

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

Vol. 47.

FEBRUARY 1984

PRICE 1c

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 8TH MARCH 1984 VENUE: ANZAC HOUSE

TIME: 10.30AM SHARP LIGHT LUNCHEON 12 NOON

We need a good roll call so as this fine old 2/2nd Commando Association stays alive, which will only happen by the interest of all members. SEE YOU THERE !

ANZAC DAY WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL

1. DAWN SERVICE:

Laying of Wreath — John Fowler Assembly point for members. Top of stairs leading to War Memorial 5.45a.m.

2. ANZAC DAY MARCH:

Assembly Point:— Proximity Irwin Street & St George's Terrace opp Council House.

TIME:- 9.45a.m.

STANDARD

BEARER:— Tony Bowers coming up with contingent from Mandurah.

3.REUNION:

TIME:- 12 Noon.

PLACE:— Knutsford Arms Hotel, Knutsford Street, North Perth.

- DIRECTIONS:— Travel along Fitzgerald Street, North to Walcott Street turn left first street on left in Walcott is Knutsford Street.
- PHONE:— If map reading weak !! 444 1066

We want a full roll call come whether you march or not. Be in it and enjoy the companionship. Make sure you have a Skipper, or catch a Taxi, or drink light !!

REMEMBER CANBERRA SAFARI 1986

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1984 ?

What does this year hold for the world in general ? 1983 has seen the continuance of fighting right across the face of this universe of ours, with particular accent on the Middle East where the slaughter of people who are almost blood brothers is being carried out daily. Some in battle, many in bombing atrocities, bringing to that area a bitterness and sadness never witnessed since the grim days of the German P.O.W. Camps.

Then we have the terrible massacre of innocent civilians, claimed by the I.R.A. in the bombing explosion within Harrods of London, killing innocent people bent only on Christmas shopping and goodwill. What has happened to mankind that they cannot live in peace with each other? Why did we have two World Wars, losing a host of young men so that peace might be a fact in our time? What sort of world is in store for our children?

God is a vital part of our life, why then has religion kept people at each other's throats over all the years? God is worshippen in many forms, by many cults, why then cannot mankind accept the principle of each other's religion and in tolerance, patience and understanding, come together so the world can be a paradise in which to live, instead of a hell on earth?

We are all one in flesh and blood, in feelings, in love of family, love of country, love of living, why then do men create such a monster as war, by individuals, by groups, en masse, for as 1983 gives way to 1984 one sees a big part of humanity embroiled in active war, cold war, bitter verbal recriminations, setting the scene for a threat of total Nuclear War?

If any of us could solve this massive problem then I am sure the world would proclaim him or her, God. Instead, it behoves us all by prayer, by action, by example, to show each other that the greatest four letter word in any language is "LOVE"! It can move mountains, calm stormy souls, bring peace to men in many forms, make the world a glorious place to live in as we traverse our varied life spans sharing with each other, whatever caste or creed, that wonderful commodity available to us all.

Greed, selfishness, hate, criticism, are all a part of the make-up of man and when used in their most vicious forms can be catastrophic to the individual, to the masses, create war on a national basis, engender antagonism in the individual, which can last a life time. Life is too short to hold antagonisms and grudges, we should accept people for what they are and by love and close friendship cement a bond that is unbreakable.

We of the 2/2nd Commando Association achieved this in part by our Safar of 1983. A whole team of people all so different in temperament were able to harness their feelings, each one accepting the other regardless of shortcomings, to weld together as one fun loving, joy seeking, friendly band, each with a love of the other. It brought home the lessons of tolerance, of understanding, of being a part of the whole, each with a deep love of his fellow man, each able in his own way to show that affection.

Mayble the whole world needs such a gathering to bring us all back on an even keel! In our smallness we were big, in the acceptance of each other and those around us, we showed what can be done to make life a pleasant and delightful experience in the close sharing of the good thins it has to offer.

In conclusion, combined with a prayer to God that such a thing could happen, maybe the message should be:—

"MANKIND, PLEASE COPY!!"

(The Editor)

POYNTON PICNIC — 14TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday the 22nd January, 1984 saw the continuation of what, in the calendar year of our 2/2nd Commando Association (W.A. Div.), has become an institution the, Poynton Picnic. The efforts of Joe and Helen over the 14 years that this has taken place borders on the herculean.

It was a glorious day, preceded by over century temperatures on the previous days, which had its effect on the attendance, but on the morning of the 22nd in came our famous Fremantle Doctor, the day was made to order.

Over 60 were in attendance if not quantity certainly quality, and how wonderful to see the young children who accompanied their Fathers, Mothers, Grandfathers and Grandmothers. Joe and Helen gave the lead in this direction. As usual the lovely home was beautifully set up and the backdrop the the famous jungle garden made things degrees cooler. In fact it was said anyone who keels over could be lost and left overnight, when a wag replaced, "Until Joe turns on the sprinklers!!" But creature comfort was a high priority, it gave everybody a chance to sit in a shaded area and yarn away to their hearts content.

Greeting the arrivals was a fabulous "Porker" on the now well known spit, again a kind donation of Peter and Pat Campbell who have been so generous over all the years. It was tended by Davey O'Brien Helen's brother, who gave it loving care over the whole day to uliimately turn out beautifully cooked making a sumptious repast for all.

Davey usually judges the cooking time by the number of glasses he have over the day, but, this year Davey was on the square and his judgement was based on the consumption of Helen's punch with no dimunition in accuracy!!

Tony Bowers had his famous sheep on view and it was as tender as anything his farm has produced. Well done Tony, we sure have some real loyal supporters.

The tables literally groaned with food prepared by Helen and her grand band of helpers, to whom we owe a deep debt of thanks. Every conceivable "goodie" was available and eaten with relish and enjoyment.

Colin Doig, our Unit Father, made the observation that, with people like Joe and Helen about the Association will never die, with which we all agree. This marvellous day is a highlight and gives all we "Sandgropers" a chance to get together and relax in a setting of superb quality, with a host and hostess who spare nothing in their efforts to make it a memorable day.

HELEN'S HONOUR

News of the day would not be complete without mention of the presentation made on behalf of the unit by our President, John Fowler, to dear, Helen. She was made a 'Life Member' of our association for all the years of invaluable endeavour given to this grand old association of ours.

"Helen, as John said" it goes with our love and deep gratitude from member Australian wide for all the tremendous interest you have shown in the Associations, every function and for the one special day in the year which we in W.A. look forward to so much the, "Poynton Picnic". Helen joins Joe as a life member of our association and no two people ever deserved that honour more.

Helen responded briefly for it was an unexpected and emotional moment in fact she had to be restrained from going back to her chores ere the ceremony took place, such was the suprise. In saying "Thank you everyone." Helen covered a whole area with great adequacy.

God bless you both is the wish from all our members wherever they are, plus a deep and sincere "thankyou" from all W.A. members for a remarkable contribution to our Association in general. May you both be spared long to enjoy your, "Life Memberships".

RAY AITKEN AWARDED O.A.M.

In the Hawke Government's first 'Honours list' Raymond Alexander Aitken, Coolbinnia, W.A. was the recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australian (O.A.M.) for his contribution to "Conservation, particularly flora and in the field of ornithology".

I cannot write with any degree of knowledge on the ornithology side Ray for i am not even sure i knew you were interested in the, "Science of birds", No doubt you were and would possibly have written a treatise on such as an expert In this field. Hence the acknowledgement in your award.

This award was extremely well placed for Ray has given the lead in the field of W.A. flora over quite a period. It started a long number of years back when he was Headmaster of the Coolbinnia Primary School where he set about developing the surrounds of the school with flora from every corner of W.A. a totally native area.

Back in those days this won the plaudits of a big section of the community and handed to the pupils a ready made nature study lesson in flora common to this state. It has lasted as such over all the years between and has been a real show place, a monument to Ray's foresight.

From this Ray branched into the commercial field, that of a Nursery. He has built, no doubt with certain help an area where the community can get the product

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and first class information on our own W.A. flora, plus of course, a myriad of other types to cater for the wide variety of peoples wants. It would have to be the best of its type in W.A. A Ray Aitken creation.

Ray has been stalwart of our Association over all the years and has been a very generous and regular contributor. He was in the original 2nd Independent Company establishment, a Corporal with the excellently performed 4 section "B" Platoon, and was a fine soldier indeed. He has served the unit well in war and in peace and has given the East Timorese and their W.A. Association, tremendous help and encouragement since the day they arrived.

He recently went through a very testing period with a real heart problem. He had ultimately open heart surgery in the form of a by pass operation, and with typical courage, determination and fortilude, overcame that obstacle to be back on his feet and into the affairs of every day life with verve and consistency.

Ray your award is a mark of your invaluable bestowel on the public of an ingrained ability to present our flora as something to be proud of and to nurture, so as it becomes a part of our heritage. Your with Muriel at your side, have done just that.

We the members of the Association congratulate you, applaud you for being what you are doing what you have done, and, being a part of us. Well Done!

TREASURERS REPORT ADDRESS BOOK — 1983 SANDGROPER SAFARI

Without the financial know how and expert use of our finances the result below could never have been achieved. The man if the moment, our Treasure, Ron Kirkwood. Grand job Ron — thanks !

Ron worked hard and long and as we progressed always had our financial structure well and truly taped. Here is his excellent report:—

MEMBERS

Archie suggested that a summary of recent financial events might be of interest and below is it. A lot of planning went into the two most important events of last year — the 1983 Sandgroper Safari and the new Address Book. Regarding the Safari our chief worry was how to keep expenses to the minimum whilst giving value in accommodation and outings; how successful we were can only be judged by those attending. Planning commenced in 1981 when our Queensland Committee, after their successful Safari, sent us \$1500, being \$300 towards costs of a new address book and \$1200 towards the 1983 Safari. In mid — 1983 the W.A. Committee decided to ask all W.A. members (only) to contribute \$20 or more towards the cost of our Safari. So the balance sheets of our two big 1983 projects read:

ADDRESS BOOK

From Q'sland Branch	300	
From Wilma Tobin	20	
From Max Davies (part of larger donation)	220	
Cost of printing	540	
(Postage of Approx. \$100 was born by us.)		

1983 SANDGROPER SAFARI \$

From Q'sland Branch	1200	
From Safari Appeal (W.A. Members)	2702	
From Collections on Safari Outings	<u>16318.50</u> 20220.50	
To costs of outings, socials, etc.	20287.61	
Balance (Loss)	67.11	

DONATIONS TO COURIER

Victorian Branch / Kath Sargeant Dulcie Gay Messrs Brown (David) Cunningham Handicott Bollinger Dignum (2) 🖌 Isenhood / Hasson Paull Langridge / Wheatley -Campbell (Arch) Various.

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SO YOU HAVE GOT PROBLEMS? (READ ON)

This is a letter from Bob Smith which is remarkable in its content. The aftermath of Safari for a number of our members was fraught with bad luck.

Bob and Joyce, Denny and June, Ron and Dorothy, you have our commiserations, you also have our love and best wishes — 1984 just has to be a good year.

Our fingers are crossed for you Bob in your ever present challenge — "V for Victory" will be our prayer. God bless and good luck from all members of the 2/2nd.

(The Editor)

Shortland, N.S.W. 16/12/83

Dear Arch,

I am sorry that I have taken so long in penning these few lines, but with one thing and another, time just seems to slip away.

Our trip home was completed safely but was certainly not uneventful ! Joyce and I departed Perth, both feeling rather seedy with the flu, but made our first night stay at Denmark. After settleing into the caravan park and having dinner we visited Norm and Olive Thornton and found Norm not so well. He was awaiting further advice from his doctor and was to enter hospital at a later date.

Prior to leaving Denmark we called on Geordie Smith and he showed us over his very lovely new home - incidentally, built by Norm Thornton. We travelled only a short distance to Albany and booked into the caravan park at the same time as Max and Grace Davies and Peter McCracken. We rested that day and night and travelled on to Experance the next day (what a stinker?! - hot, windy and dusty) and pulled into the caravan park late in the afternoon to see Ron Trengove and Denny Dennis waving us in. As Joyce was not well we decided to stay another day and leave on the Saturday morning, keeping Ron and Denny company.

Had just completed hitching up on the Saturday morning when Ron injured his back — Vince Swan and Dorothy took Ron to hospital where he was admitted. Denny and I decided to wait in Esperance.

That evening the Davies arrived -

George and Gloria Smith (Ron Teague'S friends) the next day Ron and Nancy Teague, Mick and Betty Devlin, Roy and Joyce Martin and with Peter and Pat campbell and Vince Swann and his son, we had a "Happy Hour" Safari.

The next morning Mick and Betty, Roy and Joyce pushed on (the Davies had already departed) with George, Denny and myself deciding to wait for Ron. He come out of hospital that day with the good news that he hadn't injured his spine but pulled some muscle, and he wanted to depart the following day. We hitched his van to his car and for the next five days made sure he didn't do a thing himself that would aggravate his injury. Thus we made it to Ceduna.

Monday 19th

Sorry Arch — I would like to have had this letter away before this but have just spent three days on the "sick parade". (The treatment is sometimes worse that the complaint!) Anyway, back to our trip —

At Ceduna we bade farewell to Ron and Nancy, George and Gloria with a "slap up" fish and chip dinner — I must admit that we all enjoyed it immensely, although being sad about losing some nice people from our party. Ron ("Babe's" party) headed on down the Eyre Peninsula and Ron, Denny and I headed towards Port Augusta and further points east. However, disaster struck at Augusta 20k's out of Clare, South Australia, at about 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, 30th October.

We had parked our rigs very close behind each other in the main street and most had crossed the street to look over and old building/winery with Joyce, Dorothy and myself still on the street. There was one hell of a crash and there was this car protruding from Denny's van. A man and his two young daughters crawled, completely unhurt, from their car he had apparently gon to sleep. However, Denny's van was wrecked, also the other car, but luckily Denny's car only suffered rear damage and was still driveable. Between us all we stripped the van of all belongings and headed back to Clare Caravan Park where we spent the next three days. During this time we had some rest and also Denny was able to arrange for some of his family to come and assist him home. Departing Clare on 2nd November, Denny and June with their family and Joyce and Myself with Ron and Dorothy - and followed with a couple of

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bad days of gale force winds and duststorsm. We said our goodbyes to Ron and Dorothy in the outskirts of Sydney and Joyce and I travelled on to Newcastle, and home! We had been away for three months and three days, and as we entered our front door I turned and hugged Joyce and said "We made it!" This was a remark that followed on the advice of doctors that we should not make our jaunt to W.A. and also that we had made the trip completely without mishap. Anyhow Arch, I spoke too soon.

Two nights later we were away from home having dinner at our daughter and son-in-law's when a storm hit. Not taking much notice we stayed on and returned home at 9.45 p.m. Our home looked like a atomic bomb had hit!! It appeared that Shortland had really gobbled up the majority of the storm — our house was severely damaged and our caravan which hadn't received a scratch in 16000kms was damaged to the extent of \$1502.00. All well though, with the insurance cover.

A visit to hospital a few days after was a bit of a let down for it was found that another cancer growth had come along in the right groin. A decision that I commence chemo-therapy — tablet form and large doses — it hasn't been too bad, but like the other it has side effects which have manifested themselves in many and various ways with nausea etc. However, today is the last day of medication for at least a fortnight and I am smiling ! Should this medication fail to show signs of tumor shrinkage, then it may be necessary to go back to chemo-therapy in drip form I am not smiling!!

All aside, both Joyce and I (even allowing for periods of "off days" (had a great time on our trip to and from W.A. — the great events of the Safari and the meeting up with all those wonderful people. We want, therefore, through yourself Arch, to wish all a Very Happy Xmas and may 1984 bring all that is good.

Looking over some completed paintings, will be in touch with you Arch to see how I can get one over to you to do what you will with it. I will see if anyone over here is travelling West. I know George Strickland is coming over soon, so might use him! Problems of no one being there in numbers make it difficult to raffle and I doubt that anyone would pay enough that the sum of money received would benefit the Association to any degree — unlike the raffle in Surfers paradise. Should anyone from east be travelling to the West (before George Strickalnd visits us) we will take advantage of it or failing that forward the painting by express truck, etc.

Must away Arch, please excuse deteriorating writing.

Kind regards. Sincerely,

Joyce and Bob Smith.

VICTORIAN NEWS

Having returned home after the wonderful Safari we have been to a couple of functions — firstly the Memorial Service of the combined Commando Associations at the Cairn at Wilsons Promontory on Sunday, 20th November where a very good gathering turned up and enjoyed a very nice day — the weather was good and the following members were present:— Ken & Margaret Monk, Bill & Pat Peterson, George & Dot Veitch, Alex & Beryl Boast, Harry & Olive Botterill, Eric & Twy Smyth and Bernie Callinan. Bernie gave the address and spoke very well, then all members present filed past and placed a poppy on the cairn.

It was good to see Eric & Twy Smyth again — they are caravanning with John & Betty Twycroff around Australia and are having a quiet spell down at Foster to recuperate from the heat up North before moving on.

On Sunday, 4th December we had a wonderful day at Bluey & Mary Bone's property with a barbecue for our members. The weather wa good again and we had a very good roll up - the following members were present: - Alec & Beryl Boast, Jack Renehan, Bill & Eileen Sharp, Jack & Julie Fox, Ken & Margaret Monk, Bill & Pat Peterson, Harry & Olive Botterill, Wilma Tobin, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Leith & Marg Cooper, Nina Grachan, George & Dot Robinson, George & Dot Veitch, John & Shirley Southwell, John & Cath Roberts, Bill & Pat Tucker, Bruce & Lorraine McLaren, Eric & Twy Smyth, with apologies from Bernie & Naomi Callinan, George & Win Humphreys, Alf & Gwenda Harper, Peter & Elvina Krause, Don & Joan Tucker, Peter Piper & Wife, Max & Grace Davies, Bluey & Aynsley Sergeant, Norm & Fran Tillet, David & Thais Brown and Glad Curran.

It was very pleasing to see such a good attendance and everybody thoroughly enjoyed thenselves and we heartily thank Mary & Bluey Bone and their friends who put such a lot or work into making the day the success it was. Nice to see Bruce & Lorraine back from Queensland — Bruce is looking well and there is no doubt that the Gold Coast agrees with him.

Bill Peterson still has his problem with numbness from the waist down — gets around on a stick and remains very cheerful. The doctors just cannot find out what is wrong. Jack Renahan was looking very well and is enjoying life.

Last week I rang Norm Parker to see how he was getting along — he is back at home but is getting upset because he thinks he should be getting a lot better. He has just got to realise that it takes a lot longer to recover from a serious complaint at our age, but he is in good hands with Sheila looking after him and we all hope he comes along nicely. Baldy is away overseas at present and should be back early January. Eric Smyth is particulary wanting to see him.

Dear Ron,

It was decided by our committee of the Victorian Branch that we donate \$200.00 towards costs of the Courier, so I am enclosing said cheque with our thanks for the wonderful work of the Courier which is our life blood.

Hope you and your family are well and recovered after the great Safari — all the best for Xmas and New Year.

Kindest regards. Harry Botterill Sec. Victorian Branch.

That's about all the news I have at present so until next time — all the best for 84.

Harry Botterill.

Editor's Note

Sincere thanks to the Victorian Branch for this very generous gesture. While such a spirit exists so will the Courier.

Ń.S.W. NEWS

At our Xmas Barbecue, which was a most pleasant and highly successful day. Bob Bollinger decided he wanted to kick the tin with \$20. I've put it through the building society rather than entrusting cash in the mail. The supply of address books eventually arrived and have been partly distributed — will do the remainder as I can. There is a further delay with the presentation of our Marksmanship Trophy and it will probably be done now at the Field Exercise at Jervis Bay over the weekend of 31st March 1st April to which we have an invitation.

You might give that a mention in the Courier if there is one out in the meantime.

Those present at our Xmas B-B-Q held at June Bennetts house 4th Dec were:— Bill & Coral Coker, George & Marge Jones, Ron & Dorothy Trengrove, Paddy & Nora Kenneally, Frank "Curly" O'Neill, Bob Bollinger, June Bennett & Marilyn, Don & Dulcie Latimer, Arthur & Gwen Littler, Alan & Edith Luby, Keith & Betty Craig, Bob & Joyce Smith.

I ran into one of "Sandy" Eggletons brother a couple of weeks ago and he informed me that Sandy died some 3 years ago with a heart attack. His wife died some months previously and their daughter was killed in a car accident — all within 12 months.

We trust this finds everyone in good health and we send our best wishes for a very Happy Xmas and a great New Year.

Sincerely Allan Luby.

VALE

WRITTEN BY COLIN DOIG FOR BOTH MEMBERS

Harold Thomas Brooker

Known throughout his Army career as "Brook". An original member of 5 section, on the 2nd Independent Company. What a whimsical character, with a steady bit of wit. He always seemed to be the butt of all the wrestling in the tent lines, never doing his block and like a great labrador dog always laughing the whole time.

"Brook" was as strong as an Ox. I well remember when building the "Sydney William" steel huts at Katherine in the Northern Territory how when wheeling barrows of wet concrete the wheel would get off the plank, he would plough it through the soft dirt as nobody else could ever do.

He was a stocky, plodding soldier throughout Timor New Guinea and New Britain, always there when wanted. His good humour stayed with him always. One incident in New Guinea when we were veritably plodding along to the airstrip at Nadzab carrying full packs, when a Yank said "why don't you wait and pick up a jeep" Brooks reply, "Cripes don't you think Im carrying enough now!!"

On demobilisation "Brook" first became a "Connie" on the trams but gave that away to take a job with the Zoological Gardens as a Keeper, where he found his niche in life, especially with the Elephant. There was a famous farewell picture in the "West Australian" when he retired of he and his beloved elephant saying farewell.

The unit was well represented at his funeral by at least 20 members.

Our sincere sympathy to his wife and family on their sad loss, we hope time will heal the breach.

Norman D. Thornton.

Passed away early in January at Denmark W.A. Norm was an original member of 4 section 2nd Independent Company and served with great distinction, he was one of the early N.C.O's. He and his bosom mate Geordie Smith made a terrific contibution to the effort of 4 section. Norm was a carpenter and joiner by trade and was of great assistance when we were building the camp at Katherine, always unassuming, his expertise and advice was of great value to we labourers.

Timor was a terrible experience for 4 section, with the wounding of Alan Hollow, loss of Paddy Knight and Eric Mitchell the section really had it tough. Norm was always there doing his best and keepeein up morale. He stuck it out in New Guinea and once again his experience in building was of great value in many of the camps that we built.

Norm on demobilisation returned to his trade as a builder in the Denmark-Albany area and built many of the new buildings in that area including the Albany Regional Hospital and the High School. He was a first class citizen, father, huspand, and, was a pillar of all that went on in the Denmark area. He will be sadly missed by everyone in that area.

Goodbye old mate; if there is a special spot in the Great Beyond you will be in it.

The Unit Association was represented by 6 members at the graveside.

Our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

F.W. Sandy Eggleton

Somehow "Sandy" escaped our ecommunication system, life for him becam a real tragedy. Read Alan Luby's N.S.W. News.

Jerry Haire loses his wife Norine

Our deepest sympathy goes out to our esteemed member Jerry Haire on the vefy sad loss of his wife Norine. They were a charming, closely attached couple indeed, both took a deep interest in our Association.

Jerry's loss was shared by a real cross section of our members as both our boys and girls attended in considerable numbers at the graveside.

It was a true Testimony Jerry of our love for you both. Norine will be sadly missed by us all and our hearts go out to you with a wish that god will grant you peace of mind and heart in the days ahead.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMUNIQUE

This month sees the issue of several screeds by the above which will all come under this heading.

1. GERIATRIC ASSESSMENT UNIT

We have been advised that there is a newly established Geriatric Assessment Unit at the Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood, opened on the 14th December, 1983.

Geriatric Assessment Units will be established in the Repatriation General Hospitals in Capital Cities and an initial funding of \$1 million will be used as the first step in a strategy for extended care services, to ensure aged Veterans will be provided in the advancing years with dignity.

Assistance will also be provided by the Units to Veterans and War Widows to enable them to live at home where it is assessed that this is in their best interests. Furthermore, Geriatric Assessment Units will also contribute to general community welfare, as other aged patients in the local area will be able to use the facilities where there is spare capacity. Mr D. Volker, Secretary of the reportment of Veteran Affairs is to open the Unit.

2. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

28TH September 1983

Editor Courier 2/2 Commando Courier

Dear Sir

As you are no doubt aware, the Freedon of Information Act came into effect on 1 December 1982. To date this Department has received approximately 110 requests under the legislation. Only 2% of these have been denied completely. The New South Wales Branch of the Department has received 70% of all requests received.

The Department wants all Veterans to know about their rights under the FOI Act to request access to any document in the possession of the Department. An item has been developed (copy attached) which we hope is suitable for publication in exservice journals such as your own. It highlights the advantages to Veterans under the FOI Act and how they can make use of the Act.

I would appreciate your including the attached article in the next available edition of your journal or using it as a basis for an item. Letters are being forwarded to all exservice journals across Australia on a progressive basis to reach all Veterans and advise them of their rights under the Act. The release of these items progressively will ensure that the Department is not overwhelmed with requests in the initial stages of the program.

If you wish to discuss this matter further you can contact me at the above address or telephone me on 327 8422.

Yours sincerely,

(J.H. See) Deputy Commissioner

ARTICLE FOR INCLUSION IN EX-SERVICE JOURNALS

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act came into effect on 1st December 1982. Since that time nearly 1100 FOI requests have been received by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. About 70% of these requests have been received in NSW alone. All members of the Australian community can seek access to documents held by this or any other Government Department. The request:—

- should be in writing;
- it should identify the document being sought;
- it should be sent to an address of the Department prescribed in the FOI Regulations (see below);
- it should contain a return address within Australia;and,
- it should specify that it is an FOI request being made pursuant to the Act.

A request form is available from the Department but its use is not compulsory.

Veterans can request access to their personal files held by the Department and do not have to give any reason for their request. In the unlikely event that access to a particular document is refused by the Department, a Veteran can appeal. How to appeal is set out in the letter advising that access has been denied. Only 2% of all requests so far received have been denied in full. Denials have occurred where the Department does not hold the document sought or believes that release of the document sought would infringe the personal privacy of another Veteran. A Veteran's privacy is strictly protected by the department.

All FOI requests are liable for a charge. However, where an applicant seeks access to personal documents (e.g. personal/medical files) this type of material may be inspected for four hours and 100 pages of photocopies can be obtained free of any charge. Requests beyond these limits may attract a charge but again there is an avenue of appeal for applicants.

When a Veteran wishes to make a request under the FOI Act the requests should be made to the Department's Branch Office which currently looks after the particular case. It is usually helpful to ring the Branch before making a request. A list of names, addresses and phone numbers for Veterans' use is set out below:—

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

CENTRAL OFFICE

Mr Paul James MLC Tower Keltie Street W0 PHILLIP ACT

PO Box 21 WODEN ACT s606 (062) 89 6485 **GPO Box 3994**

(02) 290 7774

SYDNEY NSW 2001

NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr Frank Potter Grace Building 77 York Street SYDNEY NSW

QUEENSLAND

Mr Barry Butterworth Commonwealth **Government Centre** PO Box 651K **BRISBANE QLD 4001** 295 Ann Street BRISBANE QLD (07) 225 2037

VICTORIA

Mr Arthur Parsons GPO Box 87A 444 St Kilda Rd., MELBOURNE VIC 3001 MELBOURNE VIC (03) 268 6321

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr Bob Sutherland GPO Box 1652 186 Pulteney Street ADELAIDE SA 5001 ADELAIDE SA (08) 228 2784

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mr Russel McLaughlan GPO Box F352 11-13 William Street PERTH WA 6001 PERTH WA (09) 327 8422

TASMANIA

Mr Paul Grev

Kirksway House	GPO Box 481E
6 Kirksway Place	HOBART TAS 7001
HOBART TAS	(002) 20 5617

The Department wants to assist all Veterans wherever possible and will treat all enquiries about FOI promptly and in confidence.

XMAS GREETINGS FROM MEMBERS

Dulcie Gay:

To everyone via the courier thank you for the Address Book - lovely. Enclosed is a cheque for the courier. All the best for Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Allan Mitchell:

To all members and wives with best wishes for Xmas and the New Year of 1984.

Harry & Amyce Handicott:

To all. Just a note to wish you a Happy Xmas and a peaceful New Year ! The "Old Fella" is not far away, oh! to be young again, but I'm not sure! Do hope everyone has recovered from the Safari it was beaut. A big thanks to all who had a hand in doing something. We are looking forward to Canberra Amyce is OK again, took sometime to get rid of the wog as did Iris

Adams — Saw them in Brisbane in Novemer. Kind regards

Published in this Courier as they arrived after the December issue. Thanks for the wishes.

The Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Unit 9 Adie Court Swan Cottage Homes Bentley W.A. 6102

Dear Mr. Secretary

I am sending this letter to you, as requested by Rev. Bottrell, I am sorry it has taken so long to write to you, but when the letter arrived from the Rev Bottrill I was away on a trip to England & Wales, I was away for a few months, and it was quite a long time after the letter arrived efore I returned home. My first visit there for thirty five years, that was in 1948. I was in the 2/5 squadron myself, and remember Rev Bottrell on the Atherton Tablelands when we were in camp there. I got your postal address from Anzac House in Perth. So with best wishes to you, and all your fellow members.

Yours sincerely **Ossie Davies**

Many well remember the Rev Arthur Bottrell. Hereunder a nostalgic letter from him:-

> Rev. A.E.E. Bottrell E.D.L.Th., Dip. R.E. 6 Grantley Avenue, DAW PARK, 5041 South Australia 29th Sept 1983

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I deeply regret not knowing your name and address, so I have asked Mr "Ossie" Davies kindly to pass on this letter to you. Though I was closely associated with the 2/2nd Sqn at Faita/Goroka in 1943-4 I seem now to be completely cut off from the 2/2 in the West.

Will you please accept and tender my most regretable apology for being unable to be present at the auspicious re-union do of the 2/2 Sqn in October. What a time will be had by all present! III health and age keep me fettered some what, though mobile to a certain extent fighting patrols are now finished, even for an old Padre.

In early Dec 1943 I marched into Faita just two days before the Nips drove out the 2/6th Sqn from Keswai/Esariba/Ketoba, where I had been stationed for a term of duty. A good move on my part-what?!. We sunk foxholes at Faita and strung out booby traps. As the foxholes had turned into swimming pools we erected dirt barricades for defensive purposes. But the Nips ignored our side of the Ramu What an insult to the 2/2nd Sqn! Or had they heard of your reputation, especially in Timor??

After Christmas celebrations at Faita I flew up to Goroka to serve with both Troops that domiciled there for health reasons, and what a delightful habitat it was. The first Troop I met at Goroka included the (in)famous "Padre" Nickolay, about whom I was warned down at Faita! However, the warning was unfair to Nick; we got on splendidly. I recall the wonderful band that swung everthing, except the hymns but given the chance......!! Nick and a Sergeant staged a comedy/drama, I think it turned out a "Tragedy"! But Laugh we did. The expected celebrated Jungle Juice turned out a failure.. What a disappointment to many!

Tom Nisbet was a captain in those daysanother very nice cobber. We met again in the Wewak show when Tom was O/C 2/9th. Sqn.

Well, I have burbled on. We could and can all recall innumerable stories of those years, given the time and you will!

Kindest regards and best wishes to every man of you.

Yours Sincerely, Rev. Bottrell.

Gympie Queensland

Dear Arch,

It is some time since I last wrote to you. Thank you for the Couriers I have received.

Guess those who attended the Safari will be well and truly home again. Im sure everyone would have had a wonderful time.

I was sorry to see in your last Courier where Lt Colonel Spence had passed away. He was in Timor for a while when my husband Jack was there, & Jack often spoke of him.

So many of the men there at that time have passed away.

On remembrance Day I placed a sheath of Flowers on our "Memorial Gates" in memory of Jack & "The brave men of Timor".

Please find enclosed Donation towards the Courier.

With Christmas so close, I'll take this opportunity of Wishing All Members the Compliments of the Season & good health for all in 1984.

Sincerely Kathleen B. Sargeant.

> D.K. Dignun 24 Selkirk Ave. Seaton. 5023 24/12/83

Dear Arch,

I received the new Address Book, and would like to congratulate the compliers of the book, it is a good job, and those concerned can be proud of their efforts.

Yes, there are a couple of Blues in it, but not as many as you can find in the daily Papers, and they are compliled by professionals. (9-5 Wallahs). So once again a job well done.

We in S.A. live a pretty mundane sort of life, not like W.A. or the Eastern States, probably on a par with Tassie.

Still we will live much longer as I think we actually exist in a state of suspended animation.

George Coulson and his wife Bettye not Pat, called in here with their Video set up, and entertained us well into the night, there are certainly some hams in the mob, they are attracted to the camera like moths to a lamp, still it was good to see them all in natural poses.

Well Arch will have to end this now or Paddy Kenneally will get jealous if I attempt to compete with him for the Golden Pen Award.

All the Best for the Future.

Here is a donation for the Courier.

Keith Dignum.

Keith & Betty Craig, P.O. Box 234 43 Edwards Street, Young N.S.W. 2594

Christmas, 1983

Dear Folks,

Well here it is nearly Christmas again, and we hope that each and everyone has a Very Happy and Holy Christmas, and that the New Year will be a Healthy and Happy one for all. I guess as some of us are getting older Health is the best wish we can have.

We have had a very busy year again, and looking back I wonder how we have fitted everything in, but we have managed. We had a full six months going back and forth to Canberra, as my friends husband was there in hospital, and of course we were very grateful to Jim and Joan Fenwick, who gave us beds and fed us so many times during this time of travelling. Keith also had a week in Canberra Hospital, and had to go back for tests etc. and reports but he has come through really well, except that at times he still gets a little off balance, but with a bit of extra rest, he is O.K. in a few hours. Other than that we have both been really well.

We have not been to Melbourne this year, didn't have time to fit it in, but hope in the new year to make a trip down that way, and then come back to Sydney around the Coast and call on Janette and stan in Sydney, on our way home. We have been to Sydney quite a few times this year, and we had ten days there, when we went to the Presbyterian Assembly, which we both found very interesting, and will probably be down again for this next May. We don't have time to see anyone at this time, as it is very constant. We have been able to have lunch with Joan Darge at the Gas Company most times we have been down, and have seen a few of the 2/2 group.

Keith has had a busy year with Church work, as there always seems to be something to do, and he has been busy in the church garden as well, and this year they were presented with a plaque in appreciation of the work the small group had put into the surrounds of the church. It is all to do with the 'Tidy Towns' campaign, and it certainly spurs some of the folk to do a bit in their own gardens and their footpaths etc. This year I again trained the Debs for their presentation at the Girl Guide Ball. It is very rewarding to see the girls and their partners on their big night turned out so beautifully, but sometimes you wonder whether you will ever get them to that peak of perfection, but they seem to really come good in time to really enjoy their night. Next year our Ball is tobe later, not until end of June, and I have said it will be my last year. Keith says I will believe it when I see it. I guess we will just have to wait and see. This year I didn't get in too much golf, much to my sorrow, as I really enjoy it, nor many games of bowls, so next year I have told myself that I will play more golf, and Keith and I will play more bowls, or we hope so anyway.

This year we have not been to so many dances, and we of course have missed those too, but we have been able to keep in touch with most of our friends, and whenever we are in the vicinity of any of them call ion and have a short chat. We have been to orange see Ted and Di Cholerton and family a few times, and also called on Kath Press. We had Jack Hartley call and stay a night on his way home from Melbourne, and we all went and spent a day with Ted and Di Cholerton and of course had a wonderful time together. Keith and I are hoping to go over and see Ted and Di in about the middle December, and spend a couple of days with them.

Of course this year the highlight was the 2/2nd Safari to Western Australia. We decided that we would go early and have a few trips around the state before the Safari really began. We left at the end of August, and stayed a week with Jess Epps, and then flew to Port Hedland, and took a coach tour around the Pilbara. It was really something. The gorges etc. were really something to see, and the scenery was great. The iron ore in the Mountains is really fascinating. The mountains are rugged, and the iron ore in places falls from the top of the mountains in large and small lumps. Being so dark, it looks just like the old treacle pudding mother used to make. It is really great to see. We flew over the area and over the Tom Price mine, and went to the mine the next day. The township is really lovely. Green lawns everywhere, beautiful brick homes, all air conditioned etc. We were told the houses are rented out for 96 dollars a month, which includes water and electricity. Up there they talk in Millions of dollars, as we would talk in one or two dollars. One tyre on the machinery they use in the mine is worth \$10,000.00 and it lasts 3 to 4 months. In one place it costs eighty million dollars to clear the ground before they could start anything. That was on the natural gas area near the coast. We were fascinated by the for'sque River, as it is mostly underground, but in about 3 places, it comes up above ground, because of rock formations and it is a beautiful wide and clear river for a few miles, then a little further on, it goes back underground. To be driving through dry and dusty land, and turn a corner and come upon an area of date palms, streams with flowers abounding surrounding an old Pub, where we were served a beautiful 3 course meal really amazes you at times. To call at an old Pub in the middle of nowhere is also a strange feeling.

We went back to Jess Epps for about a week, and Keith, Jess and myself left for 10 days tour of the South, with Jess driving. This was a great tour, we went to Wave Rock at Hyden, then south towards Albany, where we met up with some of the carabaners form the Eastern States, and we went to Win Sprigg for dinner. We had missed the caravaners the night before when we called at the Stirling Caravan Park, but they were booked out. We thought the wild flowers up the Bluff in the Stirlings were beautiful and Keith has some wonderful photos of these. Down south we saw the rugged coast line, and the seas would be tremendous in really bad weather. We went to the caves and saw the Jewel cave, which was beautiful, and we stayed at little pubs, guest houses, etc. and saw at Denmark the opening of the bar, a once a year do, so we were lucky. The scenery was wonderful, and we enjoyed it all. We called at Ludlow and Keith met up with Alec Thomson whom he hadn't seen since 1945, then on to see the Turners, the Smiths the Poyntons, the Roleys, Pauls and Hollands, and then back to Perth, It was great to be back with Jess, as it was just like a second home, and she looked after us so well. We then went on a four day tour around Geraldton and Kalbarri, and again saw some wonderful wildflowers. Back to Jess and into town to stay at Town Lodge for the Safari. What can we say about that, except that it was really wonderful. To see so many folk turn up, and to meet with friends we have made over the years was really something you only dream about. The organisation was wonderful, and I am sure that everyone enjoyed themselves. We also were able to go to a few things not listed, and Keith and I were lucky enough to go to Yanchep to see a friend of ours who has moved from Young to there. It was a great re-union, and we did appreciate Jean and John driving us up there. The people who took us out to different places were so kind, and we loved every minute of it all. To see over 200 attend the official Dinner, the welcome and final evenings, and the Turton Picnic was an indication of how much the unit friendship means to all, and I am sure it means a great deal as well to the wives of

the men. After the Safari we had a wonderful week with Jean and John Fowler, and went off touring again, and went down around Harvey and saw the Marshalls, and were able to stay at Mandurah. Dexter and his wife and family also came to stay at Mandurah, and we had a great few days. We had an evening at Len & Betty's where we met up with the Coulson's and of course had more of the Video, and were able to see the March, etc. on the Screen. It was really good, and George is to be congratulated on his work. We went up to the farm too for a day, and Dexter took us for a drive around. We enjoyed that too. Back to Perth, and we stayed with Jess Epps again until we left for Sydney. We had a few days with our daughter and sonin-law, Janette and Stan and daughter Donna before we returned to Young. We had a few days in Wagga to see an Uncle of Keith's, and this last week have been to Sydney when we attended the 2/2nd Christmas Bar-B-Q at June Bennett's home at Mona Vale. I think there were 26 people there, so it was great to see everyone again, and to have a look at the photo's which each one had taken in the west. Joan Darge has all the negatives of the ones we took, and is haveing some taken off for a few of the folk. Bob and Joyce Smith were down, and Bob is to have some treatment for a fortnight from Monday. Hope all goes well. We were sorry to hear that Denny & June Dennis had the misfortune to have their caravan damaged and written off in an accident at Clare S.A. They were not in the Van or car when it was hit, so were not injured. Ron Trengrove was ill on the way home, but was hale and hearty in Sydney. Good to see. It was talked about that we would be having a Mini Safari at the Graig's, 43 Edward St Young, in March, 1984. Allan Luby and maybe Ron and Joan Darge will possibly choose a date, but anyone who would like to come please keep it in mind. We can put a few vans in our back yard, and connect them to the power. About 11/2 blocks away is the Caravan Park, and we could put up about 5 people to sleep in the house, so all you folk who would like to come along keep it in mind. Forgot to tell you that Bob and Joyce Smith had the Van badly damaged in a hail storm 2 days after they arrived home. As Bob said fancy driving all that way and having no trouble and then having over \$1,500.00 damage don in the back yard.

We were sorry to hear from Jess Epps of the passing of three of the Unit members since the Safari. Also to hear John Fowler had a fight with some machinery and had the top of his finger damaged, but glad to hear it is O.K. again now. Must be more careful John.

Now it is time again to stop my rambling. To you all in the West especially, our sincere thanks for all you did for us while we were there. We have a ticket in the Camper Van, for the Flying Doctor Service, and say we will be back end of December to pick it up. Maybe. Our Best wishes to everyone, and hope this finds you well, as it leaves Keith and myself, Phillip, Lorraine and the girls, Susan, Karen and Linda, and Stan and Janette and Donna, all well in the East.

God bless you all,

Sincerely, Keith & Betty

BEDFORD W.A. 6052 9TH JAN 1984

Dear Arch,

The festive season is now over and so its every day life again and lets hope 1094 will be a good year. We have just returned form Pt. Wakefield 12th August. Doug has been poste to the P & E Establishment and so we had Xmas with him and his wife.

Enclosed is a cheque to help keep the Courier going.

Please check our address as the Courier had 112A Lawrence St on it and we are still 112A.

All the best Jack

Cardiff N.S.W. 2285 5.1.84

Dear Treasurer.

Ron Kirkwood.

Please find enclosed Postal Note for Courier & to help with New Address Book.

Les is sorry not to have been in touch for a while. He suffers with writers cramp & his secretary is getting old!!

Best wishes to you all

Earlier Les had 10 weeks in hospital at Concord.

Then when we decided to have a week up at Coolangatta. Spent 7 days in hospital at Tweeds Head with a heart attack. All seems to be well once again.

Yours sincerely

Les & Gloria Isenhood.

Dubbo, N.S.W. 3.12.83

The seventh "Safari" has now concluded and may I say, on behalf of all the Eastern States, a very big thank you to all our W.A. members of the Association and their good wives and lady friends for a magnificent effort. The work entailed in organising such a function involves months of discussions and preparation and once again we must give the "Sandgropers" the Cup for a Job well done and a "Safari" that will long be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to make the trip.

Through the "Courier" Phyllis and I would like personally to thank the following for their hospitality, kindness and use of their motor cars to enable us to see so much of Perth and surrounding areas of the suburbs, Fremantle, Bunbury and Mandurah. A big thanks to these lovely people — Jess Epps, Allan & Joy Chatfield, Jack & Jean Fowler, Clarrie & Grace Turner, Len Bagley & Betty, Ralph & Eve Finklestein and last but not least Tom & Mary Foster for the wonderful trip throughout the north and our stay at their property. To one and all it was greatly appreciated and will long be remembered.

We did two coach trips before returning home — one to Geraldton where I paid a visit to Nip Cunningham who was a very close mate of Fred Broadhurst and myself when we were members of 6 section. He was so pleased to see Tom Foster & myself. At 72 years of age and almost blind he got the skipping rope out and did 30 skips for us — a great mate and still fit for his age.

The "Safari" I feel brought so much out of our boys and now with the average age approaching 65 years the old talents are still there but age is slowly mellowing a lot.

It was a great thrill for me to meet up again with Mavis and Fred Broadhurst after 27 long years — his humour has never altered and my ribs were sore from coughing with that rotten virus which so many of us contracted and it gave him the greatest of pleasure to get me laughing and holding my ribs in pain at his jokes.

Len Bagley and I have vowed to expel him from any future "Safaris". His late nights kept many of us beyond our normal bedtime but we all enjoyed his witty yarns and fun at the Hospitality Centre.

I was so sorry to hear that many of our good W.A. friends were stricken down with that virus and that Jean Morgan ended up in hospital and Thelma Sproxton was too sick to come and see us off on the Indian Pacific. We do hope everyone is back on their feet and feeling 100 per cent.

I took 5 reels of film during our tour — all very good, particulary the morning of our ceremony in King's Park.

I failed to mention our second trip which was to Albany — we were very impressed with a nice town and a very worthwile tour.

Being an ex railway man I paid a visit to the Railway Station and Locomotive Depot at Albany and many of the staff knew our late member Ron Sprigg and had worked with him for years prior to his passing.

As Christmas is drawing nigh it gives me great pleasure to wish you, one and all, a very happy and pleasant Christmas and may 1984 be peaceful and king.

In conclusion may I once again thank Arch Campbell, his committee and all concerned for making our stay so pleasant and happy.

Kindest regards,

Frank Sharp.

Newhaven, Victoria 21.11.83

Dear Arch,

On reflection a few weeks after the Safari, I must offer my congratulations to you and your committee for such wonderful or organisation, it was a truly professional job.

Thais and I enjoyed ourselves tremendously seeing all those old faces again and putting on half a stone after visiting Len in the Hospitality Room.

Your city is something to be proud of, it is spotlessly clean and has not been taken over by a lot of undesirable characters such as we see in the East. We are very pleased to live $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours drive out of Melbourne of Phillip Island.

We enclose a small donation towards keeping the heart beat of the Unit alive.

Wishing you all good health and further success.

Best wishes. David & Thais Brown.

> Poowong East 5th December 1983

Dear Friends,

1983 is almost over and it certainly doesn't seem that a year has gone by since I wrote my Christmas letter for 1982. We have had a very busy and interesting year with three outstanding events. Firstly we flew off to Perth to attend Robert's wedding in May. His bride, Cathy Szabo, is a Perth girl and at this stage it looks as if

(continued over)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A. Bennett (VIC)

Not at address shown in new address book. Can anyone throw light on his where abouts.

N. Parker (VIC) Address now 2 Mclambe Boulevarde, Frankston, VIC 3199 Phone (03) 787 8113

W. Sharp (VIC) Correct address 18/289 (not 18) Berkley Street, St Kilda VIC

A. Boast (VIC) New Address — 1 Hillview Avenue, Rye, VIC 3941 Phone (059) 85 5468

F.W. Eggleton (N.S.W.) Delete, deceased.

H.R. Cullen (N.S.W.) Nickname Jim not Slim Phone (006) 33 3139

A. Soper (QLD) Correct Address, 9 Warili Street, Aitkenvale, QLD 4814

Mrs Faye Lawrence (S.A.) New address, 124 Marion Road, Richmond S.A. 5033 Phone (08) 354 0713

J. Haire (W.A.) Delete wife Norine deceased. Robert has become a West Australian he likes W.A. and had been working over there for almost a year and a half befor the wedding. It was a pretty wedding — Cathy wore a pearl grey street length dress and her two matrons of honour wore dusty pink. Tenielle was flower girl and wore pink and Colin was also in the wedding group and it all wnt off very well.

It was a family reunion for us all. Elva and the children can down form Jakarta, Barbara flew across for three days and Colin, Joan, Tenielle and Ken and I made a holiday of it and had two weeks in the West.

The second highlight of 1983 was another trip to Perth in October for the "Sandgroper Safari". We all enjoyed a really wonderful programme for the two weeks and once again it all went too quickly.

The third big event was the arrival of Joan & Colin's new baby girl on 23rd November at Warragul. Her name is Carrina Jade and she is a dear lettle pet and Tenielle is very thrilled with her little sister.

Barbara and Owen are well and busy. Their three little girls are growing up very quickly. Barbara still likes her nursing and works one or two nights a week. Elva, Road, Finlay and Catherine are plannning to spend Christmas with Cathy and Robert in Perth and will fly home on 3rd January. Their time in Jakarta is drawing to a close and they will be home to stay when they get back. My mother is now living at the Lyrebird Hostel for the Aged, Neerim Street, Drouin and is very happy there. She had her 89th birthday in September.

Ken and I are still milking cows but we enjoy it and we have a couple of months spell when we dry them off about April. We like our garden too and are always getting new trees, plants, bulbs etc. We had 43¹/₂ inches of rain up till the end of November — last year we only had 29 inches.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 1984.

With our Love. Margaret & Ken Monk