath
McPHEE, Ian & Peg

MacLACHLAN, Angus & Lois
MANTLE, Peter
MARTIN, Ray & Joyce
MATHIESON, George & Mel
MORGAN, Mick & Jean
OTWAY, Fred
PETERSON, Bill & Pat
POYNTON, Joe & Helen
ROBERTS, John & Kath
SHARP, Frank & Phyl
SHAW, Frank & Muriel
SMITH, Arthur
SMITH, Bob & Joyce
SMITH, Ross
SNOWDEN, Tom & Bonnie
STEVENS, Shorty & Margaret
SWAN, Vin - daughter Mrs. K. James
TAIT, Bulla
TURTON, Don
VANDELEUR, George & Edna
WARES, Scotty

Sharing the Safari were:

DUNSDON, Ethnie
HICKS, Dulcie
KELLY, Inez
McKEON, Jill & Cec

Broadbeach Island Caravaneers

CAMPBELL, Peter & Pat
COULSON, George & Pat
DAVIES, Max & Grace
DENNIS, Denny & June
HARRINGTON, Reg & Dot
KNIGHT, Colin & Shirley
McCRACKEN, Peter
PEATTIE, Jack & Marjorie
TEAGUE, Babe & Nancy
TESSE, Merv & Marjorie
TRENGROVE, Ron & Dorothy

Private Arrangements:

HOOPER, Neil & Margaret
JONES, Sid
McLAREN, Bruce & Lorraine
MILLS, Charlie & Pam
MURPHY, "Spud"
SHARP, Bill & Eileen
SMITH, Jim & Fiona
WALLIS, Wilber & Daphne

Those who made special efforts to join us:

BIRCH, Arthur	Canungra
CHOLERTON, Ted	Canungra
WEBB, Arnold	Canungra
ARCHER, Ron	Dinner
BARNIER, Butch	Dinner
CULLEN, Jim	Dinner
VOEVODIN, Alex	Dinner
FULLBROOK, Sam	Reception

NOTE: If I have forgotten any one person, forgive me for this was a mighty roll up.

MICK MORGAN'S TOAST — "THE UNIT"

This was given at the Safari Dinner in the Twin Town Services Club. He combined the Unit and the Association so giving a real background history. Well done Mick!

THE UNIT:

Members, wives, relations and friends. In 1941 a big buzz swept through Northam Military Camp calling for volunteers to form some "Hush Hush" show. Personal interviews were conducted. The men selected came from all spheres of the community, bank Johnnies, farmers, counter jumpers, miners, clerical workers, plus others who had no previous Military experience. The personnel were to become the foundation for the new born 2/2nd Independent Company.

The movement order came, we were on our way to destination unknown, Wilson's Promontory, Victoria, was the training area; here we were joined by our Eastern States comrades. After a hard rigorous training period the Unit started to gather shape, fit and gaining experience from the specially selected instructors.

The Unit had leave, then reformed at Wayville, South Australia. There were many extraordinary exploits by Unit members whilst in Adelaide, one which is worth a mention — the mysterious disappearance of the issue Rum from the Q. Store. A true Commando raid which was never solved.

Once again we were on the move to destination unknown, but heading north. We camped at Terowie where, one private Patrick Knight got into the sheep business, but it happened to be one of the local farmers' prize stock! Very nice for the barbecue. Fined \$25. Paddy's final remark, "that sheep must have had gold teeth, boss!!" (Colin Doig paid the fine).

Onwards to Mataranka Staging Camp, another raid on the staff refrigerator, turkeys, chickens and drinks vanished. A parade at 1.00 a.m. of the Unit left another mystery unsolved, the Unit boys were learning to live off the land!

Then on to Katherine where hard work was involved building a camp, the mining fraternity played a most important part, gouging out a tunnel in the ground with draught passing through to keep the issue beer cold. After all the hard work the Unit received a movement order again, into the cattle trucks and off to Darwin where we embarked on the old Zealandia (she was sunk in the Jap raid on Darwin) to our desintation, Timor, where we

disembarked at Koepang.

After a short stay we were taken by Dutch Destroyer H to Dili, the Unit finally arrived at the moment which we had all been waiting for, to be on active service and put our well organised training to the test.

The rest of the Unit records are past history, serving on Timor, New Guinea and New Britain, with distinction in every field. The 2/2nd Commando Squadron also had the distinction of having more days on active service than any other A.I.F. Unit. This wonderful Unit brought together by the hardship and isolation that were suffered by the men, to form long and lasting friendships and comradeships, the envy of all other Units in Australia.

The men who wore the Double Red Diamond can be justly proud.

THE ASSOCIATION:

A small group of people formed a committee during the war years to support the 2/2 Independent Company, comprising Mr. Murray (Don's father), Mrs. Ryan (Merv's mother), Fred Gardiner, Mrs. Nesbit (Tom's mother) and Marge and Jean Campbell (Archie's sisters). After the war finished the group passed the control over to the 2/2nd which became the 2/2nd Commando Association.

Thirty five years of dedicated work and co-operation have been responsible for the success of the Association, the address book, Courier, Safari's, to mention only a few of the achievements by the Association, naturally they do not run themselves. There is a lot of hard work involved, all Unit members appreciate this fact and take this opportunity of sincerely thanking Unit members (plus Unit members' wives and relations) who have served on executive positions in all the States, so making the Association such a thriving and enjoyable success.

The response to the present Safari indicates the strong and lasting friendships which have been held together by the organisation over many years. A job well done, thanks again to all concerned.

I give you the toast — "The Unit and Association".

SICK PARADE

RON KIRKWOOD,
HENRY SPROXTON,
DON TURTON.

Our three good Committee men have all lately been under medical care.

Ron: period of radium treatment. Now awaiting a good report.

Henry: surgery for both removal and exploratory — also now waiting for a good report.

Don: insists his was "minor surgery — not worth a mention", but admits he can't now whistle his sheep — has to shout at 'em and gets hoarse.

Fred Napier: been home now for some time. Still smiling and says "nothing wrong that a pair of good new legs, wouldn't cure!!"

Please join us in wishing these good old mates favourable reports and a quick return to good health. We admire their attitude.

VICTORIAN NEWS 22.10.81

Have just returned from the terrific Gold Coast Safari, '81, put on by the Queensland members — what a wonderful job they did. The location, Surfers Paradise, was a real winner, the accommodation luxury itself and out of this world, the roll up the biggest yet and with a well planned itinerary it was just perfect.

There were eighteen from Victoria, namely Olive and Harry Botterill, George and Win Humphries, Pete and Elvena Krause, Bill and Pat Peterson, Johnny and Kath Roberts, Max and Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, Bruce and Lorraine McLaren, Bill and Eileen Sharp and Arnold Webb, who drove all the way to Canungra and back again. Great to see you Arnold.

The organised functions were very good, the Unit Dinner at the Twin Town Services Club was a great night with approximately 146 attending. The Civic Reception at the Brisbane City Hall by the Lord Mayor, Frank Sleeman, who was a member of 1st Commando Squadron, was very interesting. The highlight from my point of view was the day spent at the Canungra Land Warfare Centre, scene of one of our old stamping grounds, although it looks a lot different now! We were given a wonderful time by these men, morning tea in the Sergeants Mess, marched round to the lecture room where they explained the ins and outs of the centre with slides, a conducted tour of the area and down to the Sports Centre for a B.B.Q. and refresh-

ments. Next to the weapons range where they demonstrated the light arms and light-heavy automatic weapons. Some of the boys had a chance to try out the weapons. A wonderful day. Last but not least, an all day trip to Numinbah Valley and Purling Brook Falls Park, then back via Tweed Heads.

The weather was really good, not too hot and not too many cold days. A wonderful Safari and the Queensland boys and their good ladies should feel very proud of the job they did. It was good to see Bruce McLaren looking a lot better and taking part in the activities. Enjoyed the company of all present and we are looking forward to the next Safari.

Olive and I are off to America on the 23rd October, 1981 to visit our son David who is in America for 2 years and we are going to spend Xmas with David, Liz and family and see our fifth grand daughter who was born over there last May.

So we take the opportunity to wish everybody a very Happy Xmas and a very health and prosperous New Year. So until next time all the best.

Harry Botterill.

To the Editor: Sorry I missed saying goodbye before you went but all the best for Xmas and may you have a very happy stint as Editor of the Courier and get plenty of news.

Editor: Thanks from us all for your good wishes, may your trip to America be very rewarding and your grand daughter a real pearl. All members loved seeing you and Olive at the Safari. God bless.

COMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH TIMORESE

Saturday 5th December, 1981

Entertainment commences at
6.30 p.m.

They dance for us; play music
for us and prepare us their tasty
range of cooked foods.

Venue is:

Progress Hall
Paget Street,
Hamilton Hill.

If you approach from North or
South along Carrington Street
— Paget Street runs parallel

between **South Street** and
Winterfold Street.

See you there — don't miss this Christmas Party — these fine people are just like family friends and they are pleasant, appreciative new Western Australians, to whom we owe much. They want family groups — kids and grand parents, too!!

**POYNTON AUSTRALIA DAY
PICNIC — SUNDAY
24TH JANUARY, 1982.**

This leading social event on our Association calendar is on again. Joe and Helen have once more most generously said "yes" and we have no doubt they have already begun to rally the Mandurah boys and their wives who assist in preparation and procurement of the most excellent and sumptuous repast,

that it always takes us the whole of a long day to consume.

Don't let these wonderful Poynton's or the Association down. Don't let yourself down — please just be there!!

VENUE

The big 2-storied home on the water-front at:

**169 ORMSBY TERRACE
MANDURAH, 6210
095 — 352261**

Bus Travellers:

The 10.20 a.m. leaves Fremantle on Sunday and can be met, if we know to expect you, at Mandurah.

We can return you to the bus leaving Mandurah at 6.15 p.m. for the return trip to Fremantle on the same Sunday — no kidding!!

**SEE YOU AT ORMSBY TERRACE
— SUNDAY 24th JAN., 1982.**

SAFARI — 1983

So far we haven't seen an official report of the 1981 Gold Coast Safari, delegates meeting, but we have heard a whisper —

**SAFARI 1983 ALLOCATED TO W.A. —
THE STATE OF EXCITEMENT.**

There has as yet been no Committee discussion but even turtles put their necks out — so here goes — I am going to say "the challenge" has been accepted by W.A. Branch.

An interim planning Committee has been named and has begun its work.

We could book holding accommodation for 80 at a top class establishment now and if we did just that, we could obtain a 20% discount from their projected 1983 tariffs which are:

Serviced apartments accommodation:

**Double or Twin — \$44 per day
Single \$39 per day**

At this establishment we could be provided with a crash-hot "Hospitality Room" — no charge.

Please give us the chance to persuade our generous new owners of the Swan Brewery to provide such a "Hospitality Room" with fridges full of ice-cold "Swan Gold" and their excellent other varieties of kegs—bottles—cans and stubbies, for the slaking of the thirsty throats of our beloved Unit mates from the "unexplored" Eastern States.

We are in possession of a list of assured attenders in 1983 — "God willing" — numbering 52. You have seen the projected accommodation costs. You know the cost of air fares. Camels are cheaper but take a little longer.

**START SAVING — WHILE WE GO ON PLANNING —
WATCH FOR FEB. 82 COURIER AND OTHERS TO FOLLOW.**