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

Vol 155

JUNE 2006

Timor Today.

In 1999 the East Timorese people were given the opportunity to vote for their independence. 98% voted of whom 78% voted for independence, remarkable figures indeed. On the 19/20th May 2002 almost 100 countries were represented at the East Timor Independence Day celebrations and witnessed the signing of the Timor Sea Treaty between Australia and Timor. Free at last from rule by foreign powers, Portugal and Indonesia, the challenge was theirs to create a new nation, all working together to improve their living standards and quality of life. Four years on the island is in a state of turmoil with Timorese killing Timorese! There is also wanton destruction of property and lawlessness rife. Our troops have been recalled again along with other countries to restore order. What went wrong? The blame rests entirely in the hands of the Fretlin controlled Government led by Prime Minister Mari Alkatari. A square peg in a round hole. Alkatari should be dismissed and a new election called for later this year. Timor is going nowhere, something has to be done. The incompetence shown by some ministers is beyond belief, ask Bob Smyth, Chairman of our Trust Fund for the past 15 years. Dealing with the Indonesians was bad enough but dealing with the East Timor officials is a damn side worse Bob's great concept of sending big quantities of vegetable seeds to help the people in the mountain areas has come to a halt. He has been waiting for months to receive a reply from the Minister of Finance for a permit to send the seeds. "God helps those who help themselves". The Timorese would well be advised to adopt this slogan. They must forget the past and work together to make Timor a better country. It can be done.

J. Carey.

Vale Terence Paull WX 12340

Terry Paull, the Father, Grandfather, and friend we loved reached the ripe old age of 86. He no longer had the independence and freedom, which had characterised his life. We loved him dearly.

Few remain to remember the carefree little boy born to Henry and Ellen Paull in Collie on 12th April 1920. He was their 5th child. Joan, Jim, Margaret (dec) and John were his brothers and sisters. His father died 2 years later and their mother remarried with sister Norma being born.

My Aunt tells me that Dad had a rigid dress code in his early years. He insisted on wearing a necktie each day. He refused to don any clothing except the necktie

The 2nd marriage didn't last and the children spent long periods at their Grandparents farm at Pithara while their Mother worked in towns around the state. The relationship with his Grandparents were very strong for Terry and he had an enduring love for his Grandmother.

In the 1930's his Mother was in Kalgoorlie and had the "Criterion" tearooms. The growing brothers worked at farm work until they were able to land work in the mines. Terry was working in mining when WWII was declared. He enlisted on 5th May 1941 just after his 21st birthday.

Along with others, when a request was posted for young, fit and single men with special capabilities, Terry volunteered for an unspecified project cloaked in secrecy. He was selected into this group which was to become No. 2 Australian Independent Company (and later the 2/

2nd Commando Squadron). In this unit he served in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain from December 1941 until the war ended. Terry's Mother must have been a special person with a strong commitment within the extended family.

When he was on leave after Timor, Terry took 6 2/2nd mates home to Kalgoorlie with him. When they were leaving his Mother gave them each 1 pound, the same as she gave her son.

The war extracted a high toll on the emotional, mental and physical health of many men. One positive outcome for Dad was the lifelong bonds forged between the 2/2 men. He treasured, those friendships. (I suspect Dad probably had what is now called Post Traumatic Stress).

After the war, he tried mining again apparently due to blackouts, this work wasn't possible for him. He did have a stint at Wittencoom -for -6 months mining asbestos. This later resulted with Asbestosis.

Terry took to working on trains. It was while working on the Trans Continental train that he met Ivy Cairns. She and some friends had won money in a lottery and had travelled to Perth for a holiday. He was smitten and returned to Melbourne and they married 14-10-1950. Ivy had a daughter Sylvia (12Yrs).

Sandra Lee was born the following year. Anne Maree was born 2 years later. Whist Ivy was expecting Anne, Terry was in Heidelberg Hospital for 8 months. Apparently for years after the war he suffered from dreadful headaches which would at times cause him to hit his head on walls the pain was so great.

His nerves were also a problem and he was advised to work in open spaces.

Dad then went to work in the timber industry and he worked on Mt. Buller felling timber for 5 years.

In 1958 we came back to Western Australia to live, settling in Boyup Brook, again in the timber industry. That was a perfect place for children to grow up. My parents were very social and enjoyed nothing better than to go out dancing. They danced beautifully together. They were very keen supporters of the town football team and Dad provided the Fairest and Best trophy. This was a time when I was able to observe characteristics in my Dad. He was very generous. Once when he had 2 jumpers, he gave one to someone without one. I understand Mum wasn't too happy because she'd knitted it and it was brand new. He loved nothing better than to share his hospitality with friends and to look out for others. He was a man without pretension, who would provide help to others without seeking reward. He was my Dad and he gave us a lift to the best swimming spots.

This was also a difficult time for Dad. I think the stresses of running a business put him under pressure and possibly difficult memories were surfacing again.

The family moved to the Fremantle area in 1968 and after a time at Robbs Jetty, Terry went back to his work as a chef. He worked on Barrow Island, State ships and mine sites and continued in this work until his retirement. One Christmas when Dad was away on the ships we received a message to say 2 Spanish merchant sailors might be joining us for Christmas lunch. Sure enough they arrived, unable to speak a word of English, and were welcomed.

While still in this work, Terry and Ivy moved to Mandurah to live and loved the life. The family had gone there for holidays from Boyup and they always enjoyed the town. After his retirement they started going to the goldfields and really enjoyed fossicking.

Mum especially. They acquired a mining lease in the Kookynie area and so began their goldfields phase. For a few years they went there for about 3 months each year, but that changed in when they were about 74 years old. They sold their Mandurah house and moved permanently to their lease.

Dad did not choose to do this in a primitive fashion. He decided to go solar and had white goods rewired to run on batteries charged by the panels. Each year more and more equipment was brought into the camp. They eventually added a solar pump to draw water from a bore, a satellite dish for the phone, a TV on which they could watch shows from Brisbane, Adelaide or Darwin and a garden with vegetables and flowers. They loved to entertain and have friends stay and would always have copious stores of food, which Dad would cook up. Home-made ice cream, Barramundi and a full ham were normal for the fridge. From the time they moved to Kookynie, Ivy started having health problems. She had 2 major operations within the first 3 years resulting in a ruptured bowel after the 1st and major post op infection after the 2nd. Each time Terry nursed her back to health plying her with food brimming in nuts, eggs, fruits and fresh vegies.

In 1997 the loss of their beloved daughter Anne along with her husband Wayne who they thought the world of, was a heavy load for them to bear, especially given their isolation. They were so proud of Michelle, Dianna, Malcolm and Matthew and how they conducted themselves at this time. I pointed out that as their children we had been passing on values we learned from them.

2 years later Ivy (80) became lost. after wandering away from their home. For 3 nights and 3 days police, SES and local volunteers followed her trail and searched for her. Finally 20 min before the search was due to be called off they heard her call out.

The strain on Terry, waiting at the command centre in their home was terrible. We counted ourselves exceedingly lucky that she was found, but this sojourn probably initiated her dementia. As Ivy succumbed to dementia, Terry took over an increasing level of the work until he attended to all their needs, to the running of the home site, and to travelling to Kalgoorlie fortnightly for supplies. He maintained this load until 2004 when Ivy moved to a nursing home in Perth following a fractured tibia. This was difficult for Dad who was so determined to care for her. He then moved to Kalgoorlie with their 2 dogs Jedda and Debbie. He doted on the dogs and they wanted for nothing. His neighbours Jan and Tom became firm friends and provided wonderful support during his time in Kalgoorlie. Jedda died about the middle of last year and Tom even managed to dig a grave for her, which wouldn't have been easy in Kal dirt.

Terry suffered a stroke in September last year and when he was no longer capable of caring for himself, had to make the difficult decision to enter an aged hostel. He had to tackle speech therapy and was making improvements with this. Given his determined independence, all the changes in his life were difficult to bear, but he was trying to make the most of his situation.

He took great satisfaction at the release of the book 'All the Bull's Men' followed by the Anzac Day gathering when his beloved granddaughter, Leili, and I joined him for lunch with his mates.

His passing the following night now leaves us reflecting on Terry the man, his life, and his loves and in recognising the legacy we his family and friends have received from him. He lived an extraordinary life with a breadth of experiences few could emulate and had many character traits we would do well to share.

His loving daughter Sandra.

Terry Paul served in the No.1 section in Timor under Dave Dexter and in 10 section

in New Guinea and was on the patrol in which Phil Hopper the Section Leader lost his life. Terry was a good soldier who always gave of his best. He was a loyal and generous member of the Association and was made a life member for his contribution over the years. Being a chef he helped out on many Anzac Days when we did our own catering. His sudden death came as a shock as he was present at our launch signing a number of books and also attended our Anzac Day luncheon with daughter Sandra, granddaughter Leili. Present at his funeral service where Helen Poynton, Julie Ann, Jim Lines, Keith Hayes and Bernie Langridge who said the ODE.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Ivy, Sandra and family on Terry's passing.

Lest we forget.

Vale W J (Mick) Wellings VX 59618

In April of this year Ed Bourke visited Mick Wellings' home in 20a Wimmera St, Box Hill to enquire why a his last Courier had been returned. Mrs Wellings who answered the door told Ed her husband had passed away four years ago. Apparently it went unnoticed by the Victorian Branch and the family made no contact with the Branch which is to be regretted.

I have since written to Mrs. Wellings offering our condolences and asking would she kindly supply some details of Mick's life but as yet have not heard from her. Mick served in number three section in Timor and New Guinea and New Britain.

Dear Sir

I am writing to inform you that my mother (Helen Cowie) has passed away at the age of 87 years.

She derived much pleasure from reading 2/2 Commando Courier and telling the family about some of your articles of interest.

Mum was a real character and thought of herself as a writer, twice published in the Newcastle Herald. She will be missed very much as are the other special people of her generation who are no longer with us.

All the best,

Linda Cowley.

2/ 68 Albert Street

Warner's Bay, NSW 2282

The Association extends its sincere sympathy to the Cowie of family. Helen was the widow of Bill Cowie who passed away in

January 1994

Vale Betty Bagley

Members will be sorry to hear of the passing of Betty who died as a result of a stroke on Sunday evening the 25th May. Betty's health had been failing for some years as she suffered from dementia which necessitated her moving into a nursing home situation recently. A first class secretary in her day Betty did a tremendous amount of work on the Courier team comprising Arch Campbell, husband Len and Gavin Bagley. Arch was editor from 1981-1996 and when he retired Len took over as editor from 1991-1999. For that 20 year period Betty did all the typing up of correspondence. It was Len and Betty who did all the 'hard work' in the publication of the Courier. It was a demanding task and they did it well. For her contribution Betty was made an Associate Life Member. in 1993 - an honour well deserved. Len and Betty attended many a Safari and were wonderful supporters of the Association. Betty also helped Colin Doig in the production of his book which Colin acknowledged and appreciated. May she rest in peace.

Her funeral service held at Mandurah on 6th June was very well attended and some nice tributes were paid to a lovely lady. The

Association was represented by Mary and Paddy King, Helen Poynton, Jim Lines, Don Murray, Keith & Val Hayes, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Les Cranfield Ken Hasson, Bart & Lois Mavrick. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Len on his sad loss.

Bob Williamson's wife Aubrey died as a result of a heart attack on Saturday 3rd June at 6pm Aubrey who had a mild dementia went into a nursing home last August. She never really settled in and it did not help when she was put in a dementia ward with others. Bob and Aubrey were a devoted couple which is making it hard for him to accept. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Bob and family.

Anzac Day W A 2006

An overcast morning did not stop a large crowd from attending the Dawn Service in King's Park.

Peter Epps, as he has done for many years now, laid a beautiful double red diamond wreath on behalf of the 2/2nd and we thank him for that. Bob Smyth and John Burrige did the honours for us, attending the Dawn Service at the SAS Regiment's Memorial Service at Campbell Barracks Bob laid a wreath ~~that~~ also beautifully prepared.

We thank Bob for providing the wreaths and both John and Bob for once again representing us at the Service which Bob said was very well attended and most impressive.

The march later in the morning as a combined Commando Squadron Group went off well despite the light rain which began falling during the parade.

Neil Barnett led the march proudly carrying the Australian flag followed by a "Speed" Jones 2/3rd, Jack Carey 2/2nd, Harold Durant 2/5th and Ron Dearlove 2/4th, and Bert Baron 2/8th representing the participating squadrons. Then came the

flag bearers John Chalwell 2/2nd, Kim Kingsley 2/4th and Greg Sells 2/8. Among those following in the main group were Bob Smyth, Geoff Payne and Mick Press, John Burrige in a wheelchair accompanied by his son John a Vietnam Veteran and grandson David who also served in East Timor in 1999/2000. It was a proud occasion for the Burrige's with three generations of the family marching together. Barney Baron, Graham Brooks, Trevor Boardman 2/8th, Jack Sweet, Arthur Heyhoe, Richard Taylor, with his three grandson's, Gordon Roberts, Mick Holland, Les Clayton, Rocky Marshall, Nerine Barnett, Christine (Hazel Wick's daughters), and Barbara Clayton, Sheldon Gallagher, Mark Chalwell and others whose names escape me, but in all about 40 marched which was a good roll up.

We were right behind the Perth City Band so marching was a pleasure and we kept in step all the way. The rain increased as we reached Langley Park which meant those behind us in the parade would have had an unpleasant time. The rain continued and as a result the service was cancelled which was bad luck and for the League. Members staying for our luncheon at the Goodearth made a beeline for the hotel and by 11am were comfortably ensconced in the lounge enjoying a beer. Peter Epps kindly arranged a minibus to transport for our members unable to march.

Those who enjoyed a rain-free ride were Vince Swann, Terry Paull, Bernie Langridge, Don Murray, Jim Lines, Dick Darrington, Dick Reddell, Tom Foster and George Greenhalgh.

Our thanks to Peter and the Accolade Bus Hire for helping out. The lunch was brought forward half an hour to 12:30pm with 27 including the SAS Regiment Lieut. Col. James MacMahon and his Adjutant Capt. Dominic Letts. For the first time our ladies were invited to join us. It was a patient 60 years' wait for our good ladies, God Bless

them. The luncheon was most enjoyable. The staff have gotten to know us pretty well by now and we received VIP treatment.

Vice-president Don Murray proposed the toast to the SAS Regiment which was drunk with gusto. This is now a time honoured tradition which we enjoy partaking in. The CO and his Adjutant mixed freely with all present and were great company. So ended yet other Anzac Day - what great days they have been. Present at the luncheon were: J. Burrige, M. Brandis, J. Carey, R. Darrington, T. Foster, G. Greenhalgh, J. Lines, Bernie and Babs Langridge, D. Murray, Nellie Mullins, Sandra Mack and daughter Leili, T. Paull, G. Payne, M Press, D. Reddell, R. Smyth, V and A. Swann, R. Studdy, Jack Sweet, Clare West, Regina and friend, and our two guests Lieut. Col. McMahon and Captain D. Letts.

Anzac Day in Mandurah

There was a wonderful turn up for the Dawn Service and despite the weather which bucketed down prior to the march. It was fine right throughout the service. Again there was great support from the public. Paddy King led a march for the 2/2nd and his nephew Brendan and Ross Howell carried the flag.

An old stalwart Jock marched with us and Simon (Paddie's nephew) plus Ray and Lisa Howell, Johnnie and Cassie Howell, Carol Howell and Elvie Howell. Later on the RSL festivities went on as usual and Len Bagley, Paddy, Simon and Brendan had a great day

Elvie Howell.

VICTORIA NEWS

F. & M, BROADHURST FAIRFIELD.

Melbourne put on a beautiful day for the ANZAC DAY march* Harry Botterill & Kevin our two staunch supporters for the 2/2nd, marched.

The others met at "Eden-on-the-Park" for lunch,, present were John and Shirley Southwell., Don Thomson., Margaret Monk., Harry Botterill, Kevin & Mavis Broadhurst, and Eddie Bourke. Although he was unable to join us for lunch, Willy Bowers came to say "hello" and have a chat, most of us meeting him for the first time, a nice gesture on his part

Another surprise of the day.. three Criado's and family members were our guests for the luncheon.- For the benefit of the other Commando Units the President spoke of the help and assistance given to the 2/2nd & 2/4) Timor. Ruffino was Tom Nisbet's criado, and the others were involved with the 2/4th Company, they were given a great reception. Eleven of us met to have lunch with Jack & Delys on their visit to Melbourne it was a wonderful few hours,, plenty of laughs, sorry when it was time to leave* How we miss those wonderful days meeting up with friends we have made from the other states,Leith Cooper and Mary Bone travelled far to be with us. Marj. was in hospital, but home again now, her leg makes it a slow walking progress. Pat Petersen another one for a short stay in hospital.I eventually tracked down Nina Grachan,, she is now in "respite care" at "Veronica Gardens" a Retirement Village, her daughter said she has dementia.

Apparently has her good & bad days* I visited her, she has lost a lot of weight and now uses a walker., but otherwise I thought she looked her old self and inquired after different ones from the 2/2nd. To all our friends, the years are catching up with us,, so take care.

Fred & Mavis,

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Another Anzac day has passed, a pleasant day, a large crowd in attendance, The Commando Association of South Australia had nine members in the march.

The 2/2nd had two members - Kel Carthew and Bob Williamson and one of Alan Hollow's sons marched with us. The Commando Association was led by Rex Lipman, Rex was the Adjutant of the 2/4 Company in the Timor.

Bob Williamson looks very good for a man in his late eighties. He has a very good neighbour who looks out for Bob especially Anzac Day: The neighbour told me they were making pie floaters for the family, and Bob and all to be washed down with a bottle of red, so Bob would have had a good day.

Bob told me his wife is in a nursing home and not too well.

My health has stayed at the same for the last six months, I have to see the oncologists in three months.

As we have only three members in South Australia news is very scarce from the members and widows. We send our best wishes to all members and widow in Australia and overseas. Out condolences to all who have lost a loved one.

Regards Kel Carthew

VICTORIAN NEWS

Anzac Day turned out to be a beautiful sunny day and there was a terrific crowd to witness the march who clapped and cheered all the way to the shrine. I was the only member of the 2/2nd to March and I was accompanied by Kevin Broadhurst (the son of Fred and Mavis). Kevin has marched with me for the last three years. We thoroughly enjoyed the march.

The Commando's reunion was at Eden on the Park as usual and was well attended. The 2/2nd with John and Shirley Southwell, Mavis and Kevin Broadhurst (Fred was not well enough to make it) Margaret Monk and Don Thomson, Eddie Bourke and myself was one of our smallest attendance at this function but we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

Three old Criados had been brought over from Timor and they took part in the March in a Jeep and were a head of us in the march and attended at the reunion. One of them was a Ruffino, Tom Nisbet's Criado and I had a yarn with him through an interpreter and who accompanied them. He said he remembered me. I asked them how old the was and he said 89 the very proudly which surprised me as I thought most of our Criados where mainly young boys. I asked him about my Criado Nathora (smiler his nick-name) and Rufino said he was shot by the Japs after we left the island which saddened me as he was a lovable boy iwho gave his all for me-Willy Bowers Tony's son was there.. I had arranged to meet him and he would march with me but somehow things went astray and I missed him. But he did make it to the reunion to say good -day but could not stay for lunch. He looked very well and it was good to meet him. Bart & Lois Mavrick came to the luncheon and we had a good old yarn. Don & Margaret drove me home after lunch which I appreciated -very much they are both well.

I had a great four weeks on the Gold Coast from 19 March to 21 April with my eldest daughter and Glenda and family. The weather was perfect. I have spoken to a Happy Greenhalgh on the phone after he had come back from the West and he gave me all the news from there. I also spoke with Alan Luby and got all the news from NSW especially about Paddy Kenneally.. He must be the toughest Irishman there ever was, to still be with us after what he has been through - all the best Paddy.

My regards to all in each state

I am in good health

Harry Botterill

NORTHERN NSW

The report from the North Coast of N S W is pretty good. Most of us have the usual

pains of people getting older. Not OLD I emphasise.

Russ Blanch tells me he has slowed down a bit and is at present having a break at Brooms Head with his son who is having a short break from work. I'll visit them on a Saturday it's only 12 miles from my place, right on the beach.

Eric and Lorraine Herd are both OK and soaking up some of the good weather we've been having, too good really. We badly need rain. May Orr from a South Grafton is OK. Only 25 miles away but I don't see much of her but use the phone occasionally.

Edith Jones is quite well and pleased to have received her copies of the book. Lovely photo of Ken with Ken Monk and Geordie Smith. Very pleased about that.

Beryl Steen is well and pleased that her son John has a copy of the book. Beryl always asks after Russ Blanch as Jack and Russ joined us at a Larrimah on our return from Timor. They were good mates.

Edna Vandeleur rang at couple of days ago and is OK. She is not letting the dust gather and gets about quite a bit, up to Brisbane for the sales etc. Better that than moping at home all the time. Good on you Edna.

Beryl Walsh is doing OK at Kempsey but finding life without Bill a bit hard. 58 years together is a good innings. Beryl is fortunate in having a son stay with her.

Tom Yates is well but Jean is having a rough trot with arthritis. I know how it is too but I've been very lucky in finding predison, keeping me stabilised. It doesn't do Jean any good at all and I sympathise with anyone who suffers from arthritis.

Beryl Cullen from Kyogle is fine but her area like most of NSW is crying out for rain. It seems we are getting into an other drought time again.

Nola Wilson of Gilgandra is O.K , her son David has just won the Australian Stock Horse Competition. He seems to make a

habit of it. Like Beryl Nora says it's getting very dry out there. I had a run in with some gallstones a couple of months back. Not to be recommended. Had eight days in hospital then got game and to WA for the book launch and Anzac Day. Harry Sproxtton whom I stayed with as usual is still keeping on. A real battle but no whingeing. I am to have my head gall-bladder operated on the 1st June at St Vincents Lismore - a very good hospital.

Regatta all and good health.

"Happy" Greenhalgh

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

It's hard to believe that tomorrow is the first day of winter 06, officially but I reckon it started a couple of weeks ago, that's when I had to dig out my fur lined jockstrap.

Events in Timor and parts of West Papua New Guinea have not been very pleasant.

One can only hope and pray that the strife in Dillii does not cause too much too many hurdles in the progress they have made along the independence path.

Coming events

Christmas in July

2/2nd Commando Association members and family and friends where the DEE WHY RSL Club.

Pitwater Rd, Dee Why

Assemble 11.30am for 12.15pm

Please advise Alan Luby if able to attend on 99813287

Allen 31.5.06

Anzac Day

For the first year since 1946 we didn't have an Association member in the Sydney march.

Sons Chris Hartley and Robbie Gregg represented the 2/2nd in the march and

were with me at the commemoration service at 8.15am

One of my friends took me in and then back home along with my granddaughter.

Paddy Kenneally observed the march and attended the reunion with No.1 Commando Association later.

Sit rep

ACT

Joan Fenwick some continuing problems marginal improvement.

Ron and Hazel Morris report not crash hot for both. Ron in an Aged care facility closer to home. Sunny Daniels out of contact.

NSW

Paddy Kenneally somewhat improved. Recently came over to see me on a 2 hour are each way 'trial run'.

Bill Coker has recently spent a month in North Shore hospital and Lady Davidson Rehab. Unit. He is making a slow recovery - sounds better.

Wife Coral has her own problems but is now enjoying a little 'respite'.

Many phone-calls both to me and from members all over Australia are much appreciated.

There are too many to mention them all but the Telstra have put me into a 'High user category' on a trial period. I'll report on that later.

1st June

Just had a call from Len Bagly to advise that his beloved Betty had passed away - God rest her soul.

Sorry to hear that news, she was a lovely person and friend who was a tireless worker for our Association with her, her Betty and Gavin were the producers of our 2/2 Courier.

On behalf of all members and friends on the East side may I send our sincere condolences to you Len and Gavin and family in your sad loss. May she rest in peace.

Sincerely Alan Luby.

Queensland News

Ron Archer writes:

I guess the main Association news has been the launching of our book "All the Bull's Men" which has gone over very successfully with our Queensland members. It has been a long wait, but a very big thank you must be recorded to all participants who contributed to its publication. It is about sixty years since our unit broke up, it is a real tribute and the demand and good sales says it all.

Earlier in April Lyn and I had a week at Coolangatta -and paid a call on Peter Krause. We called at Peter's home at Parkwood (a suburb of the Southport) and saw his daughter Sue. Who drove us to Merrimac to see how her father. His present address at Merrimac 3/5 Glenhaven Court Merrimac Phone 07 55229888. Peter has his own phone in his room 07 55227801 and he is very well looked after in this nursing home. Peter has not settled in terribly well. He has been there since about Christmas time and may move. He is in a wheelchair - seems to be pretty fair and his active life doesn't seem to have changed much - drinking, "forever amber" and playing patience.

I pinned a life membership badge on him which he was very happy to receive. Sue drove us back to Parkwood and we had a nice cup of tea and a chat. Since then in conversation what Alan Luby, Alan asked for Peter's phone number. He rang Peter and Peter and nearly fell out of his chair with surprise. Peter and Sheila Conley up planning a trip to Honolulu later this year. They will go with two other couples and

have been there before and loved it so much that they want to go back again. They are both very active playing bowls and are obviously fighting fit. Have had chats with Pat Barnier, Lois Davies, Margaret Hooper, Bette Coulson and Gordon Stanley. All seemed to be coping pretty well. Joan Fenwick after a long period of not being very well is at last starting to make some progress again. She was to have visited her daughter Ann in Brisbane in July but that is not on now. She misses Tony Adams.

In February Yvonne Walsh, Lyn Love and I went to East Timor. Lyn and I stayed for a week Yvonne stayed a bit longer. Most of our time was spent in Dili and we were fortunate to have spent some time with some important people. First Lady Kirsty Sword Gusmao and her three sons. Margaret Twoomey the Australian Ambassador, Col. Wayne Fleming Australian Military Attaché, Lieut. Col. Gary Sanderson OCAust. army detachment, top East Timor army officers and sisters Susan and Jenny Cors of the Mary MacKillop Institute..

We arrived on the 19th February and in the afternoon memorial service had been arranged at Dare Memorial site. There was a big crowd there including almost all of the above. Some Aust.officers were in uniform others in civilian dress. Two flags the E.T. and Aust. flew at half mast.

I laid wreath on behalf of the 2/2nd and 2/4 companies and a number of other wreaths were laid. Then came the children with handfuls of flowers. After the service we were officially welcomed with friendship scarfs and badges and a prime event was meeting Ruffino and his son. Then followed singing and dancing by some of the children from the adjoining school - the Fatunaba primary-school. Finally we were shown over the school. It is built into the side of the steep mountain rock on one side and open on the other with a roof and just one partition.

About 250 children are taught here (primary) 125 in the morning and 125 in the afternoon. There is obviously a need for a proposed new school on our memorial site and if it is built it would be the only memorial school in East Timor. The last I heard on it, was that two local architects were to draw up plans for it. There is a need for new schools everywhere as the Indonesians almost totally destroyed most schools plus of course there is a shortage of teachers – a big problem indeed.

Must end here. We all pray for our devoted Delys to respond to her treatment and hopefully make a recovery. Best wishes for all our readers .

Ron Archer.

AGM WA Branch 2006

14 members attended our 60th AGM held in the Anzac Club on Tuesday 14 March 2006. Present were Ray Parry, Elvie Howell , Delys Carey , Helen Poynton , Ted Monk John Burrridge , Bob Smyth , Dick Darrington , Tony Bowers, Peter Campbell , Colin Hodson, Bernie Langridge , Don Murray and Jack Carey. There were five or apologies.

Reports:

Annual reports were presented by President Ray Parry, Editor Delys Carey, Auditor John Burrridge and Trust Fund and Chairman Bob Smyth. The Editor's report appeared in the March Courier and the remainder in the June issue.

Officers elected for the coming year were

President: J. Carey

Vice President D. Murray

Secretary/Treasurer Delys Carey

Auditor: E. Smyth

Executive committee R. Darrington, Elvie Howell, C. Hodson, B. Langridge

Editor T. Vanderveldt

John Burrridge our longest surviving life member advised the committee age has fully caught up with him and he it was retiring as an active member of Association. Ray Parry who has been our President for the past five years also announced his retirement from the Executive. Ray is not enjoying the best of health and is looking forward to his golf and gardening. Both carry the best wishes from all members for a job as well none.

Bob Smyth said he would like to see Bart Mavrick join the Trust Fund Committee. He has spoken to Bart who indicated he would be only too pleased to help out on the Trust Mr Smyth's recommendation was fully supported by all present Bart will be a welcome asset.

President's annual report year 2005

Just prior to and following our AGM last year I had three unit plaques to be distributed, the first to Hollywood private hospital - Kevin Cass-Ryall the Executive Director was away at that time so the plaque was handed to his Secretary, in his letter he apologised for not being available to accept it. but assured me that he had arranged to have the plaque mounted on the wall in their special area.

I presented the second plaque to Arthur Edgar the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Veteran Affairs. There was a cameraman present. He was to take a shot of me presenting a plaque to the Deputy Commissioner. Just prior to aiming his camera our way Arthur Edgar suggested that we stand directly under a very bright light set in the ceiling - that more than likely was a reason a photo did not appear in if VETAFFAIRS newspaper.

The third and last plaque, I presented to Shane Seers State Secretary R.S.L. He thanked me and mentioned that on the new east wall of the dining area or is where all unit plaques will be displayed.

Many thanks to Bob Smyth and John Burrridge who laid our wreath at the Dawn

Service held in the grounds of the S.A.S. at Swanbourne. Considering the large number of men and more are on operational duties abroad a large crowd attended the service.

Thanks also go to Peter Epps for laying a wreath at the State War Memorial in King's Park. The dawn service was attended by another huge crowd.

Anzac Day – a beautiful day, a large crowd, lots of children waving small Australian flags and there were many young men and women in attendance.

The 2/2nd had a reasonable number on parade - there were the banners of 2/2, 2/4, 2/5, 2/6 and 2/8 Commandos.. Lieutenant Colonel James McMahon, R.S.M. Russ Sullivan of the S.A.S. stayed for our luncheon and they really enjoyed the occasion and an excellent luncheon - a most pleasant afternoon.

Another record attendance at the Dawn Service at the Gallipoli Memorial a pity about the rubbish that was left behind, gypsies apparently spread a little further.

The Turkish authorities intend doing something about rectifying the problem as well the Australian authorities.

Australians are visiting Gallipoli for the Anzac Day Service will have to clean up their own mess following complains about the rubbish left by pilgrims on the hallowed ground last year. At the same time alcohol and rock music videos will be banned.

I received an invitation from the R.S.L. to attend the rededication of the State Memorial on Friday 10th June, 2005 at the State War Memorial precinct in Kings Park.

Soon after I received a second letter advising that the rededication of the State War Memorial had been postponed. The rededication took place on Friday 1st July at 11 am.

If I remember correctly heavy rain lashed the area and apparently exposed the leak in the memorial it was rectified in a week or

so to everyone's satisfaction. With all the work that had been do the memorial looked absolutely beautiful - it was well worth the wait.

Norma Hasson Day - Friday 1st July at the Good Earth Hotel Perth was another successful day with 39 people attending. Besides thanking those present I also paid a tribute to Kaye, thanking her for all the years she has prepared a corsage of orchids of orchids for the ladies. There is a lot of work involved but that never deterred Kaye. Many thanks to that lovely young lady and everyone present responded by applauding her. The Hasson family were well represented.

Victory in the Pacific celebrations marked the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, it was an Australia wide event. In Western Australia it began with a march through Fremantle on Sunday morning August 14 2005.

John Chalwell, Ray Parry, and Jack Carey took part in the March - John Burrige, Dick Darrington, Bernie Langridge and Doc Wheatley travelled by cars provided by voluntary drivers.

A reception was held on Monday 15th during the afternoon for the veterans and the venue was the new Convention and Entertainment Centre. We were represented by Bob and Margaret Smyth, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Jack and Delys Carey, John and Olive Chalwell, Ray Parry, Keith and Val Hayes and Dick Darrington.

On Thursday 8 September 2005 - Jack and Delys Carey along with Eric and Twy Smyth attended Don Young's funeral at Manjimup.

Our 56th Commemorations Service was held in Lovekin Drive, King's Park on Sunday 20 November 2005.

It was a very warm day that may have been the deciding factor for some of our people to rest at home. The service was the equal of those that had been held in past years. Doug Hasson (son of Jack, 2 section) gave

GENERAL ACCOUNTStatement of Receipts & Expenditure Year Ending 31/1/06

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure.</u>	
Balance as at 31/1/05	3411.23	Courier	5036.15
Courier Donations	5585.00	Association Events	2852.17
Association Events	2215.00	G.P.O. Box Rental	154.00
Photo Sales	40.00	Funeral Notices	219.12
Interest	495.07	Anzac Day	110.00
	<u>8335.07</u>	Listening Post	25.00
		Donation	500.00
		Commem. Service	225.00
		Capitation Fee	31.00
		Admin. Fees	150.00
		Govt. Tax	14.70
			9317.14
		Balance 31/1/06	<u>2429.16</u>
	<u>\$11746.30</u>		<u>\$11746.30</u>

INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND.Statement of Receipts & Expenditure Year Ending 31/1/06

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance as at 31/1/05	9244,74	Govt. tax	1.50
Bank Interest	52.33	Admin. Charges	326.50
Donations	<u>3795.00</u>	Purchase seeds	<u>8575.00</u>
	<u>3847.33</u>		<u>8903.00</u>
		Balance 31/1/06	4189.07
	<u>\$13,092.07</u>		<u>\$13,092.07</u>

J.W. Carey
1/2/06

AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/1/2006

The financial position of the Association is in sound shape. Bank balances of the General A/Q the Unit Trust Fund A/C and the Unit Book A/C are all in credit as you can see from the accounts circulated.

There are no outstanding debts to be paid, with the exception of the balance owing to the printers. This amount will be roughly \$15,000 and will be due to be paid as soon as the book is ready for distribution. Further loans from members will almost certainly be needed unless we can delay the final payment to the printers until payments for the books start coming in quickly. Once the final payment has been made, we can start repayment of the loans made by members to get the book published.

The financial affairs of the Association have as always, been meticulously kept by Jack Carey, who makes the job of auditor so relatively easy, when compared with the nightmare task that faces auditors of some organisations similar to our own. I consider the statements of Receipt and Expenditure of the General Account, the Independent Trust Fund and the Unit History Book Fund show the true position of the finances of the 2/2nd Commando Association.

JO BURRIDGE - HON AUDITOR

an excellent address. At the conclusion of the service many of our members adjourned to the "House" within the confines of the S.A.S military camp at Swanbourne where much appreciated refreshments awaited us. I personally thanked Doug for his fine speech.

The final function for the year was our Christmas do in December at the Good Earth Hotel. 34 people attended and it was a very happy and successful show. It was my pleasure to wish those present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Another thank you to Bob Smyth for his time-consuming efforts as Chairman of the Timor Trust Fund including the help he has given to the people of East Timor- it is extremely demanding job.

Keith Keith and Val Hayes have both tendered their resignations.

For 60 years Keith has worked tirelessly for the Association and the people of East Timor. Keith's wife Val has always without fail giving him much needed support.

I'm sure that in appreciation our members will give thanks to both Keith and Val.

I wish all members are happy healthy and durable Easter.

Yours sincerely

Ray Parry - President.

INDEPENDENT TRUST

Acknowledgement and thanks also to Mike Gallagher the Northern Territory Government representative in East Timor. Without Mike's assistance to facilitate requirements of entry of goods, would severely negate the practice ability of our efforts. (to minimise the "Asian GST11.")

The stress of advancing years have unfortunately caused the resignation of a number of valued committee members a with regret I have to acknowledge Keith Hayes is included in that number.

In the history of this Association no person has devoted more hours than Keith, particularly in the role, with the help and support of Val, visiting and helping mates who he been disadvantaged in health. Also his tireless efforts before and including the creation of the Independent Trust Fund. His hands on activity in collecting, sorting, pack and delivering for dispatch, donated goods for East Timor has been outstanding.

To John Burrige thanks for his unfailing counsel and support at all times.

We thank all donors to the Independent Trust which enable the seed packets displaying in the 2/2 Red Double Diamond and its message of thanks to be so widely distributed over East Timor.

B Smyth

Chairman Independent Trust

14 March 2006

AGM Year to 31/1/2006

REPORT INDEPENDENT TRUST

The Independent Trust appointment in 1992 was for a 5-year period has now been going 15 years.

The report for the previous year February 2005 stated that delivery of vegetable seeds during our remaining years should represent our final salute to the villagers of East Timor.

Since the 1992 initial funding, continued voluntary donations have been adequate to complete objectives.

4915 packets Chinese Cabbage Kwan Moon were delivered via Courier Jakarta and distributed by Sister Guilhermina most via volunteer Jan Walbrook. Her gratifying report appeared in the September 1905 Courier.

The exercise revealed a "tariff" charge of 12.3%

The current shipment of 21,550 packets of 4 varieties costing to date a landed Dili figure of \$8,034. will not be placed in the T N T

Couriers hands until a multitude of documentation is examined and passed by various Government authorities. They then determine their charges to land what should be duty free goods to the Canossian Sisters (Foundation TN 500025).

Mike Gallagher and Sister Guilhermina presented all original documents on 27/2/06 but further details were required.

Practically all those were included in letters we dispatched via Mike Gallagher dated 12/3/2004.

Two detailed additional "Certificates of Donation were compiled and Faxed to Mike G. on Wednesday 6/3/2006.

At this time we are still waiting advice of the TAX payout established to enable payment and shipment from YATES to proceed.

R. SMYTH - CHAIRMAN

2/2 Commando Association Independent Trust Gifted Seeds

Fund THE FUTURE

To give the fund a life into the future, it was decided to invite by letter, donations from a limited number of wealthy Australians.

Letters would be posted only after Yates Australia were advised identities.

The Ind.Trust trustees of the 2/2 Commando Association would be at arms length from any payments which would be sent only to YATES solely to the credit of the 2/2 account in Yates Australia accounting system where debits are confined' to East Timor Seed Program.

The final decision of varieties to be forwarded, their quantities and costs would remain with the Independent Trust of the 2/2 Commando Association to whom all documents would be forwarded.

There would not be a Public Appeal which could create an undesirable load on our Treasurer coping with the detail of small amounts.

Payments unless intimated otherwise, would be confidential to the 2/2 Commando Association Committee or as required by Statutory Authorities.

Regrettably payments are not TAX deductible. The success or otherwise of the Funding plan will not be known for a long period.

Bob Smyth

Chairman Independent Trust

14 March 2006

Dear Mr Carey

I am writing to update you on the situation surrounding the redevelopment of the Dare memorial in Timor and to confirm our conversation of Monday 10 April 2006.

The Australian Embassy has now received the engineers' reports regarding the Dare site and once the implications of the engineers' findings have been assessed discussions will recommence with the Timorese administration and the local community.

Whatever the outcome of the reports and negotiations with the locals, I confirm that the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) remains willing to consider options for a plaque and shelter structure, however OAWG will not be involved in renovating or rebuilding the pool. OAWG will also consider other options that could commemorate more recent Australian deployments in the area along with the Second World War efforts remembered by the existing structure in Dare.

I have advised the Australian Embassy in Dili that I will return to Timor to undertake further discussions with stakeholders if they feel this would be of assistance at this stage.

Please feel free to contact me at any time as I welcome information and assistance from yourself or other sources in trying to resolve this matter.

Thank you again for your interest in and assistance with this difficult negotiation. I

continue to work towards a resolution that the 2/2 Commando Association can be justifiably proud of.

Yours sincerely

Kathy Upton Mitchell

21 April 2006

The Dale Memorial dedicated in April 1969 is in a state of disrepair. The locals in the area want their government to build a new school on the site. Kirsty Gusmao is playing an active role in the proposed project. The current upheaval in East Timor has no doubt held up the decision on the school.

Whatever the outcome, the Department of Veterans' Affairs War Graves Section has assured the Association the plaque will be maintained in a good condition.

J. Carey

D. Carey ex Courier editor

.Hi everyone, how does one begin to thank all those good people who have supported the Courier over the years? Well if you want something, you have to work at it, so keep up the good work.

Apart from the Safaris where I personally met so many (as it turned out) dear friends, the Courier even extended that privilege even further.

Since I am writing this now, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all you dear people who sent cards of encouragement, and to those who sent beautiful flowers and also to those who kept me in their thoughts and prayers during my recent hospitalization. I am home now waiting to take the next step of Chemo and radiotherapy treatment.

We had a great holiday in Melbourne from 29th March until 6th April. The 2/2nd gathering at the RACV was terrific. But then once I got home things went a little haywire and here I am now with an aggressive

malignant brain tumour and a fairly uncertain future.

Once again I can't thank my extended 2/2nd family enough and I am going to give it a pretty good shot, as there are still too many things I want to do yet!

Keep on keeping on, Love to all, Delys.

Dear Tom, thanks for keeping the newsletter going. Your efforts will be very much appreciated.

Firstly like so many others in the March newsletter, I wish to extend my thanks to Delys and Jack Carey for the great job that they have done over such a long period in helping us all to keep in touch. As one who lives a long way from other members, so that for an occasional phone call and of course notes and letters at Christmas time, I have little direct contact with other members. I look forward to each issue.

Health wise, Marj and I have the usual troubles we all have at our age but are coping well here in the retirement village. Jim, one of my mates here sent the following assessment of his health to our RSL sub-branch. The only problem is that he gets around better than I do.

Jack Peattie,

Tamworth, NSW.

Dear Jack & Delys, Thank you for your hospitality over in WA. Our return trip with Qantas was very pleasurable.

We are sending a cheque for \$240. We are ordering two books and the remainder is a donation towards the cost of "The Courier".

Delys your life sounds so much more interesting than mine in suburban Melbourne and we are looking forward to another installment of your story.

We are very content in our little cottage on our daughter Christine's acreage.

She and her husband are very good to us and we have taken on a new lease of life. We are blessed with two horses, one donkey, one goat, four dogs, two cats and some chooks. Just as well we have a good fence around our homestead!

One needs a damn good sense of humour to cope with old age – it's a real b——r. Best wishes to all and a Happy Easter and lots of eggs.

Gordon and Joan Stanley

D. Gibbling, Mermaid Waters, Qld.

Dear Jack & Delys,

I want to thank you for all the pleasure you have given me reading the Courier. Also I will never forget your kindness to me the year after I lost my dear husband William (Wilbur) Wallis when the ship I was on called into Fremantle. Your kindness and that of others who met me and took me to see my sick sister-in-law and then to a lovely luncheon. My eyes are not the best but I'm not bad for nearly being 82. Enclosed is my order form for the book

"All the Bull's Men".

It's nearly 23 years since Wilbur died on our way home from from the 1983 Safari and all the books written of their time – in Timor makes it only yesterday.

\$50 enclosed for the Courier.

Daphne Gibbling formerly Wallis.

Hope you are both well and having a good and restful time to yourselves after your generous time given.

I have just arrived home last weekend from a trip to Darwin. Frank (Mick) and I had a Safari thirty one years ago, the year after Cyclone Tracey. I was lost and did not know where we camped. It has certainly changed and is a very nice town. We (my brother and I) had four days in Darwin, and then traveled to Adelaide on the Ghan that was

great. We had five hours in Katherine which seems a very nice place, although missed seeing the Gorge because of the cyclone in Queensland, so could not compare thirty-one years ago.

We then traveled to Alice Springs, a very different town at my last viewing. As a big town and seemed to be very well looked after, we only had a few hours of a tour. The train trip was great on the Gold Kangaroo section, plenty of attention, good food and accommodation. Very similar to the Indian Pacific. Had two days and two nights on the Ghan, and then flew home from Adelaide.

On my return the Courier arrived with the history book form enclosed. I have enclosed my cheque for one volume and I'm sure it will be as good if not better than the others.

Give my love to everyone and wish them all the best and good health.

Betty Devlin

Epping, NSW.

I posted a cheque for \$160 to you this morning. One to come to me for my eldest son who is living with me now after being away for about thirty years, a period of time in the army, then working in Bougainville for about ten years then Groot Eylandt, then Qld and Tassie. A real wandering man!

One of the books is for him and the other for my other son David in Agnews Water Qld. I hope it was okay to have it sent up there as he doesn't gat down here very often.

But the other fact is when of my daughters Elaine found out, she said she also would like a copy, so I wondered if it would be possible to get one for her too. If so her name is Elaine Farnham, 87 Northcote Ave, Swansea heads, 2281.

Just not far away from me and my stand by at all times since Eric passed away.

(Vera) Joyce Chapman.

Swanson, NSW.

Please find enclosed cheque for \$70.00 being payment for Timor book and postage. My brother was Charles Stanton. It will be nice to have a written record of the Unit's bravery for our family to keep for future generations.

Thank you,
Margaret E. Cooksley.
City Beach, WA.

Dear Sir, Can I please have a copy of the book "All the Bull's Men" posted to the above address?

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$70 to cover the cost of the book plus \$10 postage. Thank you for your courageous and Diligent duty during Australia's dire hours of need during World War II. Your legacy, that we enjoy freedom and lifestyle, is due largely to your and our other fighting forces brave deeds. Go well and God Bless.

Yours sincerely, Doug McKenzie.

Huntingdale, WA.

H. Black, Nedlands, WA.

Please find enclosed a cheque to the value of \$80 for a boxed copy of "All the Bull's Men".

I am very pleased that such a book has been published. Our family was always very proud of our Mal – Malcolm Herbert, and proud indeed of all of you.

Very best wishes to you all.

Audrey Black – nee Herbert— Mal's little sister.

Dear Jack, Thanks for all you and Del have done for the Association over the years. You both deserve a 'Golden Heart' to go with the ones you've got. I had a really good response from my requests for books. Happy Greenhaigh sent me a copy of Archie's book saying in his letter he didn't

think it was fair that he had two copies and I didn't have one – isn't that the true spirit of our Unit? We don't forget one another. I would like to thank Fred Otway for his message in the Courier.

It's sixty odd years since I've seen Fred yet I remember him and the rest of No. 1 Section like it was yesterday. I believe training and being together created a permanent bond. I must be the ghost of the Unit as Col Doig didn't have me on his roll call and how I got to Timor I don't know as Arch left me off the 'Zealandia' embarkation roll. Maybe it's just a dream after all!

I'm looking forward to the Unit History, I've ordered a book and it should be here any day. By the way does anyone know where I can get a pen that doesn't shake when you write!

I spent three weeks in hospital before Xmas and had a couple of lung infections' – I'm just coasting, I don't now how long for – so be it.

You will find a cheque for fifty dollars for the Courier and \$50 for the Trust Fund. I would like to send a cheerio to all members and their families especially to surviving members of No. 1 Section.

The Courier has always been a breath of fresh air and something to really look forward to. Without it we would have been a missing link – it really binds us together.

My great grandchildren seem to keep coming at regular intervals. There are now three generations bearing the name Thomas James, a son, a grandson and me. The total of grand and great grandchildren is now nearing the 80 mark. I have lost count.

I have acquired a personal computer which I have yet to learn how to operate. I hope to get a website then I'll be able to send e-mails, but don't hold your breath. I'm looking forward to the next Courier. I'll call it a day now as my writing is getting too shaky. Good wishes to all and God Bless.

Tom Pulliene.

Tom your writing is fine and up there with the best of them. Delys Carey.

Dear Delys and Jack,

Hullo to you both, plus all members and families. I have decided to put pen to paper at last. Having looked forward to receiving the very well produced Courier over its lifetime, with its very welcome news reports and letters of other member's doings, it is read as soon as it arrives in the mailbox. It is always sad to read of the fellows (mates) who have passed on. But I guess we have all reached the stage where we are walking around with our fingers crossed.

I met Alan Luby at the Dee Why R.S.L. recently and had a very enjoyable day with him.

After what he has been through, I admired his attitude and his outlook on life. For myself, I had a carotid artery bypass last November which slowed me down somewhat.

I am enclosing donation for Courier.

Cheers for now and hoping that all your problems are little.

Best wishes,

Keith Wilson

1/198 Booker Bay Rd, Booker Bay 2257

7 May 2006

The Editor

Several years ago when I picked up 'The Age' on my way to work I was surprised to see a photo on the front page of Dad's criado, Ruffino, showing his photo album to members of Australia's InterFET force serving 'in Dili, East Timor.

On reaching work I gave Dad a call and said (rather foolishly in hindsight); "guess who is on the front page of the paper this morning?" Being fairly early in the morning the reply from Dad was somewhat terse;

"What's this, some sort of guessing competition!"

"Across the generations, they remember" was the lead article for RemembranceDay 1999 run by 'The Age'. Similar articles appeared in the 'The Australian' and Queensland's 'Courier Mail'.

Seven years on, guess who again appears on the front page of "The Age" Ruffino and two other criados. I didn't ring Dad this time! The three, Ruffino Alves Corriea, Armindo Montelro and Manuel Ximenes have been sponsored to take part in Melbourne's ANZAC Day march largely through the efforts of Howard Williams, the chairman of Christian College, Geelong.

Howard, a Ballarat dairy farmer and the college have had an association with East Timor since 2000 when they sent a small herd of Victorian cows to a poor rural area outside of Dili to provide fresh milk to school children. In association with the City of Greater Geelong, the Christian College has also opened two community houses in Viqueque.

I was more than pleasantly surprised to see Ruffino in the newspaper as my last report of him was from the June 2003 *issue of 'The Courier' which reported that he had taken part in the ANZAC Day ceremony in Dili. Given his age I thought he had probably joined Dad on manoeuvres.

Through Howard I arranged to meet with Ruffino at the hotel where they were staying and on the Monday before ANZAC Day Margie, my sister, and I met with Ruffino prior to a pre arranged press conference. Although his hearing is declining we managed through an interpreter to exchange a few words. I gave Ruffino a photo album containing photos including one taken in 1969 when, as I understand it, a contingent of 2/2s went back to East Timor for the first (?) time and of Dad's first visit to East Timor in 1974. Also included were press clippings relating back to 1999 and his current visit to Victoria. I also

gave Ruffino a beret and cross-stitched double diamond both of which belonged to Dad. The beret quickly replaced the beanie Ruffino, was wearing as protection against Melbourne's chilly weather.

Our meeting was well reported on ANZAC Day in 'The Age' and 'The Sydney Morning Herald', the latter heading the article, "Siblings' warm welcome for a man who fought beside their father".

On ANZAC Day the three criados followed the Victorian Commandos' Association contingent in the march travelling in an open vintage military vehicle. Howard reports that Ruffino saluted as they passed the official dais.

Later in the week after visits to Williamstown, Geelong and Ballarat the three criados flew back to East Timor.

Howard told me that he had a number of calls from 2/2s following the press coverage.

I have met Ruffino three times; the historic reunion in 1974 in Dillii, in 1995 when Dad



Mr Correia with Ian Nisbet.



Tom Nisbet and Mr Correia during the war.

brought him out to Melbourne and this recent meeting. However, of the criados and with acknowledgement to Jim Smalles: "time has depleted their numbers, the years are taking their toll, the ranks are decidedly thinner, so many have answered the roll".

Ian Nisbet
PS

I have included photocopies of the articles for the archives.

Dear Jack,

Congratulations on becoming President of the Association. Harry Handicott said your wife Delys has had an operation and hope everything went well. Heather and I send our best wishes to Delys for a full and speedy recovery.

Enclosed is a cheque to cover a copy of "All the Bull's Men" and the rest is for the Association.

Best wishes,
Andy Beveridge

Paddy Kenneyilly writes:

Congratulations to you and Delys for being elected President and secretary/treasurer respectively. It was commendable of both of you to take on the duty of ensuring the continuation of our Association. Our diminishing membership will still have a means of communication which otherwise would be lost.

Col Holley is in Lady Davidson Rehabilitation Hospital. He had a bad fall and sustained injuries to his head and leg. He is currently undergoing physiotherapy at Lady Davidson. He believes he will be there for at least another two weeks. I am sure our members will wish him a speedy recovery. Col was among our fittest members. I had a call from Eddie Bourke. He is in pretty good health now but for quite a long time the going

was extremely difficult and he was fortunate to survive.

That happy-go-lucky nature of his hid the strong will and determination to live. It is always a pleasant interlude when speaking to or meeting Eddie and his wife Dorothy.

It's Good Friday today. Our parish priest took up a collection with the object of rebuilding her school in the Balibo area of East Timor. The foundation had collapsed it will have to be rebuilt. We have a wonderful parish priest, a late vocation for he had been a lawyer.

In E.T. this parish built a pre-school (\$120,000) re-roofed two schools and pays the salaries of several teachers. As we well know Timor's Government is starved of finance. However, whether the Government uses its resources wisely in the interest of their impoverished people is open to debate.

Johnny Howard claims we liberated Timor. Men like Alkatiri and Ramos Horta worked for its liberation from the safety of a living abroad and maybe some of their Government members did likewise from foreign bases. But to me it was the resistance and the Timorise people who suffered died, endured rapes and imprisonment under the Indonesian rule and when given the opportunity to do so voted 78.5 per cent for an independent East Timor knowing quite well the retribution that would endure as a consequence.

They are the people who liberated East Timor not the Alkatiris's, Horta's or Johnny Howard.

Well, I hope in the West you will have successful launch of a unit history on the 23rd of the month. I would have enjoyed being there but several factors precluded that. May your Anzac Day be equally successful and enjoyable. Best wishes to all of you for the occasions and I sincerely our keeper of Unit statistics is well and fit enough to attend both functions.

To me Harry Sproxtton and Keith Hayes are walking miracles - long may they be so.

Sean our son took off for New Zealand this morning to attend a 50th birthday. He will also be out in the mountains where I was clearing at Manawatu on contract 54 years ago. Strangely Sean was doing similar in 1979 but he was working for a contractor on hourly rates and using a chainsaw. I was doing it using a two-and-half pound slasher. I well remember the aching wrists the continuous rain the six-day week and spending the 7th day washing and cutting timber for the fire wood supply.

The man who owned the property would bring out my groceries once-a-week, kill a sheep and leave half for me. He supplied meat and potatoes, the groceries I paid for.

He had another property nine miles out of Waverley, where he lived. Sometimes he came out to see me where I was working and I'd have someone to talk to otherwise I'd talk to myself. They were great days as long as one didn't yearn for a more comfortable way of life. Don't know I would fancy it now after almost 54 of comfortable, happy years of married life and the family devoted to my welfare. I am certainly far luckier than I ever deserved to be. I hope Sean enjoys his time back there. Nora sends her love. All the family at keeping well and busy. Good luck

Paddy Kenneally

Thanks Paddy for yet another interesting letter (Ed)

Dear Mr. Carey

My deepest thanks to you and to the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia for the gift of the new book "All the Bull's Men" which arrived safely a couple of weeks ago.

I have only had an opportunity to dip into it a couple of times so far, but have to be able to get down to a serious read of it during the coming weekend. It certainly looks very good

I've already started to distribute some order forms and now that the book has arrived and I can take it with me to town to show it to people.

Bookshops will undoubtedly want a discount but I have asked them to get in touch with you at P O Box 11, Willetton, about that.

Thanks also for the acknowledgements in the book.

Regards Kevin Sherlock

G P O Box 3223 down when NT 0801

The Editor,

I have just had an operation on my right hand for trigger finger.

I'm waiting to have my stitches out so please forgive my writing. The enclosed photo was taken of me standing in front of the Tidal River Commando Monument, it was being restored for Anzac Day.

I was on my way to Melbourne for the Commonwealth Games.

I received my copy of "All the Bull's Men". I was disappointed to see page 427. George is in the canoe opposite the Fuzzy Way Angel quotation "Soda water". This photo has been hanging on our wall for 60 years. I guess there will be other mistakes in the book. I will not be ordering any more copies for my eight grandson's and two great grandsons. I checked the names of the fellows in the canoe when I was over for the last Safari in Perth. Colin Hodson sent me a copy of the names when I went home as I needed it for Maroochydore Returned Soldiers Club as they wanted to have the names of the soldiers in the boat to put with the photos we had given an for their displays.

Sincerely, Betty Coulson

NB - We regret the mistake which, Colin Hodson has confirmed. Your grandsons and great-grandsons may in later life want

to read about the unit their grandfather fought with and the book may not be obtainable. This would be a great pity.

J Carey.

Correspondence

We had been really busy over here and the deadline for the next edition of the Courier is almost here so I may be too late this time. I hope all our readers are keeping as well as possible - it seems old age brings numerous ailments and it is often hard to cope with these ills. I spoke with Harry Botterill today and he has written to the Courier with a report on Anzac Day in Melbourne

On 3rd April a very pleasant few hours were spent with Delys and Jack Carey at the RACV club in Melbourne when they over visiting a relatives. Ed Bourke arranged a lunch date and there were 13 able to attend and was really great. They were John and Shirley Southwell, Leith Cooper, Mary Bone, Pat Petersen and her sister Miriam, Mavis Broadhurst, Ed & Dorothy, Delys and Jack and Don and I. But it was a lovely get together and the Victorians were so pleased to have time with Delys and Jack.

I have spoken with Fay Campbell and Pat Petersen on the phone - both send greetings to all 2/2.

.It is very cold here now but we have had some nice sunny days.

Today we went to my little great granddaughter Yalis 4th birthday party - she had a lovely time with her little cousins and friends. I have received four copies of "All the Bull's Men" and also four copy's of Arthur Marshal's book for my four children and all really pleased to get them. I had finished reading Arthur's book and found it very interesting - now I have to read the other one. I'm enclosing a donation for the Courier. Don joins me with greetings to everyone.

All for this time - Margaret Monk.

“All the Bull’s Men” progress report

As a result of the successful launch we have made a good start with our book sales. At the 31st May 660 Books have been sold which represents a third of the 2000 books printed.

The book was financed by a free of interest loans from Tom Foster Tony Bowers John Burrige George Greenhalgh, Henry Sproxton and a Jack Carey totalling \$59,000. A further \$40,000 was obtained from two \$20,000 grants from the estates of the late Lou Thomson and Ray Aitken. A grant of \$3000 from the Department of Veterans Affairs brings the total cost to \$102,000. We need to sell at least 1600 books to break even which we should be able to do over the next 12 months with your support.

Members or people wanting a book and do not have an order form , are asked to send a cheque or money order made out to the 2/2nd Commando Association at the following address

2/2nd Commando Association
PO Box 11

Willetton W A 6955

A book cost \$60 plus \$10 postage
A book with a slip case is \$70 plus 10 dollars postage

Make sure to give the correct address to where the book is to be sent.

Delivery will be approximately seven days after payment. It's a good read and a great value at \$60.

J Carey.

“All the Bull’s Men” launch

The launch of our book held on Sunday morning 23rd April at the Legacy Club, South Perth was a great success. In the two and half hours from 9:30am takings on book sales of approximately \$13,000 exceeded expectations. It was most pleasing to see so many members and friends estimated at about 130 roll-up to support the launch. President Jack Carey welcomed those present and thanked them for their support. The author Cyril Ayris then gave a brief run-down on his experiences writing the book and the pleasure it gave him producing such

UNIT HISTORY BOOK FUND – TO COME

Unit History Book Fund.

Statement of Receipts Expenditure period 12/8/04 31/1/06.

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
W. Thompson Legacy Account.	20,000.00	Payments to author	46,200.25
Donation estate R.Aitken	20,000.00	Canberra trip author	708.00
Donation Dept. Vet Affairs	3,000.00	Photos for book	421.15
Loans (2) members	15,000.00	Tax	17.50
Interest	93	Misc. charges	759.50
Advance Payment Books	<u>925.00</u>		48,106.40
		Balance as at 31/1/06	<u>10,819.53</u>
	<u>\$58,925.93</u>		<u>\$58,925.93</u>

a fine history. In declaring the launch officially open the C.O. of the SAS Regiment Lieutenant-Colonel James McMahon spoke of the close ties between the 2/2nd and the Regiment. He enjoyed the book and paid tribute to the men who had served in it. Our Association is honoured and consider it in great privilege to be on such good terms with such a fine Regiment. The Association wishes to thank the many helpers who worked hard to ensure the success of the launch.

John and Margaret Burrige come first to mind. John with 30 years' experience in the military history books selling kindly arranged with the Legacy Club for us to have the use of their premises and assisted us in other ways while Margaret and her good ladies provided a delightful morning tea and goodies. Anne Green (Tony Bower's daughter), husband Errol, Linda Laughton and Elvie Howell had a very busy time collecting the money and did a first class job. Equally busy where the good ladies issuing the books Helen Poynton Dot Maley and Julie Ann Helen's daughter they too did an excellent job. Colin Hodson and friend Beryl Sylvester where early birds setting up signs and photos for display which added to the occasion. Well done Col and Beryl.

Melita and Alicia Cherry, Laurie Nugent, John Carey did their bit setting up the hall in preparation for the launch. Our members Bob Smyth, Ray Perry, Ted Monk, Don Murray, Dick Darrington, Bernie Langridge, Tom Foster, Happy Greenhalgh, Terry Paull collar Dusty Studdy, Vince Swan, J Carey John Burrige and Len Bagley along with Cyril Ayris were kept busy autographing the book and deserve a big thank you for their efforts. Buyers who waited patiently in the queue to have their book signed also deserve a thank you.

Lieutenant Colonel McMahon accompanied by his RSM Bill Maher stayed on meeting many of those present and we are grateful for their support. The

Association donated at a book to the Regiment, signed by our members, to be auctioned at the fund raising function for SAS Resources Trust Fund. In closing thanks a million to all helpers members and friends for a great launch.

J. Carey

Pars on People

It was nice to see Dusty Studdy at the launch and our luncheon on Anzac Day. Dusty who will be 88 in August has lost a lot of weight and does not enjoy the best of health but retains his good sense of humour and laughs easily. Hang in their Dusty.

Tony Bowers was all set to have major heart operation in early May but developed a virus so the op was put off. Tony is battling a long and is having second thoughts whether to go ahead with it or not. Like all remaining 2/2 members he is no spring chicken.

Lionel Newton is having a rough time. A melanoma on his leg has turned nasty and spread. Lionel flies from Broken Hill to Adelaide every two weeks for special treatment. We hope and pray things take a turn for the better for you Lionel – God Bless and chin up.

Vince Swann who celebrated his 90th birthday in April and Tom Foster who is a 86 in August came down for launch and Anzac Day. Both look well.

Olive Chalwell who is has had a tough 12 month's health wise is feeling a lot better which is good news. John keeps himself fit working and walking they are a lovely couple.

Ted Monk is an other who has experienced more than his share of bad health and who has come good. It was pleasing to see Ted at the launch looking a lot better.

Wyn Thomson who has two major operations this year is making a slow recovery .

Congratulations to Fred Humphrey who turned 93 on a 10th June. Fred leads a quiet life and retains a keen interest in the Association's affairs. Gerry Green was 90 on 31st May. Congratulations old sapper. Gerry I hope you get a cake from your mates

Del's Memories, part II

Milking cows always caused a few problems. Mum hated cows and would never let me learn to milk one. "Once you know how to milk a cow, you will always get the job" she would say. I guess she never wanted me to have the hard time that she had as a child. Our cows were different too. Milking time had to be at Mum's time. There were so many other things to be done so sometimes she would want them in the milking shed a little earlier so she taught them to come at a call. It was a little like a cooee. "Come on" was drawn out to a long cooee sound. The only bother was half the townspeople knew when Mum was milking the cows!

I remember at some time I got 'Sandy Blight'. Mum would sneak out early in the morning to milk the cows, hoping to get finished before I woke up as my eyes had to be bathed open. This early memory still remains with me of waking in the morning and not being able to see because my eyes were glued shut. As if Mum didn't have enough to cope with! But the good fun times were when my brother and I would line up with our mugs to get that first lot of milk straight from the cow. We would drink it straight off and see who had the most lot of froth around his mouth with Mum giving us the odd squirt in the face when we weren't looking.

My brother Ron probably had very different memories of those cows as he had to deliver milk to some of the townspeople on his way to school. He balanced two billies of milk and a half pint ladle on the

handlebars. This had to be taken to customers around the town, measured out to each one. Anything left over, depending on how bumpy the ride was that day, would be given to the "Balts" in the railway camps.

At the local Agricultural show Mum very often not only won trophies in the showing but also in the pavilion for her cooking. I looked forward to showtime as Mum baked everything that was listed in the show schedule. We finished up with any rejects, usually something that was not quite the right size or shape but still very delectable!

Whenever there was a wedding in town Mum would be asked to decorate the wedding cake. She always tried to make each cake special in some way for the bride.

Usually she used a photograph of each of the couple and made a figure using the photo as the face thus making them actually look like the couple. She also took a piece of the fabric from which the wedding dress was made and made a replica of it to put on the figure. Her attention to detail was remarkable.

Ron, who was eight years older than I, rode a bike the three quarters of a mile to school, but when I started school I couldn't ride a bike. Mum and Dad bought me one and it was fine but I couldn't stop and get off! Poor Ron had to ride ahead put his bike down and then turn to catch my handlebars to stop me. More often than not I fell off, especially if he was annoyed with me and just let me go. The policeman's wife, a Mrs. Fiebig, very kindly patched me up and I would walk the rest of the way.

This went on for some time until eventually they grew tired of my brother's whinging and sold the bike. A short time after a friend at school said she would teach me, so she did – on a boy's bike! I then wanted another bike since my parents had sold my other one. They of course weren't too happy.

Pets were not only confined to four legged animals at our place. Of course most farmers had the odd pet cocky or two. We had several sulphur crested cockatoos at different times. All were characters in some special way. Most pick up words that are commonly used on a day to day basis, those often being swear words. After the war Dad put crops in every year and this particular year the paddock at the back door was in crop. At harvest time the bags (at that time) were stacked at the nearby corner and cocky would sit on the bags having a wonderful time shoveling wheat out with his beak as fast as he could. Off course when Dad came around on the tractor he told cocky where to go in strong vernacular tones.

This was all very well until my brothers 21st birthday party at the house, when cocky sitting on the overflow pipe on the tank at the back door, promptly told our visitors where to go in perfect mimicry of Dad's voice!

Cocky got on well with the dogs and while they rested in the heat with tongues lolling out of their mouths, cocky would clean between their teeth, occasionally lifting and moving the tongue aside. They also liked to ride and would walk up the horse's mane and sit between their ears on top of the forelock. With a "K-k-k get up," in the ear, off they would go. It was quite a sight!

One of cocky's favourite places to ride was on dad's hat. He would lean over the brim and chat away. In fact he liked hats in particular and would even land on visitors to the farm, of which there were quite a few being so close to town. One such visitor arrived but caused a commotion as he was bald and without a hat. We had to give assistance with some flavine after cocky landed on his head in a flurry of wings when he couldn't get a grip!

During the times when things were a bit lean, Mum would shoot enough galahs to

make a galah stew. They were really quite palatable. The only bother was when an odd shot missed the head and hit the body; you had to watch out for pellets.

About twice a week an old chap from town, Tom, would come out to the farm in a horse and cart and make his way down through the farm to set rabbit traps at the few burrows on the property. If he had a decent catch he would drop one off at the house on his way home. The rest he sold in town to the townsfolk. 'Underground chicken' was pretty good too.

Snakes were aplenty around the farm in the summer as were the mice. Mum was a somewhat of a good shot but took no chances with the snakes and used a double barreled shotgun. She averaged thirteen snakes a week in the main heat of summer in the haystack area behind the horse stalls.

She had an uncanny sense when there was a snake around. We had an enclosed verandah down one side of the house with several iron beds on it where we collapsed in the heat of the day looking for some respite. One day she said to me, "I want you to stand on that bed and keep your eye on that hole in the floorboards. If a snake pops his head up I want you to yell as loud as you can to me." I thought the latter part went without saying but agreed anyway. Shortly after there was a loud crack from the other side of the house and Mum appeared from around the corner with a smug look on her face and a somewhat shredded snake!

Snakes didn't bother her but show her one Huntsman spider and she went to jelly.

They would gather on the fly wire door at night, sometimes three or four of them at one time. She tolerated them as they ate any insect pests but she always made sure the flyscreen door was securely closed otherwise the odd one or two made it inside. One thing I had to learn was the old method of trapping them with a jar and a piece of

paper to remove and release them outside. Mum couldn't handle that.

When the Japs bombed Darwin our local townspeople held a meeting to decide what to do if the town was invaded. The local garage man suggested that the men shoot all the women and children before the Japs could carry out any atrocities! The statement was very strongly objected to by my mother who stated she could shoot as well as any man - if not better in most instances - and she would look after herself and her children, thank you very much!

Mum reared chickens - laying hens and roosters for the table and also quite a few turkeys. These were kept in large yards about 200 metres from the house and amongst some trees. The gates were closed each night to protect them against the foxes. Quite often there would be a commotion up there at night as the odd fox would prowl around the perimeter. This particular hot night there was a heck of a racket. Dad flew out of bed, put on his boots and grabbed the rifle and raced up to the yards. Mum went too but didn't wait to put on slippers. After firing a couple of shots off all went quiet again. They then realized they had to get back to the house and Mum didn't have anything on her feet and the double gees were thick. She had got up there so fast she hadn't noticed them. Okay said Dad, so I'll give you a piggy back! So there they were, Dad in a short singlet and boots only and Mum in a nightie hiked up to get a piggyback and no shoes, carrying a loaded rifle, when down the road from town came the night truck and caught them in full view of the headlights. They weren't allowed to forget that night and the sight they made for quite some time!

During one really bad season when vermin was prevalent, Mum shot many foxes and roos. She had so many pelts that she decided she might as well put

them to use so she bundled them off down to Baileys the furriers and had them made up into a coat. This was all very well but whenever she wore it to the races and stood close to the fence of the saddling yard, the horses would snort and carry on erratically!

For some time I worked in the local Shire Office, or rather Road Board Office as it was known then. My main tasks were to issue truck licenses, type minutes etc, and one odious task was to bundle up once a month any vermin beaks or pelts that had been brought in. A bounty was paid on these, the beaks of emus and ears and tails of foxes. By the time they had been in a drum out the back of the office for a month they were pretty ripe!

Christmas was usually spent at our beach house at Waikiki (now Warnboro). We would leave the farm as soon as the crop was off and stay at the beach until about the middle of February. These were great times spent on the beach or just lazing around looking out over the ocean. Mum and Dad were both great fishermen and would sit out in their dinghy about one hundred metres off shore and catch fish and crabs.

Many a meal we sat with newspapers spread over the table and a bowl of vinegar, salt and lemon and ate fresh warm crabs with juice running down to our elbows. Yum!

Other times Dad, who liked to cook the fish and left Mum to the chips, would make them into beer battered snippets and kept on cooking until we begged him to stop. He wouldn't eat until we had had enough. Visitors loved them.

We used to have a lot of visitors down there, Dad's old army mates and even Sir David and Doris Brand. (Mum's name was Mabel, so there were plenty of "Dad, Dave and Mabel jokes!") Most nearly always brought drinks and salads as they knew

the main fare would be seafood of some sort.

We had that place for just over twenty years and Dad sold it when it became too much for mum to pack up and unpack so much gear all the time. Also we three offspring grew up and had our own families and didn't have the time to spend down there. But I would say it was probably the most carefree happy time of our lives.

As a teenager most of my driving was done in a Chev wheat truck. It didn't bother me in the least.

There was great excitement whenever we got a new car. We always had Chevrolets. Dad had a service station before the war in Mt. Lawley and when he was in the army he was in workshops or vehicle supplies and so learned every part number off by heart. They were beautiful cars. I can almost smell that 'new' smell now. Anyway it was a little while before I was allowed to drive it and Mum came with me. She was so terrified I would put a dent in it that her nervousness rubbed off on me. I was fine until I went to drive it into the garage and drove so close to the side wall you couldn't even get the passenger side door off the jam, not an inch! She said, "Get out quick before your father sees it." She then backed out gingerly and reparked it after she had swept the tyre marks out of the dust. It was some time before I could convince her to let me have another go.

I really liked driving a truck, they were nice and high and sort of just rolled along.

During the summers when I was a teenager, Mum and Dad would spend time at our beach house and I would stay and look after the farm particularly if I had a job in town.

One stinking hot day when checking the south mill I found the water tank had collapsed and was surrounded by a very thirsty mob of sheep. Okay thinks Delys, I'll have to move them to the other well at the other end of the farm two miles away. Well the heat must have got to my head as of course I should have checked that well first, because there had been no wind to drive the pump there wasn't any water in the tank let alone the trough. So I had to take the truck, put on a water tank and cart some water from the dam in town just to tide them over until a breeze sprang up. They say you learn by experience!

About this time, to my delight, the town put in a swimming pool. I had the honour of being the first one in it courtesy of a few local lads one Sunday afternoon. It was dark black green and I couldn't get out of it quick enough!

Entertainment in town was fairly spare and apart from the regular Monday night picture show in the hall there was just the odd dance or ball to raise funds for this or that church group or club. The dances were always well attended. People came from nearby towns particularly for the Show Ball.

As a youngster when I was too young to go, my parents parked our old Chev car out the front on the corner, right under the street light. This was great as Ron and I could watch everyone arriving in their finery. It was particularly entertaining on Fancy Dress Ball night!

When I was a little older I was allowed to stay up for a while at the dances and could sit with the other kids up on the seats right against the stage in front of the band. I had to behave myself as Dad was nearly always MC and stood right behind me! But we were allowed

to dance with each other as long as we kept out of the road of the adults. It was a good way to learn to dance though. The best part of these nights was when supper was announced. The cream sponges were to die for!

As a teenager I graduated to the seats further up the side of the hall. All the single females sat here while the males all congregated around the main door checking out the girls! When each dance was announced you held your breath hoping you would be asked to dance. Of course all the older girls were snapped up pretty fast. It wasn't too far away before I didn't have that problem. Sometimes I wished a couple of the boys weren't so fast. Very often the slower ones were the ones with manners! The best dancer I ever partnered was a chap with one arm. He always asked me for the modern waltz which I loved. He really had perfect balance.

I made all my own clothes in those days. I learned dressmaking at The Stanley School of Dresscutting and Design in Fremantle one summer (at the same time taking piano accordion lessons!) I stopped playing this instrument as I grew older as it became too uncomfortable. The larger I grew the more it pinched!

You never wore the same dress twice to a country dance so I usually made something that could be adapted. But my favourite dances were the theme dances and these were usually held by the Catholic Church as their main organizer was a talented lady called May Farrell. I have been a can-can dancer, a cigarette girl, a Dutch girl, an Irish Jigger and a Hawaiian girl to name a few. They were really fun times.

Reading was a great pastime for me. If we visited the city during the year I usually bought a few hard covers on horses but they didn't last me long. I read every book Dad had on his shelves, mostly war books and thrillers. Although my particular favourites were film

books of which I have quite a collection now. I loved the musicals and often pranced around pretending to be Ginger Rogers or Rita Hayworth but more likely looked like 'My Friend Flicka'.

When not reading I played the piano. I had never had any formal training - only lessons from a local lady who was a particular friend of my mothers. She played the piano in the band for the local dances. She gave me two lessons a week. It hardly seemed to matter to me that I didn't even own a piano!

After nearly two years of this Dad made a visit to the city and at a day at the races he won one hundred pounds - enough to buy a piano and then at the trots that night he won thirty pounds, more than enough to buy a piano stool. He even had enough money over to buy Mum a beautiful houndstooth suit. He often did this, buying the exact size, style and colour to suit Mum. He even extended to buying her evening gowns. He had quite remarkable taste.

My biggest regret in life was that I never had enough education. Back then it was important that the boys received the education as the girls usually only married farmers anyway. Both my brothers had a college education. The older one went to Guildford Grammar School and the younger one to Christ Church Grammar School. I had to leave school at fifteen years of age. I was narked to say the least as I was regarded as the smartest of the three. Our young son John said to me in recent years - do it now Mum, go take some courses, it's not too late, but here I am now with little time to scratch with my quilting, scrapbooking etc, not to mention editing the Courier!

Don't even ask about the garden!

***T

his article was written in case we ever ran short of copy and it could be used to fill a bit of space.

Delys Carey.

After nearly two years of this Dad made a visit to the city and at a day at the races he won one hundred pounds – enough to buy a piano and then at the trots that night he won thirty pounds, more than enough to buy a piano stool. He even had enough money over to buy Mum a beautiful houndstooth suit. He often did this, buying the exact size, style and colour to suit Mum. He even extended to buying her evening gowns. He had quite remarkable taste.

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Delys Carey.

Birthdays Boys

John Burridge	6th April	88
Colin Hodson	6th April	82
Vince Swann	9th April	90
Harry Botterill	12th April	86
Eric Smyth	15th April	86
Arthur Marshall	21st April	84
Ray Parry	5th May	83
Keith Wilson	16th May	85

Don Murray	18th May	85
George Parker	23rd May	92
Gerry Green	31st May	90
Jim Lines	4th June	84
Fred Humfrey	10th June	93
Jack Carey	19th June	84
Lionel Newton	21st June	85

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Sincere thanks to all donors.11

WA MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

Our Annual Mid-Year Function

Norma Hasson Day

will be held at the Goodearth Hotel

195 Adelaide Terrace

On Friday 7th July

From 11.30am -2.30pm (Lunch at 12.30)

This is always an enjoyable occasion
so be there, hail, rain or storm.

Don't forget now!

Available now

Arthur Marshall's book

Yes - There is life besides cricket!

The autobiography of Marsh is
a good read and I can recommend it.

Members or friends of the Association
are asked to either write to Arthur,

at Peel St, Harvey WA 6220

or ring for a copy on 08 9729 1296

Cost \$20 plus postage.



From left to right: Bernie Langridge, Colin Hodson, Dick Darrington, Ray Parry, Jack Carey



Victorian members at the RACV Club lunching with Jack and Delys on their recent visit to Melbourne.