

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Print Post approved 637597 / 1646

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President R. Parry, Secretary J. Carey, Editor D. Carey

Vol 149

DECEMBER 2004



A Christmas Message.



I still have fond thoughts of meeting so many of you during our Safari of November 2003, men that I once marched with, and today those same men, for whom I have a quiet respect. To those men, their wives, children and friends, thank you for making that long journey.

*May hope of heart
And peace of mind
Beside you ever stay,
And that's the golden
Wish I have
For you, this
Christmas Day!*

*Another Xmas with family and friends is always a wonderful occasion.
May your Festive Season be full of peace and harmony.
Wishing you all a prosperous and rewarding New Year.*

*

Ray Parry, President.

Vale John Lillie WX 8576

Eulogy delivered by John Burridge at John's funeral.

John Lillie was a long time friend - 63 years in fact. I write on behalf of Jim Menzies who is unfortunately incapacitated.

Jim and John both served in the 2/3rd Commando Squadron. Both were wounded in the New Guinea Campaign in Salamaua - John very badly so. He was a Lieutenant and was wounded in the neck at Ambush Knoll on 16th July 1943. He had to wait in a badly wounded condition for seven weeks before he could be evacuated to Port Moresby. He received a 'Mention in Despatches' for his service in New Guinea.

It is a great shame Jim Menzies couldn't be at the funeral as they were very close friends. Each acted as 'best man' at their respective weddings.

Going back to John's earlier days, on leaving school he worked at Dalgetys for a while then took up a position as a jackeroo at Bamboo Creek Station in the Pilbara.

From there he enlisted in the AIF in 1941 serving in New Caledonia and then New Guinea.

Post war John farmed firstly at Wandering, then had a stint at Jerramungup then to his main farm at Williams in 1950 where he was very highly regarded and made a life member of the golf club

After 17 years at Williams John sold out and bought a property at Gidgegannup in the hills near Perth. He played an active part in community affairs serving as a councillor on the Swan Shire for a number of years.

Then he decided to retire, sold the farm, and moved to South Perth. This

entitled him to join the Royal Perth Golf Club and indulge in the game he loved. He joined Perth Legacy to which he gave 34 years of service including a term as President.

He was greatly saddened by the passing of his beloved wife Margret and after her death he moved into a South Perth Retirement Village where he ended his days on the 10th November. He was 88.

Originally when the 2/2nd Commando Squadron was formed, both John Lillie and Jim Menzies were training with that Unit the 2/2nd. In the last minute both were transferred across to the 2/3rd at the beginning of the formation.

As the 2/3rd did not have many West Australians in the Unit, John, after the war became a welcome un-officio member of the 2/2nd Association, which had a majority of West Australians in the Unit. He attended all the 2/2nd functions and was made an Honorary Life Member of our Association in 2001.

John was a good man and a good soldier. The world could do with a lot more John Lillies.

John Burridge.

John's funeral service was held on 24th November at which John Burridge, Keith Hayes and Jack Carey were pallbearers. May he rest in peace.

Lest We Forget.

Commemoration Service 2004.

Our 55th Commemoration Service was held on Sunday 21st November in our Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park. A bout of hot weather, it was 35c, affected the attendance with approximately 70 people being present.

The service began at 3 p.m. The Catafalque Party, under Sergeant Andrew Cook, took up their positions around our memorial. President Ray Parry then invited Mrs Helen Poynton to lay a lovely wreath in the form of a double red diamond, which Helen did with pride.

Don Murray then read the Remembrance Day prayer which included a prayer for Australia and one for peace. Our president Ray then delivered a fine address in which he emphasised the current problems in a troubled world and the necessity for the nations to strive hard to resolve their differences so people could live together in peace. Ray then read out the names of our fallen and invited those present to join with him in the saying of the "Ode". Irwin Palmer, the bugler, then sounded the 'Last Post' and after a minutes silence sounded the "Rouse". The Catafalque Party presented arms as the 'Last Post' was played. The brief ceremony ended with all present singing 'Advance Australia Fair'. Ray then invited our Marshall Mr John Burrige to take over proceedings. With Bob Smyth as marker the veterans who were able to march formed up in threes followed by the sons and daughters of members and the march began. Delys Carey who came up with the bright idea of providing marching band music per medium of the Australian Army Band played on a CD player, accompanied the marchers who seemed to be glad of the music beat.

President Ray, Lieut Col. Rick Burr, CO of the SAS Regiment took the salute and the Catafalque Party presented arms as the eyes right was given. John Burrige did his usual good job as Marshall.

With our ranks getting thinner it is important that the sons and daughters of members, many of whom are deceased, lend their support for our service which is always held on the third Sunday in November. Grandchildren too are encouraged to take part in the service.

The Association wishes to thank all those good people who attended especially country members in Mavis Sadler, Vince Swann, Geoff Payne with son Andrew and daughter Michelle, and also Greg Tyerman (Qld).

We would also like to thank the S.A.S. Regiment for once again providing a Catafalque Party, the speaker system and lectern. The cooperation received from the Acting RSM W.O.2 Bill Butterworth, Sergeant Andrew Cook and Andrie Duta and Daniel Bogle (who set up the system) was first class so thanks fellas.

Our thanks also go to the Botanic Parks and Gardens Authority for presenting our area in such fine condition and for closing the area to traffic from 3 p.m. for an hour; we appreciate what you do for us. Finally a thank you to bugler Irwin Palmer, a long time Salvation Army band member now retired.

God bless you all.

President's Address Commemoration Service 2004.

Welcome ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, friends, fellow members of the 2/2nd Commando Association and the Special Air Service Regiment, it is my privilege to address you on the occasion of the Association's 55th Commemoration Service.

We gather in this wonderful setting of Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive to

contemplate, reflect, and give thanks to the men of our unit and all other units who paid the supreme sacrifice so that our country would be spared the title of 'conquered'.

The magnificent views that Kings Park offers not only to the people of Western Australia, but tourists from the far corners of the world, who are enthralled with such a panorama of beauty. It was here on Anzac Day, April the 25th 2004 that 40,000 people attended the 'Dawn Service', there was a mix of senior people, young men and women and children, what a wonderful attendance. I believe there was many a tear shed at that moving service.

How heartening for the servicemen and women to learn of such interest taken in the service by so many young people.

Australians in W.W.II fought with such ferocity and valour that to Japanese marines and army units were denied a foothold on the shores of our country. It is important that our children and their parents become aware that the freedom they enjoy, is a gift from the men and women who fought a bitter and savage contest in the deserts of North Africa, the hilly terrain of Greece, Crete, Syria and the mountains and jungles of the Islands of the South West Pacific and South East Asia.

The plaques at the base of each tree lining the Avenues here in Kings Park and the names of those engraved on marble in the undercroft of the State War Memorial bear witness to the price men and women have paid for the freedom we enjoy here today.

A young lady, who had read and seen footage of the New Guinea campaign, but never being able to question or discuss it with participants (including her Dad), she discovered that one

could trek the Kokoda Trail with a guide who could tell the history as it happened. So eventually with 11 other adventurers, she left civilisation as we know it and headed for 10 days of trekking, wading through rivers, sleeping under hootchies and washing in mountain streams.

Having walked in the footsteps of her carrier, her Dad, and his mates, the experience was emotional, unforgettable, tiring yet motivating. She states "I did it the easy way, I did not carry my pack, I did not have rain and an enemy for company.

My deepest thanks go to you who did."

The mothers of the men of the 2/2nd, who for 9 months throughout 1942 had no written word from their sons, no idea which island they may be defending, and armed with the knowledge of the successes of the Japanese Forces and Australia being under direct threat of invasion, they must have experienced a terrible year, not knowing if their sons were survivors.

The grey and white hair of all mothers, who had sons fighting abroad, told part of their story, the white hair no doubt the result of the torment they must have endured for those years at war.

Our beautiful troubled planet has need of help to survive the hostilities that plague millions of people in many countries. The list of countries in dire need of help is a long one - we wonder when the slaughter of innocent men, women, and children will end. It was the nature of the killing of women and children that continues to shock the civilised world.

Crimes against humanity continue unabated, what manner of fanaticism drives men and women, particularly the men to commit murderous barbaric acts such as those that have been

perpetrated in Africa, America, Russia, The Balkan's, Middle East and many areas nearer home. The beheadings that have been carried out in Iraq are no less than an affront to human dignity.

The elder, El-Sadr, a well respected figure throughout the Shia world, was murdered along with two of his sons by the government of Saddam Hussein in February 1999 in Najaf, Muqtada's father in law was also killed by the same regime in 1980.

The elder, El-Sadr would be turning over in his resting-place if he could witness the behaviour of his surviving son, - Muqtada.

Muqtada Al-Sadr is a young fiercely anti U.S. Shiite cleric and head of the Iman Mehdi Army, an armed militia that has waged intermittent insurgency against U.S. and British forces in Iraq. Sadr's followers have been active in Basra and other Shiite towns, including Kut, Nasiriya, Karbala, Kufa and recently Falluja. Sadr has set himself up in opposition to senior Iraqi Shiite clerics led by Sistani. The 75-year-old cleric has been active in shaping Iraq's new political system and is one of the strongest supporters of national elections scheduled in January.

Experts say Sistani retains the allegiance of most of Iraq's 14 million Shiites. "Sadr has fewer supporters than Sistani, but they're far more fanatical." Sadr's followers are willing to die for him and Sistani's are not. The rivalry has serious national implications. "You now have a situation where Iraq's future comes down to these two men," says Kenneth Katzman, senior Middle East analyst at the Congressional Research Service.

Sadr's supporters have fought multiple

bloody battles against U.S. led troops over the last year. The most serious occurred in Najaf and Karbala in April and June and again in Najaf in August and recently, this month at Fallujah.

Amatzia Baram, senior fellow and Iraq expert at the U.S. Institute of peace, - Baram says, that Sadr, like Saddam Hussein, has shattered the accepted traditions of his organisation by eliminating rivals. Hussein did it in the Baath Party, and Sadr is doing it to clerics. He is a good student of the culture of violence without limits.

He lacks the religious education and degrees required by Shia doctrines, he cannot claim the title of senior religious scholar or the authority to issue 'religious edicts,' consequently he based his religious authority on his lineage alone. He has been involved in assassinations and violence. Today Iraqi and coalition forces are searching for him.

In Indonesia, prosecutors charged the Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir over the suicide car bombings at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta last year that killed 12 people as well as the October 2002 blasts in Bali that killed 202 including 88 Australians. He has been accused of using his religious charisma and invoked an order from Osama Bin Laden to kill Americans and other foreigners. It was alleged Bashir was leader of J.I. which seeks to establish an Islamic state in South East Asia through armed Holy War.

I'm told there is no mention in the Koran that even remotely suggests that foreigners become targets of Islamic militants, or anyone for that matter who's religion is that of Islam.

In recent weeks African leaders have wound up a summit to discuss the Darfur crisis in Sudan with a statement

rejecting foreign intervention, they voiced strong support for the Sudanese Government, which is threatened with international sanctions

Fighting erupted in Darfur in February last year when rebels from minority tribes took up arms to demand an equal share of national development. The rebellion prompted a bloody crackdown on the civilian population by regular troops and allied Arab militias called Janjaweed, spawning what the United Nations has described as the world's worst humanitarian disaster. The crisis has left officially 70,000 people dead and about 3.4 million people homeless, according to the United Nations.

The U.N. Secretary - General Kofi Annan in a report presented to the United Nations Security Council on November the 4th, accused the Sudanese Government of failing to bring the perpetrators of widespread killings, rapes and looting to justice. It is a charge he has made in recent months while urging the international community to tackle the crisis.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi stated recently, Japan has 500 troops on a non-combat, humanitarian mission in the Iraq City of Samawah. Another 500 are based in neighbouring Gulf States providing support.

"Peace and stability in the rest of the world are indispensable to our country's security and prosperity" Mr Koizumi said. The Japanese P.M. echoes the sentiments and concerns of the leaders and people of many countries.

Two and a half years have passed since our Timorese friends celebrated Independence Day on 20th May 2002. Now conducting their own affairs, has not been an easy task and it will be a

long time before the living standards of those good people reach anywhere near those that we enjoy and take for granted. The Australian people have to their credit given much help to the Timorese people over many years and this includes our own Trust Fund managed by Bob Smyth, chairman and assisted by John Burrige and Keith Hayes. They have done and are still doing a commendable job.

In conclusion I wish to thank you one and all for being here today and I ask that you continue to come to this special Avenue of ours on the third Sunday of November in the years ahead.

The time will come, and it is not that far away, when we look to the families of our members to carry on this remembrance service in memory of those of our Unit who paid the supreme sacrifice over sixty years ago.

I would like to thank the fine men of the SAS Regiment for providing the Catafalque Party, and the speaker system, also the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for presenting our area in such great shape. We are also indebted to the Highgate RSL for the maintenance of the plaques and a special thanks to Mr Irwin Palmer our bugler for today.

Thank you and God bless you all.
Ray Parry, President.

New South Wales News

My personal news for the last quarter is based on phone or home calls

As reported in the last Courier the loss of my darling Edith has produced a rather harrowing time, and like all that have trodden this path, one finds there are so many things to be done in spite of imagined preparedness. One thing

to remember that has proved a great asset is and has been the prepayment of funeral expenses. Such management can make an enormous difference to those who are left, and have to go through the experience.

I commend the idea - we're all going to need it some time!

My daughters Peta and Maria join me in saying a sincere "Thank You" to all you great friends for your messages, cards and other support over this sad period.

Having also had some problems with my leg stump (you'd think I was a cricketer) over a few weeks, I decided to obtain an electric scooter. This is my new Maseratti, which opens up a new freedom. Maybe it's a 1 HP motor with a 10-kph speed but it gets me to places that were difficult previously. I'll have to get some Schumacher gear to wear to set off my red and white chrome!

Through many phone calls to and fro, all over the Eastern side are much the same as per last Courier.

Our 'Marvel Man' Billy Walsh has recently survived another bout with the 'Boatman of the River Styx' and continues to amaze everyone.

Bill's antecedents were among the first settlers up the Macleay River Valley in the 80s and he has been a great historian who retains a fund of records.

In recent times 2/2nd Commando Association Life Membership badges have been sent to: -

Russ Blanch -	Bangalow
Tom Pulliene -	Young
Eric Herd -	Iluka
Tom Waters -	Kyogle.

Congratulations to all four!

So far unable to track down Jack Isles or Fred Stewart.

Memo: -

Xmas cards will be a difficulty this year so please accept a general greeting to all friends for a 'Happy Xmas' and a 'Healthy New Year' for 2005.

Best wishes everyone, Alan Luby.

Northern New South News.

I would like to commend my fellow 'Goat and Camel Express' Ralph Conley on his article in the September Courier, 'MATES', a very good article indeed and where would we have been without our mates. I sometimes think the Mr Jack system has taken over and then something comes along. Like recently in our little community we had a Walk for Life and raised \$65,000! Quite wonderful and back comes your Jack again.

Russ Blanch is still going pretty well and gardening as usual. Says his garden is a picture at the moment. Russ still has his turns, diagnosed as small epileptic fits which last for only 10 to 30 seconds. Seems strange, the doctor can't find the cause. Doesn't stop him giving other people enjoyment with his garden though.

Beryl Cullen is still well and without a doubt is in what is called Rain Shadow, it rains in Kyogle a few miles away and leaves Beryl high and dry. I bet one day Beryl, you'll cop the lot!

Dianne and Julie Cholerton have settled in their new address at Evans Head, only about a block from the shopping area so it's very convenient. It's not a unit as I reported but a small cottage. Dianne over did it a bit in the move and stirred up her arthritis. Is there anyone out there without it? Aren't you lucky?

Ken and Edith Jones are both well and having a pretty good season. Son Chris

on the Gold Coast reported 18 inches in 3 days recently. We saw some of the result on TV. It was mostly coastal and didn't get this far down. I think Russ said he got about 4 inches at Bangalow and I got 40 points.

Eric and Lorraine Herd are going along fairly well and still having a hit at golf, as previously reported, too many hits. At 86 it's pretty good mate, to even stand on the 1st tee!

Jack and Beryl Steen are having mixed luck. Beryl is back to her old self but Jack is seeing his doctor more often than he'd like.

Billy Walsh has been going fairly well but had a turn last Thursday and went into a coma. It didn't look good, then on Friday he sat up, and talked to Beryl and family. He is in Kempsey hospital and is best there to take some of the responsibility off Beryl who has nursed Bill for the last couple of years. (What did Ralph Conley say about wives and partners?)

Tom and Jean Yates started on their trip to Townsville as previously reported but were unlucky enough at Hervey Bay to have Jean take ill on Fraser Island and have to be air lifted to hospital. It was eight minutes from take-off to set down Tom said. It was the smoothest ride he's ever had. They're back in Kyogle now and Joan has to have medical attention. Tom is to have a hernia done on the 27th January.

Tom reckons helicopters beat the DC 3s as experienced in New Guinea.

Nola Wilson I caught Nola just as she got in from a pony club celebration at Gilgandra. Nola has given the Zone Chief job away but still keeps in touch with the local club. She is quite well and they're having a pretty good season there. It's terribly patchy and as I write the TV Weather reports pretty good

rains in Western NSW.

I had a good three weeks with Harry Sproxtton in October. Met up with a few good people and was especially pleased to see 'Chook' Fowler looking so well. I think he's our oldest member next to young Rolf Baldwin from Geelong. Bless you all and all the best to everyone for the Festive Season.

I'm off to Melbourne for Christmas and the kookaburras will have to fend for themselves. My drongo has left me for cooler climes.

Regards, 'Happy' Greenhalgh.

Queensland News.

Lyn and 1 visited Canberra and Sydney for a fortnight - one for family in the former and Lyn for family in Sydney. Whilst in Canberra we had hoped to visit Ron Hazel Morris, Fred & Erika Bagley Sunny Daniels and Joan Fenwick but couldn't fit the visits in. However did manage to ring each of them and report that they each have varied and different problems but overall they are managing pretty well under the circumstances of growing old. Whilst in Sydney I managed to have lunch one day with Alan Luby at the Dee Why R.S.L. Alan arrived in his almost new motor scooter and despite his recent operation and his recent loss of Edith, is adjusting to his new life very well. In my book Alan has won his M. M. (memorable man). He is still very much with all that is going on with N.S.W. members and their families - and more!

Since then Lyn & 1 have had Gordon and Joan Stanley, and George and Margo Shiels for morning tea- Despite a serious operation Gordon has come through pretty well and still keeps busy at home. They are looking forward to having a family Christmas. The Shiels have three daughters and their families

living in or near Brisbane, so they spent a week with each, besides fitting in their visit to us. They would return to Bowen to cope with their heavy mango crop.

I had an exchange of news with Tony Adams this morning. Apparently he has just written to you. Iris has had a bad time but is home again now. She has her good days and bad days. They're both 86 and as always he is determined to keep her out of a nursing home for as long as he can.

Last night I spoke to Sheila Conley, they are both well and still very active with their lawn bowling. I've not yet had the chance to speak to him on the matter of life memberships.

We wish all our mates, families and friends traditional Seasons Greetings and good health hopes for 2005.

Ron Archer & Lyn.

South Australian News.

The news from South Aust. is very quiet. All members are well according to age. I attended my cancer doctor on 16/11/04; nothing has changed so will see me in three months. If he is right I will see Xmas 2004.

I didn't attend the Remembrance Day service at our memorial. It was raining in my suburb so wasn't keen on getting wet. The Commando Association will be holding a Christmas luncheon on the first Wednesday in December.

On behalf of the widows of the members and members here in South Aust. I extend Christmas greetings to all Association members throughout Australia and may 2005 be a peaceful year.

Kel Carthew.

Tassie News.

News from Tassie after making a few phone calls.

Had a talk with Geoff Wood, and he is going along okay on his farm, but was a little incensed about an article in his local paper, that our role in East Timor did not achieve anything. He is set to prove this is wrong: so keep on it Geoff!

Had a talk too to Isobel Elmore who is fairly well. She takes Lou Nichlason to 2/40th meetings up north.

Nancy Slade still gets around despite her handicaps. She is very pleased and fully appreciates help given to her by Veterans Affairs. It was great to talk to her. Nancy asked me to convey her good wishes for Christmas to all the 2/2nd.

Tex Richards isn't the best, same health problems and has blood treatment every two weeks. Bridget is well.

I tried to contact Noreen Miller but she must have another phone number, so I will check later.

I met up with Cannon David Lewis who helped with our church service at the Hobart Safari 2000.

The 2/40th Battalion Old Comrades Association had lunch at the Dover RSL Club in October. 15 attended and we enjoyed being with old mates. We have a B.B.Q. lunch at Derwent Barracks on 3rd December put on by the local 12/40 Battalion. Old comrades from the 2/12 Battalion will be there so I will have a dual roll having served with both - as one old mate said - I will have to pay twice the three dollars it costs and proceeds go to Legacy.

The 2/40th Battalion will hold their 60th reunion at Lindisfarne on 19th & 20th February and we are working hard to

get all we can to attend, But some have to wait and see how they are at the time. That Paddy Kenneally, he really gets around, he must have a super charge in him. His reports on his wanderings are always great to read. Keep it up Paddy.

Billie and I are reasonably well for our ages and now get home help through Veterans Affairs which is great. Their people do what is required with little fuss.

Billie and I celebrated our diamond (60 years) wedding anniversary in August. We had a family gathering at a local hotel and really enjoyed ourselves.

At this time Billie and I, wish all of the 2/2nd our best wishes and happiness for the coming Festive Season.

Happy Christmas and keep smiling.

Bert & Billie Price at Dover.

Congratulations on your diamond wedding anniversary Billie & Bert. Ed.

2/2 Independent Trust.

Sister Guilhermina of Canossian Sisters, Balide finally received her shipment of donated goods, which left Keith Hayes garage eight months earlier.

Our Trust aid to East Timor retracted following withdrawal of free shipping, freight and poor security.

The East Timor Administration is severely restricted. It has insufficient income to cover the cost of handling and distributing donated goods. Increasing tariff and handling charges are now at rates strongly resisted by the country's benefactors. Frequently goods finally cleared give evidence that too many workers supplement their meagre take home pay at unacceptable levels.

One of Australia's most respected voluntary organisations with a record of many millions of \$s of voluntary aid to East Timor is believed to consider closure of all activities.

VEGETABLE SEEDS.

An increased level of quarantine control alerted us to the possibility of charges not previously experienced. Our communication to the Minister of Agriculture attracted a reply referring us to the Minister for Finance and Infrastructure.

Unfortunately the Minister has been deeply involved in vital negotiations with our Foreign minister, Alexander Downer. A resolution is sought to the Timor Sea gas potential which is most critical to the East Timor economy. The recent announcement by the Woodside Shell consortium spokesman that their huge Sunrise Timor Sea potential development would stall unless a resolution is determined within 6 (now 4) weeks, does not improve our chances of an early reply from the Minister.

We are going down another track.

Meanwhile Australians are not the flavour of the month in Dili. Nevertheless, "Viva Timor Lorosae".

Bob Smyth

Independent Trust Fund.

OAN KIAK TRUST 2003-2004

The Oan Kiak Trust was set up with the express purpose of attempting to give orphans in Timor some education. It came about because of a situation that Tom Nisbet and I found on our first and second visits to Timor 1990-1992 when it became apparent that thousands of orphans in Timor were not getting education.

The Trust was set up with seeding money obtained from the sale of CDs that members of the Australian and Irish Rock industry donated their name, time and songs to, together with a major bequest from Colin Doig. From 1992 Col actively involved himself with the setting up of the Trust providing encouragement and advice. The money is invested in Australia and since 1994 the scholarships have been funded from the annual interest earned.

After the ballot in 1999 the situation in Timor was such that the Trust was unable to operate for two years, apart from bringing back to Timor in year 2000, some 55 orphans that had been sent to the island of Flores by well meaning Indonesians.

When the Trust began operations again in 2002 out of the 153 scholarship holders we had in 1998 we could only find 30.

For the year 2003-2004 there were 220 orphans sponsored; 69 at Primary School, 68 Junior High School, 55 at Senior High School and 28 young girls, said to be orphans, at Maun Alin iha Kristu (an orphanage set up at Dare run by a Timorese Nun). Of this number 180 scholarships were renewed and 40 were cancelled.

Reasons for cancellation varied from 8 students who had completed High School; 2 girls married; 2 left school, but one of these has been reinstated. This lass had left school because of pregnancy (raped by a relative). She lost the baby and wished to recommence her studies.

There was serious doubt that the 28 Oan Kiak orphans from Maun Ain iha Kristu met the selection criteria and the director was not keeping up her end of the contract. The decision to

discontinue them all is currently under review.

There are 54 orphans currently on our waiting list, but this increases with every week that passes. There is estimated to be over 20,000 orphans in Timor so what we are doing is a mere drop in the ocean.

We have been unable to obtain tax deductibility from the Australian authorities, so we rely almost entirely on the Trust fund set up with the monies from Col Doig and the Australian Rock industry. The income we derive from these investments varies from year to year. We operate on a financial return of AUS\$14,000 per annum and when our investments return a larger amount than this (as happened this year) we send the excess to Timor and this is used to help orphans, who are not scholarship holders, with education expenses. (A typical example of this is that we provided exercise books for 50 orphans at one of the rural primary schools in the District of Dili that are not being helped by anyone.) Because it is Oan Kiak Trust policy to continue to support a child once a scholarship has been awarded until the end of their school life, we have to be careful how many orphans we award actual scholarships to because in the lean years we may not have enough. Our scholarship holders are all over Timor. These include the districts of Dili, Aileu, Ermera, Same, Suai, Lauten, Baucau, Viqueque, and since June of this year we have added 15 kids in Oecusse.

The Oan Kiak Trust (Oan Kiak means literally poor child and translates as orphan) is very small compared to the big outfits like World Vision etc. We don't have the infrastructure to allocate individual orphans to a donor because

we keep administrative costs down. The only administrative costs we have are for petrol and parts for a vehicle used to get our staff to the various districts, and some minor stationary costs in Timor (this year approximately \$700 of our budget of \$19,000).

In Timor Oan Kiak Trust affairs are managed by the East Timor Development Agency (ETDA), which is a Timorese NGO that is involved in training people to give them the types of skills that allow them to find work eg. clerical skills, computer training, English lessons etc. There are several advantages to this arrangement for the Trust. The director of ETDA is a Trust member (there are five, three in Timor and two in Australia) and has been involved with the Oan Kiak Trust since its inception. She was previously living in Australia and went back after the ballot and her mother is a voluntary, but very active member of our support staff in Timor. The Trust is able to benefit from a fully functional organisation, with its own premises, personnel, and one that has proven, very good, accountability procedures (hard to find in Timor!)

We have three paid Timorese on staff (their salaries paid for by an Australian building developer, Colin McFarlane, who has a Trust that funds employment for Timorese working in worthwhile projects. Their salaries do not come out of our education scholarship budget). These three people, plus the voluntary worker, are responsible for the welfare of the orphans on scholarship. They play the part of mentors as well as handling all the financial arrangements and contract arrangements between the Trust and the schools. They purchase the books and in some cases, shoes or uniforms if needed in the case of children who are either at

junior or senior high schools where uniforms are compulsory. They visit the orphans at their respective schools four times a year. They meet with the orphans, check the school results, liaise with the teaching staff, pay the school fees direct to the school, meet the person who is responsible for the orphan and deal with any issues that arise.

It is our policy to award scholarships to children who are in primary school and then follow them through to the end of their high school year. Of course there is an attrition rate, some of the girls marry, or get pregnant and occasionally the extended family that is caring for the child will take the view that education is a waste, since there are no jobs for them anyway and insist on the child (usually boys) work on the subsistence plots after they finish primary school.

We operate on the basis that we (the Trust) enter into a contract with the child and we also have a separate contract between the Trust and the school. The deal with the children is that they attend school and they do the best they can – meaning that their marks are not important as long as they attend school and the school reports the child is doing the best that can be expected of them. The contract with the school is that the teachers give the Trust brief reports on each child – marks, attendance, report on the child's progress and call in our people if the child needs a mentor, or help for any reason. We are the only organisation, as far as we know, sponsoring scholarships for orphans that doesn't take into consideration the child's marks to keep the sponsorship going. Our view is that the 'smart' kids will always manage but the 'triers' are the one's to be encouraged. The

results show that most of the orphans are well above average students.

It costs approximately US\$30 a year at a government primary school for fees and exercise books, much more at a Catholic High School. The fees for Junior and Senior High schools are higher, around US\$50-80 depending on the school. Very occasionally we get reports that the 'home' situation of a child is exceptionally 'poor' and the child is so bright that the school teaching staff suggests boarding school. When this occurs (only twice so far) our attitude is to make the finances available and this means going from US\$30 per annum to \$160 per annum.

I might be kidding myself, but I feel Col would be very gratified at how well this project is functioning.

Patsy Thatcher.

The June Bennett Story Part II

I lived for about eight or nine years in Redfern near Central railway near Kippax Street where my husband was born and bred. We never met until I was sixteen. There was a pub on the corner of Kippax Street. With Peggy my cousin again, we used to dance and sing outside the pub to get a penny or two. I don't think we ever did so we'd go over to the lolly shop on the corner and drool at the whole window filled with lollie-curls, jelly babies, gobstoppers, liquorice, musk sticks, rainbow balls and many, many more. My three brothers used to work for a chap, John, who had an old utility truck and often went down into Duffy's Forest picking ferns and greens for the florist. With my sister Violet and cousin Ruby (I was probably twelve) we started off in sunshine but by mid-afternoon the heavens opened and when John tried

to drive out the truck was bogged-it wouldn't budge. He said he'd have to try and borrow some horses to pull them out. We decided we'd better go home, as we'd just lost a brother Tom recently and our mum would be worried if we weren't home. It was about ten miles and we decided we wouldn't get into any strange cars but long before we arrived home we decided we would get in with the Devil himself if he turned up! Men came eventually with the borrowed horses.

When we had the cake shop we used to serve tea and cakes and an old man came in for afternoon tea fairly regularly. While waiting for the tea in his seat his right hand constantly scratched at the table. My sisters laughed and said, "he sounded like a dog scratching". I reproached them saying "I don't think he can help it". How prophetic that turned out to be.

My first date with Bill was on the Sydney Showboat with dancing on the top deck but of course Bill steered me onto the outside lower deck but I promptly went to sleep on his shoulder. He never let me forget it. When I first met Bill's family with three very chatty sisters I was overwhelmed. He told me much later in life that they said to him "can she talk?" Now of course I've kissed the Blarney Stone and you can see what happened! One lovely memory I have of when we lived at the Bluff near Seaforth is that the Showboat Ferry used to cruise from the Quay under the Spit Bridge and up to Middle Harbour and back. It must have been recorded music because it happened every week. My very favourite was Dame Nellie Melba our wonderful Australian Opera singer and she sang "Love will find a way". How true!

One of my saddest memories: My two

brothers Sid and Tommy rode a motorbike everywhere together. Imagine the 1930's- not much traffic about but fate is inevitable. While driving past Long Reef near the garage, heading south, my brothers slammed into a car turning across Hay Street from Pittwater Road - no helmets in those days and Tommy suffered brain damage. Sid had a broken ankle. Tommy died the next morning with Mum by his bed. He was nineteen. Mum said that Tommy said, "it's a beautiful day". Maybe it was that white light in the tunnel that you hear about sometimes.

One of my first domestic jobs was in Balgowlah. I don't remember the street but it had a nice cakeshop on the corner. After my chores the lady of the house would make tea. First time it was a slice of chocolate walnut cake and I fell in love with it. She was a nice lady and she showed me how to iron men's shirts properly. If there was no chocolate walnut cake she'd send me to the shop to get some very tactfully.

During the last visit of Queen Elizabeth, Effie my friend and I were in Healthy Lifestyle and we were given tickets to the outside reception for the Queen. We sat right opposite the Queen in aisle seats. We were all ready to smile and nod if she should look our way. But she never did. She sort of lifted her eyes above our heads and swept over us. I did notice that she kept slipping her foot out of her shoe - maybe she had a blistered heel and it made her a bit unhappy.

Moving from school to school I never made long-term friends. I remember one, Marion. Her family spent weekends on Fisherman's Beach at Long Reef in a corrugated iron shed. Marion and I used to fossick on the reef. We never harmed the little

creatures or shells and put them back in a clear little pool. Despite my chequered school life I had hopes of becoming a schoolteacher - a real pipedream. Thankfully and blessedly my dear daughter Marilyn attained that wish for me as a School Principal. We actually have two teachers- Jenni; Steve's wife is an Assistant Principal.

Now you know one of my great interests is food. In each country we went to I tried something different. In Scotland - haggis. I rather liked it until I was told what it was made from. Snails in London didn't impress me at all but in Brussels I really liked frog legs - large and creamy-looking and they tasted a bit like chicken. In Dusseldorf - large mugs of beer and ankleschwein - pork legs. In Vanuatu I was dared to try flying fox and to make it worse they showed me a real one - beautiful big brown eyes - how could I eat him! My friend passed me a very small piece - reminded me of Depression days when wild pigeon was often on the menu. They had big black coconut crabs, which walked along the road at night. They were on the menu - very nice. Last but not least was in Germany where in a special restaurant they prepared back of hare. There was this long animal lying on a bed of vegetables. Bill said "I can't eat that!" and I said, "We must! They prepared it specially for us!" So covered with lots of vegetables we managed to swallow a few small pieces - it had a very strong flavour. In the USA (or Canada) we drove on the huge Columbian Glacier and Tony our guide produced some small plastic tumblers and put a small tot of whisky in each. We added some ice water from the glacier and made a toast to all of us. After that we moved onto the land beside the glacier and we lunched on a smorgasbord of food

and drink from a special picnic table. Then we went white water rafting senior style to our coach. As a small girl I read "Anne of Green Gables" by LM Montgomery. Anne lived in Nova Scotia. It was her life story and I longed to be like her but it never happened. I had hoped to visit Nova Scotia but only made it half way there (Canada).

It is said of Capricorns that the second half of life is better than the first - very true for me. I was very happily married with Bill. It had its ups and downs. He was a good man - going to East Timor during the war affected his health eventually. We generally had a happy life in South Creek Road. We had great neighbours and joined in most activities together. We had lovely parties usually at our house because we had a verandah. If it was too small, in order to square dance, we would go into the street to dance. We only saw a car coming once or twice an hour and we'd just move off the road. The neighbours who didn't dance just enjoyed it all. Bill and Vic Coleman (Agnes's husband) were good fishing mates. They fished at Long Reef or at the beach at Dee Why. I think their favourite was Narrabeen Lake at night. They would hire a rowboat and take with them fishing gear, a thermos of coffee and sandwiches. It was an all night job but they always returned with a good catch. Often we all went to Dee Why lagoon and netted buckets of prawns in the early evening. Steve, my son, and David, Agnes's son, caught big eels in South Creek. They took them to our Dutch neighbours - a delicacy to them. They used to pay them one or two shillings. We had wonderful suppers -so many good cooks - I sometimes made little meat pies and one time they were not cooked enough on the bottoms. Vic

dubbed them 'soft bottoms'.

Now back to the early days - when I was about ten years of age we lived in a sort of 'cavehouse' at the back of Cromer. We had to walk about half a mile through the tall grass to get to the road. I think it was the most isolated place that we ever lived in. I was very lonely. I had a small notebook of songs. I think it was called "Boomerang". I used to swing on an old gum tree branch and sing some songs. I don't know how I knew the music. I must have heard it on the radio. When I was a cleaner at the Dee Why doctors I did the cleaning of the surgery then I would take a big bag of doctors' long white coats that they used to wear. I'd wash and iron them and take them back on the next visit. I carried it all on the bus - I had no car then. At one time I made some of those long white coats on an old treadle Singer sewing machine. Believe me, I can't now imagine that I did those things. I've knitted most of my life, sweaters mostly for the family, even Robert (Nat) at one stage - just imagine how big that was! These days I just knit small squares for the Sallies. They have helpers who sew the squares together to make rugs for the needy. I was always a sales lady - for many years in Coles in the clothing section. For the last five years I've had a recycled clothing store at my community club. I have made a thousand dollars each year for charity. I am working on my sixth thousandth dollar this year.

I had been a keen bushwalker for about fifteen years but had to give it up with a bad back and knees. Bill's sisters were sisters to me - lots of caring. They are, all three, clever seamstresses. They made many frocks for me especially my wedding gown and bridesmaid's dress. We were a good

extended family. Bill's parents were good to me especially his mum. She was the sweetest person - never a bad word between us. A little after I went to Dee Why after meeting Bill there was a nice old lady, Mrs Simpson, who lived not far from Bill's home. Bill grew up with her family and he prevailed upon her to let me rent the upstairs bedroom. The night I was going to meet Bill's family I was an apprentice to Mrs Cooper and I just wore a jumper that I had knitted and a skirt. Mrs Simpson waved a wooden spoon at me and said, "There is no-one better than you or I not even the Queen of England! We were born the same way and we are all going to die!" That did give me a little more courage. I had no trouble getting a job in Devonshire Street as a pastrycook to an American lady cook - Mrs Cooper. She lived in a hotel in Kings Cross. She was elegant and nicely dressed. I never did know her history, I was probably too shy to ask. She was very good to me. I guess I looked on Bob, my stepfather, as a father figure. He was a gentle man only the demon drink plagued him. I could have been nicer towards him when I was young. In later years I was much kinder. I didn't know until after he had died what a tragic life he had. His first wife and twin daughters all died in childbirth.

I remember I was given a book for tying top in sixth class. It was called "Pioneer Pat" and was about a lady aviatrix. Sadly it got lost in the shuffle of moving houses. The street where I was born -Winsome Street in Balgowlah is a shady little street with lots of trees and small old-fashioned houses. Marilyn took me there to see it. I don't know the number. So we just decided on the prettiest one and that was it. My father was an Australian

born German, born in Lidcombe of German parents, so I don't know much about his background in life. My mother was as good a mother as she could be. She married early in life and had many babies. I have four brothers and two sisters. One brother George died at nine months old of diphtheria. He would have been saved these days. Mum spent a lot of her life out in the bush country as a station cook. My dearest sister Violet was a surrogate mother to me as she was for our nephew Richard in his early years. Flo my other sister was good to me. She took me in when I was young and homeless. When I was living near Bill's parents' home I sometimes babysat Bill's grandmother while his mother shopped for herself. Gran had Alzheimers, which partly explains why she called me "Tree". I guess it was because I had a wild bouffant hairstyle then. When we lived in Riverstone Bob my stepfather gave me two or three pennies to spend. There was a small craft shop there and it had pretty things to sell so the lady let me have a sort of lay-by so I would pay a penny each time. I bought a little china plate painted with nasturtiums - I think it was five pence and a pale pink glass vase. I still have them - they are probably seventy years old. I hope they stay as family heirlooms.

One of my happiest events on another trip with the community club was when we were taken on a night cruise in San Francisco. We had a tour of the Fairmont Hotel on Nob Hill. The coach was about to leave when one of our older hyperactive ladies Mary said to our tour guide Julie-"There's Tony Bennett the singer! Ask him to come and say hello". As Julie left the bus I went too - it must have been that extra wine at dinner. Tony agreed and as he

turned he said to Julie - "Have you heard the one about the two homosexuals? - one went to Sydney and one went to Florence." I piped up "Poor Florence!" Tony laughed and said, "that's very good" and turned to go to the bus. I quickly kissed him on the cheek. He just laughed and kept going and I didn't even tell him that I was a Bennett too!

The day after I got my licence to drive was a Thursday pension day. I picked up about five or six relatives and drove up to Windsor to see my mum and stepfather Bob to take them to Windsor to get their pensions and groceries. I did that for a good many years till Bob died and mum moved to Sydney to live. Here is another nice story about Bob. Mum and I were living in Enmore and one day mum and Bob went shopping and came home with a beautiful pink frock with smocking across the front for me as well as a straw bonnet with pink lace. Bob had bought it. I was so happy I thought I was a princess. I think that's the one I have on in my only school photo. Mostly I wore hand-me-downs probably from the Salvation Army shop. I have a few memories of Enmore as I went to school there for a while. I remember that if we were lucky to have a penny or two to spend we could buy frozen oranges or bananas - better than any ice block. It was such a treat and not like the rubbish children eat these days. Once in a raffle at Riverstone movies I won a large rubber shark. I don't know what you were supposed to do with it - play with it in the dam I suppose. I don't know what happened to it. Another early memory - we lived in a small house called 'Binyah'. I think that is Aboriginal for home. Mum used to have a bill at the corner shop at Dee Why school. She used to put purchases on a list and that

was called 'ticking it up'. She was supposed to pay something off it regularly which didn't happen too often. Our house was on the corner of Fisher Road and McIntosh Road. There is a roundabout there now. One late afternoon mum sent me to the shop for half a pound of Bushells tea. The lady who served me couldn't find the Bushells so the husband called from the backroom "Don't give Mrs Martin any tea!" knowing she was fussy about tea like her daughter. I raced home and said to mum "Mr Brown said not to give Mrs Martin any tea!" Mum threw off her apron and stomped down the road. She had me by the hand and stormed into the shop. After a few brief stormy words it was sorted out. Oh, the power of words!

A nice memory of 1982 with the Legacy group touring the British Isles we went to Gretna Green where couples can marry or renew their vows. The man in charge wanted me to be bride but we had a couple who wanted to renew their vows so they were bride and groom and I was the bridesmaid. Bill and I used to go to the movies when we were courting and the theatre always had a chocolate boy. He carried a big tray of chocolates from small bars to big boxes. Bill said he always held his breath until I just picked two small bars - one each. Then he could relax - he had enough money. My sister Violet and I went to the Collaroy movies one night and we met a couple of fellows she knew. After the movie they asked would we like a hamburger. We accepted and then we strolled along the beach in different directions one couple each way. We all sat on the beach not far away from each other. After a few minutes chatting 'what's-his-name' said, "Can I kiss you?" with my tentative reply "You'll have to ask

Violet!" His sheepish reply came "it doesn't matter"- shades of 1930's romances.

This is about the cakeshop during the war years. It was on Pittwater Road between Oaks Avenue and Howard Avenue. There was a vacant block on the corner of Oaks Avenue then three shops - Tom Barrett the butcher, the Wiltshire family and us-The Marion cakeshop-named after our mum. On the opposite side of Pittwater Road, Lew Climo the bootmaker had a small shop. On the other side of us was an empty block of land, then Hayman and Ellis the hardware shop, two milkbars, the picture show, and the newsagent. So we set up shop and being wartime we had restricted supplies. I'll always remember the big kerosene tins of egg pulp. The night before opening we scrubbed and cleaned the shop. I was busy making sponges, pies and little lemon cheesecakes which were my favourite. Violet was scrubbing the floor of the shop and suddenly she started to laugh and I said, "what's the matter?" and she said "do you realise we haven't any money in the till to give change!" I stopped and thought for a moment then I said "that's alright I'll just run down to the bank and change the note." It didn't happen as I remember-not many people had bank notes in those days. We continued for about two years and could only open half a day because of supplies. I remember Violet and I when we had the shop. Once or twice a week at night we walked down to St David's church hall in Howard Avenue and helped make camouflage nets for the war effort. Also for that first week that we were open I travelled by tram to a Balgowlah cake shop where I was employed and I would sleep in the storeroom and get up about 6am to make pies and cakes

until lunchtime and then back to the Dee Why shop to cook there. It was too much but we needed the money. I only did it for a short time. My bed in the Balgowlah shop was in the storeroom jammed in between the refrigerator and bags of flour and sugar. I often cursed the frig many times - every time it clicked and woke me up.

One incident happened when we lived at Rose Cottage which my aunt Gladys sold us for a reasonable price after the war ended when houses were difficult to buy. Bill had a lovely vegetable garden. We had a fowl run at the back that thrived on chook poo. We had about twenty fowls and lots of eggs. One January we had a fierce heat wave and most of the chooks dropped dead. When Bill got home he coerced the help of Mrs Jarvis next door-a lovely old lady. They plucked and cleaned the chooks-Bill said; "they are perfectly alright!" So the chooks ended up in the old Silent Knight frig and were eventually eaten. After the war we lived in Byrne Avenue with our husbands and families looking for somewhere else to live. That's when we found Rose Cottage the old weatherboard house in South Creek Road. The Byrne Avenue house was built close to the high quarry with a fence of two strands of wire. One day when Violet was babysitting Steven and Leigh, she came out of the house to see where the children were. Steven was about three years old and he was swinging back and forth on one strand of wire over the quarry. She thought, "I mustn't yell at him " so she called softly "Stevie come and get a lolly" which promptly brought him back from the danger.

I will remember always my happy wedding in St Matthews Anglican Church on the Corso in Manly where I

was also christened many years before. It was a hot day and apart from family and friends six soldier mates came and stacked all their hats on one another and put them all on Bill's head. There was afternoon tea at the little restaurant at the end of the wooden walkway along Manly pool. After the reception Bill and I walked along to the ferry and we had to wait for a ferry so we all went together with the rest of the family across to Circular Quay. Then we caught a taxi to Coogee where there was a big old guesthouse called 'Tara' which Bill's sisters discovered on a walk one day. Accommodation was hard to find in wartime. We had wanted to go to the Blue Mountains but the American army had taken over all the accommodation there. After we put our luggage in our room we went for a walk along the seafront and bought some lovely big prawns and then walked up a grassy hill looking over the sea and ate our prawns watching the beautiful sunset. We then walked back to our lovely 'Tara'. Next morning at breakfast the elderly lady serving us said to me "would you like a pot of tea dear?" I said "yes please" very thankfully. It was quite a treat because tea was tightly rationed, as was nearly everything.

Back to early days when we were living around The Bluff at Seaforth. I was sent to Mosman Public School for another short time and the girls wore long black stockings to school. One girl said to me "I've got some extra black stockings. Would you like them?" I said I'd ask my mum. She said "yes" so the girl brought them in then stood by her friend and started to giggle and when I looked at the stockings they were full of holes. I have another snake story for you; David. Effie my late friend and I were on a healthy lifestyle trip. We

went to Tasmania then out to Maria Island on the East Coast. It was a small island managed by Parks and Wildlife. It was very bare-mostly trees. Luckily for Effie and I there was an old wooden toilet there. It was a hot day and we strolled along chatting. Effie was in front, turned the corner of the shed, and was about to step inside it. I looked down and there was a big red-bellied black snake lying on the step. I gave a yell, Effie sprang back on me, and the snake slowly slid under the hut. Effie used to tell everyone that I had saved her life.

When I was about twelve years old I had my upper teeth removed under gas. I had no guidance about this and had never seen a toothbrush or toothpaste. It was an inevitable result. I think that's why I rarely smiled. When I was about fourteen years old sister Violet and I worked in Narrabeen at a fish cafe and milkbar called Bryson's. Violet used to tease me every afternoon when I was cleaning the windows. About three p.m. as the milkcart used to drive by, I would be hoping I would see a certain blond haired boy called Leo sitting up front-sometimes I was lucky. The local boys used to come in and have a milkshake. One night this young guy said to my sister "Vi - there's a hair in my milkshake!" Quickly Vi said, "What do you expect for fourpence - a wig?" I used to serve in the fish restaurant and all the young smarties used to come in from Palm Beach. We were always so busy - they sold beautiful fish and chips. The customers usually had to wait a while. On this night we were very busy. I was running in and out with plates when a voice behind me said, "Hey Toots!" I turned and looked at him and said, "Are you addressing me?" He was gobsmacked and Violet was in

stitches.

Another memorable trip on a bus trip to the Northern Territory run by four young people, we had most meals by the bus - barbecues for breakfast and lunch and we played games on the bus as it was tearing across the country - like bowls. We had a few empty coke tins and a tennis ball trying to knock them down. We also had a big collection tin on the bus. If anybody said 'bus' instead of coach they had to pay five cents. We made over eighty dollars, which we gave to the Flying Doctor Service in Alice Springs. Then we went to Uluru on the coach and we had a little cocktail party watching the sunset. Next day we came back to climb the rock - I looked at it and thought "wouldn't it be great to be able to climb it". I went a bit closer and thought "maybe I should see how far I can go". So away I went very gingerly and slowly and finally reached Chicken Rock. I thought, "this is a cinch!" Then I looked back to where I started-"whoa there-I've got to get back down". I finally got back down again with a few prayers thrown in. Also there were a few young fellas with Harley Davidson bikes with extra helmets charging to take one around the base of the rock. With my three friends we raced around the rock and enjoyed the trip. It cost \$20-we thought it was worth it.

We had a few problems in Rose Cottage. There was no bathroom-just a shed with a copper and tubs and only cold water. We had to light a fire under the copper for hot water. Tip the hot water into the bath and have a quick one! Laundry was boiled in the water and then into the tub to rinse the clothes then put out on the line, a few lengths of wire between two tree props. The toilet was up the back near the chook pen, about 50 yards, with red

back spiders, and pouring rain, cold and windy. So Rose Cottage harboured many happy and sad memories, but life overall was simpler then and I'm glad we had that time, for it is so much more complex now.

June Bennett.

Thank you June for a lovely interesting story. Ed.

A Grand Occasion.

Arthur Marshall received a pleasant surprise when on the opening night of the Harvey Show on Friday 15th October. The Harvey Shire Council announced that from this time on the grandstand would be known as "The Arthur Marshall Stand".

Arthur and Audrey were present in the centre of the show ring with the Shire President when the announcement was made. Arthur said he was taken completely by surprise and for once was lost for words.

In paying a tribute to Arthur, the President said Arthur, a resident of Harvey for many years, was the most outstanding sportsman Harvey had produced, as well as being a first class citizen. Audrey too was thrilled and was very proud of 'her Arthur'.

Drinks with the shire councillors and other notables followed which made it an evening to remember for the Marshall family.

Congratulations Arthur and Audrey from all members of the Association. You have the honour, as far as we are aware, that you are our only member who has a grandstand named after him. Well done!

Arthur was a top cricketer and a good footballer and had he lived in the metropolitan area may well have been a state cricketer.

Arthur tells the story of the old grandstand - in the depression years or the early 1930s, Col Doig and a mate were lumping their swags looking for work, they bedded down for the night in the stand. About 10 p.m. the floodlights came on and Doigy and his mate took off at the high port before the coppers claimed them for trespassing.

Such is life!

Loyalty Plus.

After the August Push by the Japanese, there was still considerable movement of their troops. One such movement was a force of 4 or 500, which moved south from Dili to Maubisse. It was expected that from Maubisse the Japs would move towards Ainaro, which would necessitate their movement through the Samè Saddle, south of Maubisse.

8 Section with Lieut. Burrige, took up a position on the saddle in a deserted native village directly overlooking the road which the Japs would use. It was an excellent position for an ambush providing the Japanese did not learn during their long winding march up towards the saddle, that there were Australian troops in position.

It was a long wait for the Australians and many sightings of the Japs were made as they rounded sections of the winding road.

What happened next is worth recording as it demonstrated the incredible loyalty of such a big percentage of Timorese towards the Australians. We all watched and waited for the Japs to turn round the last bend in the road and directly into our line of fire some 70 or 80 yards away. Suddenly a loan Timorese appeared at the corner. He was wearing the usual lepa but on his

head was an ordinary felt hat similar to those worn by many Australian men in 1942. We watched him with trepidation. Would he inform the Japs that we were just up there about 100 yards away. No, he removed his hat and made a sweeping gesture of friendship to the Japs.

The ambush was carried out successfully and some 30 or 40 Jap soldiers were killed. The local Timorese later told us that the tally was 50, but they generally exaggerated figures. There were no Australian casualties.

John Burrige.

Ed: If you have memories of similar incidents please pass them on to our author Mr Cyril Ayris.

Timor Ponies.

R.W. Wilson, PO Box 38466, Winnellie, N.T.

Sec. 2/2nd Comm. Assoc.

Rick Dawson gave me a copy of your letter to him to better enable me to write to you regarding your use of Timor ponies; in particular the packing and weight carrying.

Rick and I worked in the same office, survey, here in Darwin for some years. I have retired.

I am one of the two co-authors working on a book on Timor ponies in the N.T. in particular and Australia in general. Publication is planned for December 2004.

Last November we brought to Darwin a number of 'wild' ponies from the Murganalla area of Western Arnhem Land. No other horses have survived in that area; and no others on Cobourgh Peninsula.

The Territory Wildlife Park have four of these ponies for Park visitors and for

future readers of our book we would gratefully acknowledge the weights carried by ponies in your service.

I grew up with Timor ponies in the N.T. Top End.

The purpose of the book is to alert the general population to the qualities of this small horse. A traditional owner in the Murgengalla area had a similar background and is like minded and allowed us some of his. He has kept them from being shot. Heavily pregnant mares and younger foals are vulnerable to crocodile and dingo attacks.

With best wishes, Reg Wilson.

(This, a follow-up letter from Reg)

Thank you for your invaluable help re the pony pack track trainloads and introducing Mr Paddy Wilby. We have been in contact by correspondence and by phone.

I do want it to be known in your Association that the ponies are 'built' to carry heavy loads.

Ian Morris (co-author) and I have a set of a Timor skeleton for the N.T. Museum. Ian photographed the big bones next to (a) pelvis (hind) and (b) shoulder blade (fore). Hayes P644 describes them as massive. Ian is not able to give me a print for a while. I shall send a copy when I receive it. I am sending Paddy a similar letter.

With best wishes, Reg Wilson.

Unit War History.

Our author, Mr Cyril Ayris, is making steady progress with the writing of our history and is about half way through the Timor Campaign. He is still keen to get information from members on any incidents they can recall be they serious or humorous in the campaigns

in which we were involved.

Cyril and his wife Glenys attended our commemoration service and were impressed with the ceremony. He also met up with members he will be interviewing later.

" A Nice Tribute"

The thirty-two people who took advantage of the S.A.S. Veterans Association's offer to join them at 'The House' after our service enjoyed a very pleasant two hours. In delightful surroundings 'the House' is an ideal place to relax and enjoy a chat and a drink.

The highlight of our visit was when Charles Stewart, their president, unveiled a plaque in the form of our double red diamond insignia with the wording underneath to the effect that our Association had held its final gathering at 'the House' following our last Safari Commemoration Service at Kings Park on Sunday 16th November 2003.

This thoughtful tribute from the SAS Association took members completely by surprise. Our President Ray in sincerely thanking Charles and his association for the tribute we had been paid said it was a great honour to have a plaque bearing our old colour patch in such a prominent position in the House. All those present endorsed his thanks.

Shirley and her helpers turned on a beaut afternoon tea that included a lovely cake also dedicated to us which Ray had great pleasure in cutting. Shirley was complimented by our ladies for such a lovely spread. It was a very happy group that left the house at 6 p.m.

Our sincere thanks are extended to

Charles and his staff for the great hospitality extended to us during our visit. We are lucky to have such good friends.

God bless.

Jack Carey.

Christmas Luncheon.

We held our traditional Christmas luncheon in 'The Goodearth Hotel' on Friday 3rd December. For the 33 who attended it was a very pleasant and convivial three hours. Our ladies looked lovely, which made it even more pleasant for the 'old boys'. Don Murray, our M.C. extended a warm welcome to all especially to Gem & Kerri Mackenroth, Bernie & Babs' attractive daughter and grand-daughter, also to Greg Tyerman, all from Queensland. Peter & Pat Campbell and Vince Swann who came up from Esperance also received a warm welcome.

President Ray Parry too thanked all for coming and wished us all a Happy Xmas & Prosperous New Year. A nice luncheon followed after which 12 lucky winners won prizes in our free raffle. All in all it was a great day.

Present were Tony Bowers, Maureen Baker, John Burrige, Jack & Delys Carey, John & Olive Chalwell, Peter & Pat Campbell, Joy Chatfield, Dick Darrington & Beverley Frankee, Keith & Val Hayes, Elvie Howell, Jean Holland, Elsie Jordan, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Jim Lines, Hilda Meldrum (Mavis Sadler's sister), Don & Ida Murray, Nellie Mullins, Bart & Loris Mavrick, Gem & Kerri Mackenroth, Ray Parry, Helen Poynton, Vince & Andrew Swann and Greg Tyerman.

There were 10 apologies.

"The Ode"

The following letter was written with the committee's approval: -

Major General William Crews AO (Rtd)
National President RSL
Canberra.

15th Dec. 2003.

Dear Sir, re "The Ode"

Recently we held our 54th Commemoration service in Kings Park in memory of those members of our Unit who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War II. A copy of our service is enclosed. On my suggestion the committee agreed that on this occasion our president should invite all present, approximately 180 people, to join with him in the saying of The Ode which they did and it went off very well.

For some time now I have been advocating that more Australians should be encouraged to say The Ode so that they can get familiar with the words. Our children in particular should say The Ode at their school service, which most have prior to Anzac Day.

Some years ago I wrote to the President of the Returned & Services League in Perth along these lines but apart from an acknowledgment of my letter nothing came of it. It would seem the League is loath to depart from the protocol of only one person saying The Ode at remembrance services. This is a great pity.

Most old diggers would have heard The Ode said hundreds of times over the years and yet very few could recite the words correctly if asked to do so. A glaring example of The Ode being said incorrectly was at the remembrance service held in Changi not so very long ago when the President of the group saying the Ode got it wrong.

Often "the two shalls and one will" get

mixed up and quite often we hear "one shall and two wills". I'm sure you know what I mean.

May we propose to your League that in the coming year all branches throughout Australia of your organisation request or invite all members to join together in the saying of The Ode. This to also apply when large gatherings of people attend remembrance services such as Anzac Day etc.

The League members will grow less as time passes. Now would be an opportune time for the League to act to ensure the beautiful lines of The Ode taken from Laurence Binyon's poem "For The Fallen", composed in August 1914, becomes familiar to today's generation and that of generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

J.W. Carey. OAM, Hon. Secretary.

The reply to the above dated 7th April 2004: -

Dear Mr Carey,

I wrote to you in January 2004 indicating that I would be raising your proposal in regards to the recitation of 'The Ode' at our National Executive meeting on 1-2 March 2004. I understand that you have subsequently phoned my office to enquire what the National Executive decided on the issue. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The National Executive noted both your letter of 15th December and my provisional response. They decided that there are longstanding traditions associated with the recital of 'The Ode' and as it is recognised that various groupings have their own individual arrangements, we would not wish to

rule such that it would make an issue with those arrangements. The major concern of the National Executive is that the words of 'The Ode' are spoken correctly. Consequently, those of your groups who might wish to all recite 'The Ode' would be at liberty to do so but we would not want to mandate this for other activities. As with most of our commemorative endeavours, we do not wish to be too prescriptive. Appropriate modifications should generally be made to suit the circumstances of each commemorative event. Our concern is the accuracy of those words used and the sequence in which components of the commemorative service are undertaken.

I trust this is an acceptable response, and I thank you again for your suggestion.

Yours sincerely, Bill Crews.

CORRESPONDENCE.

D. Laing, 16/5 Tauss Place, Bruce, ACT 2617.

Please find enclosed cheque as a contribution towards the Courier. I very much enjoy reading the news of the 2/2nd even though some of it is sad these days. The bond formed is still very evident.

I recently delved into the archives of the War Memorial to find some photos relevant to my brother Mervyn Ryan. I finally purchased some of the Dili site where he was wounded. I also found photos of Bicycle Camp in Indonesia and Changi where he spent some time as a prisoner-of-war. The whole experience of the search was very moving for me.

You might like to let your readers who are on the Internet know that

they can access the photos held by the War Memorial on: www.australiansatwarfilmarchive.gov.au they can't print them off but can order them (at a price!). they can also access a Record of Service Certificate on www.wv2roll.gov.au that they can print.

When I tried to get a Record of Service Certificate for Mervyn I had to put in his 'army' birth date. I knew he put up his age, I thought by two years, but I couldn't find any information on him and certainly no Record of Service. Eventually I enlisted the help of a friend who is a military historian. He was successful. Mervyn had actually put his age up by three years! Searchers need to be aware of these possible problems. Keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely, Dawn Laing.

Editor's Note: Sometimes if you leave out the birth date altogether you will get everyone listed under that name!

J. Smith, 6 King St, Shortland, NSW.

Thanks for continuing to send the Courier. We all enjoy reading it. I am writing this for my grandmother, Joyce Smith, and sending along a donation to further the Courier. We would also like 3 fridge magnets.

Hope all and their families are well and we await the availability of the Unit book.

Joyce Smith & Chantal.

J. Steen, Thornlands, Qld.

I don't know if I sent you a cheque yet, if not please find this one for \$100 to do with as you see fit.

Beryl is okay now after her operation so she and I wish all members and their loved ones a very Happy Christmas

and all they wish for in 2005.

Wishing you all the best,

Regards Jack & Beryl Steen.

M. McKenzie, Eden Hill, WA.

Please find enclosed a cheque to share as you please between the Courier and the Trust Fund.

Thank you for the Courier, I appreciate being able to read news of the familiar names.

Also thank you both for the great work you do to keep it all together.

Wishing you all good health.

Regards, Mary McKenzie.

R. & H. Morris, Weston, Canberra.

Springtime in Canberra and what a beautiful welcome we were able to give visitors to Floriade. Warm sunshine, a gentle breeze, and 30,000 visitors on the first two days.

Thank you for the 'Courier', it is good to catch up with the news of our old friends but sad to see so many have passed on.

We see quite a lot of Joan Fenwick and keep in touch by phone. She has not been in the best of health during the winter but we hope the better weather will help her. We also keep in touch with Alan Luby and meet Erica and Fred Bagley at the shops regularly.

Ron is not very active, suffering from desert feet and legs. Enclosed you will find a cutting and picture from 'The Canberra Times' after Anzac Day. Ron was very proud as the Commandant at Duntroon supplied the transport especially for him, as the Commandos were the first in on D-Day.

Please give our regards to all those great people we shared our city with

during the Canberra Safari. What a happy time we had!

God bless, Ron & Hazel Morris.

B. Devlin, Epping N.S.W.

It is 12 months since our last get together where we all had a marvellous time. Hope everybody is well and maybe will all meet again some day. As I was telling you My 2 grandchildren were competing in the FISAC World and Gold Coast International Rope Skipping Championships held at Tallebudgera Recreation Centre on the Gold Coast. I was amazed at the centre, the Queensland Government spent 2.5 million dollars on renovations, finished two weeks before the championships. It is a credit to them, a terrific centre for the 650 young competitors. Accommodation was great with a terrific dining room. Aimee and Naomi stayed at the centre bit we travelled one and a half hours each way to the centre.

Aimee was very successful winning four gold medals and a bronze for the overall score in the Junior section against 13 countries - quite an achievement. Naomi did well but just missed out. Her section had high competition.

Having a quiet time at Christmas this year. Going to Brisbane to see son Gary and grandchildren next week. No holidays since W.A., would like to see you all again though so will take stock of my finances and keep my fingers crossed.

Spoke to Alan Luby after Edith passed away. I am unable to attend their Xmas get together as I am going to the War Widows Xmas Luncheon at the Wentworth Hotel in Sydney. We also have a nice time there as the hotel is grand and everything is a little special.

Hope you are well, looking forward to all the activities that are coming along.

Say hello to everybody for me and God bless, for now, Love Betty.

M. Monk, Poowong, Vic.

Time again for a letter to the Courier and to send Season Greetings to all. Every year seems to go faster than the last. We still have a very busy life, and are very thankful that we enjoy reasonably good health and are able to keep doing the things that we like. Don enjoys golf when weather permits and I am happy in my garden, judging at flower shows etc.

We both have lots of family events to take part in. We now each have 4 great-grandchildren as well as our children and their families. Don has a grand-daughter being married this Saturday in Wagga, N.S.W. and on the 18th December I have a grandson being married here in Warragul. The reception is to be held in our local Poowong East Hall with local ladies doing the catering so I am sure it will be extra special. My newest Great-grandie was born on Armistice Day - a little girl, Ebony Jewell, a sister for Zali Rose. So with the twins Grace and Emily I have four little girls.

Don has two boys and two girls and a fifth one is due in January. The families are getting bigger but I guess that's how it should be. Amy my youngest grandie was 18 in September and has completed her year 12 exams so is now awaiting results. She got her driver's license and has a nice little car. Yesterday (23rd) we had a very enjoyable five hours at the Tooradin Sports Club when 15 2/2nd folk got together for our Christmas lunch. This was instigated by Bluey Bone and organised by him and Eddie Bourke.

Those present were: - Bluey & Mary Bone, Eddie & Dorothy Bourke, Leith & Marge Cooper, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, John & Shirley Southwell, Harry Botterill, Pat Petersen and her sister Miriam and Don Thomson and myself.

It was great to be greeted by Bluey with his usual happy smile. It was Mary's 21st (?) birthday and Dorothy had brought a cake along and we all sang Happy Birthday. Everyone agreed it was a good day and well worth repeating in the future.

Don and I brought Harry home with us and on Friday we are going to visit Fay Campbell at Benalla on our way north. Harry is going to spend the weekend with Arch & Dawn Claney in Wangaratta while we are at the wedding in Wagga.

As we are having Finlay's wedding a week before Christmas, I think with all the preparations beforehand, my Christmas mail will suffer so I hope you will all forgive me if I say "Happy Christmas" to all 2/2nd friends via the Courier. Don joins me with our very best wishes for 2005 too.

Donation for the Courier or whatever - keep up the good work Delys and Jack. The Courier is really wonderful.

Love Margaret & Don.

E. Prior, Wantirna, Vic.

I am enclosing a \$50 cheque for the Courier. Thank you for sending it to me. Do hope you and yours are well. I hope all have a Happy & Healthy Christmas. Yours sincerely, Elizabeth Prior.

T. Adams, Toowong, Qld.

I have been meaning to write for ages to enclose this cutting from the Qld.

Commando News about Ron Morris and also to enclose this cheque but time is at a premium.

Haven't seen anybody for ages - talk on the phone - 'phone a friend' as I was told to do!! Spoke at length to Luby last week - he phoned me!

Xmas is just around the corner. We will be at home even though Paul & Co. want us to spend it with them at Maroochydore. We cannot move all the things I need for Iris to feel comfortable away from home.

The Courier is just wonderful, thank you both.

Do hope you are well, best wishes for Xmas and regards to one and all, Basher.

Pars On People.

Ron Morris was paid a nice tribute in The Canberra Times in April of this year. Ron who is 81 was at the D Day Landing on 6th June as a commando with the Royal Marine Commando Unit. He enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1940 in memory of his brother who was shot down over Malta early in the war. Ron saw action in many theatres of war including Crete - El Alamein.

He met Hazel who was a chief petty officer in the Royal Navy, during the war at HMS Collingwood in Hampshire. Happily married now for over 58 years Ron reckons it was the best thing that happened to him in those grim years.

After the war Ron worked a butler for the British Royal Family and later for Prime Ministers John Gorton, William McMahon and Gough Whitlam at the Lodge.

Ron has not enjoyed the best of health in recent years and has had a couple of close shaves but is still on deck.

A good organiser Ron made a big

contribution to the Safaris in Canberra in 1986 & 1998. In recognition of his efforts he was made an Honorary Life Member of the Association in March 2000.

Ron is president of the Australian Commando Association Canberra Branch.

Well done Ron, may you and Hazel share many more happy years together.

Gerry Green following his two knee replacements he had in February, landed a trifecta when he had a replacement for his left hip in August. This hip just went on and he was getting around with a fractured hip for a month before a correct diagnosis was made. Apart from a troublesome ulcer on his right leg, Gerry, as tough as ever, is coping under the watchful eye of his loving wife Lal.

Betty Hopkins widow of Irish, is getting by okay. She is lucky in that sons Col and Wayne and his wife Pat live close by so she is seldom lonely. Colin really spoils her. Her brother Monsignor Barden, though retired regularly conducts mass at the local Bentley Church and often drops in for a cuppa. Betty can get about but a trip to the local supermarket is about as far as she likes to travel. She rises at 6.30 a.m. and never naps through the day. Betty sends Christmas greetings to all her friends in the 2/2nd.

Tom & Mary Foster have not as yet made the move to Geraldton. They wanted to build their own home there but a shortage of builders prevented this so they are looking around for a suitable home, which is proving difficult. Tom is still confident the move will be soon. He said it had been another good year on the farm so prospects for their son Chris, who is taking over, look bright. Tom & Mary

wish all a Happy Festive Season.

Hazel Hollow reports that she and the family are well which is good news. Hazel has few spare moments and is an active member of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, which she finds very rewarding. She is also involved in charity work. Hazel also wishes everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year and welcomes phone calls from her old friends on (08) 8445.7548.

Yvonne Walsh enjoyed a holiday in Bali in November. A highlight of her year was when the Rotary Club of South Sydney donated a wheelchair to the Prince of Wales Hospitals Care Award. The chair, known as the Vince Walsh Chair, was donated in loving memory of Vince a long time member of the Rotary Club. A nice tribute indeed. No doubt it was a proud occasion for Yvonne.

Rotary was founded in Chicago by Paul Harris a solicitor in 1905 and is the largest community service organisation in the world. It has over 1.2 million members in 332,000 clubs in 210 countries.

Ross Shenn. It was nice to catch up with Ross at our commemoration service. Ross is another who has had a tough run undergoing two serious operations this year. Still not 100% Ross has a positive attitude and devotes all his time caring for his wife Beth who needs constant attention.

Rolf Baldwin Our heartiest congratulations to Rolf who will be 95 on the 16th December.

Tom Pulliene sends best wishes to all for a "Happy Christmas".

Sick Parade.

Barbara Payne is having a run of outs. In August she had a hip replacement

and was in Hollywood Hospital for three weeks. On returning home she had a fall on the front verandah of her Merredin home and as a result had to have a new hip replacement which meant another long stint in Hollywood. Calls and visits from family and friends helped her get by. Barbara has since been transferred back to the Merredin Hospital and hopes to be home by Christmas.

Len Bagley. Len was made a life member of the Returned & Services League in July for his 50 years service to the league, but that's where the good news ends. Since then he has had an aneurism removed in Hollywood Hospital and three months later in November developed severe abdominal pains which resulted in another operation on the 30th November. Latest news is that Len will be in hospital for another two weeks. We hope 2005 is a better year for you Len.

Blanche Sadler. Following a fall, Blanche suffered a badly sprained tendon in her right shoulder; this resulted in a short stay in Royal Perth Hospital. Blanche is now on the mend. Her biggest problem is she cannot drive and relies on her family and sister Mavis to get around. We hope you are 100% by Christmas Blanche - God Bless.

Bluey Bone who is still having chemotherapy, has developed a clot in his left leg but is coping pretty well. Keep going Blue.

Jess Epps had a fall in her unit in late November and finished up in the Joondalup Hospital where she had the misfortune to have another fall. Jess is in a state of shock. She will probably be in hospital for a week then Peter

expects her to be transferred to the Osborne Park Hospital Rehab. Centre. All of your many friends send their love Jess, and hope you will be better soon. God Bless.

Doc. Wheatley who was 92 on the 28th October was another to have a fall when leaving "The House" on 21st November after our Commemoration Service. Doc suffered abrasions, is very sore around the ribcage, and may have cracked a rib or two. Doc. is handling things pretty well. He realises he will need to be very careful from now on, especially with steps.

Henry Sproxton and **Wilf March**, who have been regulars in the Sick Parade now for a number of years are battling on courageously and are grateful for their good days and support from their families and friends.

Birthday Boys.

Doug Dixon	Sept. 8	83
Tom Martin	Oct. 5	88
Bob Smyth	" 8	87
Len Bagley	" 13	81
John Chalwell	" 20	81
Doc. Wheatley	" 28	92
Clarrie Turner	" 30	87
Dick Darrington	" 31	82
Ray Aitken	Nov. 7	89
Jack Steen	" 16	81
Ross Shenn	" 23	82
Bulla Tait	" 29	82
Leith Cooper	Dec. 8	88
Don Young	" 8	87
Les Halse	" 8	85
Kel Carthew	" 12	82
Rolf Baldwin	" 16	95
Fred Stewart	" 18	92

"Happy Birthday" to all the above - if your name is not there and you would like it to be, please let me know. Ed.

Courier Donations.

Ed & Dorothy Bourke, Gerry & Lal Green, Alan Pilling, Dawn Laing, Joy Smith. Yvonne Walsh, Mary McKenzie, Jack & Beryl Steen, Elizabeth Prior, Tom Pulliene, Margaret Monk, Ron Archer, Tony & Iris Adams, John Burrige, Peter & Pat Campbell, Jean Holland, Elsie Jordan, Don & Ida Murray, Jim Lines, Helen Poynton, Vince Swann, Greg Tyerman, Paddy & Nora Kenneally.

Trust Fund.

Ed & Dot Bourke	\$30
Mary McKenzie	\$50
Greg Tyerman	\$10
The East Timor	
WA Society (Inc.)	\$1000
Paddy & Nora Kenneally.	\$100
Many thanks to you all. Ed.	

Change of Addresses.

Mrs Fay Campbell
6 Kathryn St
Benalla Vic. 3672
(03) 5762 6567.

The State Secretary
RSL (Queensland Branch),
PO Box 629
Spring Hill, QLD, 4004

Mrs Dot Maley
U39/ Oakover Ave,
Meadow Springs 6210
Ph. (08) 9581 7298

Mrs Dianne Cholerton
35 Cedar St
Evans Head
NSW 2473
Ph. Unchanged.
Betty Coulson's new E-mail address is
blcoulson@bigpond.com

Ed: Unfortunately my computer was invaded by a virus so as I am about to acquire a new one, I am changing my

e-mail address which should be in the next issue.

A Jewish bloke was skiing in the Swiss Alps when he was accidentally buried under an avalanche of snow. The Red Cross sent out a search party. For days they searched frantically and after finding the man's skis they began to dig down to him. Mr Goldstein, they yelled to him, Mr Goldstein! It's the Red Cross.

A faint voice from deep down under the snow yelled; I gave already.

One morning a husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap.

Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out.

She motors out a short distance, anchors, and continues to read her book.

Along comes a fishing inspector in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says,

"Good morning Ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book", she replies, (thinking, "isn't that obvious?").

"You're in a restricted fishing area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry officer, but I'm not fishing, I'm reading."

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment.

I'll have to take you in and write you up."

If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault", says the woman. "But I haven't touched you", says the inspector.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment, for all I know you could start at any moment".

"Have a nice day Ma'am" and he left.

MORAL: NEVER ARGUE WITH A WOMAN WHO READS, IT'S LIKELY SHE CAN ALSO THINK.

W. A. Members Please Note

AUSTRALIA DAY.

The S.A.S. Veterans Association has once again invited members and friends to join them in their Australia Day celebrations to be held at "The House", Campbell Barracks on Wednesday, 26th January 2005.

This is always a great day so come along, enjoy a barbecue lunch, and take part in a few raffles.

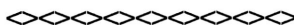
Important: For security reasons you must let the secretary J. Carey know by no later than Thursday 20th January if you intend to come.

Also please note our 59th A G M will be held at the Anzac Club on Tuesday 8th March 2005.

2/2nd Memorabilia

Still available	Smailes Poems	3 for \$5 including postage.
Fridge Magnets	3 for \$5	" "
Group Commemorative Photo		\$15 each " "
(taken during the Safari only a few left)		
Lapel Badges		\$8 each " "
Ring Jack or Delys Carey on (08) 9332 7050 if you require any of the above		

We here on the Courier team wish one and all the very best for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.





Members who took part at the Commemoration Service in Kings Park on the 17th November 2004:- Back l to r Merv "Doc" Wheatley, Ray Parry, John Burrige, Jack Carey, Ted Monk, Keith Hayes, Bob Smyth.

Front Bernie Langridge, Ray Aitken, Don Murray, Dick Darrington, Vince Swann, absent Ross Shenn.

Plaque unveiled at "The House" after the service.

This plaque is dedicated to the members of the Australian 2/2 Commando Association on the occasion of their last Safari conducted in Perth. November 2003. It was the ASASA (WA) Branch privilege to provide the Facilities of The House during this auspicious event.

