



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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President J. Carey, Secretary ~~D. Carey~~, Editor T.J. Vanderveldt

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CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Christmas was always a big occasion when I was growing up in Fremantle in the early 1930's. One Christmas to the next seemed to take ever such a long time. Now it seems to come around in next to no time – I guess it is one of the problems of growing old. Every Christmas Eve saw the shops remaining open until 9pm. It was always popular with the Fremantle people who took advantage to complete their Christmas shopping. Money was scarce and people saved carefully during the year for the occasion. Despite the hard times the true spirit of Christmas prevailed. Sitting on the lawn in St Johns Square on a balmy December evening watching all the activities with the Salvation Army playing carols in the background was a pleasant experience. Later St Patrick's was always packed for midnight mass, there being a large population of Irish-Italian migrants in the Port town.

Seventy five years on things have changed. We are living in far more prosperous times. The advent of the credit card has meant people can now obtain goods much more freely paying on the "never never" as they say. Decorations abound and life proceeds at a hectic pace and some maintain we are far too materialistic in our outlook and there may be some truth in what they say.

On the other hand Christians of all denominations still throng churches to celebrate the great feast of the birth of the Infant Jesus in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago and the feeling of Goodwill and Peace replaces the cut and thrust of every day life for the brief Christmas period. Long may it be so.

To our 2/2nd members, their families, widows (God Bless them) and friends have a Happy Christmas and may the New Year treat you kindly.

Now in our mid 80's members are mindful of the problems besetting this big world we live in but at our stage of life there is nothing we can do about it except hope that sanity will one day prevail. We can however gain satisfaction to know that in the course of our lifetime we have done our very best to try and make it a better place.

"God Bless"

J.Carey

**VALE Ross Martin SHENN
WX31061****23 November 1922 -16 September
2006**

The following Eulogy was kindly provided by his son Bruce.

Ross was born in Guildford WA and perhaps it was this close proximity to the Swan River that initiated his love of water sports which lasted a lifetime.

He attended Guildford Primary School before moving onto Hale School in Havelock Street, West Perth for his secondary education. He excelled in a variety of sports while at Hale and successfully represented the school in athletics, swimming and football.

World War 2 interrupted any immediate vocational course and Ross joined the AIF in 1941 and became a trooper in the 2/2 Australian Cavalry Commando Squadron, serving most of his time in New Guinea. The 'double red diamond' card took pride of place in his wallet and in latter times he looked forward to the reunion of the 2/2 each November in Kings Park and enjoyed catching up with his mates.

His business career began on discharge from the Armed Forces in 1945 when he joined his father who was manager for W.J. Bush & Co. in Perth. His early years were with the cosmetics company Potter & Moore in WA which was a subsidiary of W.J. Bush & Co.

His success with Potter & Moore led W.J. Bush to transfer him and family to Sydney where his responsibilities were to expand the sale of Bush & Co. flavours to food industry clients in the Sydney metropolitan area as well as country areas in North and Western

NSW. During his 4 years based in Sydney he earned an enviable reputation for honesty and integrity and achieved many successes with food and beverage clients.

He treated business not as a 9-5 Monday to Friday necessity, but as an integral part of his working and social life. In the mid 1950's he, with wife and children returned to Perth to take over as manager of WJB WA on his father's retirement where his business successes continued. He and wife Beth once again embraced business as part of their social life and most clients and their partners became regular social contacts and many went on to become life long friends. Some of his honorary roles included management positions in The Soft Drink Association of WA and the Food Technology Association and for some years he was responsible for catering at the Nedlands Yacht Club. Ross' management and organizational skills were well recognized and utilised by all organizations with which he was associated.

As a family man Ross was always there to provide subtle guidance – as was his way – full well knowing that there was no teacher better than experience. He was willing to tackle pretty much anything around the house or garage and the fact that he had no trade was of little deterrent. If it was broken he'd fix it – from watches to washing machines; mowers to motor cars – though there was some conjecture as to whether the new piston rings he put in one little green rear-engine Renault increased rather than decreased the blue haze that used to follow that vehicle! He would enjoy coming to my property in Toodyay as long as he was kept busy, and to keep him busy required the pre-planning of a list of chores and preparing to be worn out in trying to keep up with his seemingly

never-ending energy supply. He would always approach tasks logically and calmly and keep his cool under stress. That was just as well as not so many years ago when he helped me put in a new horse paddock, we had just finished the fencing and put in a shelter and water trough which had taken a full weekend of pretty much non-stop labour, I then turned the electric fence on and we rounded up the horses to show them their new home. In they went without a problem. As they do, it was then time for them to explore the perimeter of their new paddock. Unfortunately the thoroughbred filly became over-excited and over-confident with her knowledge of the new fence line and did a 'final furlong sprint' down the back side of the paddock. I could see that where Ross was standing outside the fence was directly in line with 'madam's' path. I just had time to yell at Ross to stand his ground and wave his arms when the filly crashed through the fence at full gallop missing Ross by a horse's whisker. When the dust had settled he calmly looked over at me and said - 'Well, it looks like we have a horse to catch and a fence to mend!'

He could also be something of an entertainer. One of his most renowned tricks was when as a guest in someone's lounge room he would ask for a raw egg, a glass of water, an eggcup, a cutting board and a hammer. He would then place the glass of water on the table with the cutting board on top. Directly over the glass of water would go the eggcup containing the raw egg, then with the flick of his wrist he would whack the end of the cutting board with the hammer and the egg would fall into the glass of water—every time – well except for the last which just happened to be when his sister-in-law had put in new carpet!

When it came to dwellings Ross believed that a house required too much maintenance (think that may have been his excuse for wanting to move) after five years so it was time to move on and build again. On my

calculations he moved on average every seven years and so was pretty close to achieving his aim. He was a dedicated father of Denise and Bruce and since his retirement 15 years ago committed himself to assist Beth, his wife of 60 years who suffers from Parkinson's Disease, performing the tasks admirably and without complaint.

Ross' great passion was boating. He was never happier than when he was in a boat and preferably with a fishing line in hand. His parents had a holiday house at Palm Beach and one of his first boating adventures was with a neighbour in the neighbour's craft. I guess he would have been less than 10 years old and he was appointed foredeck hand for the day. He was chuffed at being given such responsibility and when they reached the fishing spot at the back of Garden Island, Ross was told to set the anchor. He put it overboard and all aboard watched the anchor, chain and warp all go to the bottom in 20 metres of water. In all his years of boating that followed, you would always see him check that the warp was secured to a bollard before an anchor left the vessel.

He didn't simply use boats, but also built them. His first achievement was a 10' dinghy which was the centre of attraction at many family outings on the banks of the Swan River or at Palm Beach. He then went on to build a 16' Quickcat class

catamaran. I recall that the bridgedeck of the craft consisted of intermeshed wooden supports going in every direction and I wondered if he would ever figure it out. He did of course and then used to take great pleasure in taking this Quickcat down to the Nedlands Yacht Club and putting it on a broad reach across Melville Water in a howling sou' westerly. He'd return to shore saturated and with a grin from ear to ear.

Ross made his mark in many positive ways during his 84 years but over recent weeks the most commonly used phrase from those

recalling his memory was "He was an absolute gentleman".

He will be deeply missed by family and friends alike.

Ross served in No. 5 Section in New Guinea under Colin Doig. Doug Tapper, Kiwi Harrison, George Lewis, Bert Tobin were among those in a very good team. Ross was a capable soldier and soon fitted in and was well respected in his section. In New Britain Jerry Touhy was in charge, sadly nearly all are gone. Ross was a loyal supporter of the Association and with Bob Smyth and John Burridge was an original member of the Trust Fund when it was formed in 1992. After serving quite some time on the Fund, Ross had to resign to care for his lovely wife Beth. Ross was a Life Member of the Association and will be sadly missed.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Beth, Denise, Bruce and families.

'Lest We Forget'

Vale - Ron Morris

Ron Morris passed away in Canberra on 5th September after a long illness which he bore with great courage. A good organizer, with a lot of contacts in Canberra. Ron became involved with the 2/2nd when he assisted Jim Fenwick and Danny Daniels in the running of their first Canberra safari in 1986. He maintained his interest in the Association and when Jim passed on in December 1996 he along with Danny took an active role in the setting up of the second safari in Canberra in 1998. Both safaris were a great success. For his services to the Association he was made a Honorary Life Member in 2000 with Joan Fenwick presenting Ron with his Life Membership medallion.

Ron and Hazel continued to show great interest in the 2/2nd to the very end.

We have been unable to obtain much information on Ron's life but we do know he

was in the Royal Marines and took part in the 'D' Day landing.

"May He Rest in Peace"

The Association extends its sincere condolences to Hazel and family.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Turner family on the loss of Grace whose recent passing took place within a short time of Clarie's death. Grace was a lovely lady, whose love and devotion throughout Clarie's long illness helped to make his life more endurable, and she is now at peace with her beloved husband of over 63 years.

"May they Rest in Peace"

News has been received from Joan Fenwick in Canberra of the death of Freda Dexter the widow of David Dexter on the 9th November. Freda was 86 and a celebration of her life was held in the Norwood Park Crematorium, Mitchell on the 17th November.

The Association extends its sincere condolences to the Dexter family

"May she Rest in Peace"

COMMEMORATION SERVICE - 2006

Our 57th Commemoration Service was held in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park on Sunday 19th November 2006. The Committee had doubts about the attendance because on the same day the first Red Bull Air Race was held over the Swan River near South Perth and 300,000 people were expected to attend. Despite the traffic congestion we were pleased when over 80 of our members, families and friends made it to the Service on time. Everything went off well, although at times the various speakers had to pause as planes flew overhead creating a deafening sound.

The Catafalque party of four under Sergeant Bill Cave took up their positions around our Memorial at 3.00pm. What fine looking men

these S.A.S. troopers are. President Jack Carey welcomed those present saying after losing 5 good men in the past year our numbers were now down to 25 in W.A.

Mrs Elvie Howell accompanied by her young grandson then laid a lovely double red diamond wreath kindly provided by Bob Smyth as he has done for many years now.

Vice President, Don Murray followed reading the prayers for Remembrance, Australia and Peace. He then spoke briefly appealing to the sons, daughters and grandchildren to carry on and support the Association if it is to continue. Don's message was timely and well received.

Doug Hasson then delivered the main address, his second in a row. It was a stirring address, well prepared and appears in this Courier. Doug, an Army Major spent the past year studying Portuguese and Tetum and will commence his second term in East Timor early in the New Year.

The President then read out the names of our Fallen, after which all stood and said "The Ode" as one.

David Scott played the Last Post, a minutes silence was observed and the Rouse was sounded. The S.A.S. Catafalque party presented arms during this period. The National Anthem followed with all joining in.

The Marshal, Major Doug Hasson then took over inviting those who were fit enough to take part in the march. The response was good and with Bob Smyth as marker, 30 marched assisted by stirring band music from over the sound system. The marchers did well giving a smart "Eyes Right" at the saluting base. It was pleasing to see so many participating and concluded yet another service. And may they continue for a few more years.

Besides those members already mentioned, also present were John Burrige, Len Bagley, Ted Monk, Dick Darrington and Jim Lines. Our wives and widows loyal as ever included Elvie Howell and family, Helen Poynton, Julie Ann, Babs Langridge, Margaret Smyth, Peg Monk,

Clare West, Delys Carey and family, the Hasson family, the Harringtons, Gavin and Pam Bagley, Graham Scott, Greg Tyerman from Queensland, newcomers in Vic and Oriel Murray, Beth and Murray Broun, Pam and Craig Quartermaine and many others whose names escape me.

The Committee is grateful to all who attended – it was most encouraging.

After the Service about 30 adjourned to "The House" for a few drinks and afternoon tea enjoying Shirley and her staffs hospitality.

Letters of thanks have been sent to the Botanic Gardens Parks Authority who provided two rangers to close off the traffic, The Australian Army Band for providing Dave Scott. The Bugler and the S.A.S. Regiment for the Catafalque Party under Sgt. Bill Cave, a lectern and sound system capably handled by Sigs. Phil Podmore and Richard Olson not forgetting the RSM WO1 Bill Maher whose co-operation ensured a successful service.

COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

Delivered by: Doug Hasson

President and members of the 2/2 Commando Association, distinguished guests, family and friends, it is an honour once again to address you as part of the initiative to enable successful commemoration services to continue whilst allowing unit members to observe, listen and reflect.

I look forward to seeing next year's address, as it does not need to fit a particular template, it only needs to add to the aim of commemoration of those that have gone before us and played such a valuable role in securing the lifestyle and freedoms that we sometimes take for granted.

It is notable that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the 2/2 Commando Association. That is impressive, as is the section of Kings Park that is always so eye

catching and a credit to the men that it represents.

It has been said before but needs to be restated that we are not here to glorify war but to commemorate those who made their supreme sacrifice in fighting one. There were 50 members of the 2/2 Independent Company who were gone by the age of 20. We are also here to remember that the sacrifice has grown over time. From 250 members in Western Australia there are now only 25. In mind's eye, I imagine all of them with us today. When we march past them, I imagine them critiquing their comrades' drill and wishing that they could join with us for one more beer, one more joke and one more long hug from their loved ones.

Since we consistently focus on the Timor campaign, I feel that it is appropriate to remind ourselves of the fact that the 2/2 Independent Company proved themselves subsequently in New Guinea and New Britain. Six months after evacuation from Timor, the unit was preparing to deploy, arguably more battle ready in light of the Middle East experience of new members and the Timor experience of existing members. In those campaigns they operated in more set roles in a theatre with other troops. Timor proved to be unconventional and the jury was out for a while as to whether there would be any requirement to have a 2/2 Commando Association.

Timor remains strategically important to Australia as it lies some 480km from our north-west corner. With the exception of the Australians in Papua who were pushed back nearly to Port Moresby but never pushed into the sea, the commandos in Timor were the only troops south-east of India who never surrendered to the Japanese and continued a successful campaign until they were ordered to evacuate. With an effective fighting force of less than 300, the 2/2 Commandos contained up to 15,000 Japanese troops for nearly a year.

We compliment them on their courage, tactics and tenacity but it is acknowledged by them that they could not have accomplished it without the courageous and loyal support of the Timorese people, particularly, the Criados. As I prepare to be posted to East Timor with Australia's Defence Cooperation Programme, I have learnt that part of my induction will

include the legend of sparrow force and the 2/2 role in it. The stories and campfire tales are still told by the Timorese elders today. They speak of the group of men that gave compassion and were courageous, men that inspired hope and displayed resilience, men that demonstrated tolerance and intelligence and men that believed in unity and humour. Because of this legacy, the association has given permission for the members of the Defence Cooperation Programme to wear the double diamond colour patch whilst serving in East Timor.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Portuguese Timor consisted of about 3,000 Portuguese, 2,000 Chinese, a few Japanese and 500,000 Timorese. During the war over 50,000 Timorese were killed. They suffered rape, slavery, execution and murder.

Without the support of the Criado to guide, scout, interpret, carry and provide, it is doubtful that the 2/2 could have survived in what is acknowledged as classic guerilla warfare. The support of the people in any such action is essential and the Timorese people supported them willingly in the shadow of the Japanese threat of death. As Arch Campbell said, "God showed supreme judgement in giving us that laughing, happy-go-lucky people to be our guardian angels". The Timorese are generous and they value relationships and culture. They do not forget the past. So it is regrettable that they had to go through further tyranny under Indonesian rule and sad that after independence, troops had to return in order to sort out domestic unrest. So often this is the pattern in

developing countries but it is indisputable that they deserve our support, loyalty, compassion and understanding during these times. Doing this is part of our ongoing commemoration to the men of the 2/2.

Sometimes there can be a sense that the efforts of the 2/2 and 2/4 on Timor, New Guinea and New Britain or the efforts of the other commando companies in world war two have become downplayed as unsung heroes. Long Tan has seen its 40th anniversary and was big news. However I still have the Australia Post commemorative envelope put out in 1992 to mark the Timor campaign 50th anniversary. Annual commemoration is important but it does not mean that the sacrifices mean less or are forgotten for the rest of the year. Living and enjoying the freedoms for which the 2/2 fought is important. What is important is to not waste a day, a freedom, or a chance to say I love you to those close to you. If we observe that then we are living a commemoration to those who made the sacrifice for us and are no longer able to enjoy those privileges.

Before I finish, let me offer thanks and appreciation to the commanding officer and members of SASR for their continued support of the association. Their work along with the roles of the 4th Battalion (Commando) is also ongoing commemoration to the commando companies of the past.

Soon, you will be invited to march. Please do not think that it is restricted to a certain group of participants or that you do not have a right. Members, family and friends are warmly invited to participate as one of the final commemoration acts of this service. Our presence today is reason to march. Our freedom today is reason to give our thanks to the bravery of the 2/2 Independent Company.

Doug Hasson

N.S.W. NEWS

Whatever happened to this year 2006. There's just over 6 weeks of it left. Thankfully all of our 2/2 family are much the same health-wise, with odd improvements such as in the case of Paddy Kenneally and Maria Hartley and their recovery from accidents. Many others have had "Yo-Yo" health throughout the year. We hope to see a good roll-up at our Christmas Lunch at Dee Why R.S.L. Club on December 9th.

Sincere commiserations to the families who have lost a loved one during the year. In recent times we have lost Ron Morris, an ex-British Commando, and Freda Dexter from Canberra, and would like to extend condolences to their families.

Sorry to hear of the passing of both Clarrie and Grace Turner recently. They were a great couple. Also on the sad news, the widow of Major (as we knew him "Mac") Walker passed away recently at the age of 98 years. Mrs Walker has been a patient in an aged care facility in Corryong, Victoria for a number of years. Their son Jim is one of my regular contacts.

My health this year has been fairly good until 11th-15th November this year when I was in Mona Vale hospital with a couple of minor discomforts. I am pretty well back to normal now.

I had a very pleasant lunch 23rd November with Nellie Mullins and Keith Wilson at Dee Why R.S.L. Club.

I wish all our readers and their kin all the greetings of Christmas and a healthy new year. Please try a phone call instead of sending cards.

Best wishes

Alan Luby

NEWS FROM NORTHERN N.S.W.

Maclean, November 2006

Dear Jack and Del – I was sorry my trip to the West was a bit shorter than usual but I spent five days with my niece in Melbourne on the way over. She is coping well with her illness. She does not have to see the doctors again until December. Hopefully no more therapy for a while!

I had six hours to wait in Sydney where my grandniece met me. After breakfast I thought it would be a good idea to surprise

Alan Luby so off we go to Dee Why. No phone call. Lube not home. He got home a quarter of an hour after we left. What are phones for? Anyway we speak to each other regularly so really nothing lost.

Everybody still on deck up here and coping with ageing gracefully. Do you like that?

Russ Blanch is back into the garden again and its going well. The doctors found he was anaemic and since taking the prescribed medicine is really going well. Russ has passed in his driver's licence and is now a menace on his gopher. He should compare notes with Lube!!

Dianne Cholerton is at the moment having a little relief from the arthritis but is having a problem with her heart. An appointment with a specialist has to wait until February. It's really bad when older people have to wait all these times to see specialists. It's ridiculous.

Beryl Cullen is well and I'll be very surprised if she ever reports otherwise.

Tom Yates also from Kyogle is another who always reports in OK. Jean is at the moment at Lismore base medical centre. She has been having trouble with her breathing and is undergoing tests. We all wish you well Jean. Lismore is a very good centre for medical treatment and has a very big base hospital and an excellent St Vincents private hospital. I'm off to Vinnies on Wednesday for an angiogram, bit of trouble with my legs.

Harry Handicott – although really not one of my constituents is back home after a stint of rough going and both Harry and Amis are well.

Eric and Lorraine Herd from Iluka – both are well and although both have given up golf, Lorraine still plays tennis – pretty good stuff Lorraine.

Edith Jones from Barraba – I was lucky enough to catch Edith after she had been shopping all morning. Edith says the country around Barraba is still green but like all of the NW, except my part, needs rain. The week before last we had 10 inches – last week 3 inches and two nights ago 70 points in a storm.

NSW yesterday – Thursday – had snow all over many parts. First time in November for a long time.

May Orr from South Grafton is recovering from a fall in the garden and it became infected. Getting better but took quite a while and required hospital treatment every 12 hours – May is very pleased with the Book and says it opened her eyes and she's purchased 2 more for Xmas presents.

Beryl Steen is back from a trip to Cairns to her daughter and said she had a lovely time and feels so much better. She sends regards to all.

Beryl Walsh from Kempsey is pretty well but finding it hard to shake off the effects of a bout of flu.

Nola Wilson from Gilgander is well but has experienced some slight gall trouble. I commiserated and said how much better I've been after having the operation. I truly sympathise with anyone with gall trouble. Terribly painful.

Everyone I contacted asked after you Del and all send their love and best wishes. It was lovely seeing you.

'Happy'

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Dear Jack Del

Thank you so much for yours of the 15th instant and I'll try to give you some update on some of our Queensland members as you suggested.

Lyn and I recently spent some time with Ralph & Sheila Conley & Gordon & Joan Stanley. The Conley's have not long returned from their second trip to Hawaii. They reported that it wasn't as good as the FIRST!! Since returning Ralph is very active playing Queensland lawn bowls competitions with some of our top state bowlers. Sheila still plays, but not so often now and is a social player. The Stanley's have settled into their new home at Burpengary. There is a covered way between the 2 houses and they are on an acreage property, but near the railway, shops etc. Their son-in-law and daughter Graham & Christine Newman live in the other home and they (all 4) do a lot of things together, in fact they had just returned from a holiday for a week at Caloundra. They are both in fair health, but as with all of us time is catching up with them. Their daughter Helen is still at Melbourne.

Alex Veovodin is still in the Greenslopes Hospital. There are no plans at present as to when he is likely to be discharged. He is pretty weak which means walking problems. Paddy Wilby, Fred Otway and I have visited him.

Had a phone call from Edna Vandeleur. She is almost totally blind now, but sees Bettye Coulson once a month at Legacy meetings. Edna is kept busy and goes on some of the local Probus trips when they go away for a few days at a time.

Had a letter from

George & Margo Shiels (Bowen). In August they had their 60th wedding anniversary and I quote, "George is still involved with the R.S.L. Legacy and Lodge and has just arranged the Christmas Party for his 80 odd Legacy ladies for November 25th. I should add that some of these Legacy ladies live in Collinsville which is some distance from Bowen! so this effort should

put more heart into continuing function association get togethers in W.A. and elsewhere. In fact it almost looks as if George's mango farm is just a bit of a side line!!

Pat Barnier and her daughter Andrea attended the Christmas lunch for the Queensland Commando Association at the Morningside Services Club on the 24th November. There were 22 present but Pat was the only 2/2nd Association member. Lyn Love and I had booked BUT I put it into my diary as the 25th – result – when we arrived we were told "that was yesterday" – just what is the price of growing old!

Beryl Steen is keeping well and spends a lot of her time with her family.

Margaret Hooper is not very well, but still drives her car and goes to Legacy meetings. She would like some of her many association friends to keep in touch with her from time to time.

Col & Jeanette Andrews & son Peter are still very busy running their caravan park at Laidley. They have 58 sites and they are all full. They are expecting their Canberra daughter to visit them for Christmas.

Bettye Coulson never seems to take off her running shoes! What with prospective family, weddings, engagements and births PLUS her many other interests. A son-in-law recently had his 60th birthday at Toorbul with about 80 present.

Lyn and I expect to spend 3 days over Christmas at Kingaroy. We send Seasonal Greetings to all Association Members and hope that everyone will cope okay with our individual problems of GROWING OLD. We all have special thoughts for our Delys. The spirit which she has in managing each day as it comes and goes has to be admired.

Cheers, Best Wishes & God's Blessings to all.

Ron & Lyn
Toowong, Qld.

VICTORIAN NEWS

December, that busy time of the year, when everyone is thinking of Christmas, including myself. Fred and I are well and looking forward to having our son and family from Queensland join us for Christmas. Fred only ventures out for doctors appointments. I have no trouble filling in my day with shopping, gardening, reading and walking to stay fit.

A visit to Nina Grachan found her well, we enjoyed a nostalgia talk of past re-unions, she seems quite content and comfortable at the Respite Home.

Win Humphreys, a short stay in hospital with an injured wrist after a fall, apparently she has had a few and now has that big decision over the next 12 months whether to stay in her unit or go into care.

Spoke to Leith Cooper, going along reasonably well, Marjorie has had her knee replacement cancelled twice now, she is now hoping for 23 November.

Pat Petersen and sister Miriam are fine. Pat is always busy with the farm. She was talking of her mother who lives close by and must be quite a character, she will reach that great age of 100 years next June.

Dot Bourke just leaving to take Eddie into hospital for a hernia operation, an over-night stay.

John Southwell suffering a sore arm from lawn bowls. I bet he was trying to trail that Kitty? Shirley is also a keen bowler.

Here in Melbourne since the 20th November, at the cricket ground they have celebrated 50 years since the Olympic Games of 1956. Attending are Ron Clark, John Landy, Dawn Fraser and Shirley Strickland who unveiled a bronze statue of herself.

Perhaps some members will remember the 2/2nd re-union held here that year. Seems a lifetime, 50 years, or was it yesterday?

I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, keep well, and all the best for 2007.

Mavis Broadhurst

UNIT HISTORY BOOK

Sales to the 30th November totalled 1,070 copies which is a good effort. We have now repaid \$59,000. in interest free loans kindly provided by six of our members. We still have to recoup \$40,000. being our own money received from the Estates of Lew Thomson and Ray Aitken. Once the 1,600 mark has been reached we will be all square. As mentioned previously not being able to display the book has made it more difficult to make the public aware the book is available. 70% of the sales have been in W.A. Eastern States members are asked to do what they can to increase sales. The book is a quality production and is a credit to P.K. Print of Hamilton Hill, W.A. who produced it. One Eastern States book dealer who bought six books is asking \$110. including postage, so our \$60. plus postage is good value. Order forms are readily available and can be obtained by ringing J. Carey on 08 9332 7050.

Tom Foster maintains the best way to sell a book is to show it to a prospective buyer. Tom said it nearly always works and having sold 90 books to date he should know.

Books have been presented to the Governor General, John Howard, The Minister for Veteran's Affairs, The SAS Regiment, John Sanderson and others – a total of 20 in all.

An interesting buyer was Bill Ellingham of Hawera, N.Z. Bill, who is 93, was the C.O. of the First N.Z. Independent Company which trained on the Promontory when we were there. New Zealand never persevered with the idea of Independent Companies and the Company was disbanded late in 1941. Bill who was notified of the book by Mavis Broadhurst wrote and thanked her saying – Quote "All the Bull's Men" was good reading and I felt for them". Thank God we never had to go through what they did. A nice tribute indeed.

Correspondence Received: Dated 7 August 2006

From: Office of the Governor General,
Government House, Canberra

Dear Mr Carey

Thank you for your letter of 18 July 2006 to the Governor-General relating to the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia's publication of 'All the Bull's Men' by Cyril Ayris.

His Excellency appreciated receiving your letter and the sentiments expressed therein. The copy of the book arrived and the Governor-General looks forward to reading it over the coming weeks.

The Governor-General has asked me to convey his thanks and best wishes to you and all members of the association.

Your sincerely

Philip Hart

Senior Executive Officer to the Governor-General

TRUST FUND

Bob Smyth is experiencing a very frustrating time endeavouring to obtain approval to send 21,550 packets of vegetable seeds for distribution by Sister Gulhermina to the hills people of East Timor. On 31st March, Bob wrote to Xanana Gusmao, the President of Democratic Republic of Timor Leste appealing to him for assistance to have the necessary import and other certificates signed to no avail.

The parcel was ready to send in February last and now 11 months later in December Bob is still trying to get things moving.

Considering the seeds are a gift from the 2/2nd it is beyond belief that the powers to be in East Timor are not prepared to sign

the necessary documents to help their own people.

TIMOR NEWS

At last I'm able to write to you and advise you and our members that the arrangements for our East Timor Honour Board and our Scholarships have been finalised. First of all our Honour Board, which is to remember our mates that we lost.

Honour Board (Timor-Leste)**(See photo Page 32)**

First of all I should draw your attention to the fact that there were three or four drafts prepared and the one you already have was one of the early ones. This applies too, to the "Commando News" October 2006 – Qld Commando Assoc, where a similar early draft was published. Enclosed is a copy of the final draft and you'll note the following major changes. Portuguese, Creados replaced with helpers, the special tribute to the R.A.N. and the RAAF and the Tetum wording for our E.T. helpers. The only difference is that at the last hour the Portuguese soldier Z. Rebello's date of death was discovered and added. A good deal of work was involved because although our 2/2nd would have been the main participants, the other units and the East Timorese had to be contacted. It had to finish up right. A special thank you too, to Ms Katherine Upton-Mitchell, Deputy Director for the Office of Australian War Graves, for forwarding the names for our "Z" Special Unit. Our Silky Oak was chosen as the timber for it and it was made by our First Class Tradesman, Graham Griffith trading as Griffith Graphics. A special thank you should be included here for Garth Wong. At short notice he acted as co-ordinator for this project and I'm quite sure that without his expertise this Honour Board would not have eventuated. It was originally to be made in East Timor, but the civic unrest in April/May this year meant that this job had a low priority even if it could have been made.

Finally, it had a long trip to Dili. By road Brisbane to Canberra. The DHL Diplomatic Mail Bag took over from here and it went to

Sydney. Sydney to Darwin. Darwin to Singapore! Singapore to Dili. It finally arrived at the Australian Embassy on Wednesday morning the 27th September and arrangements had been made in advance for the unveiling of it between 4.30 and 5.30pm Thursday 28th. It is displayed in a top place with Australian and E.T. flags on stands on each side. Our Australian Ambassador, Margaret Twomey, gave a good address, followed by prayers by Deacon, Garry Stone (Brisbane) followed by drinks and savouries, etc. We were delighted that Brig-Gen Michael Slater attended this service.

Archer Memorial East Timor Scholarships

Originally, over a long period, it was almost completed that the Mary MacKillop East Timor Institute would handle the funds to implement these scholarship objectives. Unfortunately, I got too close to the East Timor Army and they in turn got close to wanting to nominate the students. This would not suit M.M.I. as the nation's priests largely have the say. Despite M.M.I. being the sole nominators they did not want to have a conflict of interest with the E.T. Army, so with reluctance on both sides, and we remain on friendly terms, a change has been made to the Don Bosco Training Centre at Comero, Dili.

A permanent arrangement has been made that there will be twenty-six (26) scholarships each year (they are one year courses), the nation has 13 provinces and two (2) will come from each province in order to have a fair distribution. These trade courses are welding, carpentry, electrical and motor mechanics. At the conclusion a kit of tools may be included. The teaching of English is a subject for the whole school. Some country students may need accommodation or meals. These will be provided and included. I have suggested that at least (2) places be reserved for girls and this will be attended

to. In addition I quote from a letter from A.S.M.O.A.F. that "The students selected are to have had a family connection with Timor-Leste's defence forces." This will be both official and unofficial! Graduation Day will be the 14th October, and our first intake will be confirmed at that ceremony with as many of the selected students present as possible. Although it is not normal, the Bishop may be present too, under the circumstances. I will not be present, but our Yvonne Walsh will and I'm sure she'll do a good job.

A.M.E.T.S. is part of the ANZ Charitable Trust Australia A/c No. 16293835. Income from this trust will be transferred each year to the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund and they in turn will send it to Don Bosco, Comero. I have fully funded the first year's needs. Each year from September 2007 whilst I'm alive I'll make the difference between what ANZ Trustees pay and D.B.'s annual need. In addition to the deposit that the ANZ Trustees presently hold I've provided for ample funds in my will to provide an adequate income to fully fund permanently the needs of this fund. Perhaps most importantly with the exception of Don Bosco ALL the above trusts hold Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status so that any extra funds received will be invested and the income thus created will be transferred to D.B. and used for more scholarships.

On Friday 29th September, Yvonne and I had an interview for about an hour with President Xanana Gusmao. One of the subjects discussed was a school to be built on our Dare site. When we were there last February we had a similar interview with First Lady, Kirsty Gusmao and she was onto this one too. We did not visit Dare this time but understand it is still the same as last February – the original pool is now mainly filled with sand. Our engineers have also inspected the site and I'm told that

because of the unstable state of the soil (probably partly fill) the building of any buildings on the site could not be recommended. As I understand it plans for a school are presently being prepared and the Melbourne Rotary Club has been asked to organize \$1 million to build it. Since returning I've spoken to Katherine Upton-Mitchell (War Graves Com). As you know she has an interest in this site and she suggests that any interest which we have as to the ownership of this site, be returned to the government of E.T. BUT that our plaque remain as is, untouched. I think this might clarify the situation and leave us out of any possible involvement with the site IF a building is built on it and there are future problems with it. At all times our plaque and the wall that it is on has been pledged as NOT TO BE TOUCHED.

My stay in Dili was from 24th September to the 1st October. Yvonne and I seemed to have just one spare day so we spent it with a trip to Baucau. An amazing trip, roads, diverse scenery, people, etc, etc. The main town we passed through had been completely destroyed. No one lives there now and a new refugee camp has been built and it includes people from other villages which have been partly destroyed – total number about 11,000. I asked one

person how long it would take to rebuild the nation and was told perhaps ten years! Our scholarship people won't run out of a job!!! The D.B. camp had almost 15,000 refugees in their school rooms and on their land. It is now down to about 5,000 and some of their school rooms are back to being school rooms again. There is hardly ever a day when there is not an "incident" of one kind or another – often rocks/stones, etc but these can injure people and damage property. There is still a fire here or there. The perpetrators quickly dash off

and by the time the police arrive there is no one OR those near know nothing! The large number of unemployed youth with no money and no work is at the bottom of it all. They get into mobs and it's a case of 'LOOK OUT'. They have given up on their government providing solutions AND with their courts returning "fair" decisions. Our Aussies are building more playing fields for them and going to get them into SPORT. This seems to be a good idea – get the young people off the streets – they'll probably go for soccer.

On Saturday 30th September I put on a thank you lunch for the locals who have helped our two projects. It was held at their top hotel – the Hotel Timor AND they provided their function room for us without extra rent! It was a huge success and we were especially privileged to have Yvonne Walsh, Vince Walsh's widow and Rufino and his son, Lineo with us. Rufino is one of our few East Timor helpers left now and he and his son also attended the unveiling of the Honour Board. A top secret was really the beaut, nine lovely ladies – about 11 to 13 years of age, dressed in their national costumes and did quite a lot of really nice national dancing for us and of course had lunch with us.

This letter would not be complete without recording the main people who really did these jobs: - at the top of the list would have to be Yvonne Walsh. I'm quite sure that if it had not been for her time and effort neither the Honour Board nor the scholarships would have got off the ground. My partner Lyn Love who accompanied us on the tour was also very helpful. Others who contributed were Jack Carey, Bob Smyth, Alan Luby, Paddy Kenneally, Happy Greenhalgh, Patsy

Thatcher, Katherine Upton-Mitchell, Sister Josephine Mitchell (M.M.I.), Abel Guterras (Sydney Consul for E.T.), Garth Wong and Graham Griffith. Then follows those on East Timor – locals and Australians. President and First Lady Xanana and Kirsty Gusmao, Luke Gosling, Jenny Coles, Father Antonio Transfiguarcao, Brothers Thomas and Adriano de Jesus, Ambassador Margaret Twomey, Colonel Wayne Fleming, Mr Brent Hall, Rufino, Neco Sarment, Michael Stone, Dan Gosling. It would be fitting now to commend the help from N.G.O's (non Government Organisations) from around the world because this new nation is having significant problems. Our contribution is now threefold.

1. The Oan Kiak Scholarship Trust Fund. Col Doig left in his estate a large sum of money which was invested to help E.T. orphans. Patsy Thatcher is continuing her watch over this help.

2. Our own "Independent Trust Fund". The wonderful work that it has done over many years. The difficulties of perhaps trying to supply the basics, including food, etc.

3. My new two projects: I'm enclosing a cheque for \$1,000. \$500 for our association and \$500 for our Trust.

Bob Smyth. I'm very sorry to read of your Trust problems. You might like one of my EXTRAS! At my hotel there was an engineer from Sydney and he is working on a \$30 million Public Hospital for Dili. He had a meeting with P.M.

Jose Ramos Horta and a Memoranda of Understanding was signed that NO waterfront problems would take place. I didn't have the heart to say to him that he'd have less chance of eating a

crumpet in hell than getting that one through!!!

Must close here. Alex Vovodin (Lofty) is indefinitely in Greenslopes Hospital – very weak, but the "spirit" is still there! I will keep seeing him. Also Paddy Wilby and Freddie Otway will do the same. We all hope that our hard working Delys will at least have some days when her pain and suffering will be less than on others at least.

Yours as always

Very sincerely
Ron Archer.

You are to be commended Ron for setting up the Archer Memorial East Timor Scholarships. It was a very generous act on your behalf which I am sure will be a great help to the lucky recipients.

Congratulations on behalf of all Members of the Association.

Well done!!
J. Carey

A REPORT ON TIMOR *by Patsy Thatcher*

Dear Jack

Since the Australian reporting on East Timor currently tends to be Dili centred I thought the 2/2nd family might be interested in some of the positives that are happening. The violence and instability, with rare exceptions recently in Ermera and Bacau, is totally centred in Dili. The rural areas and towns operate normally. Government offices are open, schools and health clinics are operating and daily life proceeds in a relatively uneventful manner. The only difference to normal are that many people who normally live in Dili (around 70,000 of them) have returned to their relatives to sit this period of instability

out. They receive food from NGO's < UN and other donors because of course the local people cannot cope with feeding the large numbers. The other area affected in the rural areas by the current instability is that cash crops, such as rice, corn, coffee and vegetables, grown for the Dili market do not get through and this is causing some hardship.

However, there have been several advances especially in the delivery of health services. In fact rural Timorese have never had (and this includes the UN period) as good a health service as they are currently receiving. The Ministry of Health in Timor has endeavoured to make sure that there is some form of medical help available at no more than two hours walk from home.

Cuba must take much of the credit for this. Back in 2003, at a summit meeting of NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) held in Kuala Lumpur, Fidel Castro offered East Timor 50 medical scholarships. This number was later raised to a maximum of 1,000. 489 Timorese medical students have been studying in Cuba since 2004 with a further 200 to go in the coming months. The Cuban authorities report that the Timorese students are considered to be the best, in terms of results and discipline, from among the thousands of overseas medical students, from 21 countries, currently studying in Cuba. The Timorese students report they are treated exceptionally well and are encouraged to practice their religion whilst there. Recently the Cuban government asked the Timorese Catholic Church to send a chaplain to Cuba to administer to the student's spiritual needs.

There are currently 302 Cuban doctors working throughout Timor-Leste. More than 120 of these are specialists working in hospitals in Dili, Maliana, Baucau,

Suai, Oecussi and Maubissi. Their salaries are paid for by the Cuban government.

Another initiative doing well is the Institute of Micro Finance Timor-Lests (IMFTL). The original of this idea was the Grameen Bank established in Bangladesh by this years Nobel Peace Prize recipient Muhammad Yunus. The Institute began operating in Timor in 2002 with money from his Nobel Peace Prize put up by Jose Ramos Horta. The idea is that this bank will address the financial needs of the **rural poor**, particularly **women**. The Institute supports community-based opportunities for income generation and is particularly aimed at generating sustainable employment. It makes available group loans for poor women; market vendor loans; agricultural loans for individuals and groups (coffee and rice); small business loans and payroll loans; each member of a group taking out a loan guarantees to help repay the loan. There are offices in Dili, Gleno, Maliana and Aileu with others planned for Bacau and Oecussi in the very near future. The intention is to have branches in 13 districts. Currently more than 3,600 borrowers have loans from the IMFTL with a total value of nearly A\$1.5 million. An unofficial figure is that 93% of these loans have been, or are being, repaid. During the next two years IMFTL has plans to introduce new savings as well as lending services. The aim is to within two years employ 120 new workers (mostly young graduates) to service a planned 20,000 borrowers and 70,000 depositors.

The final report of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in Timor Leste (CAVR) entitled *Chega* (enough) has been made, although for a variety of reasons it has not been debated in Parliament.

CAVR was an independent East Timorese institution, not a UN body, as is sometimes reported. Its staff was largely Timorese supported by international experts, including the former Human Rights Director of ACFOA, Pat Walsh. The report is 2,500 page document that chronicles the human-rights violations suffered by the people of East Timor between 25th April 1974 and 25th October 1999 (note the period includes the Civil War period). It also documents CAVR's activities in providing support for victims and its community reconciliation work. It is because of the high quality of the work of CAVR in reconciling rural communities that the 'bloody mindedness' that took over in Dili was not replicated in the rural areas. The report is mainly based on original sources, including statements by thousands of East Timorese given at public hearings and interviews, as well as official documents and other research.

Among the findings of the report are:

- * Most members of the UN (including Australia) failed to uphold Timor-Leste's right to self-determination during the Indonesian occupation.
- * An estimated 102,800-183,000 civilians died during the period 1974-1999 due to causes related to conflict, of which over 18,000 were due to killings or disappearances mainly committed by Indonesian security forces.
- * People from all districts in Timor-Leste were subjected to

arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment.

- * Indonesian forces used systematic rape and other forms of sexual violence throughout the occupation.
- * Many people were displaced during the period.
- * Indonesian forces systematically violated the Geneva Convention.
- * The independence forces (Fretilin/Falantil) were also responsible for killings and other violations of the Geneva Convention, but on a smaller scale than the Indonesian Security forces.
- * Hundreds of East Timorese were subjected to unfair trials.
- * Children suffered the full range of human rights violations including killings.

- * Victims should receive reparations and other assistance.

Recommendations

- * Among the many recommendations, some relate specifically to Australia, while others concern the international community generally. These include:
- * States which have military co-operation programs with Indonesia should apologise to the people of Timor-Leste for failing to uphold their rights.

- * All UN members should refuse visas to anyone named in the report as being responsible for human rights violations.
- * Australia, Britain and New Zealand should establish what happened to the six journalists killed in 1975 (the 'Balibo five' plus UK journalist Roger East).
- * Governments and other donors continue to provide financial assistance, training and other support to the people of Timor-Leste/
- * Countries and businesses that supported the Indonesian occupation provide the victims with reparations.

The full report and an executive summary are both available from www.etan.org/news/2006/cavr.htm.

Patsy Thatcher

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Iris Rowan-Robinson, Geegeelup Village, Bridgetown

Dear Jack, I didn't know where to send this money for the 2/2 Courier which I always enjoy reading. I was speaking to Bernie & Babs a few days ago and Bernie suggested I send it to you. I was ever so sorry to hear Delys was so ill, it shouldn't happen to such a wonderful person, do give her my love. I am keeping fairly well, but arthritis and sciatica has slowed me down dreadfully, but I am fortunate I can still drive and have lots of old friends living at the village and a loving family. My eldest daughter now lives in Manjimup which is wonderful for me. I'm enjoying reading "All the Bulls Men", only

wish Robbie was still here so he could explain more of your experiences. I kept all his letters, nearly 100 and often read them to bring back memories. You both did a great job organizing the printing of the book. I will be going to Perth in November and hope to visit Bernie & Babs when I'm there. My best wishes to you both. Sincerely – Iris Rowan=Robinson.

J P Kenneally, Yagoona.

Dear Jack, A beautiful wet day here in Sydney. Maybe the Good Lord has not abandoned us, and is sending us some much needed moisture to let us know. Climatically the Premier State is in a mess. The politicians Federal and State alike may beat their breasts for ever and anon and bleat platitudes of concern for the man on the land, and the rural townships, throw a bundle of dollars at them for reparation, then proceed on their number one priority, how to win the next election. Nothing will be done of searching for a solution of our recurring drought situation, the threat posed by climate change. Tackling those problems may interfere with our booming profits.

Mavis Broadhurst did raise two legitimate points about our history "All the Bulls Men" – Geoff Laidlaw certainly only had command of the Unit for one month in Portuguese Timor, however overall he had command of the Unit from November 1942 to December 1945 a period of three years one month.

Major Spence was Commanding Officer from July 12, 1941 to May 1942 when he moved to Command Force HQ – a period of 11 months commanding No. 2 Independent Company. Major Callinan commanded No., 2 Independent Company from May 1942 to November 1942 – a

period of 7 months. So for longevity "The Bull" won hands down. As for the name being appropriate or not I won't buy into that argument apart from the fact that an alternate had been mooted and not accepted. I was not in Perth so I have no idea what opinions the WA Committee had on the matter.

Mavis's other contention about only 100 pages being devoted to New Guinea and New Britain. I draw all members attention to the plea by Col Doig when he was writing his history of the Unit he wanted information from unit members on the following –

- (a) When did he joint the unit.
- (b) What section did he serve in.
- (c) What operations did he participate in.
- (d) What was his previous unit prior to joining No. 2 Independent Company.

I sent a letter to 200 members in the Eastern States soliciting that information and I received about six replies. Col Doig didn't receive many more from our Eastern States Members.

The present history suffered the same fate, members themselves refused to co-operate. When the 2/2nd Independent Company sailed for New Guinea on 16th June 1943 50% of the unit were new members. Look through the history and see how much was contributed by those men.

I would also like to inform our members from October 4th, 1943 to January 1946 that there is no record of our units operations in New Guinea. In that period our sections were very active in operations across the Ramu river. That period is lost somewhere in the archives in the historical department in

the Canberra War Memorial Museum. I sent all the records from the units formation on Wilson's Promontory in July 1941 to its disbandment at Pukapunyl in February 1946.

I suppose the overriding and most important factor is that there weren't many of us around now, and less ability to recall what the facts were over sixty years ago.

Another loss, now that Clarrie Turner has passed away quickly followed by his wife Grace, to their grieving family I extend my sympathy in the sad loss they have suffered. Both Clarrie and Grace bore poor health with courage and dignity for sometime. May they Rest in Peace/

We are keeping pretty well. Nora preparing for Christmas, I am busy doing nothing. Michael is up in Vietnam doing a bit of mountain trekking and cycling where possible. Helen, Sean and Gerald are all well and each of them busy.

Saw Alan Luby at the Commando Association meeting – he is hale and hearty.

How many turn up for our Christmas Luncheon is any one's guess. I'll bet there will be more widows than members. The "Female of the Species" are tougher than the "Male"??

Best wishes to all our members and their families for Christmas and may 2007 bless them with happiness galore, an abundance of good health and contentment. Paddy Kenneally

From Allan & Joan Mitchell, Caloundra
Dear Jack & Delys – I have to print and use this type of pen as I don't see a lead pencil to write with. Thanks a lot for the Courier. Also I have found the book very interesting. Joan reads it out to me. In

the years up to when I was 17 I lived in the town of Korumbura, South Gippsland and the train on the South Gippsland line used to stop for refreshments, plus other things, such as filling up the engine with water and checking all over the train as it was the stop over on the line. These days there is no train at all on that line.

Now one day when the train had stopped coming up to go to Melbourne, some soldiers got off for a short spell. From that day I said to myself if that is the Army then I am going to join up and hope to get with the same unit that trained down at Wilson's Promontory – Hush, hush unit.

I would say that I may not have got with the same lot of men, but the ones I was with were a great lot and it was so nice for me to have served with them.

Please excuse the writing as this is the only way I can do it. Have enclosed cheque for \$20.00 towards the Courier.

Please give all our regards. From Allan & Joan Mitchell.

R W Wilson, Winnellie, NT

Dear Mr Carey – Thank you for the September 2006 Courier, I am very pleased to receive them.

I shall copy a couple of the items for the N.T. Museum and Art Galleries and the Historical Society of the N.T. for information as they have received "All the Bull's Men" and The Genealogical Society of N.T. – have a strong and enduring interest in our heritage and are appreciative of having the true picture.

Enclosed please find a cheque for \$200.00. It is made out to you. I considered that this was the appropriate way for you to deal with it.

I intend to copy part of an article in the N.T. News October/November 2006 and enclose some re Judy Boland, the history

teacher of Darwin High School to whom I provide books and papers re our services stories and history from WW1. I have known Judy from working/participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award activities/times.

It is pleasing to read of Paddy Wilby. I was delighted to give him some copies of the Timor ponies' photos that I had of the ones of the North West coast here.

My best wishes for all, and positive thoughts for Mrs Carey's recovery.

From Margo & George, Bowen

Friends – Thank you for sharing your delightful story with us. We thoroughly enjoyed reading about your happy childhood Delys. Everyone has a story to tell and we are so pleased you recorded yours.

We are sorry to hear of your health problems and hope all the modern technology coming to the fore can be of assistance.

This year has been a happy year for us. We have kept good health throughout and had the pleasure of celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary in August. All of our immediate family, daughters and husbands, grandchildren and partners plus our first great grandson made it a happy time for us. Among close friends attending we were thrilled to welcome three American friends. Roger spent the war years with me in a prison camp in the Philippines.

We managed to fit in two delightful holidays this year. In

March we had a trip to Cape York on a cargo boat, visiting Thursday and Horne Islands, plus Bamaga at the tip. It was an interesting, restful voyage watching supplies being unloaded and

loaded at various stopovers en route. Yes, all rubbish from the Islands is loaded in empty containers to be disposed of on the mainland. We left Cairns on the Friday prior to cyclone Larry that hit Innisfail on the Monday. The whole trip there and back was sunny and balmy, all the winds being directed south.

The second holiday was a week of sightseeing with our American friends. Cairns was the base and we toured the Tablelands, visited Green Island, Cape Tribulation, rode the Skyrail etc. It was a happy though strenuous holiday. Needed to return home for a rest!

George is still involved with the RSL, Legacy and his Masonic Lodge. Should receive his 60 year medal from the latter this November. In keeping our 10 acre farm in order keeps him moving. Our mango crop should be ready for harvesting shortly.

I too have been busy. My daughter Jan and I decided we could not leave my father's memoirs, various talks to Rotary and articles in the local paper in a bottom drawer. Decided to edit and publish them. It has produced a very interesting story of his early life in China under the Dowager-Empress, through the Boxer Rebellion, the rule of the war lords and all the international treaties at the beginning of the 20th century etc. A personal story of a European who had accepted with tolerance the cultural difference of life in China. We were fortunate in saving the respective photos to illustrate the book – many over 100 years old. The launch here in September was successful.

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$100. towards the cost of postage for the Courier which we look forward to receiving.

A Merry Christmas and a healthy 2007 to all. With love.

From Margaret Monk

Dear 2/2nd Friends everywhere – It will soon be Courier time again so I thought I'd better find some news.

It has started to rain here tonight after weeks of very dry weather. Ken always measured the rainfall and kept a record of it and we have found it very interesting. I was asked recently if I could supply some rainfall information and I was able to give the yearly totals for the last 43 years and the average over that time is 42.06 inches or in modern language 1051.5mm – until the end of August this year we have only had 22.40 inches so are well below the average so far.

I spoke to Mary Bone on the phone tonight, also Pat Petersen and Joan Fenwick – Mary is to have a knee operation at The Avenue Hospital in Windsor on 11 September so we hope all goes well for her. She sends greetings to all 2/2nd folk. Pat said she is feeling fantastic again after having had surgery recently – her sister Miriam is fit and well and their mother had her 99th birthday a while back. It was nice to catch up with Joan Fenwick. She sounded really good but says she has slowed down quite a bit lately – still enjoys her garden but needs some help.

Mavis Broadhurst rang me a couple of weeks ago – it is always nice to have a chat. Don has sold his farm and has bought a unit in Darwin – it is a big change for him but it is all very interesting – moving from a big home and garden to a much smaller one.

My son Colin and his partner Wendy are planning a trip to Perth and the South West. They arrive in Perth on 1 November and will hire a campervan – Colin would like to meet up with some of Ken's mates – Jack Carey, Bernie

Langrdige, Arthur Marshall to name a few. I will give him the address book so he will be able to contact some by phone and take it from there.

I decided to make a few more phone calls – had a talk to Mary Cooper – she is to go to Dandenong Valley Hospital for a knee reconstruction so all will join with me in wishing her all the best. Leith says he's doing well for his age – his next birthday will be his 90th.

Next was Dawn and Arch Clancy – they are not at all well but battling on – Dawn is so thankful that they have a wonderful family. Also had a long chat with Lionel Newton recently. They have had some hard times – Elsie is in care now and Lionel is having treatment for a problem with a leg.

Last of my calls was Harry Botterill. He rang to tell me of Clarrie Turner's death. Ken spoke of Clarrie a lot and we called on him and Grace a couple of times when we were in the west – he was a great mate. Harry is going along very well – I told him he must be the pick of the bunch of the Victorians closely followed by Pat Petersen and Mavis Broadhurst.

My family are all well and busy. My four little great grand daughters are just beautiful and growing up quickly. The eldest is now 4.

Don has 6 great grandies – he has his 80th birthday on 21 August and is doing well. He still enjoys his golf. He came home with the Runner-up Trophy recently when he played a Veteran's day at Mirboo North.

All the Victorians send their love to Delys – we are all thinking of you Delys and Jack.

I'd better stop and leave room for all the other letters. Till next time – best wishes to all.

PS: Fay Campbell visited us a few weeks ago – she is wonderful and enjoying life at Benalla. She enjoys her garden and travels about quite a lot.

(Margaret's letter just missed the last Courier)

Christmas card received from Hazel Morris.

Wishing all friends a Happy and Healthy 2007. We miss Ron very much but he is not suffering any longer. He has been very ill for the last 2 years.

We have had a terrible 2006, my daughter lost her husband with cancer on January 20th. She then had a grief breakdown and then fell and broke her right leg in my garden. Roll on 2006 it can't be much worse.

Hope you are improving Delys, and our prayers are with you. God Bless – Hazel and Family

Letter from Gwenda Kirkwood

Dear Jack, thanks for your note – pleased to hear from you but so sorry to hear of Delys' illness. So sad for someone so friendly and vibrant to be dealt such a cruel blow. My thoughts and prayers are with you both – God Bless.

I am now in McDougall Park Nursing Home, have been here since mid June. I'm very well but my legs don't work?? So frustrating but that's life I guess. I'm being well cared for and have settled in but it took a while. Had a couple of spells in Hollywood while I had a Pacemaker put in and then I had a fall while recuperating in hospital and ricked my shoulder which is still giving me trouble 6 months later – fortunately I'm right handed so I can cope.

The days can be long but a member of the family comes most days and I

read, do crosswords by the book full. I'm sharing a room with a lady who has lost her memory – oh so sad.

There's really no news from here Jack but I wanted to write and acknowledge your note and to wish Delys all the best in her struggle against such a problem. As I said, my thoughts and prayers are with you both.

Love & regards

Gwenda Kirkwood

Letter from Elizabeth

Prior

Dear Delys – enclosed a cheque for \$60. for my Courier Donation. Sorry I am late.

I was very impressed with "All the Bull's Men". We now have 4 copies in our family, also 1 copy to a nephew in N.S.W.

I wish you and Jack - Good Health and Happiness.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Prior

Letter from Kath Press

Dear Editor – saying "Hello" and acknowledging receipt of Courier which still keeps coming and which I enjoy reading despite the many "Vales" – but also many items of interest. Per favour of our Michael, who lives at Bakers Hill – our family all have editions of "All the Bull's Men" (5 copies in all). Enclosing donation for the Courier or whatever else is needed.

Best wishes to all for 2007 – another year of life gone by – God Bless.

Sincerely

Kath Press

Letter from T Pulliene

Dear Jack – enclosed find cheque for \$70.00 for a book "All the Bull's Men". The address to send it to will be at the end of this letter. Also find a cheque for \$50.00 to be used where required.

I'm back in hospital for repairs to my leg and arm after a fall trying to put my pants on. I also have a bad infection (skin) on the legs which seems to be healing well. Actually I'm feeling better than I have for a long time. I hope Del is feeling better – God Bless. I loved her story about growing up it reminded me so much of the early years of my life. I found it a wonderful way to grow up, it's a shame the kids of today can't do the things we did or experienced the carefree life most of us had. All the modern kid can look forward to is a back pack full of books and told to achieve. Really it is not much to look forward to – the adventure and safety are gone, only study and security are left. I'm feeling sorry for the Timorese – they are not the same type of people we knew. Maybe the hill people are still the best, but I guess we must still help where we can.

So far I claim to be the fist victim of the book (All the Bull's Men). I was reading and went to sleep, the book slipped down and the corner dug a little hole in my knee, so do I get a Purple Heart for that or not. I'm enjoying the book but haven't been able to read very well due to medication that makes the eyes blurry, so far so good. My grandson will be home from Iraq early December for R&R here – he has been there for 6 months and he is in the same unit as Tex Richards grandson Tom who has now been in Timor twice, Solomon Islands twice and now in Iraq. I have a grand-daughter touring Europe, Italy and UK and having a good time.

By the way, seeing Tom will be home in December just send the book to me, thank you. I see Tom Foster has shown another talent – salesmanship. He was always a good bloke and a great soldier, good on you Tom.

Well there is never a dull moment when you have a big family. We have had 4 weddings and one next month, 5-21st birthdays this year.

Well Good Luck, Good Health to all.

Yours sincerely

Tom

NB: Great to hear from you Tom. Keep going and be careful when you are pulling your pants on. Mind you wouldn't be the first to fall when pulling them on. It has happened to all of us.

Jack.

Letter from Lucky & Doreen Goodhew

Dear Jack – about time I scratched a few lines to let it be known that Doreen and I are both well. Enclosed cheque for Courier or whatever. We both hope that Delys is restored to full health. We also wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

PS: my birthday, born 30.05.1924.

Lucky

Dear Members – I hope that this little note finds you all enjoying life. I am enclosing a money order for the sum of \$70 for the book (All the Bull's Men). Time drifts away so fast that one has a hard time keeping up.

It was five years on 30th October since the passing of my father Eric Weller. He has left a few reminders in Exmouth as he built the duplex's and a few other

houses that are still standing and which stood up to cyclone Vance.

The summer is slowly creeping back to make it's presence felt and Christmas is almost upon us again. I will enclose a donation for the Courier as well.

I was in Perth at the beginning of the year and my son took me to King's Park where there are plaques honouring the men who paid the supreme sacrifice, and until we came across this plaque in our area (photo enclosed) I had not ever seen any reference to the 2/2nd. It was very pleasing to have at long last found something to remind people that the 2/2nd played a very important part in keeping Australia free.

I am still involved with the sailing and next week we are holding the Exmouth version of the America's cup which is in it's 4th year. I am sailing under our Australian flag with my grandson, Nathan. I also have 2 other crew depending on the wind strengths. There are flags from other countries that race in our America's cup and some that don't. It's held over 2 days and we have a lot of fun. This year everyone has to make a dish of food from the country whose flag you are flying under, I should make the sweet that my grandfather loved but I am ashamed to admit I have never cooked. I don't think that I will start now, I will leave it to one of my crew.

I am working for home and community care and enjoy ever minute of it.

There was a bowling competition over the weekend and my John's team won the cup.

Well that is all there is, I cannot think of anymore and it is with regret that I must say farewell.

May God's blessings be with you all for the Festive Season.

From Tricia & John O'Donnell (nee Weller) *Sharkie's Shack, Exmouth*

From – 200 Olsens Road, Poowong East. 3988 Dated 23.11.2006

Dear Delys and Jack – I decided it was time to send a letter off for the Courier – it can add on to the one that I sent too late for the last Courier.

Colin and Wendy arrived home safely after their very enjoyable holiday in W.A. They had a great time and were really pleased to spend some time with you both and also Babs and Bernie Langridge, Eric and Twy Smyth and Arthur and Audrey Marshall – I enjoyed the photos he brought back for me of you all. It was great to see your smiling faces.

It is hard to believe that Christmas is but a month away. I don't know just what Don and I will be doing as with two families, making plans can be a bit difficult. However we find time to catch up with everyone over a week or two.

I have the 17th December set aside for the Monk family to have a day together. Elva and Rod were to be home then for 4-5 weeks but their plans have gone astray as Rod's aunt in Scotland has been ill in hospital and is now home and Elva has gone to care for her – Rod will join them when his holidays are due. His aunt has only Rod and his two brothers as family so it makes it hard for all. It is possible that they will not get home this year.

We have had Harry Botterill here for a week and we have done a few trips. A visit to Leith and Mary Cooper at Cowes was very enjoyable. Since we were there May has had a knee operation so will be slowed down for a while. We also went to Wilson's Promontory on Sunday 19th November to the

Commando Pilgrimage. Harry was the only 2/2 member there – Pat Petersen went with us so it was great to have her company.

I have spoken with Mary Bone and she is doing very well after her knee reconstruction.

My family are all well and busy. Colin and Wendy are happy in their new home at Archies Creek. Colin's girls are going well – Tienielle is very busy at her hairdressing salon in Poowong and husband Brad is milking cows on the farm. Their 2 little girls Zali 4 and Ebony 2 are just beautiful and growing up too quickly.

Corrina and her friend Brett live in Drouin. Corrina is a dental nurse and Brett works on a local apple orchard.

Elva's son Finlay and wife Fiona live at Newborough and her daughter Catherine in Melbourne.

Barbara and Owen have a really beautiful home, garden and farm at Healesville. They overlook part of the Yarra Valley and enjoy wonderful views. Angela their eldest daughter, husband Patrick and 3-1/2 year old twins, Grace and Emily live at Mt Waverley. Barbara still helps with the girls and enjoys their company.

Megan is enjoying teaching at Caulfield Grammar and Lucilla is hoping to get a position in her chosen career – Internal Architecture. She would like to work in theatres making sets for performances etc.

Robert and Cathy are now Darby and Joan at home on the farm. They only milk the cows once a day now and are finding it very satisfactory. It gives them more time available for other necessary farm work and the cows "like" it too.

Ben is in his 3rd year apprenticeship as an electrician and Amy works at a

cheese factory. They both live in Warragul.

Don and I are keeping busy – Don still plays quite a lot of golf which he enjoys. I like my garden and flower judging – on that I will be judging at the Yarram Show.

We wish all our 2nd family and friends the best of health and happiness and good times at Christmas and the coming year. This will be our Seasons Greetings to all instead of individual letters. Don joins me with love to all.

Margaret

P S: We think of you a lot Del. Colin really enjoyed his time with you both.

TED'S DIARY

Earlier this year Rod Adams of Albany, a nephew of the late Ted Potts sent some extracts from the diary Ted kept while he was a POW in Japan from September 1942 until the war ended. Ted you may recall was with Charlie Dodd and 3 others when they were captured, believe it or not by a Jap submarine in March 1942 when attempting to escape in an outrigger canoe.

Ted was in a prison camp in Fukuoka in Northern Kyosho. Fukuoka occupies an area of about 5,000sq.km. Agriculture is carried out in the South but it is mainly important for its coal mines and industry. It's main port is located on the Southern coast of Hakaya Bay. The POW's worked on the wharves and in the coal mines.

Ted writes -

"24th September 1943 – the Japs caught 11 Indonesians who had pinched some cookies from the canteen and took them out before the guardhouse and they took turns in beating them and the little Nip interpreter told them where to hit them so that it would hurt. That is the joints of

the legs and arms and the rump and they kicked them in the stomach as well, in fact they beat them unconscious and one little chap he would not go out to it and they tried their damndest to make him, and they were put into three little cells where they could not stand up. 4 each in two cells and three in another for 4-5 days, it was not punishment but just plain cruelty and the Nips glory in that sort of punishment.

15th January 1944 – The Canadian Red Cross has arrived and the Nips won't give us the parcels but are going to issue them out to us when they think fit and the cows are helping themselves to the stuff they have issued us on different days.

Two packets of raisins between 5 men and also 2 packets of cheese between 5. Three tins of milk powder between 52 men in the room and it went at 1 heaped tablespoon per man, 2 packets of chocolate between 5 men and six tins of butter between 52 men. Two tins went between 16 men, 8 to a tin and the others were 9 men to a tin. I was one of the nines.

The Nips don't take any notice of the International Red Cross Society for they say what arrives in a Jap ship is Jap property and they help themselves to what they like.

24th January 1944 – Today is a bad day for the Nips as their so called biggest dock in the world, big enough to build a 100,000 ton liner in, went smack today. The Cofferdam sprung a leak and the sea came in up against the dock gate which was not quite finished and the lot caved in allowing the gate to go up against the two ships in the outer dock and sent them with terrific force up against the centre gate with a

heavy blow that dented the bows and put a hole in them and also put two great holes in the concrete gate which stood the pressure until it was too great and that also gave way and let the two ships and the volume of water rush through into the other half which had a couple of ships being built in them and they were pushed forward by the two ships and the water until they were nearly pushed right out of the dock. After the water reached the sea level the two ships receded on the backwash and settled themselves on top of the remains of the middle gate and there they stopped, while the other two ships frames gradually broke their backs and settled down on to the bottom of the dock in a crumpled up state. It was good to watch and experience it for I was on one of the two ships and it will hold them up about 12-18 months I hope. It started about 8 o'clock and finished at 0925hrs. About 20 Nips lost and 2 prisoners hurt. I enjoyed it and the experience."

The Cofferdam goes back to Roman engineers who built numbers of them to found the piers of their stone arch bridges and aqueducts. Cofferdams are made by driving sheet piling, usually steel, to form a watertight fence. The vertical piles are held in place by horizontal framing members, constructed of heavy timber or steel. The shores must be sturdy and well braced to withstand the shock of being hit by a heavy dredging bucket and must be able to withstand the horizontal forces from the body of water when water inside is pumped from the Cofferdam.

"14th February 1944 – Was a big inspection day for the camp as the Fukuoka heads came to inspect the

camp. The Nips here gave us big eats for almost a week so as to get their books up to date and right so that there would be no trouble with the heads, for the Nips in charge of this camp are working a great racket. They had 2,600 bars of soap down in the books as issued to us but we never saw them. They had hidden Red Cross issue meant for us in between a big store of blankets, soap, American battle dresses, boots etc. and Red Cross stuff. They are dead scared of headquarters finding out things. They beat up another couple of Japanese for having rice tins in their possession today and they also had to stop in the cells at night for 2-3 days without a wash or change of clothes. There was a Red Cross issue of ham and liver paste, 24 tins between 51 men, 3 tins between 9 and the rest, 1 tin between 2 men.

3rd September 1944 – Yasumi Day, went into hospital with pneumonia and I felt pretty crook too. Pains all down my right side like stabbing needles. I had a few eggs mixed with milk and also a tin of milk powder issue to me. We had one parcel a man about 5 months back and the rest have been rationed, so many to a tin or packet. Nip fashion.

1st June 1945 – Japanese sea plane crashed outside the camp in the sea about a quarter of a mile away at about 3 o'clock in the morning.

We heard that we are going from Fukuoka No.2 camp to camp No. 21 on or about the 20th or 21st June. The day we heard about the change was the 15th. All the Aussies are glad of the change and so am I for I have been in this camp 2 years 9 months.

There is also 2-3 parties going to other camps.

Paul Mannot is going to camp 20 so that we are split up at last. John de Brown is also going to camp 20, I hope they get on alright until the war is finished for I think it will end this year.

Fukuoka No. 2 camp left for camp No. 21 at 12.30 o'clock with 9 buns and 2pkts of cigs instead of 5pkts of cigs (Japanese) and 3 of Red Cross cigs. The 5pkts of cigs we had paid for already. We hope the next camp is nearer home. The date today is the 21st June 1945.

Left camp No. 2 at 12.30 and left Nakasaki station 3.45 by train, arrived Camp 21 about 4 o'clock. It is a coal mine. One months work in and about camp and then instruction about how to separate coal. I have landed a job in the cook house for a week or so. I went out into the boiler for hot water for the baths and two coppers for boiling the tea for 600 men.

The mine stopped work on the 15th August at 2 o'clock and the guards said that there was no more work for the prisoners and the night before there was a big air raid and the kites dropped papers and bombs. The following day as there was no work we reckoned the war was over and so it is, as we found out from the Jap soldiers.

17th August 1945 – The Jap commandent handed over all the keys of the stores to the Dutch officer in charge and so we have an issue of sweet coffee today and an issue of 1 tin of salmon a man on the rice tonight and also a 1 lb tin of milk a man so far, it is certainly the end, thank the Lord and I will soon be going home to my loved ones. We also had 3 packets

of cigarettes, 1 Camel and 2 Chesterfield and two packets of chewing gum. One suit of clothes and cap. They had a sing song this evening and put up all the flags in the dining hall, the British, Aussies, Dutch, Chinese, Russians and Yanks and sang the national anthem, while I was making tea all the evening up to 11.30 as that is the time now. Then I went into the cook house and helped to make milk coffee and open 600 tins of jam and butter, 2oz tins, one for each man, besides a loaf of bread and a mug of milk coffee with sugar.

28th August 1945 – Boots and socks arrived in camp today. Cigs are short and we hope for a supply to come in. Breakfast – bread and seaweed stew. Dinner – rice and seaweed stew. The Yank planes came over during the afternoon and dropped a lot of Red Cross supplies by parachute with drums of good, clothing and cigs in the drums so we had a high time getting all the drums into camp. We had rice, and mixed Red Cross meat stew for supper out of some of the tins which were busted and we also had a dish of tin fruit as well and it was good. An issue of 5pkts Yank cigs per man, 2 sticks of chocolate, 5 pkts chewing gum, 7 boxes of matches (the first in four years). About 20-30 drums were dropped.

10th October 1945 – Left camp at 7 o'clock by the same plane for Darwin. Got up at 4 o'clock and had breakfast.

Ted passed away on 17th November 1967.

MERDEKA DAY – MEMORIAL SERVICE

In Kings Park on the 31st August 2006 I attended on behalf of the 2/2 Commando Association an invitation to the State War Memorial to honour comrades who served and died in the Malayan Borneo Java Campaigns of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association, Whitford Branch R.S.L.

The weather held good, the rain showers cleared and a big assembly of Veterans and members with banner. VIP's – Mr Richard Court, ex Premier, Mr Bob Kucera for State, Malayan Ambassador, RSL President, Bill Gaynor and 12 wreath bearers marched proudly in leading the ranks to the War Memorial at 12 noon, with the 10 State Wardens standing guard. The wreath bearers took their turn in marching and placing the wreaths up the steps on the War Memorial, then the Last Post, the Ode and Rouse followed. The Head Warden, Mr Richard Court gave an address followed by the Malayan Ambassador and RSL President Bill Gaynor also spoke. That ended a very short commemorative service.

All members were invited to the sausage sizzle and refreshments at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Red Pavilion, Kings Park which is a beautiful grassed area with lake, fountain and landscaping with new pathways. An excellent gathering of members and friends with heaps of good hamburgers, steak, sausages and onions. A very pleasant, carefree afternoon was had and a great day to remember.

I was surprised at the large number of people walking through the Park.

Dick Darrington

WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER?

As I pause to consider that we have in the last month (November 2006) twice stopped to remember the valour that has bought our freedom and the love and kindness of our fathers and grandfathers, it occurs to me to ask what will our actions show that we really remember and value.

Do we by our actions behave like the KGB, Gestapo, Italian Black Shirts or the Japanese on Timor? By that I mean do we:

- backstab others;
- spread gossip;
- "pigeon hole", or
- categorize others based on some stereotype (no matter how correct such stereotype is);
- interfere in others courtships or general relationship choices;

How many suicides are really murder by someone who has given the suicide victim a hard time, or even just a cold shoulder?

Or do we show kindness to the stranger, those who are marginalized, by society? Do we share a laugh, compliment, or a kind word with those who are weighed down (eg: the supermarket checkout operator)? Do we tell each other how much they mean to us? And in all this do we make sure we do the same in our families.

As our association, as we know it, winds down and the last of our 2nd/2nd forebears, their wives and siblings lay down their burdens, we who have benefited from the love of a large extended family have an

even more stark and obvious choice between two very distinct options.

A) We can imbibe the hype used to hypnotize us into bottling up love and compassion, and to stop others from thinking and worshipping as they choose, - which in effect is no different from acting like the aggressors of World War 11, the KGB, other secret police agencies and their likes.

B) We can pass on the love we have twice this month stopped to remember.

Our fathers/grandfathers may not be with us any longer, but we can repay them by passing on love and giving freedom to the individuals we meet. While this latter choice may have costs, the benefits can be "out of this world".

The choice belongs to each of us as individuals on a daily and hourly basis.

Greg Tyerman, 25th November 2006

Pars on People

Viv & Verna Paust moved from their property at Bindoon to Woodvale on 4th November. Their new home is adjacent to the Yellagonga Regional Park so they can still enjoy seeing kangaroos on their daily walk. Viv underwent an operation to remove a brain tumour on 25th April last, fortunately it was benign but he is still taking time to overcome his operation and this has resulted in the move closer to Perth. It is over 11 years ago since Viv volunteered to go to the Don Bosco Training Centre in East Timor to teach woodwork skills to a group of instructors. In the 2 months

he was there, being a good teacher he accomplished a great deal and the Timorese benefited from his stay.

Wilf March who will be 90 in February spent 17 days in Hollywood Hospital with a severe breathing problem and is on oxygen most of the time at home. Wilf has displayed great courage over the 8 year period he has suffered with cancer. He has undergone a number of voluntary experimental treatments during that period for which he deserves much credit. Wilf maintains he could not have kept going but for the loving support of Lorraine his devoted wife.

"God Bless Them."

Ray Parry who recently retired as President after 5 years in the Chair is having a tough time. That scourge of the elderly male, prostate cancer, is his problem. Ray is responding to treatment but is still having an uphill battle. We wish better days, Ray.

Recently Elsie Jordan visited her dear old friend Jess Epps who is in a nursing care situation in Karrinyup. Elsie was advised Jess was not talking to anyone, so she stuck her head in the room and said, "It's me Elsie to see you Jess". In next to no time they were both chatting away merrily about the good times they had, had together in the old days. The visit was a great tonic for Jess. Well done Elsie.

It was nice to see Len Bagley at the commemoration service and Christmas social. Len is gradually coming good after a pretty rough period and plans to visit his brother in Canberra in March.

Dot Maley is leaving on Boxing Day to spend 6 weeks with her daughter in Sweden. Take plenty of winter woollies Dot or find a nice warm Swedish gent.

COURIER DONATIONS

Lew Nicklason, Yvonne Walsh, Alan Luby, Iris Rowan-Robinson, Gloria Isenhood, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Doug & Shirley Dixon, May Orr, Ed & Dorothy Bourke, Ron Archer, Allan & Joan Mitchell, George & Margo Shiels, Mary McKenzie, Doug Bowden, Paddy & Nora Kenneally, Reg Wilson, Lucky & Doreen Goodhew, Kath Press, Elizabeth Prior, Tom Pulliene, Patricia O'Donnell, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, John & Olive Chalwell, Fred & Robyn Hasson, Elsie Jordan, David Wares, Don & Ida Murray, Helen Poynton.

Roll Call as at 30 November 2006

	Members	Widows
W.A.	25	44
N.S.W.	19	35
VIC.	16	12
QUEENSLAND	8	22
S.A.	3	6
TASMANIA	3	5
A.C.T.	1	3
U.K.	=	1
Totals	75	128

Courier is issued to 336 Quarterly
 203 to Members and Widows
 133 to Relatives and Friends
 Mr H Y Sproxton - Statistician

TRUST FUND DONATIONS

Ron Archer \$500.00
 Paddy & Nora Kenneally \$100.00
 Reg Wilson \$100.00
 Kath Press \$100.00
 Thank you for your continued support.

BIRTHDAY BOYS

George Shiels	September	17	85
Tom Martin	October	05	90
Bob Smyth		08	89
Len Bagley		13	83
John Chalwell		20	83
Dick Darrington		31	84
Bulla Tait	November	29	84
Leith Cooper	December	08	90
Les Halse		08	87
Kel Carthew		12	84
Fred Stewart		18	94
Paddy Winkby		19	85

So this bloke goes into a shop and asks for Irish Sausages.

The assistant looked at him and asked "Are you Irish?"

"If I asked you for Italian Sausage, would you ask me if I was Italian?"

Or, if I asked for German Bratwurst, would you ask me if I was German? Or if I asked you for a Kosher Hot Dog, would you ask me if I was Jewish? Or if I asked you for a Taco, would you ask me if I was Mexican? Would ya, ay? Would Ya?"

The assistant say, "Well no".

With self indignation, the man says, "Well, all right then, why did you ask me if I'm Irish just because I asked for Irish Sausages?"

The assistant replies, "Because you're in Bunnings."

READERS PLEASE NOTE

The S.A.S. Association's 2007 calendars are now on offer.

Wall Calendars	\$10.00 plus postage	\$2.50 for one or two
Desk Calendars	\$ 5.00	\$2.50

To order send cheque, money order or credit card details to:

Bart Mavrick
 18 Gratitude Way
 Dawesville WA 6210 Phone: (08) 9582 2424

Please provide your mailing details – include your name and postal address.

These are quality calendars and are RECOMMENDED.

Paddy Kenneally recommends the following D.V.D. produced by Monica O'Brien.

“EYES OF THE TIGER”

is an explicit account of the real Vietnam War as told by members of the First Australian Reconnaissance Platoon. Cost is \$28.00 which includes postage. Contact – Lets Play Productions Pty Ltd, 193 Headland Road, NorthCurl Curl N.S.W. 2099 Phone: (02) 9339 0309

ATTENTION - W.A. MEMBERS

The S.A.S. Veterans' Association once again invites members and friends to join with them in their

Australia Day Celebrations at “The House”
 on **Friday 26th January 2007.**

Form a group and come along and enjoy a Barbecue Lunch, drinks and take part in a few raffles from 10.30am. It is always a great day.

HONOUR BOARD

AUSTRALIAN SERVICEMEN, PORTUGUESE & TIMORESE HELPERS KILLED ON TIMOR-LESTE 1941-45



2/2nd AUST INDEPENDENT CO.

Pte.	D.H. AIREY	20/02/42
Pte.	R.G. ALEXANDER	20/02/42
Pte.	F.J. ALFORD	20/02/42
Pte.	R.S.R. CHALMERS	20/02/42
L/Sgt.	G.A. CHISWELL	20/02/42
Pte.	H.J. COTSWORTH	20/02/42
Pte.	F.T. CROWDER	20/02/42
L/Cpl.	O.R. EWAN	14/08/42
Pte.	B.I. GANNON	20/02/42
Pte.	K.T. HOGG	20/02/42
Pte.	P. KNIGHT	02/03/42
Pte.	A.J. LANE	20/02/42
Pte.	H.W. MARRIOTT	20/02/42
Pte.	H.E. MITCHELL	02/03/42
Spr.	L.C. MOULE	10/12/42
Pte.	R.H. MURRAY	20/02/42
Pte.	J POLLARD	20/02/42
L/Cpl.	J.F. SIMPSON	20/02/42
Pte.	A. SMEATON	11/11/42
Pte.	F.C. SMITH	20/02/42
Pte.	R.R. SWIFT	15/12/41
Pte.	G.E. THOMAS	11/11/42
S/Sgt.	J.W.E. WALKER	20/02/42
Pte.	D.C. WALLER	12/08/42
Pte.	A.E. YEATES	12/08/42



2/4th AUST INDEPENDENT CO.

Pte.	S.W. BELL	11/12/42
Cpl.	E.J. DEAN	24/12/42
Pte.	D.H. FITNESS	21/05/43
Pte.	E.J. HOURIGAN	29/09/42
L/Cpl.	E.G. HOWELL	11/06/42
Pte.	O.R. WILLIAMS	28/10/42



"Z" SPECIAL UNIT

Lt.	T.J. BARNES	13/04/45
S/Sgt.	K.H. BELL	17/05/45
Sgt.	E.H. GREGG	22/08/44
Capt.	J.E. GRIMSON	22/08/44
Sgt.	D.L. LILYA	17/05/45
Lt.	E.J. LIVERSIDGE	20/11/44
Sgt.	K.M. MARSHALL	17/05/45
Cpl.	J.A. NICOL	17/05/45
Lt.	A.F. WILKINS	17/05/45
Lt.	D.M. WILLIAMS	05/07/45
	Z. REBELLO	



A Special Tribute is Paid
to the RAN and the RAAF
particularly for their sea and
air Services during 1942.
There is no way the Army could have Survived
for the whole year without their help.



NE'E MÖS HANESAN LEMBRANSA ROHAN LAEK BA TIMOR OAN HOTU
NEBE FO TULUN BA FUNU NA'IN AUSTRALIANU SIRA

(THIS IS ALSO A PERPETUAL MEMORIAL TO THE MANY TIMORESE HELPERS)