



# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

Print Post approved 637597 / 1646

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

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

**Vol 146**

**MARCH 2004**

## **AUSTRALIA AND WAR.**

Australia, in its short history, has been involved in many wars; some may think too many. The two major conflicts World Wars I & II cost 100,000 young Australians their lives while tens of thousands more were wounded or suffered post war health problems. Our participation in these creates no controversy, as we were members of the British Empire in 1914/18 and the British Commonwealth of Nations in World War II. Also in the Korean War (1950/53) we were part of the United Nations forces. In the remaining wars the Sudan (1885), The Boer War (1899/1902) Malaya (1948/52) in which Dargy Anderson lost his life, Vietnam (1962/73) and in recent times the Gulf War (1991), Afghanistan (2001/2002) and Iraq (2003) our participation is to say the least questionable.

All wars have serious moral implications. Unfortunately these have impinged little on governments. Policies of "might is right" and the "end justifies the means" are present in all governments and the military. The results of war, on victors as well as the vanquished, pose many serious problems as evidenced by the current state of affairs in Iraq. Some would argue that our recent involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq has done more to endanger our security rather than ensure it. Only time will tell.

As veterans we can only hope and pray that in this 21st century all nations will strive to bring about peaceful solutions to the many problems confronting this troubled world of ours.

Our parting wish would surely be that the youth of today and those of generations yet to come be spared the horrors of war.

Paddy Kenneally.

**VALE STAN PAYNE WX10278.**

Stan Payne passed away on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2004 aged 87. The following eulogy was kindly provided by his family.

Stan Payne was very much a man of his generation. A person shaped by a disastrous economic depression, a world war and for whom family was very important.

Born 27<sup>th</sup> February 1916 in Maylands he grew up on a farm in the Nungarin district in the Eastern Wheatbelt of Western Australia. It was a tough environment without the rapid transport of today. He used to say that one of his earliest memories was of playing around near the stove and falling backwards into the ash-bucket. He was badly burned by the hot coals in it and had to endure both the pain and the indignity of a long sulk ride to the doctor bottom up - face down across his mother's knees! Maybe it was this experience (or just a love of speed) but when motor cars appeared on the rural scene - he quickly embraced this new technology and learned to drive as soon as he could. Another story Stan liked to tell was of the Nungarin police sergeant asking him to drive him to somewhere on police business - which he did and a week later presented himself to the same policeman to get his licence!

Like his brothers and sisters - Reg, Dorothy (dec), Eric (dec), Harry and Lois - Stan's early education was at the small West Nungarin School. At about 14 years of age he went to the Narrogin School of Agriculture. Stan loved the land and wanted to be a farmer. Mal Herbert, his schoolmate, also went to Narrogin. After agriculture school he worked on the land in the 30's during the Depression. As for many of his generation, the Depression had a lasting

impact on Stan who made sure in various ways that his children should not take security for granted.

When war broke out Stan enlisted in the army, along with his schoolmate Mal Herbert. The story Stan liked to tell was at the first recruiting office they were in essential services (farming) and could not join so they went to the next office and said they were truck drivers, presently unemployed and 5 minutes later they were in the army!

Both Stan and Mal ended up in the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Independent Company, which was formed in Foster, Victoria on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1941. Like his love of the land, this was to be an association that lasted for the rest of his life. His time in the army was one of the great experiences of Stan's life. It is hard to explain in a few words the extraordinary qualities and achievements of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> which landed in Timor in December 1941 as part of Sparrow Force. Over the next 12 months the Unit, assisted by the Timorese, distinguished itself with successes against far greater numbers. Cut off from Australia for some time they had to depend on their own resourcefulness and fighting qualities. They re-established contacts with an astounded Australia when they succeeded in making a wireless from bit and pieces - mostly pilfered from the increasingly frustrated Japanese. The Unit later saw action in New Guinea and New Britain, however, most would agree the bonds formed in Timor are those that endure to this day and the family is very touched that members of the Unit could be here today. The men never forgot their debt to the Timorese who helped them succeed and survive. When the Unit raised the funds to construct a memorial for the creados, Stan was very proud to join the others who went to Dili in 1969



for the dedication. Like many in the Unit he was bitterly disappointed when Indonesia invaded Timor and the world stood by and did nothing. He felt the Australian Government in particular had let the Timorese down badly. He was delighted when all that changed in 2000 when Australian troops were again on Timor under General Cosgrove and East Timor ultimately gained its independence.

A romance with Ailsa Riley that began before the war blossomed and they were married in June 1944. After he was demobbed, Stan worked as a carrier with his own truck until his War Service loan came through and he and Ailsa moved to the farm at Nukarni around 1950. The farm was pretty neglected and they had to work hard to make it successful. And Korean War wool prices helped! They had three children - Susan (1946) Geoffrey (1949) and Barbara (1951). Education was important to Stan and Ailsa who ensured that each of the children had a good education - a wonderful endowment. In 1964 their loving partnership was sadly cut short when Ailsa died from cancer. It was a very, very low point in Stan's life. Not much later, in 1968, Susan was killed in a car accident. It was very hard for the family but especially for Stan - no father ever expects to bury his child. Later, perhaps because of this, Stan was overjoyed with the birth of his first grandchild in 1982.

Curiously, it was the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> that later gave Stan the opportunity to change his life. In 1985 Barbara Palmer (whose late husband Bob had been in the Unit) organised a "Country Convention" for the Unit in Busselton. This was the first "mixed" function that Stan had attended since Ailsa's death and it was there that he met Barbara. They were married in

April 1987. They didn't want any fuss and told no one - you could say they eloped! Stan rang his children afterwards and said "guess what I did today? "I don't know, tell me". "I got married!" And so began another loving partnership. Stan loved driving and he and Barbara enjoyed many trips locally in the State and to interstate reunions of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup>. Their different interests were complimentary. Barbara loves wildflowers and Stan liked to take drives to look at the country. When she told him of her wildflower excursions and of driving and suddenly reversing to go back and check on something that caught her eye - he said "you'll never catch me doing that", but it wasn't long before he was reversing so she could take a second look at some shrub or flower.

Well, what was Stan like? A loving husband, Stan was also a loving (and sometimes stern) father. He was an adoring and indulgent grandfather. He was always very quick to tell you how wonderful his grandchildren were: - he thought they could do anything! And he would do anything for them. He could be very thoughtful and generous.

He loved the land and farming despite all its tribulations. Stan was very proud that Geoff wanted to take on the farm and continued to work with Geoff on the farm up until his eyesight deteriorated a few years ago and it was no longer possible for him to do so.

He was a great dancer. He loved to listen to the news (woe betide anyone who telephoned during the news) and the weather report was sacred! He could talk for ages on the telephone but was definitely not a writer. The longest letter his youngest daughter ever received from him while at boarding school was

"Dear Barb, it's rained and the crops look good. Love Dad". To be fair, he wrote a one-page letter to his mother from Timor - sent in a homemade envelope "stitched" with hair from his beard.

Stan was a very practical man who could improvise when the need arose and was usually quick to find a solution to most problems. He was open to new ideas, if a little cautious on some occasions, and taught himself any new skills needed for farming.

Stan liked travel - not necessarily long overseas travel but being "on the road". He loved driving and his lead foot was legendary. (Stan had two speeds stop and Flat out). Not always a patient man, Stan could be extraordinarily patient when teaching someone to drive and never seemed to look concerned no matter what his pupils did. When Stan could no longer drive a car, he took great pleasure in driving his gopher although he was at times just a little critical of the state of the pavements.

Stan loved to read until his eyesight failed would read a couple of books a week. If he came to stay with you he might pick up one of your books and start reading - no matter the subject. He once picked up someone's copy of "Gertrude and Alice" - the story of Alice Toklas and Gertrude Stein and their relationship he finished it, but only after a few frowns.

Stan I'm not sure if this does you justice. Yours was a long life filled with much happiness and probably more than you fair share of sorrow. You were a farmer first and last. You put a great store by your comrades in the 2/2<sup>nd</sup>. Your family was very important to you and you were so proud of your grandchildren. You rarely walked anywhere when you could drive. You would have been 88 next month. We will miss you Stan.

Present at Stan's funeral service held at Karrakatta were Bernie & Babs Langridge, Keith & Val Hayes, John Burridge, Dick Darrington, Ted Monk, Bob Smyth, Don Turton and Jack Carey. Our members formed a guard of honour at the entrance to the main chapel as a tribute to Stan.

The Association on behalf of all members extends its deepest sympathy to Barbara and family in their sad loss. Lest We Forget.

---

**VALE      SAMUEL      SYDNEY**  
**FULLBROOK 1922 - 2004 NX38200.**

---

Sam was born in Chippendale, Sydney in 1922 so he was seven years old when the worldwide depression hit Australia in 1929. Chippendale is a hop and a step from the central railway so the neighbourhood streets would have been his playground. He went to school at Black Friars in Cleveland St. and when he was ten, Sam was a newspaper boy in Railway Square, Sydney, jumping on and off moving trams, selling papers to the commuters. "Piper, piper," the youngsters selling papers on the trams were something to see. Only agility, speed, and quick reflexes stood between them and serious injury or death.

Sam survived and at 15 he took to the "track" working wherever a job came along, timber cutting and working stock. He was working on a cattle station when war broke out. Sam was a very early enlistment. He met up with Ron and Syd Hilliard in Ingleburn camp in May 1940. They were members of the 2/1<sup>st</sup> medium artillery Regiment (6 inch). The regiment sent elements to Nauru (Wren Force) Ocean Island (Heron Force). Sam went to Darwin no particular destination.

The Regiment regrouped and went to the Middle East. It returned to Australia with the 7<sup>th</sup> Division in 1942. Many of its members got tired of going everywhere and doing nothing so in early 1943 many of them, including Sam, volunteered for the Independent Company in May 1943. Those men in that batch of reinforcements were probably the best trained and longest serving AIF men that ever served in the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Independent Company. They were a superb body of men.

Sam served in no. 4 section "B" Platoon. He was a fine soldier, a good bushman, a good shot, had plenty of endurance, got on well with other men but when the mood to be contrary struck him, no one could be more contrary than Sam Fullbrook.

He served the Unit in both New Guinea and New Britain. The war ended and we went our various ways. Sam joined art classes at the National Gallery of Victoria School. His tutor William Dargie, (later Sir William Dargie). Sam was later to say, "I got myself an education under Dargie."

His father died in 1948, Sam returned to Sydney, then headed for North Queensland, the cane fields. As a stockman trapping wild horses around Bulahdelah near the New South Wales and Queensland border, he acquired a string of brumbies that led into a lifelong love of horse-breeding and racing. Artists, like everyone else must eat, and when one starts to exhibit, life can be hard and monetary return little.

In 1953 Sam headed into the NorthWest, spent time in the Pilbara with an Aboriginal community. He learned much about Aboriginal folklore, legends, and day to day life.

In 1960 he returned to Sydney and took up painting in earnest. He exhibited with many major galleries in Australia. In 1971 he did not win the Archibald prize. Sir William Dargie said, "there's only one portrait and that was Sam's". It didn't win, however four years later he did win the Archibald prize for a portrait of Jockey "Whopper" Stephens who was a personal friend of his.

Sam's first wife died in 1972. Sam returned to Brisbane, then in 1982 bought a property near Oakey in the Darling Downs, raised horses and continued painting.

He went to America to visit a sister who had married an American Serviceman during World War II; his nephews introduced him to an American girl Mary Jane Tobin. He married her in Columbus, Ohio, bought a huge mansion and a duplex as he said to me - "Mary Jane is much younger than me, when I go she will have a home and an income". He later sold the mansion and the property near Oakey and moved to Victoria. He then bought a property at Tylden, kept up his interest in horses and racing, and continued to paint. Sam died at Tylden on 3rd February 2004 from cancer of the liver. He is survived by Mary Jane, a brother and a sister, several nephews and nieces. He is buried in the Tylden cemetery.

Farewell Sam Fullbrook, battler, wanderer, knockabout soldier, artist. You made life interesting and enjoyable for all who met you along your road through life.

May you *Rest in Peace*.

Paddy Kenneally.

Sam was paid some nice tributes in a number of articles on his life by the Herald and other leading newspapers. All agreed he was one of Australia's

finest post-war painters and a true blue tough, knockabout character in the best Chips Rafferty tradition.

When in the West, Sam donated about 25 prints of his painting "The Emu and the Aeroplane" which we raffled. I know Henry Sproston has a copy hanging in his dining room. I wonder who else has one?

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to his loved ones.

Lest We Forget.

J. Carey.

---

#### VALE JACK KEENAHAN 1921 - 2004 NX49475.

Jack Keenahan was born in Newcastle on February 19th 1921 and died in Huskisson on the South Coast, 23rd February 2004, four days after his 83rd birthday.

When Jack left school, the depression was still part of our lives. Newcastle was affected more than most places in Australia, apart from South Australia. The coalmines, steel works, ship building all affected by the depression, and the lockouts and strikes of 1928 - 29. There were few prospects of work in Newcastle in the middle 1930's.

Jack rolled his swag, and like so many of the youth in that era roamed the bush looking for work. He worked in the shearing sheds and whatever else he could find.

The steelworks decided to expand and was developing another steelworks in Port Kembla, south of Sydney. The merger of Australian Iron and Steel with BHP brought the latter to Port Kembla in 1935. The cost to industry in that area prompted Jack Keenahan to go that way. He procured work and that's where he joined the AIF. He sailed for Timor from Darwin on January 16th 1942, landing

in Dili with the first reinforcements for No. 2 Independent Company on January 20th 1942.

The Japanese arrived on the night of 19th, 20th February 1942. Jack Keenahan said they came to Dili to give him a 21-gun salute on his 21st birthday. Jack was allotted to No. 5 Section "B" Platoon, and served in that section until the war ended in August 1945.

He was awarded an M.I.D. for his services in the Japanese offensive in August 1942. Jack came home from New Britain on the Suva, landing in Sydney on January 19th 1946. He was lugging a huge pair of naval binoculars weighing about 50 lbs. He sold them to Prouds the jewellers for 150 pounds (300 dollars).

He procured a job in the Liverpool Old Men's Home, bought a block of ground in Cabramatta, and built a home for wife Norma, baby son, and himself.

He was transferred from Liverpool to a similar job in Lidcombe. From there he went back into private industry working for Komatsu, a Japanese earthmoving equipment company, bulldozers, loaders, and backhoes. Jack just kept adding to his knowledge.

He returned once more to a government job, going to work as a linesman with the PMG. Jack's wife Norma died of cancer in 1989. After a time he met an old family friend, Jean, a widow. They became partners in 1992 and became very devoted. They moved to Huskisson on the South Coast. He bought a fishing trawler and put some time in fishing. He later sold the trawler to some Vietnamese.

When in Sydney Jack was an active member of our Association; he attended every reunion we held, Canberra 1998 being his last. When Hobart and Mildura were venues, and Jack and Jean were not present we knew he was a very sick man.

As a soldier Jack was up there with the best. When it came to work, pre or post war, Jack Keenahan was out on his own. He was a shrewd, resourceful and determined man, he cared for and nurtured his wife and family. An agreeable man, he got along with all who knew him.

I attended Jack's funeral service at Worrigea Crematorium on Friday 27th February. A civilian from the funeral service in Nowra conducted the service, giving a comprehensive resume of Jack's life in a moving compassionate service. Four members of the Huskisson branch formed a guard of honour by the bier and their president spoke in glowing terms of Jack as a member of the RSL and of the local community. The number in attendance from all walks of life bore testimony of the high regard of Jack and Jean within that community.

It was pleasing to meet up with Mal Lindsay and Pat Costello at Jack's funeral. I'd not seen Mal since he moved down to the South Coast about twenty five years ago and while he is not the solidly built man I once knew he is still mobile and active and keeps reasonably well. Mal wished to be remembered to all his old mates in the West especially Henry Sproxton, John Chalwell and Jack Carey. I had not seen Pat Costello since Mick Devlin's funeral in 1985. Pat has also lost weight being lean and lithe and looks tremendous. His once luxuriant crop of red hair is now grey but I bet he hasn't lost one hair of his head over the years.

After the service I had lunch with Pat at the local RSL, a beautiful building surrounded by acres of open space with a magnificent view of the escarpment. Jack Keenahan's sons, Gerry and Ken, and numerous grandchildren were all present as well as Jean's daughter

Sharon and grandchild Tegan. To all of them we of the 2/2nd send our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

Jack Keenahan was a man for all seasons and no matter what the situation Jack could handle it. May God bless and keep him in His special care. May he rest in peace.

Lest We Forget.

Paddy Kenneally.

---

### **VALE TIM CAPE.**

News of the passing of Major General Tim Cape CB CBE DSO (R'td), who served in Timor in 1942 will be received with regret for those who took part in that campaign, he was 87. He graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1937. On February 5<sup>th</sup> 1942 when the decision was made to send the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion to Timor, Brigadier W. Veale MC DCM, was placed in charge of "Sparrow Force" and he along with Major Cape, his Brigade Major, arrived in Koepang on 12 th Feb. 1942.

The story has been told and retold of what subsequently happened. The convoy including the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Pioneers turned about, reaching Darwin on the 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Darwin was bombed and Timor invaded the following day. Major Cape, according to Colin Doig, was a very able officer and performed his duties well in the early events which followed the Japanese invasion of Timor and up until he was evacuated later in 1942. Tim went on to serve in New Guinea with distinction and was awarded a DSO for his services there. He later served in the Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. Continuing his career in the army he was promoted to the rank of Major General in 1965 and retired from army life in 1972 at the age of 57.

Tim Cape was regarded as a practical, commonsense soldier and a traditionalist with a strong sense of history. He took a keen interest in the Australian War Memorial and The National Gallery exhibitions, enjoyed golf in his retirement years in Canberra, and had a soft spot for the Timorese people.

May he rest in peace.

---

Members, in particular his old sapper mates, will be sorry to learn of the sudden passing of Don Turton. Don was admitted to the Hollywood Repat Hospital, Monday 16th February with a right knee problem. Two days later on the Wednesday, he went down with a serious infection in his bloodstream, presumably golden staph. Despite every effort of the hospital to counter the infection, Don's condition worsened and he died at 6 a.m. Thursday 26th February.

Don's funeral was held at Karrakatta on Tuesday 2nd March. Those attending from the Association were: - Len & Betty Bagley, John BurrIDGE, Jack & Delys Carey, John & Olive Chalwell, Joy Chatfield, Les Cranfield, Dick Darrington, Pip Dunkley, Peter, Sue & Jess Epps, Kaye Hanson, Laurie & Sheryle Harrington, Keith & Val Hayes, Colin Hodson, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Ted Monk, Nellie Mullins, Ray Parry, Bob Smyth, Colleen Strickland, Doc Wheatley, Harold Durant (2/5) and Ralph & Sheila Conley who flew over from Queensland especially for Don's funeral.

Our members formed a guard of honour at the crematorium and later President Ray Parry said "The Ode".

Tributes were paid to Don by Ralph Conley who spoke on Don's army service, and Maxine his daughter, and

son Ian who spoke on Don the loving family man. We will all miss him.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Maxine, Ian, Dianne, Heather, and all members of the family.

A vale for Don will appear in the next issue of the Courier in June. Ed.

---

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Harry Botterill on the loss of his beloved wife Olive who passed away on the 10th December last.

Weakened by her battle against cancer, Olive caught pneumonia from which she never recovered. Harry and Olive had 59 happy years together and were wonderful supporters of the Association.

May she rest in peace.

---

### **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL IN THE WEST.**

Although the attendance of 34 was down on previous years, those who did make it had a most enjoyable time. The staff at "The Good Earth" went out of their way to ensure the function was something special.

The tables were nicely decorated and Xmas bon-bons and hats were provided for all which soon had everyone in a festive mood. I think it was the staff's way of saying "Thank you for choosing The Good Earth for your Safari!

It was good to see Len Bagley back in his customary role as MC and as usual Len was in good form. After welcoming all and reading the apologies, Len handed over to our President Ray who wished everyone all the best for the Festive Season. The Xmas luncheon was excellent and one of the best we have had at the hotel. The lucky winners of the 6 raffle prizes were pleased with the results!



It was nice to catch up with Vera Watson after a long absence. Vera looks well. A special guest was Karla Walter, Bart Mavrick's sister who was holidaying in the West from Chicago. Karla reckons the West is still a great place to live. How right she is!

All in all it was a very happy occasion.

Present were: - Ray Aitken, Len & Betty Bagley, Tony Bowers, Maureen Baker, Jack & Delys Carey, John & Olive Chalwell, Joy Chatfield, Dick Darrington, Roy & Kaye Hanson, Jean Holland, Keith & Val Hayes, Elvie Howell, Mary & Paddy King, Jim Lines, John Lillie, Bernie & Babs Langridge. Bart & Loris Mavrick, Karla Walter, Don & Ida Murray, Nellie Mullins, Ray Parry, Dusty Studdy, Vera Watson, Clare West and Doc. Wheatley.

---

### **AUSTRALIA DAY 2004.**

The 23 members and friends of the Association, who attended the Australia Day celebrations of the Special Air Service Veterans' Association held at "The House" at Campbell Barracks, had a great day.

It is an ideal setting for such a day. Comfortably seated under the shady trees, enjoying a cold beer in convivial company, with Aussie music in the background, life could not be more pleasant and relaxing for we oldies.

President Rube Shaw and his crew are great hosts and go out of their way to ensure everyone is looked after.

Following a tasty barbecue and a few more drinks all present stood, faced our flag proudly flying in the breeze and sang "Advance Australia Fair" with gusto (well those who could remember the words!)

We fared okay in the big raffle with Dorothy Gray, Babs Langridge and Val

Hayes winning prizes - well done ladies. Before the day wound up we were invited to join in the group photo which we understood would be featured on the veterans' 2005 calendar. Doc Wheatley and Keith Hayes were provided with chairs and had a front seat should figure prominently in the photo! Our Association is indeed fortunate to have such strong ties with the SAS Veterans and thank them most sincerely for their invitation to us to join with them on Australia Day.

Present Were: - Ray Aitken, Jack & Delys Carey, Maureen Baker, Melvin & Dick Darrington, Regina Ruckbell, Keith & Val Hayes, Elvie Howell, Bernie & Baba Langridge, Jim Lines, Pat Dwyer, Bob & Margaret Smyth, Richard & Fiona Smyth, Dorothy Gray, Colleen Strickland, Don & Ida Murray and Doc Wheatley.

---

### **OUR FINAL FLING!**

The Safari, our "last Hurrah", has come and gone and we would like to thank all you good people who sent in letters of thanks and appreciation to the W.A. organisers. We here in the West, are happy that it turned out so well and in turn would like to thank all those who made the trip to Perth to participate in the Safari.

It was wonderful to see the family groups such as the Jones, Coulsons, Hollows, Goodhews, Handicotts, Blanchs, Marchs, Smyths and others present and the young people joining with us in the various functions.

The State representatives were Qld - 16, NSW - 22, Vic - 14, SA - 7, Tassie -3, & UK -2, a total of 64. There were 32 from WA staying at the hotel with 52 others attending the function, making 150 in all,



we also had 15 extra guests attend the dinner, a most satisfactory attendance indeed.

Once again our sincere thanks to all who made the Safari a happy success.

### **NORTH-WEST NSW NEWS**

News from the North Coast of NSW is positive, not like our national news, which mainly always appears so negative. Our optimism stems probably from the fact that we've had really good rains.

Our district had eleven inches early in the month and this week over six inches. Any volunteers for lawn mowing duties would be appreciated.

Beryl Cullen sends her regards and has dams full and creeks flowing for the first time in years.

Nola Wilson from Gilgandra is well and also rejoicing in rains. She sends her regards to all also.

Dianne and Julie Cholerton from Evans Head are both well and also send regards to all.

Russ Blanch is well but has joined those of us who finds it takes longer to do things. His daughter Ellen, who has looked after Russ for over thirty years, recently had a major operation but is recovering well. We wish her well and hope she takes it easy for a while.

Billy Walsh, with Beryl's care, is carrying on and gradually improving. Its been a long haul and we're all thinking of you mate.

Jack Steen is alright as usual and Beryl is to go and have her heart operation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We wish you well Beryl, and will be thinking of you. Beryl has been on 24-hour notice since about September of last year.

Eric and Lorraine Herd from Iluka are well and send their regards to all.

Tom and Jean Yates from Kyogle are both well. When I rang Jean was starting to relax and recover from an influx of relatives and Tom was just back from bowls so alls well. Jean's niece lives over my way and her little daughter has just gone to South Africa as an exchange student. What wonderful experiences they get these days.

Ken and Edith Jones are both well and also experiencing a good season since the drought broke.

Its good to hear that Alan Luby is back home again and adjusting well. He's looking forward to having Edith back with him shortly.

Harry Handicott and Amyce are both well and keep in touch regularly.

I'm hoping to get over to W.A. for Anzac Day all being well. I had a pinched femoral nerve and although I got it fixed up pretty pronto it has affected my hip a bit. I'm advised the nerve runs into the hip. All being well I'll be over.

Good health to all and regards, "Happy" Greenhalgh.

---

### **Queensland News.**

Am sending you some news on our members who did not attend our Safari with one exception. Heartfelt congratulations to you Delys & Jack, Bob and all who helped to make it a tremendous success for everyone.

Jack & Beryl Steen: Jack has had his two cataracts attended to and now sees a lot better. Beryl is still on the waiting list for her big operation and will need 4 - 6 weeks rest after it. They hope to do a 10-day cruise when she is better. Their good friends John & Margaret Evans are a lot better now.

Paddy Wilby had a cataract attended to a month ago but it's still not right and can't see much. The eye doctor wanted to do the other one, but he said he wanted this one fixed first. He also had trouble with his medical shoes, but when he is right he'll write another book and send you another story.

---

Alex Veovodin is in Greenslopes Hospital and is in very poor health. He has had an operation for cancer of the bowel. They say they got the lot, but his kidneys are not functioning too well.

---

Bill O'Connell still having bowel troubles and is pretty much grounded. He had a very bad motor accident a few years ago but Irma and he each have a motor scooter and can still get around quite a bit as needs be.

---

Peter Krause

has just had his OBE and is keeping pretty well and enjoying his beer and rum each day. He is another of our "grounded" mates but enjoys a visit from his Melbourne son. He is cared for by his daughter Sue, who works at the National Bank and drives to Brisbane each day from Southport! Someone should write a book on "How the Other Half Lives!"

---

Tony Adams says Iris is a bit better again now, is in a nursing home, and is walking again. He keeps up with Association news and is looking forward to his Christmas visit from his family - Paul and Pam.

---

Col Andrew also Jeanette and son Peter are very busy running their caravan park

at Laidley. It keeps full with about 100 people. They were sorry that they couldn't come to the Safari but couldn't get away from their business. They are all keeping well and looking forward to a Xmas visit from their Canberra daughter.

---

Pat Barnier has just lost her 85-year-old brother. Her granddaughter Michelle Butler is doing a course at Cambridge University. Pat keeps well but mainly leads a quiet life with her two puppies.

---

Lois Davies leads a very busy life and belongs to a "bird watching" group, which has trips away twice a month. There will be nine at her home for Christmas dinner (family & friends) so this will be extra for someone who keeps pretty well.

---

Win MacLachlan

had a fall and hurt her right upper arm. She keeps very busy and will catch up with her family in Melbourne in January. Angus's children Jeanette and Ann are both grandparents and all are doing well.

---

Ralph & Sheila Conley

After the Safari they returned via the "Indian Pacific." It was a disaster, particularly Adelaide to Sydney. They both got a very bad virus, but are pretty much back to good health now. Their son, Paul is making very good progress.

---

Allan Mitchell says his eyes still play up and this limits what he can do locally, but is still a keen and active member of his RSL and asked after WA members.

---

---

George & Margo Shiels.

Told them that lots at the Safari asked after them and wondered why they were not there. Well, they had spent their money and time - U.S.A., Sydney, and Townsville - in fact just got back in early November. They've had a good mango crop this year and will spend their Xmas with their daughter at Mackay.

---

Jim Smith plays bowls three times a week on the green at his Domain Country Club. It so happens that he plays with or against my cousins who also live there! He'll have his Xmas with his family and friends at the Southport Yacht Club.

---

Bulla Tait is not doing too badly but needs the help of a stick to get around. It's been very dry so that the mango crop isn't good but the sugar cane is doing very well. It will be a family Xmas so Jean will be very busy. Vicky is coming up from Brisbane and their son and his family will be down from Townsville.

---

Tom & Jean Yates have both had operations and they've been successful, but meant they couldn't attend our Safari. They both enjoy lawn bowls and will have a quiet Xmas together.

---

Many have requested greetings to all.  
Me too!

**Ron Archer.**

---

---

**AN OLD SOLDIER Part 3.**

We arrived at Richmond Air Base, I do not remember the trip, but we must have gone by train to Sydney and then by train again to Richmond. Our little group of 2/2<sup>nd</sup> were together, but the rest of the group

came into the station in driblets and drabs, and were allocated their different bunks. I don't think there were any tents. I was now a sergeant and I ate at the Sergeant's mess.

We had a few RAAF personnel, some planters from Borneo and Malaya, Jan a Dutchman, who was the son or nephew of the top Dutch military commander in Australia, six Timorese of various tribes from Timor and a padre of whom we called Jumping Jesus, not to his face of course.

We were not to be paratroopers, who are trained by battalions but parachutists who would be dropped into enemy territory. The instructors were all ex wrestlers and boxers. We were given a pep talk, and all shaking in our boots for the last words were, when you go, up you will go out, even if we have to throw you out!

The C.O. of the Richmond station decided that the first thing for new trainees was to get some air experience even if anyone had been in a plane before. We were all excited about this and thought it was a good idea, so off we flew. It was a jumping plane, that means it had no door and it had a static line which was used for hitching our chutes to, just like a clothes line down the length of the plane. We flew around and saw the base from the air, and then we came into Sydney. We were all relaxed; the only seats were aluminium seats on each side of the plane, no hand rails on them. Des Williams a lieutenant from the 4<sup>th</sup> Coy was hanging onto the static line right near the door when all of a sudden the plane dive-bombed. I was somehow in the air, my big toe hit the roof and was sore for weeks, I could not reach the floor, and for a few seconds I was suspended in the air. I was thinking the plane is crashing, it will be over quick, then the plane came out of the dive, we hit the

floor and tried with all our might to stop ourselves from sliding towards the open door. Des Williams hung onto the static line so hard that he cut his hands. He could have gone out of the door. The story afterwards was that the C.O. had dive-bombed his wife's house at Bondi. Anyone else would have been court martialled.

We were there six weeks, we did lots of gym work, we practised somersaulting forward and backwards, and sideways, this was for when we landed. We somersaulted out of a plane body on wheels that we pushed along. We jumped out of a big high tower; this tower had a line down to the ground on an incline with a pulley wheel on it. We jumped out of the tower, dropped about six feet, which shook the guts out of you, then you rolled down this line about 100 ft on the incline down to the ground and you rolled at the end of it. I would rather jump out of a plane than that thing.

We used to run jog trot and walk about 2 miles every day before dinnertime, this was supposed to toughen you up but I did not feel like eating for this was in January. I lost about a stone in weight. I would not recommend it even in civilian life.

We were now ready to start jumping out of aeroplanes. You did not really jump; at the start you stand at the door, grasp a handle, and pull yourself out. There is about a foot of neutral air around the plane. We all sit around in the plane, the jump master Sergeant Walsh I think, sees that your chutes are attached to the static line, or I should say, your parachute harness which stays in the plane. The W.A.A.F. girls fold all these chutes and they have bits of string along the folding line that break in their turn. As the chute opens it only takes 2 seconds from the

time that you go out. All you feel is a gentle tugging on your chest but let me start again. The plane flies around to the D.Z. or dropping zone, and one person goes out, the next one moves up to the hot seat we called it, a green light comes on, that means five seconds and a red light comes on, that is when you go out. I was unlucky enough to be the last one out. The plane flies around 25 times and then it is my turn, but by this time my legs are like jelly and to make it worse the pilot mucked it up - it was not 5 seconds warning, it was about 3 seconds. Walshie started whacking me on the behind with his hands, jump, jump, jump he yelled, anyway out I went. A sergeant on the ground is yelling out at you with a megaphone, reverse your chute, which you can do by twisting the shroud lines that hold the chute together and then you are on the ground, punch into your release button, and gather in your chute. It is exhilarating, you have done it at only about 400 ft, but there is more to come.

After the first jump we jumped in twos, then three together, then five together all out quick. The plane comes down at an angle say 800 ft and by the time the last one is out, he is 300 ft from the ground. The first one out gets the best ride because he is in the air longer.

After about five jumps I developed a sore knee and they said I could not jump anymore until I was cleared by the doctor, so off to the doctor I went and I was greeted with - "Hello Freddie, what are you doing here?" It was none other than our Dr. McInerney, he was now the RAAF Dr. "Oh," he said, "You want to finish the course don't you?" I said yes, so he said jump on your other leg, which I did, you will do, he said and he gave me the okay to finish the course.

We now started 25 out at a time, you just run out into space as fast as you can go. If you don't go quickly, and the plane is moving, you will be strung out for half a mile. I always seemed to have Jumping Jesus in front of me, he was not a military man and did not realise the importance of getting out quickly consequently I was always pushing him. We all given our wings when we finished our parachute course, seven jumps in all, but the best part of the course was that we got 3 shillings a week extra in pay!

Fred Otway.

---

## **ERNIE EVENIS AS I KNEW HIM.**

**By Arthur Marshall**

Ernie joined the Unit at Canungra not long before we sailed for New Guinea. He was allocated to Three Section. Ernie was a solid sort of young man. He was about my build and he was someone that you would feel comfortable with when you were out on patrol.

On arrival in the Ramu Valley, Three Section was given the first area of patrolling along the river. It was a six-week stint and the nearest reserve was One Section, which was about half a day away, up the mountain, at 'A' Platoon headquarters at a place called Mullolli.

We were constantly on the go because the only way to know what the Japs were doing was to patrol around the river as much as possible.

One day our officer said to me, 'Have a bit of a rest. Take Ernie and Joe Palm and patrol up along the foot of the ranges.' This was about a little over a mile back from our camp and was considered safe ground. We climbed up a small part of a mountain and came to a cleared native garden about a chain

in width. It had an old rail fence around it to keep the pigs out. We decided it was a good place to open a tin of bully beef and have a bite of lunch.

We had been sitting with our backs against the fence for only a short while. Joe on one side, me on the other, with Ernie in the middle. All of a sudden, there was a loud explosion. Joe and I leapt to our feet, but Ernie didn't move. He had been shot through the hip no more than a foot in distance. We had rifles and emptied our mags into the jungle, but we knew it was a waste of time. We then turned our attention to Ernie. We found that he had been shot in the hip. We convinced ourselves that it was a deflected bullet, having hit the hip at a glancing blow and then it had come out again. How wrong we were. The hip was shattered.

We got Ernie up on one leg. Then what to do? Joe was only a short and slightly built young man. So, I soon realised it was up to me. I gave Joe all of my equipment, then, somehow got Ernie up on my shoulders. Then it was off down the mountain. How? Don't ask me. Ernie was as heavy as I was. But, fear works wonders at times. I carried him until we hit the flat ground where there was a track to follow. I couldn't go any further. It would have been half a kilometre. Then I sent Joe off; full bore to the camp about a mile away. I then sat Ernie on one side of the track and I went on the other. We then set up an ambush.

We fully expected to be followed. Ernie had my revolver and I had a rifle. The revolver was pointing down at the ground most of the time. I would yell at Ernie 'There's only two of us, and with that revolver pointing down like that, there's only one.' Ernie would try valiantly to get the revolver up, but down it would fall. I realise now what awful pain

he must have been experiencing, but I didn't at the time. Not then or even when he left us on the three day trek over the ten thousand-foot mountain range. He was a champion soldier and I wished that he could have stayed with us.

After a short while a makeshift stretcher was brought to us by half a dozen boys, and Ernie was carried back to our camp. We didn't have any medical staff with us even though we were the forward section. Not even any medicine. Amazing when I think about it now. Our field dressings had to be used for everything. We found some sulphur, a white powder and sprinkled it on his wounds. Then we tied field dressings wherever we could.

One of us stayed with Ernie all night. We took it in turns to get him water to drink or to light his cigarette or what ever. Next morning most of our section went back to the foot of the mountain range with Ernie. Then we said our goodbyes before we went one way and the bearers with Ernie went the other. The last words Ernie said to me was 'Give them hell Marsh.' I was always called by that name.

The doctor came from Goroka to meet the stretcher-bearers two days later. The bearers were Chimbu natives. They apparently did a marvellous job. None of our section went with them. Perhaps a native boy did. They tell me the doctor "blew his stack" when he saw that we hadn't set Ernie's leg. How stupid he must have been.

We were going off to look for whoever shot him. We travelled through the jungle for about an hour, when we came to a clear stream of water, which was situated between narrow cliffs. We mostly had new recruits and they were making quite a noise getting a drink. I

went about twenty yards along a track, there were several to choose from. I sat on a log and looked back at the boys and thought 'one grenade and you are all gone.'

Our officer decided to take the track over the log I was sitting on. About half a dozen of the men had followed him. As I stood up to join them, there was a roar of fire. I found that I had been sitting with my back to an ambush. We were fortunate because the fire went high. Bingham got his Bren going quick smart and soon they faded into the jungle. Just another day.

I heard that Ernie got home safely. His injury had left him with one leg shorter than the other. Ernie was only with us a few short months.

**NB** *We have since established that Ernie enlisted in WA at Capel in May 1943 when he turned 19. He must have joined us prior to our departure for New Guinea in late May or early June 1943 and was probably with the Unit for less than 2 months before being wounded. Ernie was discharged in Feb. 1946 after serving with the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Editor.*

---

### The "Glen Lee" Story.

Keith & Nola Wilson, with their young son David, moved to their new farming property "Glen Lee" in 1960. Situated 18 kilometres from Gilgandra in Central West New South Wales, the 800-hectare (2000-acre) property ran sheep, cattle and a few horses. Keith had a great love for horses and as a fine young strapping young man in the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> was known as "Horse" by his mates in 9 Section.

Keith & Nola were always very keen on horses and bought some good ones for themselves. In due course Michael and Julie Anne were born and as they and



David became older they too shared their parents love of horses. All became good riders, winning many competitions in pony club events. David in particular became very keen and dedicated to horses, and on leaving school to help his father on the property, took on breaking and educating horses for other people in his spare time. He had always wanted to go into breeding top quality stock horses of good temperament, conformation, and ability. Like Keith, he had a good eye for a quality horse. Between them, in 1976, they bought a lovely stallion called "Romantic Gold", and David then commenced the Glen Lee A.S.H. (Australian Stock Horse) Stud. With good mares that had been purchased over the years, many very nice foals were produced.

David had a great admiration for the ASH Stallion "Rivoli Ray", a top quality black horse, which was known as the most decorated horse in Australia having won countless ribbons in the show rings etc. He was owned by the Law family at Swan Vale near Glen Innes. David approached Barry Law and asked if he had a good quality stallion and he purchase "Rivoli Dollar" from him. In 1980 Barry asked David if he would be interested in buying "Rivoli Ray". It would be a dream come true if only he could raise the asking price of \$30,000, a record at that time for an ASH. He had to sell horses and stock and was eventually able to buy him.

David was now well on his way to do what he wanted and with some good station mares his foundations were rock solid to go ahead with his dream of breeding top quality stock horses. Unfortunately after only four years of buying "Rivoli Ray" the horse died from a twisted bowel. It was devastating for

David to lose such a grand and wonderful horse that had more than paid for itself with the serving fees and good progeny he had sired. Also he had left his mark on the ASH world. You can pick a horse sired by him by their quality and presence.

"Rivoli Raytech", sired by Warrenbri Romeo was born at Glen Lee in November 1996 and became a new branch in an impressive family tree. His dam "Glen Lee Rivoli Donna" herself competed at the highest level for eight years winning 79 campdrafts including the 1993 Australian Open Campdrafting Championship.

"Rivoli Raytech" is now the current top sire and has had an illustrious career winning national championships and being the first horse to win all the national titles. He has won in all the states he has competed in. David rates Ray Tech as one of the best horses Glen Lee has ever bred for type, temperament, conformation, and working ability. A big statement from a renowned breeder of top Australian stockhorses. David knows that breeding horses can be disappointing at times and says you need good breed lines on both sides to produce a top sire.

To their credit David and his wife Susan have by sheer hard work and application established a very successful stud proving its quality and standing by winning countless awards including most successful progeny point score at the NSW Championships 14 times. David too is a superb horseman and has been National Campdraft Rider a record 9 times. No mean feat. Susan is also a top rider and has won the Ladies Championship title. Their horses are in demand all over Australia and recently a mare at Glen Lee in foal to Rivoli



Raytech, was bought by a family in the U. S. A. Such is Glen Lee's fine reputation among stock horse breeders in Australia. Besides being a champion rider, David, now 50, is also in demand as a judge at horse shows throughout Australia and last year was in W.A. Glen Lee is a credit to all the Wilson family. It is a great pity that Keith, who passed away in July 1998, did not live to see the progress and success Glen Lee has achieved in recent years. He was so proud of David's dedication, hard work, and accomplishments. May this fine stud continue to provide stock horses of quality.

*Thank you Nola for giving us such interesting information on "Glen Lee".*

---

### **Asian Toast!**

#### **Chaplain Lindsay Carey, RAAF Base Williams, Laverton, Victoria.**

Thank you for your "Courier" Christmas gift (2003) - it has been great to read some personal narratives of commando life during WWII.

I thought I would drop you a line to let you know that over the past three years, during my time at RAAF Williams, there have been numerous military officers from across South East Asia who have attended the ADF Defence International Training School (DITC) here at Laverton. At DITC these officers study English (anything from 6 months to 2 years) and have the opportunity to experience Australian culture (at least the Eastern States version). The officer's mess is often a gathering of foreign uniforms - army, navy, and air force - from many different countries. On occasions I have been the only Australian in the dining room amidst a "mass" of foreign officers practicing their English while eating rice.

Each year there are usually a minority of officers (ie: n = 6) from East Timor (ET) that come to RAAF Williams. Given the fact that the ET students are only small in total number and given the efforts of 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commandos during WWII, I make a bee-line for these ET students so they can use me to practice their English (or rather my "Western Australian"). As the English course is quite demanding, and given that the ET students are a long way from home in a strange culture and surrounded by numerous other foreign officers (many of whom are Indonesian), life can be somewhat overwhelming for them! So I have tried my best to cheer the ET students up by telling them funny stories about Aussie creatures - like the Kangaroos and Quokkas, etc and by asking questions about their home villages etc.

On one occasion a group of various Asian officers, it seems, were getting a little jealous of the time I would spend with the East Timor students at lunch time. I found myself at a table surrounded by various Asian officers: "You spend much time here - we have a request to make to you!" demanded one senior female army officer with a loud voice. I felt the atmospheric tension rise around the large dining table! Everyone had stopped eating and stared at me. Even one of the stewards stopped work concerned about the tone of what was happening. "And what might that be?", I enquired. She continued: "We all have a need - not just those from East Timor". "Yes", I said, "How can I help?" All eyes were staring directly at me. "We want to know where we can purchase twenty electric toasters by tomorrow!" Twenty sets of shining white teeth smiled at me in happy expectation! Of all the requests to

make! Of all the things to want to take home with them - an Aussie made pop up toaster! It was explained to me that such an item was not available in their province.

Well, KMART greatly benefited from my "pastoral advice" that day.

Must go, hope your readers had a great Christmas and got more meaning out of it than just a toaster!

Thanks again for the Courier - you are obviously doing a great job as editor!!

*Thanks Linz, your old Mum gets it right now and again! Ed.*

---

### **Alan Luby Writes**

"The time has come The Walrus said, to speak of many things", and as I am unable to see properly to write cards to so many individual friends, may I do a "blanket job" through the pages of the Courier.

So please accept our sincere Xmas and New Year greetings to all our "Readers" from Edith and me. May the year 2004 bring those whose health has been pretty lousy, a good uplift and pain free.

The other most important item is to thank all dear friends for the numerous cards, phone calls and personal visits, from country wide during my lengthy hospitalisations. What a morale booster that has been!

As you are aware my sight has gone off quite a lot and I'm thankful that Paddy Kenneally, Harry Handicott, and Happy Greenhalgh can supply some local news.

Paddy has been a welcome visitor at Lachy Davidson and Peninsula Hospitals - thanks mate.

I moved into Kelvington Court, No. 26. Respite Centre, Howell Village, Old Northern Road, Castle Hill 2154 on 8<sup>th</sup> December until DVA can complete our

bathroom and other renovations. Meantime am a neighbour to Col and Val Holley.

Edith is still at Plateau View Nursing Home, Anzac Ave, Collaroy Plateau, 2099 much the same but would like to see her in better general condition. She sends her love to all.

On Saturday 6/12 we enjoyed our usual Xmas lunch at Dee Why RSL and with 13 old faithfuls present. Peta was my chauffer and we called to see Edith on the way back to L.D.H.

Best wishes, Alan.

---

### **CORRESPONDENCE.**

**Mrs A. O'Connor, Busselton, W.A.**

Enclosed cheque for \$30 towards any expenses incurred.

Happy Christmas and New Year to all.

Augusta O'Connor.

**J. & B. Steen, Thornlands, Qld.**

Thank you for the menu and itinerary, also for the fridge magnet. These things only go to show what we have missed.

I am quite well lately. Having the cataracts removed and new plastic lenses inserted in my eyes have opened up a whole new world.

Sorry that I can't say the same thing for Beryl for she gets quite sick often now and has to lie down. It's wicked that you have to go on a waiting list but I suppose it works for everybody bar politicians.

I have heard from "Happy" and Russ Blanch. What a great time that they all had. Russ has not stopped singing your praises.

Well Jack, thank you for writing and letting me know how things went. By the way we missed out on getting our money back from Qantas so we can put that

down to experience, so with that Jack & Delys, I trust that you are both happy and well and that you enjoy the Festive Season.

Best wishes and luck, Jack & Beryl.

---

### **P. Petersen, Fish Creek, Vic.**

We arrived home safely about 7 p.m. on Wed. 19<sup>th</sup>. Miriam travelled quite well (we flew out of W.A. at 6.10 a.m. so it was quite a long day!) She had started to recover from the virus she picked up and is now quite well.

The whole stay in your state was a fantastic experience for both of us. The 2-3 day coach tour s of South & North of Perth packed in so many wonderful places of interest.

Then to be followed by such a wonderful Safari - congratulations to both of you it went off with great precision and attention to detail. We hope you have not collapsed with relief.

What courage our not-so-well men strived to get there - no wonder they were such good soldiers!

The farm was still functioning and the bulls still with their "girls", not with the neighbours.

Hope this is legible, love Pat.

---

### **B. Devlin, Epping, N.S.W.**

I would like to thank you both for a great Safari, everyday was great!

The dinner could not have been better with so many attending ones I had never met before at the Safaris.

Company, accommodation was great and the trip home made it in plenty of time.

You may not know Leigh (15) won a Gold Medal in Perth in October 2003 where the National Roller-Skating

championships were held. She received very high marks for creative dance. Gary's girls in Brisbane, Naomi (16) Aimee (11) won Gold medals in Brussels for Skipping (don't laugh). You would be amazed at the movements they do. A lot of aerobics involved. Amelia (11) the other twin still has to achieve her forte. Nathan (21) finished his apprenticeship for bakery and Adam (20) apprentice painter. I am so proud of my grandchildren. Michael (eldest) is living with me at the present time, good company, rather quiet at times, likes his computer.

Well my friends, I'll say I never will meet a group of men again with their friendship, integrity, and their marvellous records, especially my Frank (Mick to you) during their time overseas. Also the ladies who blended so well together at all our get togethers. The Safaris will never be forgotten, all our happy times and such.

Last week we could see age has caught up with us all, but not our spirit, our hearts and smiles so I'll say keep smiling and God Bless to all and may we meet again.

Bye for now, will keep in touch, Love Betty.

P.S. Have a Happy Christmas and hope you like the tea towel, do you still collect them?

---

### **G. & M. Shiels, Bowen, Qld.**

May this letter find you as well in health as George and I, and may the year have been as happy as our year has been to us.

After all the travelling we fitted in last year, we decided to stay closer to home and apart from short trips to Townsville and Mackay and one to Sydney it has been a peaceful sojourn on the farm, but we are both kept busy.

The farmer in George came to the fore and we had a very productive fruit and vegetable garden. There was enough produce to share with all our friends and neighbours. The land being bountiful we still have pawpaws, passionfruit, bananas, and now mangoes, with 87 huge onions that are not quite ready for harvesting (so George says! It is the first time he has grown onions) With the price of onions in the shops here I am ready to harvest them! George still has his interests in the RSL, Legacy, and his Masonic Lodge that keeps him busy.

I have had a satisfying year with writing, sewing and all the other social activities I could fit in.

The family is well and busy in their separate sphere of activity. We have been fortunate to have contact with them all the past few months, and with us home here in Bowen it has been an incentive to have them come home to see us.

Bowen itself seems to be on the move. Finally it is being discovered as a beautiful part of paradise, and houses and spare allotments are being sold at premium prices that we hope it is not being turned into a tourist nightmare. As it is, in the winter months there are no vacancies at caravan parks and no parking spaces for cars at all the beaches.

However the primary industries are being built up with the small crops agriculture still "topping" the country produce output, and now we have two prawn, crab and barramundi aquiculture fisheries with a third (and the largest in Australia) to commence in 2004. All this augurs well for the community.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy 2004.

Margo & George.

---

**K. B. Sargeant, Gympie, Qld.**

The enclosed tells only why I can't write my usual letters to relatives and friends. I have not found a remedy. I am allergic to so many things.

The enclosed is for the Courier. Sorry, I no longer have a cheque book.

Hope the safari was a happy time for all. The ranks are certainly thinning out.

Keep well dears, Love Kathleen.

---

**B. Cullen, Kyogle, N.S.W.** I have enclosed a cheque payable to the Association, use as you decide.

"Happy" rang a couple of nights back. The Safari was successful in every way (according to Happy) memories aplenty, friendship, and fellowship enjoyed by all that attended. Reward for the long hours and planning during the many months. Thank you for the updated address book, also the "Courier".

Kind regards to you. Beryl.

---

**J. Peake, Waikiki, W.A.**

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$50 to be put towards the cost of the Courier from Joyce Gorton. Mum is in a nursing home and quite frail but the family always enjoys reading the news in the Courier.

Enjoy the Season and keep up the good work of the Courier. Please send the receipt to me.

Regards and God bless,

Jan Peake on behalf of Joyce Gorton.

P.S. Thank you for the magnet.

---

**Y. Walsh, Randwick, N. S. W.**

Thank you for your Christmas card and "Hello" again at last!

My return from Perth developed into a 6-week excursion back across the Nullarbor to Sydney via Adelaide, Melbourne, and Wagga - accomplished entirely by train!

I really needed a "time and space" journey to settle my emotions as I begin to adjust to life without my darling husband Vince.

I decided each day about staying where and with whom, and when to move on. I met Ian & Margaret Ronald in Glenelg, took up their invitation to stay for a few days, and did the same again with Dorothy and Ed Bourke in Melbourne.

I feel very privileged to have been accepted into the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Community - the Perth events I found to be overwhelming at times, but I'm so glad to have had the experience of meeting all the magnificent men of the Independent Companies.

Vince too was an exceptional man, and although he had closed the Timor chapter of his life - he didn't even join the RSL til the 1980's - the Courier provided information and the contact he wanted. Vince had had intermittent contact with Alan Luby over the years and was also in touch with Jack on the phone a couple of years ago and was also in touch with the NSW Commando Association.

Of course much of his Timor experiences were never elaborated to me - Vince told me of the razorback mountains and fast rising rivers, of hunger and pulling-out his teeth, about the beauty of the Timorese, their bushcraft and stamina.

It is obvious all the original Commandos had exceptional qualities in their characters - both as individuals brought together by circumstance, and as a body of colleagues in arms not rank and file, and this endures today.

Ron Archer kept his word and wrote to me regarding the Memorial East Timor Trust - I'd be happy to assist in whatever way the Executive of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Association wish.

I haven't made contact with Chris Hartley yet, but I recall his recommendation/offer at the final meeting in Perth that we members of the next generation, be the doers for you originals - ie researching or organising or assisting with any other activities for the Association.

I have my own Timor interest too: I made contact with students of Notre Dame Uni whilst in Perth - they have established a development project in Dare I think, and were raising funds to send the next batch of students. I'll let you know further, when I hear from them.

The Perth Safari events reel around my head and heart - I have many letters to write and photos to send (I'll need the Kenneally's help to identify the bods in the photographs)

It's ironic that Vince has gone, and that I'm now involved in his past life. I would be honoured to offer my services as deemed appropriate, to further the interests of the Old Commandos of 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Association.

My best wishes to you all for the Year of the Monkey - let's hope for a peaceful year ahead.

Regards, Yvonne Walsh.

---

### **K. Sergeant, Gympie, Qld.**

Sorry dears, but because of cramps in my hands I am finding it hard to write so I will have to forego my usual Christmas letters to year.

I want you to know how much I have appreciated your cards and letters over the years. Having had my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

this year, I am beginning to realise age has caught up with me.

All my family is well. John and Kath seem to have a busy retirement and continue in good health. They manage some trips away and are the most widely travelled in the family when it comes to seeing Australia. I am fortunate that they live close to me.

Jan & Greg remain optimistic that the drought will break soon. They say you don't have to be mad to be farmers, but it helps! Mac finishes year 12 this year and will have a year off before going to University in 2005. Katie goes into Year 11 next year.

Our friendship over the years has kept me going. Just having known you all has made this sad world a better place.

Have Happy Christmas dears with your loved ones and friends.

Good health and happiness in the coming year. Fond love Kath.

---

**E. & L. Newton, Broken Hill, N.S.W.**

Sorry we didn't make the Safari this time. The years have caught up to us at last.

I met Harry and Amyce at the train going through to Sydney and he told me all the news. Also caught up with Ralph & Sheila Conley at the Musicians Club over the road from the station. They all seem to have had a great time.

I found this photo a few days back; it was published in the "Adelaide Mail". I guess you know them - Stan King, Merv Cash and myself taken the other side of the Ramu River. I have a copy so keep it.

Trust things are going okay for both Delys and you. We are okay but slowing up.

All the very best, Elsie and Lionel.

**M. Monk, Poowong, Vic.**

In time again to send Christmas greetings to relatives and friends near and far. Every year seems to go faster than the last and Christmas seems to come around quicker each time. We wish everyone good health and happiness.

2203 has been a busy year for us in lots of ways. As usual there have been sad times and happy times - weddings, birthdays and reunions etc.

Our trip to Perth to attend the last Safari was a new experience for us as we decided to go by train and booked as far back as July.

We left Melbourne on Saturday evening 8<sup>th</sup> November and went on the "Overlander" to Adelaide - arrived there on Sunday a.m. and had a city tour, then boarded the "Indian Pacific" in the evening and set off. Had a very nice tea and saw a beautiful sunset out the left window while the moon was rising on the right hand side. We came to a stop at Port Augusta to be told a freight train had derailed at Bates on the Nullarbor and we were to return to Adelaide. We then went by plane to Perth. It was a bit disappointing however we had a great time with our 2/2<sup>nd</sup> friends.

I thought you might like these photos. Hope you have recuperated after the Safari - you both did a marvellous job. It was wonderful.

I still enjoy judging and exhibiting flowers and most of all growing them. Our gardens are very colourful - roses, poppies, sweetpeas and others. We also grow some vegies too.

It's hot and dry here at the moment, we're watching the cricket while doing our cards and letters. All the best for Christmas and 2004.

Margaret & Don.

*Thanks for the photos Margaret. Ed.*

**T. Pulleine, Young, N.S.W.** I am enclosing \$70 - a joint amount from Terry Paul and myself. \$50 for the trust Fund and \$20 for the Courier or as you deem necessary. Could you tell me what medals we were entitled to? I served Timor and New Guinea. The question really is are we entitled to the Defence Medal?

I'm on 100 % disability, missed out on 150 % on life style. I can cook a meal, drive, and do a little shopping - that's what lost me the extra 50 %. Mind you I'm not whingeing, I do very well.

My birth date is 7/11/24, at 79 I think I would have been the youngest or very close to it in the Unit. I put my age up to 18, but they said go home sonny so I went to another enlistment office, put my age up 5 years and all I got was - you look young for 21, so that was that!

The main reason I haven't been a good correspondent is having 14 children who now have 65 grand & great grandchildren. They've kept me busy!

They call Young the Cherry Capital of Australia but in the last 10 - 15 years it has really gone ahead. In that time we have got KFC, Best & Less, Harvey Norman, Woolworths Big W, Reject Shop, Rivers and many more business outlets. We are also in the process of getting a new hospital.

I'm still hanging in there. I've had a spell in John James Hospital, Canberra, 2 lung infections, cellulitis, which I've had three times. I have implants for prostate cancer every three months, am on oxygen at night and on and off during the day. It seems every time the Dr. fixes me up I get something else. However there is a good side to life, I'm really quite happy having such a large family to interact with, makes carrying on

worthwhile. I enjoy the Courier; it's great as are the ones who make it possible.

Well that's all for now, God Bless,  
Sincerely, Tom.

---

**G. Shields, Bowen, Qld.**

Just a short note to say hullo and wish you all the best for 2004.

Everything is going well in this part of the territory. The dry spell has stopped and we have had good rain. Hope to have more as our usual wet season starts next month. The local farmers had a fair season with their small crops but as usual would prefer a better one.

Margo and I are keeping well. I keep myself busy enough with the local R.S.L. and Legacy, growing roses, vegetables, pawpaws and mangoes. A chap picks the mangoes and gives me 50 % so no worries there. The rest of the produce is given away, sometimes a barter system for fish, crabs and prawns. The main effort is keeping the place reasonably tidy. Get away occasionally for short trips to Mackay or Townsville.

Sorry I could not make it for the final reunion but circumstances did not fit in, have hopes of going over some time. The hope is to go via the Kimberley and down South returning via S.A. Hope is there and we should make it some day.

Health is no problem so far; it is making the suitable time

I am enclosing a cheque to assist the Association. We both enjoy the Courier and hope you continue to keep up the good work.

This is a marathon effort from me so I will close and again all the best,

Best wishes, George.



---

**I. Scott, Neutral Bay, N.S.W.**

Enclosed please find cheque, the disposal of same, I leave to you.

My sincere best wishes to you both for a very "Happy and Healthy 2004" or as healthy as these "Golden Years" permit!  
Ian Scott.

---

**L. Davies, Dicky Beach, Qld.**

So please the "The Last Hurrah" went off so well for all of you, wonderful memories.

Thank you also for my 2/2<sup>nd</sup> magnet, it is in pride of place on my fridge.

I'm enclosing a cheque for \$100 for you to use for the Courier and the Trust Fund or as you wish.

Looking forward to the long awaited book.

Best wishes to all and hope you are both well.

Kind regards, Lois Davies.

---

**K. Jones, Barraba, N.S.W.**

I am enclosing s cutting out of the Herald dated 4.2.04 with respect to Sam Fullbrook's death. I rang Happy Greenhalgh and he suggested I post it to you.

I am also enclosing another cutting out of the paper regarding Tim Cape's death which Happy thought you might be interested in.

We have had 6 inches of rain here and the country is looking wonderful and hope you are having a great season over there.

I trust you are both well, we are both fighting fit. Once again congratulations on the way you both organised and ran the Safari.

Both my boys are in business and they were extremely impressed, as they know how difficult but how enjoyable it is to

be able to organise a show like that successfully.

Bye for now, yours sincerely, Ken Jones.

*Thanks for the paper cuttings on Sam Fullbrook and Maj. Gen. Tim Capes. They were most helpful for the Courier articles. Yes Ken, our farmers in the main, had a very good season. Ed.*

---

**F. Wilks, Brunswick Junction, WA.**

I received your welcome letter at Xmas time and glad to hear we've still got some mates left and going well.

I'm still in the land of the living but don't get too far these days as I can't drive cars any more, and need help to get into them. But for 80 years on I can't complain much. I get looked after very well by my family and taken wherever I want to go. I could very likely catch up with someone from 5<sup>th</sup> June as I'll be staying with my daughter in Perth for 4 weeks. I sure would like to meet up with them all again and join the gang again.

I'll give you my place of stay in Perth, when the time comes around I can be contacted or I will try to contact you.

My address will be: - 2 Colony Court, Thornlie 6108. Ph. No. 0403 0184

Hope to catch up then and meet you.

Best wishes to all, Fred Wilks.

*Welcome back to the fold, Blue! Ed.*

---

**J.P. Kenneally, Yagoona, NSW.**

We are currently having a little relief from the heat. It has been a scorchingly hot humid summer, and not a skerrick of rain. The evaporation from our dams is enormous.

Our medical patients are faring well. Alan Luby returned to his unit at Dee Why on February 9<sup>th</sup>. I haven't seen him for a

couple of weeks; he has however spoken to Nora on the phone and assures her all is well with him. One thing I can vouch for is he so much better now than when I saw him in hospital last August, it is hard to believe he is the same man! As far as I know Edith is still in a nursing home.

Ron Hilliard is in great form. I saw him a couple of weeks ago, had a talk and a couple of beers at Arncliffe RSL. Pat keeps in very good health so he has two good minders in Pat and Glenn.

All out tribe are well, the grandchildren are back at school, high and primary, whilst gemma (Gerald's daughter) decided on Uni and work as well. Her working hours will be arranged so as not to impede on her Uni attendances. She is a very strong willed girl with a big addiction for work.

Nora is well, survived her infections, and coped with a big clan gathering for Christmas tea.

I have nothing to complain about as I go through life at an easy pace, play cards, read, argue and a couple of nice cold beers - life's been good to me.

I missed seeing Col Holley when visiting Alan at Howell Village. Alan told me Col was seeing a specialist. Col had problems with his legs. His doctor was adamant it was Sciatic nerve trouble. The specialist was to check Col's circulation and was probably on the right track. When I last saw Col at Christmas '02 he was with "Snow" Went, two of the fittest men in our Association so I sincerely hope all is well with him.

Sam Fullbrook died and with his passing we have lost one of our most colourful characters. I'll leave it for his Vale.

To Gerry Green and Harry Sproxton I send my sincerest wishes for a speedy recovery to both. Harry of course I have always believed to be a walking miracle.

Good fortune and happiness galore to all our members and their families wherever they may be.

Paddy Kenneally.

---

**B. Payne, Merredin, WA.**

To the President & Members of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Association of Australia.

Thank you for your condolences upon Stan's passing.

Yes, if he was as good a soldier as he was a farmer and community member he would have done a great job and I know he did.

I wish to say a special thank you to the members who were able to attend the funeral and participate in the ceremony.

Hope to see members again. Yours sincerely, Barbara Payne.

P.S. Please note change of address to 55 Coronation St, Merredin.

---

**H. Cowie, Warners Bay, NSW.**

Thank you for still sending me the Courier. And what a surprise the double diamond fridge magnet, Bill would have been so pleased. He was always proud of belonging to the other boys. It is in pride of place next to his photo.

I have had a couple of bad spots, but lucky to have survived, a stroke and a bad fall - the last of hospitals I hope. I'm 86 now, everyone reckons I look good. Thank God for walking sticks, ha!

Warners Bay is a lovely place, plenty of cafes, entertainment on the waterfront, and performing arts etc. (Different to the old days, I never dreamt I would end here.) There are units in every street.

Hope you are well, and the rest of the boys and girls, from Helen Cowie.

**B. & B. Price, Dover, Tasmania.**

At last pen to paper - first since our final "Safari" and what a great hurrah! To me personally it was far beyond my expectations - first time ever in Perth. Heard so much about the city and people, it was great to be made so welcome. I recall the late Mark Conroy telling me about his visit many years ago, and saying if you ever get the chance to go - GO! So pleased I did.

To be met at the airport by Jack Carey, taken to the hotel, was very special, and put me at ease, and then to meet Del again was great - then the meet up with others I knew from the Hobart Safari. Things just went okay.

Sharing a room with George "Happy" Greenhalgh, he knows his way around, and knows how to make a good cup of tea early in the morning - thanks Happy - the nickname really suits.

The organisation of trips to wonderful places we visited must have taken many, many days. Buses to passenger boats, meals, and show places such as the Maritime Museum then later back home by bus all done with no problems - thanks Jack and Del and your helpers.

The official dinner was done to perfection, the meal, speakers, and the singers. I think I saw a few tears from Paddy and Nora as they joined in with the Irish songs.

To most, being at the hotel together allowed us to mix freely and talk of days gone by and of course times ahead.

To see and talk to Don Turton for a few minutes meant so much to me. I can never the time in East Timor when Bill Epps, Mark Conroy and myself were on a recce and met up with 253 Japs, so close we were able to count them. We were not sure what to do, so made a

hasty retreat eventually got back to where our platoon was, but no one there, until Don walked out from the scrub.

I wanted to ask Don did he recall when "Smash" Hodson and myself blew a road leading into Dili. Don has rung me since I came home and I have meant to call back, I will do so soon.

The memorial service on the Sunday was very moving, emotional, it brought back so many memories, proud memories of men we served with. Sad memories for those that gave their all in battle. The site of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> memorial in such grounds, amongst native trees and ground covers with the plaques for the fallen must very unique. I looked at some names and was thinking of Les Moles who we lost in action the last few days in Timor. I have seen a memorial plaque for him in Queensland, I think at a railway station some years ago.

Jack and Dei took "Happy" and I for a Chinese meal in Northbridge, it was an eye opener for me. The meal was great! The number of people on the streets and in establishments amazed me. Most seemed to be of Asian origin.

Billie was pleased with the gold disc with details of the Safari on it that I brought home for her from the Perth Mint.

I gave a short talk to our local RSLA Sub Branch (Esperance) on our last Safari and many were interested, especially 2<sup>nd</sup> World War Veterans. Many don't bother with reunions etc and I have told them they are missing out on that special comradeship and mateship formed in war service. The 2/40<sup>th</sup> Battalion Old Comrades Assoc. are having the annual reunion in Launceston on the 20, 21, 22 Feb. I am going with an old 2/40<sup>th</sup> mate, Jim Cane. We are the only two surviving south of Hobart. The 2/12 battalion who I served with in New Guinea Morotia and

Borneo after Timor, has given up reunions, but we in the south of Tasmania meet at the Derwent Barracks every month for a B.B.Q with local 12/40<sup>th</sup> Infantry, keeps us together.

Since coming back from the Safari I have had no problem with my heart, the stents put in must be doing the job, but my leg and back does not get any better. I have a job to walk at times. I have an appointment with a neuro-surgeon this week to see what a MRI ex-ray shows.

Billie is well, has her diabetes under control, and helps others with their problems.

Well Del and Jack I have rambled on about things, but I enjoyed the Safari so much and it meant so much to me, so I did to all who were there and I am sure we all give our sincere thanks to Jack & Del with their helpers for such a wonderful time.

Keep smiling, Bert & Billie.

---

#### **L. Cooper, Cowes, Victoria.**

Enclosed please find an obituary of Sam Fulbrook who passed on recently. The last time I saw Sam was at John Robert's funeral some four years ago. John was one of the few that Sam ever contacted

I can't write much these days as the result of several mini-strokes recently when I fell and severed a ligament in my shoulder. I can't play golf either. Vet Affairs look after me pretty well with an EDA card, just have to take it quietly.

Best wishes, Leith Cooper.

---

#### **D. Friend, Wanneroo, WA.**

A short note to let you know I have a new address as above. This will only be temporary while my daughter is having a new house built in the area called

Darch. We hope to be in by the end of May.

I'm slowly accepting being on my own but it has been very hard. It is sad to read the paper and the Unit newsletter and see how many more have passed on and my heart goes out to all their families.

I'm enclosing a small donation to help carry on your great works.

Hoping you and your family are keeping well.

Sincerely yours, Daphne Friend.

---

#### **C. Marks, Walkerville, S.A.**

I am writing to let you know how Howard Marks is dealing with his Alzheimers problems. He has had this terrible disease for over 9 years now but it is quite remarkable how he has not deteriorated so quickly as others in Helping Hand. For instance he still laughs at birds and animals and grins at me when I visit. Of course he does have off days. Every week if the weather is suitable I take him for a long walk in the wheelchair (about 1 1/2 hours) during this time he is quite interested in building activities etc.

Helping Hand Aged Care is the best in Adelaide and there is a very caring staff. Howard was always a very active man, always outdoors or in the shed. He enjoyed TV and reading books and doing crosswords. However we got dealt a bad time on the land with apricots and oranges, dried fruit and canning fruit plus wine grapes getting the stick from world trade and government.

I would also like to say that our youngest lives in Sydney and has been to New Guinea twice on the Kokoda Trail and meeting the Highlanders and the

Commandos at the Memorial. Her address is Gillian M. Marks, Unit 2/28 Darlingpoint Rd, Darlingpoint. NSW 2327. She is keeping in touch with the affairs of the native people and arranged a visit to Sydney Swans for the leaders. She is not impressed with the logging of the forest by Malaysia and hopes something will be done to protect the people plus the reunification of Dutch New Guinea.

Enclosing a note left at Helping Hand by Bert Bache.

With best wishes to all, Carmel Marks, wife of Howard.

---

### **Pars On People.**

Gerry Green had elective surgery on both of his knees on the 4<sup>th</sup> February and after three weeks in Hollywood is back home again. Gerry is moving around cautiously with the aid of a stick but has lost his appetite and is looking a lot thinner. He will be 88 in May. Good luck Gerry.

Helen Poynton had a Xmas she would like to forget. On the 19<sup>th</sup> December she had a bad fall in her home resulting a broken left wrist, as well as having 15 stitches in her head and splitting her right kneecap. Her knee was in splints for 9 weeks and naturally she was unable to drive her car and was in great pain with her injury.

Helen is feeling a lot better now thank goodness and is driving again. Joe also is not well and has a problem with his lungs resulting in shortness of breath. Joe went into "Greenfields" aged care home at Mandurah on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and will see out the rest of his days there. It was a hard decision for Helen and the family to make but he was

getting too difficult for Helen to manage. God bless two wonderful people.

Henry Sproxton was another who spent two weeks in Hollywood in February. Henry, who suffers from chronic bronchiectasis developed double pneumonia but pulled through okay after a strong course of anti-biotics and is now back home. He is still a bit wobbly on it but is facing up to his problem with courage and with the support from his many friends.

Mark Jordan, who had a very nasty fall back in November and spent over two months in Joondalup Hospital, is now back home. Mark still cannot put his full weight on his right leg and is walking with the aid of a frame. He exercises the leg daily and it will be some months before his leg is back to normal. Mark has lost about 10 kilos but he and Elsie are still able to enjoy life, which is a good thing.

Pat Costello, mentioned by Paddy earlier in the Courier, wishes to be remembered to all. Pat's wife, Dorothy, is an invalid and Pat tends to her needs with loving care. He hails from Tipperary and his father fought in World War I in the Royal Irish Fusiliers. God bless you both.

Jess Epps has settled back in at the Crystal Halliday Village. She has her own room and is gradually settling in to her new routine. Jess who was always on the go and forever helping others misses those active times and fills in her day watching TV and reading and of course talking on the phone when the occasion arises. Her phone number is (08) 9341 4744 and all callers are welcome. Bless you Jess.

"Snow Went" - Paddy Kenneally reports that Snow is his usual bright self. he has a few knee problems and as he puts it "I don't jitterbug anymore!" Snow puts a

smile on everyone's dial. He just spreads cheerfulness and laughter everywhere he goes.

Alan Luby - I'm sure all members will be pleased to know that Alan is back home again after nearly six months in hospitals and a rehab centre. He is coping pretty well but has to be very careful moving around on his new left leg. Healthwise Alan is feeling the best he has been for years. Edith is still in a care situation. We can only hope they will be together again soon. God bless you both.

Colin Holley underwent a triple bypass on the 24<sup>th</sup> February and is now recuperating in the rehab centre at Mt. Wilga. We trust Colin will soon be back home again.

J. Carey.

---

### **Sick Parade.**

Tony Bowers who celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in January, has angina and is having back trouble which is very painful for the big man. This curtails his activities. We hope your condition improves soon Tony.

---

Wilf March is now in his 5<sup>th</sup> year of chemotherapy treatment and according to his specialist is in a type of remission and is doing a lot better than anticipated. Wilf has his good and bad days and reckons reaching 87, which he did on 15<sup>th</sup> February, is not a bad effort for an old sapper. Good luck to you and Lorraine.

---

Bluey Bone is another on chemo treatment. Bluey has improved a little after returning from the Safari not all that well. Still with the footy season coming on Blue will have something to take his

mind off his troubles that's providing Hawthorn do well! Our thoughts are also for Mary his devoted wife.

There would be very few of our members out there that are not putting up with some aches or pains of varying degrees. Keep soldiering on - what else can you do?

### **BIRTHDAY BOYS.**

|                  |                       |    |
|------------------|-----------------------|----|
| Reg Tatum        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan.  | 84 |
| Allan Mitchell   | 4 <sup>th</sup> "     | 80 |
| Tony Bowers      | 14 <sup>th</sup> "    | 85 |
| Keith Hayes      | 15 <sup>th</sup> "    | 83 |
| Peter Campbell   | 18 <sup>th</sup> "    | 83 |
| Eric Herd        | 20 <sup>th</sup> "    | 85 |
| Bert Bache       | 29 <sup>th</sup> "    | 83 |
| Paddy Kenneally  | 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb.  | 88 |
| Harry Sproxton   | 8 <sup>th</sup> "     | 81 |
| Ed Bourke        | 8 <sup>th</sup> "     | 81 |
| Wilf March       | 15 <sup>th</sup> "    | 87 |
| Bernie Langridge | 3 <sup>rd</sup> March | 87 |
| Bill Connell     | 12 <sup>th</sup> "    | 81 |
| Ted Monk         | 13 <sup>th</sup> "    | 84 |
| Alan Adams       | 18 <sup>th</sup> "    | 85 |

*If you would like your name on the birthday list please let me know, Ed.*

---

### **Courier Donations.**

Wyn Thomson, Augusta O'Connor, Dick Darrington, Don Murray, Doc Wheatley, Kath Sargeant, Joyce Gorton, Alma Moore, Mavis Sadler, Tom Pulliene & Terry Paul, George & Margo Shiels, Ian Scott, John Burrridge, Lois Davies, Jack & Beryl Steen, Daphne Friend, Helen Cowie.

---

**Trust Fund.**

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Clare West                  | \$20 |
| Patsy Thatcher              | \$50 |
| Beryl Cullen                | \$25 |
| Mavis Sadler                | \$30 |
| Tom Pulliene and Terry Paul | \$50 |
| Henry Sproxton              | \$50 |
| Ian Scott                   | \$50 |
| Lois Davies                 | \$50 |
| Jack & Beryl Steen          | \$50 |
| Alan Luby                   | \$50 |

Change S. Payne to Mrs B. Payne  
55 Coronation St.  
 Merredin. 6415

B. Langridge  
 Correct Ph. No. (08) 9313 0307

**Victoria.**

Mr P. Craig of Beech St Wodonga  
 Change to P.O. Box 49  
 Bethanga. 3691 .

**Change of Address.W.A.**

Mrs J. Chatfield,  
 "Village Life"  
 5 Sticks Boulevard  
 Erskine. 6210

A. Claney  
 10 Wren Court  
 St. John's Tce  
 Wangaratta 3677

Mrs J. Gorton  
 C/o 13 Reveley St  
 Waikiki 6169

**Queensland.**

Allan Mitchell  
 New Ph. No. (07) 5438.0158

Mr F. Wilks  
 74 Hale St.  
 Eaton. 6232  
 Ph. (08) 9725 2990

---

*Always remember to forget the troubles  
 that pass your way; BUT NEVER forget  
 the blessings that come each day.*

Mrs Anne McKenzie  
 27 Lombardy St.  
 Woodlands. 6018

---

**GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD.**

Mrs J. Epps  
 Chrystal Halliday Homes  
House 5, Room 1.  
 61 Jeanes St  
 Karrinyup 6018  
 (08)9401 7584.

- 1) *When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.*
- 2) *Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.*
- 3) *It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.*
- 4) *Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.*



---

## **ANZAC DAY, SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2004.**

W.A. Members please take note, this year we will assemble at 9.30 a.m. in St. George's Terrace,  
West of the Barrack St intersection.

The march will commence from there heading East along the Terrace, right wheeling into Victoria Avenue, then left wheeling into Terrace Road into Langley Park for the service.

Check the West Australian issue of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April for confirmation.

A luncheon will follow at "The Good Earth Hotel" from 12 noon to 2.30 p.m.

Members who are unable to march and require transport are asked to advise J. Carey on 9332.7050 by 20<sup>th</sup> April.

See you on Anzac Day!

---

## **Commemorative Photo.**

The signed group photo taken after our Commemoration Service held in Lovekin Drive, King's Park on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2003 during the Safari, has been laminated to protect it in transit. It is a great memento of the occasion.

Cost including postage and packaging is \$15 a copy. Additional copies posted within the same package are \$10 each. Those in W.A. who are able to pick up the photo, the charge is \$10. Ring (08) 9332 7050 to order your photo or write to J. Carey, 13 Stoddart Way, Bateman. 6150.

---

An Islander boy and his father were visiting the city.

They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and then slide back together again.

The boy asked, "What is this, Father?"

The father (never having seen an elevator) responded "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life, I don't know what it is".

While the boy and his father were watching with amazement, a fat old lady in a wheel chair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls

opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched the small circular numbers above the walls light up sequentially.

They continued to watch until it reached the last number and then the numbers began to light in the reverse order. Finally the walls opened up again and a gorgeous, voluptuous 24 year old blonde woman stepped out.

The father, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to his son ... "Go get your mother".



*Annual Reunion Dinner held at Monash House, Perth in 1948.*

*"Ah, they were the days, my friend!"*