

# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

Registered by Australian Post Publication No. WAS 0270 — Category "A"

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

**Vol. 80**

**DECEMBER 1989**

**Price 1c**

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **BAROSSA SAFARI, 16 - 26 MARCH 1990**

Refer to October 1989 Courier for Itinerary details.

#### **TRANSPORT**

Interstate buses arrive at the Central Bus Depot,  
101 Franklin Street, Adelaide.

The Barossa — Adelaide bus line has a service three times daily  
from 101 Franklin Street, Adelaide — 9am, 1pm, 5.45pm.

The distance from Adelaide to Nuriootpa is 85km and the bus  
takes approximately two hours to complete the trip.

#### **CABIN DWELLERS**

Arrangements have been made to provide you with the  
following, if required:

Pillows — Pillow Slips — Sheets (single only)  
Blankets — Towels

It is most important that you let Keith Dignum know **AS SOON  
AS POSSIBLE** if you will be requiring these items.

## **IMPORTANT**

*Look for final details in February, 1990 Courier.*

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

This will be the last Christmas in the 1980's and in retrospect the past decade has simply flown by. The Association has welded itself into a great family unit which is ready to face the challenges of the 90's and share the love and warmth that every get-together generates. To spearhead this will be the Barossa Safari in South Australia during March 1990 which brings members Australia-wide together and provides a grand opportunity to plan our future path.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Christ to whom we give thanks for all the blessings bestowed upon us day by day. The love of family, which is the very crux of our civilisation, bears witness to the fact that love and affection are an essential part of our existence. Within the ranks of our Association this is really manifest, bringing to life that priceless message "Peace on earth and good will to all men."

At this time of the year our thoughts reflect on our mates who have gone before, whose sacrifice made possible the way of life we all enjoy. To the widows and families left behind, who are such an integral part of our Association, our prayers go out, with a wish that this festive season will alleviate the sadness you feel, and be a comfort to you in your loneliness.

To any of our members in sorrow, sickness or distress, to those less fortunate than ourselves, the maimed and infirm, may Christmas bring you relief from your adversities. May it help you to know that the love of all members of the 2/2nd Commando Association and a prayer for a return to good health are yours.

Wherever you are, members of the 2/2nd, in whatever corner of the world, may you and your loved ones share the happiness of this Christmas season to the full.

A Merry Christmas to each and every one of you, followed by a New Year full of joy and happiness, making it a grand start to the decade of the 90's.

God bless you all.

Archie Campbell  
President

---

## COMMEMORATION SERVICE

What a day this turned out to be! A warm late Spring day, 35°. An early morning call from Alan Luby on behalf of the NSW Branch and all states, wishing us good luck on our most important day.

There were 130 present. Forty two Unit members attended, with 34 marching. They marched as if it was yesterday and drew warm applause from all present. Our ladies, including many widows, were there as always to lend support. There were many young people and children related to members and their presence was greatly appreciated and added to the occasion.

Country areas were well represented — John Penglase of Hopetoun, not seen in a long time because of indifferent health, the Sadler boys Stan and Charlie with their wives Blanche and Mavis, from Wongan Hills, Clarrie and Grace Turner and Alex and Win Thomson from Capel, regular attenders at most functions despite the distance. Reg and Dot Harrington from Bolgar, loyal supporters. Ernie Bingham from Wandering, Stan and Barbara Payne from Merredin. Great to see these members and their ladies coming from near and far in support of the Association.

Then, as always, that bright stimulating group from Mandurah, backbone of our Branch — will not name them for they are all so well known. They certainly attract other members to become permanent Mandurah-ites!

Thank you all for the continuing efforts you make to keep our Association mobile.

The Special Air Services Regiment Catafalque Party, under Sgt. Alan Dewar, added dignity to the occasion with a neat and precise display of their disciplined talents. Our thanks to Lt.Col. Jim Wallace for his co-operation and to the young men who so readily responded. We are eternally grateful to this elite Unit.

The President delivered his address, the 2/2 Casualty List was read, the Ode was said, followed during two minutes silence by the Last Post and Reveille. The Catafalque Party marched off and then the piece-de-resistance, the march of the men of the 2/2nd under Marshal John Poynton. As always, this created an emotion of some order.

Thank you all for making it a day to remember, with what Colin Doig decreed, the biggest attendance ever.

Hereunder the President's Address:

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

COMMEMORATION SERVICE  
SUNDAY, 19th NOVEMBER, 1989

Commemoration Day for the 2/2nd Commando Association is the most important day in our calendar of activities. It brings together all our closely welded group to pay homage to our departed whose sacrifice sees us able to enjoy life to its full. That is what they would want, our being able to do this, likewise thank God for the liberties and freedom we all

enjoy because they so nobly laid down their lives to make sure such a set of rules would exist.

This superb setting of our Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive is the ideal place to contemplate, reflect and pray, to give thanks to our mates beyond the vale for the sacrifices they made, trusting our world would be a better place to live in.

We look around and see the young, virile, disciplined members of the Special Air Services Regiment, who so whole-heartedly co-operate with the 2/2nd in part of our endeavours. They would, in these special commitments, fill the hearts of our departed comrades with joy. Our future lies in capable hands with such young men our leaders of tomorrow. We thank them for their acceptance of being a vital part of our defence force as a deterrent to those who would intrude on our native soil. Their motto *"Who Dares — Wins"* has seen them create a place for themselves in Australia's history for they have a proud record indeed, both at war and in peace.

Our widows, a big part of our Association, are with us today as we pay our tribute to the men who have gone before, both at war and those who have since died. We miss them so very much, thank them for what they mean to us, loved ones deeply respected. God bless the widows and all our ladies who have given the 2/2nd Commando Association their full support over all the years of its existence.

To see the children present, in some cases those of our deceased members, brings a warm glow from within, to join the veterans of the 2/2nd on such a day is to pay us a real tribute. They make the words *'Lest We Forget'* a tangible symbol of their love for those departed, proving that such a sacrifice was not in vain.

These young people have our love and affection, they are tomorrow's people and will keep alive the precious memories of our departed comrades. They now have to build a world in which they would like to see their children live, give it your close attention, for the family is the very crux of a first class civilisation, sacrifice an integral part, something your fathers and grandfathers gave for their country so we all would have a better way of life.

Men of the 2/2nd wherever you are, this is your Association, it has been kept alive by you, so as the close attachments formed in the days of war could be nurtured to become a wonderful medium to encompass you and your families, an area where a deep love exists among us all.

God bless the dear people who laid the foundations of such an organisation. During the long days of war you attended to our wants

wherever possible, creating an affinity that took us into the years post war. This gave us something to hang on to when things were tough in the rehabilitation days. From this rock solid foundation emerged the 2/2nd Commando Association, a family in every sense of the word, an unsurpassed organisation of which we are all so proud.

Many of our ranks are no more and today we gather to give thanks to God for having known them, to have shared their friendship and affection. We are privileged to stand on this hallowed ground in silent reverence to the memory of our beloved mates who gave their all for their country. God bless them.

***'Lest We Forget'***

---

## NSW BRANCH PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1989

Dear Members,

It's hard to realise that another year has sped by and here we are, this lucky few, gathered for another Annual General Meeting.

Taken all round it has been a good year, and like you all, I reckon every year we complete now has to be a good one, in spite of the aches and pains we might endure, but we're still here, and able to enjoy whatever life has to offer.

On the social side we had excellent support for most events during the National Commando Reunion held in Sydney last November as a Bi-Centennial gathering. As well as locals, we enjoyed the company of visitors from Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and New Guinea — what a great effort, and thanks for being present.

Then in March, we had the best ever numbers for the regular Mini Safari at Young, organised largely by Betty Craig and her band of helpers. Our friend Keith is still doing it tough, but maintains the old fighting spirit, and his sense of humour. My count was 42 present, and again a large number of visitors from interstate.

What a wonderful brotherhood that causes people to travel thousands of miles in order to get together as our 2/2 family. There were also a number of people who would have been present but either illness or incapacity prevented their attendance.

As usual there were a couple who came out of the woodwork and showed up. They were especially welcome, and I refer to 'Blue' Ray Westerweller (not much of that 'blue' hair left these days). The other was Norm Demmery who we haven't seen for many years.

Anzac Day weather was atrocious, the worst we can remember since 1950 when the March was washed out.

We had 16 members on parade and luckily completed the March dry. Most adjourned to a nearby water hole to partake of sufficient refreshment to get us to Circular Quay and the ferry. Fortunately we had decided to forsake our usual gathering place at City Ford. Again we had strong support from country members — somewhat disappointed with those from the metropolitan area.

Several of our members have endured illnesses during the year, a few requiring hospitalisation. I trust next year will be better. Some of our wives too have had their share and more of ill health; again, we hope that the future holds an improvement for you.

We lost a dear and valued mate in the person of Ron 'Babe' Teague, whose great voice gave us all a great deal of pleasure on many occasions, especially on Safari's.

Tom Tierney recently lost his wife and we extend our condolences.

Through Pat de Luz we have maintained some connections with our Timorese residents and participated in some of their functions.

As a Vice President of the NSW Commando Association we have contact with the other Squadrons and the Australian Commando Association, which is beneficial to all.

My thanks to my fellow officials and members of the Committee for their support during the year, our interstate Committees, and especially W.A. for keeping our wonderful Courier up to its high standard.

See you at SAFARI BAROSSA 1990.

Sincerely,  
Alan Luby

---

## ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON

Held in Anzac Club on Friday, October 20th, this was a well attended and most enjoyable function.

After pre-dinner drinks, Toastmaster Len Bagley passed on greetings from Alan Luby for a very successful day.

Included in the 50 odd who attended were Lieut-Col. Jim Wallace A.M. and R.S.M. Jim Willshire O.A.M., both representing the S.A.S. Regiment; Dennis Doyle, 2/6th (brother of the late Cyril Doyle); 'Tiger' Lines, 2/5th; John Lilley, 2/7th; Harry Holder, City of Perth R.S.L. and Paul Swann, son of Vince.

Apologies were received from Ron Dook, Mick Morgan, Eric Weller, Peter Barden, Ray Aitken, Stan Payne, Bill Rowan-Robinson, Bernie Langridge, Don Murray and Gerry Maley.

Wilf March proposed the toast to the Unit and Association in a very nostalgic and moving speech. This was most ably responded to by Gerry Haire.

Dick Darrington welcomed the guests in his own quiet style and all the visitors responded to this toast.

John Poynton thanked Len for the capable handling of his duties as Toastmaster.

Then it was time to adjourn to the bar, mingle with mates and catch up on all the news. So ended another very pleasant 2/2nd function.

---

## VALE GEORGE HAMILTON-SMITH

If anything was required to bring home to us the reality of the age group to which we belong and at the same time make us aware of the swift diminution of our ranks, it would be the passing of that tough, resilient old soldier, Geordie Smith. The second of the Denmark Boys, the first being the late Norm Thornton, has gone from us.

At a service held in Albany on Thursday, 6th October, Archie Campbell and Jack Carey represented the Association and the Unit while Charlie King and I shared the considerable honour of representing Four Section and all other members of 'B' Platoon. One can imagine that many, and particularly Paddy and Mick, would have joined us in spirit.

If any should ask what manner of man was George Hamilton-Smith it would probably be enough to say that if you had Thornton on one flank and Smith on the other, it would never be necessary to turn your head. Geordie was a courageous, efficient and intelligent soldier on whose total integrity one learned to rely.

Geordie had a sharp, unobtrusive, somewhat dry sense of humour. It managed to stay with him under very adverse conditions and this, as much as any facet of his character, inspired the deep affectionate regard in which he was held by those who were close to him.

One remembers those great "innocent" eyes at the card table and the magnificence of the "tall stories" generally preserved for social occasions and reproduced in believable detail to entertain members of the fair sex.

In late September 1942 Geordie was at Turiscai and I sent him a message which said



"Arriving 1400 hrs with 66 starving and suffering freshmen ('B' Platoon of 2/4th). What can you do?" A runner brought back a reply which contained one of Geordie's favourite expressions. "Have added 4 gals of water to the buffalo stew. Let 'em all come." Signed in full George Hamilton-Smith.

It was significant that a group of soldiers lately introduced to our mountains and not liking them gained a swift lift in morale and completed the last leg of the journey in good order. After eating, they gathered round Geordie with deep interest, dwelling upon his words of comfort and advice.

In a Unit which produced a medical orderly who was better occupied with a Tommy Gun, and a batman who saved us all by proving he could build a transmitter, it is perhaps not surprising that one of our mostly highly skilled snipers, in our few lay off periods, could cook quite superbly. One remembers that Arsene Phillipe (one of the famous International Brigade) was attached to Geordie as an assistant cook when 'B' Platoon was quartered at Remexio. Each time Arsene passed a giant wok simmering with one of Geordie's excellent mixtures, he would add a scoop or two of pig fat. Geordie, a little later, would skim off the fat and pour it out of the window on to the side of the great rock with bore it down into the valley. This Shining Rock became famous amongst the Timorese. It was typical of Geordie that, after some early noisy and profane reaction, he simply dealt with the problem without further upsetting his assistant who he described fondly as "my greasy old clobber."

The tales one could tell of Geordie are many but all point to the same story of the stability and unswerving surety of his general behaviour both as a soldier and civilian. His close friendship with Norman Thornton was a legend in our Unit and if I may be forgiven for speaking personally, I am still proud that they allowed me to share some of this companionship. We all know how Norman and Geordie continued their association in civil life.

Geordie loved Timor and the Timorese. The short time Four Section spent at Buzartete had a profound effect on him, as it did on most of us. It was "rai ita nian" Our Land. It was significant that when a new house was built in Denmark it was named simply Bagartele.

To Joan and the family we can offer only our sincere condolences, and tell her that we too have a measure of grief.

Goodbye Geordie. It was a privilege to have served with you.

Ray Aitken

## VALE ARTHUR R. BURNS

Once again it is my sad duty to report the death of one of our members, Arthur (Bob) Burns, on 16th October, 1989 after a fairly long illness. Bob, as he was affectionately known to us all, was diagnosed as a cancer victim some three years ago and underwent all sorts of special treatment and showed lots of improvement over the early months of diagnosis. However, the grim disease caught up with him over the last three or four months and he battled courageously, all to no avail.

Bob had a most varied war time soldier career. He put his age up early in the piece (he was born in 1925) and joined the 10th Light Horse Regiment and served with that Unit until he joined the 2/2nd Commando Squadron in early 1945 and served with our Unit during the New Britain Campaign.

After demobilisation he got tired of civilian life and rejoined the Army and for some time he trained personnel for the Korean Campaign. He continued on in the Army and was one of the originals in the formation of the S.A.S. Regiment and was one of the original instructors for this top grade Unit.

After leaving the Army Bob worked in many vocations. At one time he was manager of the Cannington Hotel but finished up with one of the quarries in the Gosnells area.

Bob leaves a widow Joan and three very nice boys to mourn his loss. He was a very loving husband and father and was adored by his family.

Bob took a keen interest in Unit Association affairs and joined our Committee in 1981 and gave most excellent service to our Association.

We say a sad farewell to an outstanding soldier, citizen, family man and great member of our Association.

Our sincere sympathy to Joan and family.

The cremation was conducted at Karrakatta on Thursday, 19th October and was strongly attended. Our Association was asked to supply the pall bearers who were President Arch Campbell, Secretary Jack Carey and Messrs Peter Barden, Keith Hayes, Len Bagley, Tom Bateman, Don Turton and Wilf March. All in all we had 26 members present for this solemn occasion.

Goodbye Bob from all your mates in the 2/2nd Commando Association.

## BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES GALLERY — SEQUENCE 9



*Eric Weller*



*Mark Jordan*



*Les Halse*



*George Coulsen*



*Neil Hooper*



*Ralph Conley*



*Fred Bryant*



*George Vandeleur*

## VALE HARRY PIETRIE

Harry passed away in Queensland recently. Not many would have known Harry and there seemed no relatives whom we could contact to find out the circumstances.

Anyone who knew Harry might fill the *Courier* committee in with some background of his service.

He was one of our mates, God bless him.

## GERALDTON SAYS THANK YOU

First of all let me say many thanks for the wonderful write-up in the *Courier* regarding the Geraldton Country Convention. It was a great pleasure for us and our wives to do our utmost to make it a memorable occasion, in appreciation of the immense work that officers of the Association are doing on behalf of its members. The great spirit of togetherness and companionship that prevailed through the Convention was typical of that for which the 2/2nd has become renowned.

Those of us in the Geraldton area would like to say a big thank-you for the written and telephone expressions of thanks. As organisers of the first Geraldton Convention for 26 years, we would like to thank members for attending in such pleasing numbers.

It was my pleasure to pass on to Mayor Faye Simpson, Monsignor John Barden, Max Cramer, Ken Bull, Librarian Pat Gallaher, Queen's Park Theatre and publican Bob Ramage, copies of the *Courier* that were made available by president Archie Campbell. Before doing so, however, I corrected a number of typographical errors so that the relevant sections read that the Batavia sank in 1629; that the famous architect priest was John Hawes; and that the Library was 'most' impressive. However, I repeat what I said earlier: It was a wonderful write-up.

On to another subject, many thanks for the wonderful roll-up at Bob Burns' funeral. The Chaplain from Hollywood certainly did a lot of research into the history of this "man's man" for whom I had the privilege of being Best Man at his wedding and with whom I was very closely associated both in the 2/2nd and in our earlier army life. Bob's widow, Joan, and three sons had many nice things to say about the Association and its members when Jack Carey, Wilf March and Yours Truly went to their Maddington home after the funeral.

I recently had the pleasure of showing Jess Epps' son, Peter, through Birdwood House, the headquarters of Geraldton City RSL Sub-

Branch of which I have had the pleasure of being PRO for more than 30 years. He was impressed with what he saw — including numerous relics from both World Wars.

I attended a Remembrance Day Diggers' Luncheon with Nip Cunningham. This former champion pugilist, who held three titles at the one time, still keeps in good nick by skipping and cycling. He told me it was really great meeting some of his old mates at the Convention.

**EDITOR:** *Thanks for the letter Peter and for putting the record straight. It certainly was a grand get-together. It certainly gave everyone a kick to see Nip again, he is a real character and a tough old timer at that.*

ARCHIE, Many thanks to all of you for a memorable Convention — You were all great!

Kind regards,

Peter and Joan Barden

## COMMANDOS COUNTRY CONVENTION

Members of the 2/2nd Commando Association dispersed during the weekend after taking part in a Country Convention at Geraldton.

Originally called the Second Independent Company, this Unit saw service against the Japanese in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain.

Association members, both men and women from various parts of WA — and Mark Jordan from Adelaide — participated in an entertaining programme during the Geraldton Convention.

It included an inspection of civic buildings during which President Archie Campbell presented Mayor Faye Simpson with an autographed copy of a book on the history of the Unit, for inclusion in the library.

The book was written by the association's historian, Colin Doig of Floreat, who for many years was Editor of the "2/2nd Commando Courier."

The convention also included an inspection of St Francis Xavier's Cathedral and a talk by Monsignor John Barden concerning the late Monsignor John Hawes and his 'architectural gems' throughout the region.

This was followed by a talk at the museum by Max Cramer on the discovery of the 1629 wreck of the Batavia at the Abrolhos.

The convention also included a visit to the Kalbarri area, a tour of the oil area, at Mount

Horner and a farm inspection and a barbecue at the Allanooka property of Tom and Mary Foster.

During the farewell dinner at the Ocean Centre Hotel, presentations were made to the wives of the local members associated with the Convention — Joan Barden, Mary Foster, Margaret Weller and Edith Prendergast. — **Contributed by Peter Barden.**

*The above article appeared in the Geraldton Guardian, Tuesday, 26th September, 1989.*

## TOM STARCEVICH V.C.

Tom passed away on the 17th November, 1989 and our sympathy goes out to his family, plus Peter and Pat Campbell who were so close to him by virtue of marriage and long standing neighbours.

He attended our Country Convention barbecue held on the Campbell property during October '88 and was a big hit with all present with his humour and sincerity.

Tom will be sadly missed in the Esperance district, Grass Patch in particular.

This is our tribute to a fine soldier and man who won the nations highest award giving service to his country.

Vale Tom Starcevic, V.C., your name will live on with your deeds.

## THANK YOU

J. Burns  
64 Hilton Crescent  
Maddington 6109

Dear Archie,

On behalf of my family and myself I would like you to accept our thanks for doing a job which you are so capable of doing, firstly getting in touch with the boys and arranging the pall bearers for us. Secondly getting in touch with Legacy to set the wheels in motion for me — they have been a great help.

Also I would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the Unit for the attendance at Bob's funeral, especially Peter Barden who had to travel from Geraldton. I am sure Bob would not have wanted it any other way.

Please find enclosed a small donation to the Courier.

God bless you all. Our love.  
Joan Burns and family.

## TIME-LIFE "AUSTRALIANS AT WAR" SERIES

VOLUME 16

"SPECIAL AND SECRET" By JOHN LAFFIN

Dear Mr Carey,

I cannot thank you enough for the time you have taken to help us and the trust with which you so generously let us borrow the books and photograph. They proved a most valuable reference for our writers. I am using the photo of David Dexter's 'A' Section at Larrimah in the book and it will be returned to you as soon as we receive it from the printers. Once again thank you for all this help. I now return all the remaining material by registered security post.

We will forward you a copy of the book as soon as we receive our advance airmail copies. We are about to send the finished art to the printers and I estimate we will be seeing the first copies of the book in about mid-December.

I am very pleased with the result and hope you agree we have done justice, given the somewhat condensed format of our publication, to the very inspiring story of the commandos in Timor. I only wish we had had room for even more! I wish you all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Leatherdale (photo editor)

## W.W.C.P.

48 Froggatt St  
Turner ACT 2601

Dear Archie,

I thought I should let you and David's 2/2nd mates know that he's been in Calvary Hospital for some time for a major abdominal operation. Happily he has come through and thanks to modern technology, they managed to keep his heart and diabetes under very good control. I don't think he would recommend this method for keeping control.

Best wishes to you and the 2/2nd.

Freda Dexter

P.S. Dave is back home and making a slow recovery

**MICK MORGAN** is progressing very well and is now driving his car. Mick would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes.

**JACK HASSON** has been hospitalised to have a skin cancer removed and we wish him well.  
**Stop Press:** Successful operation — Jack O.K.

## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

A. S. Luby  
6/35 Richmond Ave  
Dee Why 2099

Dear Arch,

Just a note to enclose with a copy of our Commando News.

Hope everyone in W.A. is enjoying reasonable health — we all have to expect some ups and downs, with hopefully more of the former.

Also enclosing a copy of my report on the year.

Trust you had a wonderful Convention at Geraldton.

March 1990 will be here before we know it and we look forward to meeting up with our 2/2 family once more.

At our recent NSW Association meeting the question arose as to whether any moves were being made towards a National Reunion during 1991 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of Independent Companies. We are not aware of any plans at this stage but Arthur Littler proposes to raise the question at the next Australian Association meeting.

I presume there will be some Unit ties available at Nuriootpa. I've given my last couple to people who haven't been able to join us at reunions and will be looking for a replacement.

Edith joins me in sending love and best wishes to all, especially Jean and Mick.

Sincerely,  
Alan

**EDITOR:** *We are very much aware of the formation of our 2nd Independent Company in July 1941 and we intend to discuss it at a meeting to be held in Nuriootpa during the Safari. It certainly is a milestone in our history and for Independent Companies in general.*

---

L. Poidevin  
9 St Albans Dr  
Burnside 5066

Thank you for the regular postage of the Courier. I read it with interest, even though I know very few of you.

I took the 2/12 Field Ambulance Detachment to Timor with 'Sparrow Force' — December, 1941.

Yours sincerely,  
Leslie Poidevin

L. J. Bomford  
40 Tolosa Street  
Glenorchy 7010

Thought it about time I got pen to paper, but old age and health are catching up and one tends to neglect these things. I still enjoy getting the Courier and reading of the doings of some of the chaps I remember. It's a pity that a lot of countries around the world are not as united as the 2/2nd. I don't think there is another Unit in Australia that keeps in touch like you chaps do, so keep it up fellows. Saw where Doc Wheatley is going along OK but guess he would have given up 'roo shooting by now.

Am enclosing a few dollars toward Courier.

Regards to all.

Lance Bomford

---

J. C. Penglase  
538 Gibson Way  
Hopetoun 6348

Please note my new permanent address. We have sold our house in Bentley and decided to build on to the transportable holiday house which Raymond had put there for us. I have my fishing and Elsie is photographing the flora of the district and Fitzgerald National Park.

We had to give up rock hunting and gem stone work as the arthritis won't let the hands do what they should.

Have been handicapped the last three years with leg ulcers but am almost right, the last one is nearly healed — I hope.

Raymond is still building houses in Arnhem Land under Government contract for our black brothers in the Oenpelli area. John is doing well with his Pioneer Tanks, exporting to Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Spain. Marlene has gone back to technical school to brush up on her drafting and art.

It was a pleasure to see so many names come up in the last Courier that bring back pleasant memories, particularly when they are from your old Sections.

I send a special cheerio to Jerry Haire and Reg Harrington, and kindest regards to one and all.

Have to go to Perth for a couple of days in November so will try and work them in with Commemoration Day.

Will forward or bring donation — sorry to have been lax on that one.

Sincerely,  
John C. Penglase

F. C. Fagg  
PO Box 386  
Northampton 6535

E. J. Herd  
2/9 Hemingway Place  
Iluka 2460

A few lines to let you know how much I enjoyed the Convention at Geraldton. How we all enjoyed talking to chaps we hadn't seen for years. Just as well there was enough tongue oil around or there might have been some severe cases of over heating.

Have had more visits from old mates this year than I've ever had. Stan Payne calls to see me when he comes up to see Barbara's daughter who lives in town, which is wonderful as I can't get around too well. Chook Fowler called in to see me and brought me some beaut tomatoes and bananas from his son's plantation. In fact I had a wonderful month or two as far as seeing old mates.

All the best of luck to you all.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier or anything you wish to use it for.

Bruss

**EDITOR:** *We were glad to see you and thank you for the generous donation.*

Bill Tomasetti  
(047) 57 1086  
18 Claines Crescent  
Wentworth Falls  
NSW 2782

Dear Arch,

It seemed to be a good idea to write to wish all in the West the best for rapidly approaching Christmas and New Year (I understand parcels are coming by sea around the coast in a small craft).

Also, herewith by cheque a contribution to Courier costs.

The Courier's gallery of photos is an excellent idea, particularly for those members who live in the eastern states, and thus have little if any opportunity to see many of the original models. Would it be an idea, and if so would it be possible, to extend the gallery to include those of our members who are now deceased, but who perhaps left photographs (including perhaps comparatively recent ones) with families and/or friends — and copies of which may be available if requested?

Very best wishes,

Bill

**EDITOR:** *Thanks for the suggestion re deceased members appearing in Photo Gallery. We must be on the same wave length Bill. This was passed at a recent Committee Meeting. Reciprocal greetings from all.*

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Have had the pleasure of the company of June and Denny Dennis over the last couple of months, once when they were going north and also coming back. By the time we talked of old times running up and down mountains I was so tired I couldn't play golf for a few days. If he comes up this way again I would like him to drop in. Also a young gent by the name of R.C.T. NX42322 would be welcome.

Wishing everybody an extra 20 years.

Eric

B. Coulson  
313 Bradman Avenue  
Maroochydore 4558

We arrived back in Australia after an 11 week Safari of England, Scotland and Wales and 11 other countries as well as Singapore going and Hong Kong returning. When asked which country we liked best, Australia won hands down. Everyone will be dodging the Coulsons at the Safari in March. We have so many photos and stories that we will really be a pain in the bum (that's an Irishman's headache).

The best story I can tell at this stage was in Paris. We had tried to ring our daughter Robyn from different countries and had only managed to get a reverse charge call. I spoke to the baby sitter whom we didn't know! We were getting ready to go to "Moulin Rouge" when we tried again to ring Robyn. We had to pay a deposit of 800 francs and still didn't get through. I got a little upset and said I'd rather ring than go to the show. I left George downstairs and went up to our room. He decided to follow me and got to our room, knocked on the door and then he kicked the door and a French lass came out of the room next door and said he'd woken her up and could she help Monsieur. He told her his wife was being difficult and wouldn't open the door. Just then the lift arrived and our guide came out and George asked her to get me to open the door. She told him perhaps it would be better if he went to the floor above and knocked on the right door!! We enjoyed the show and were able to ring Robyn at 2a.m.

It is great to be home and we are going to the 2/2nd barbecue at Slaughter Falls in Brisbane tomorrow.

Much love to all.

Bettye and George

D. Boyland  
17 Draycott St  
Karrinyup 6018

Enclosed is a cheque for raffle tickets and Courier funds. Thanks for an enjoyable trip to Geraldton.

Hope Mick Morgan is progressing well.

Yours sincerely,  
Dorothy Boyland

P. Krause  
4/91 Beach Rd  
Sandringham 3191

Cheque herewith for the Courier.

Best wishes and health to all for the coming Festive Season.

Regards,  
Peter Krause

J. Stanley  
30 Francisca Street  
Everton Hills 4053

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier. Gordon and I enjoy reading it and learning about what the Unit is doing.

Christmas is just around the corner so we send our greetings to everybody.

Best wishes to all.

Joan Stanley

A. S. Webb  
Willow Grove 3825

Enclosing a donation for the Association — use as it is necessary.

Am feeling much better although not 100% — right leg still giving trouble but I am able to manage the farm.

Regards to all  
Arnold Webb

C. A. Sadler  
PO Box 108  
Wongan Hills 6603

We both enjoyed our stay at Geraldton and had a good trip home. We thought the countryside was looking wonderful and I think W.A. will have a good year.

Am enclosing cheque for tickets and a donation for the Courier.

Yours sincerely,  
Charlie

## DONATIONS

Jack Peattie, Blue Westerweller, Theo Adams, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Jerry Haire, Wilma Tobin, Peter Campbell, A. D. Stevenson, Bruce Poynton, Joan Scott, B. T. C. Smith, Harry and Amyce Handicott, Alf Walsh, Jack Keenahan, W. P. Petersen, S. R. Marsh, Fred Broadhurst, Jim Smailes, Joan Stanley, Grace Davies, Doc Wheatley, Ray Cole, Charles Sadler, Eric Herd, C. E. Mills, Col Criddle, Blue and Edith Pendergrast, Stan Sadler, Dot Boyland, L. O. S. Poidevin, L. J. Bomford, Robert McDonald, George Fletcher, Henry Sproston, Vince Swann, Gordon Rowley, Don Young, Arch Campbell, Len Bagley, Tony Bowers, Dick Darrington, Don Turton, Harry Holder, Jack Hasson, Don Hudson, John Fowler, Roy Watson, Joe Poynton, Dutchy Holland, John Burrridge, Jack Wicks, Ernie Bingham, John Lillie, Bob Smyth, Tom Foster, Arnold Webb, Bruss Fagg, Peter Krause, Joan Burns, O. H. Pomroy, Isobel McCaul, John Penglase, Bill Tomasetti.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LATIMER, Mr D.  
Don and Dulcie  
39 King Street  
Inverell 2360

FAGG, Mr F. C.  
Bruss  
P.O. Box 386  
Northampton 6535  
(099) 34 1271

BURNS, Mrs J.  
Joan  
64 Hilton Cres  
Maddington 6109  
(09) 459 8498

PENGLASE, Mr J. C.  
John and Elsie  
538 Gibson Way  
Hopetoun 6348

FITZGERALD, Mr E.  
Dick  
5/44 Sholl Street  
Mandurah 6210

EPPS, Mr P.  
Peter  
P.O. Box 39  
Hillarys 6025  
(09) 401 7584

## DELETION

PETRIE, Mr H.  
Harry  
3 Weir St  
Mackay 4740 (deceased)



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

McPHEE, Mr P.

Percy

1 McCabe St

North Fremantle 6159

SPENCER, Mr J.

Jack

P.O. Box 2078

Boulder 6432

POW, Mrs J.

Jean

22/1 Bardon Place

Maylands 6051

(Sister of Jack Spencer)

## WHAT ABOUT AN EMU FOR XMAS?

Eleven months ago an emu farm at Myalup purchased 12 ostrich chicks from Victoria for \$3000 each.

That might seem a lot for a few bundles of flightless feathers but the wisdom of the move is reflected in the fact that emu chicks were sold for \$6000 at a recent NSW auction and the Myalup birds are currently estimated to be worth between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

The hope is now for a developing industry based on the birds' tremendous egg laying capacity over 60 years.

Already one Perth man has sought feathers for his Melbourne duster-making operation. He currently spends \$200,000 a year in South Africa to meet his requirements.

But despite the potential of the ostriches, it is the emus that are the main thrust of the \$2 million Emu-Tech Myalup project — one of nine licensed emu farms in WA.

According to managing director Arthur Marshall, the aim is to turn out 7500 birds a year in three years. There are now 275 emus on the property, which is also developing into an important tourist attraction.

Mr Marshall is enthusiastic about the prospects, because of the various uses emus can be put to.

These include feathers for fashions, skins for high quality clothes and bags, meat for gourmet eating, oil for cosmetic and health benefits and eggs for carving and decorating.

Broken shells also can be used for ear ring and brooch-making.

"You can do everything with these birds," he said.

"This is certainly not going to be a flash-in-the-pan business but it takes time to build up the numbers necessary to ensure supplies."

He said a Paris organisation had already made approaches to WA seeking a container load of emu meat — 16 tones.

"Emus are friendly — and very curious," Mr Marshall said.

"I was trying to dig a post hole, but had to keep pushing away three or four craning necks with heads in the hold," he said.

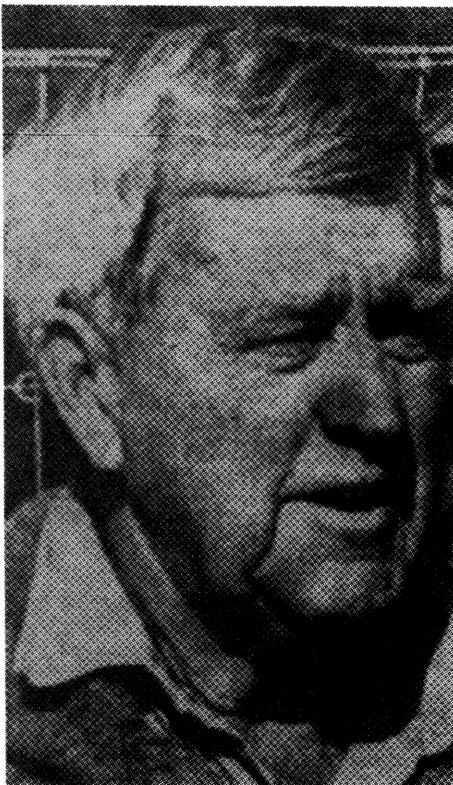
He hopes to be serving emu steaks to visitors in about two years.

For their part, the birds are healthy eaters and, like the ostriches, tuck in heartily to carrots from a nearby market garden.

The emus are also keen swimmers in the lakes on the property.

The project's main investor is Zambian Geoff Godson.

*Reprinted from West Australian Newspaper, Friday June 9, 1989.*



*Arthur Marshall*

## **STOP PRESS!**

The bus charter to the **Safari in Nuriootpa** is a goer!

Arrangements are as yet to be finalised but we have 28 starters to date and there is room for a few more.

Any member still interested in making this trip is asked to contact John Poynton (364 4493) or Jack Carey (332 7050) without delay.

The bus leaves Perth on Wednesday morning 14th March and after overnight stops at Balladonia and Ceduna is due to arrive at Nuriootpa about 5pm on Friday, 16th March.

The return journey will commence on Monday 26th March and is due back in Perth on Wednesday, 28th March after overnight stops at Ceduna and Balladonia.

Full details of the trip will appear in the February Courier.

---