



ANZAC Day 2013 in Perth

The 2013 commemoration of ANZAC Day in Perth saw dozens of friends and family of the 2/2 Commando Association marching. With the years taking their toll, there are fewer and fewer surviving 2/2 veterans. This year, Bob Smyth was the only unit member who marched. Domingos de Oliveira, an East Timorese who was a child when the 2/2 went to his village in 1942, also marched.



Above: Georgia, daughter of Andrew and Graciela Tabain, with her ANZAC Day programme.

When the ceremony was over, a fine lunch was enjoyed by about 25 at the Goodearth Hotel, with Lt Col Greg Daly and RSM WO1 Ross Doherty of the SAS Regiment. Lt Col Daly was guest speaker and he acknowledged the enduring bond between the 2/2 and the SAS.



Above: Standard-bearers Piper Waite (great grand-daughter of Norm Thornton) and Graciela Tabain (Graciela worked for the UN in East Timor and is married to Andrew Tabain, who was with the Australian Armed Forces in East Timor).

Vice-Regal patron



We are delighted to announce that His Excellency Malcolm McCusker, AC CVO QC, Governor of Western Australia, has accepted an invitation from our president, Jenny Beahan (née Aitken), to be the patron of our association.

When His Excellency was a schoolboy, one of his teachers was Jerry Haire, a former 2/2 soldier. The Governor also recently hosted a gathering at Government House to celebrate the 90th birthday of Torchbearers for Legacy, an organisation that provides important assistance to the dependents of deceased servicemen and women.



Commemoration ceremony - 17 November 2013



Our 64th annual commemoration ceremony will be held on Sunday, 17 November 2013, commencing at 3pm, at the 2/2 Memorial in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park.

His Excellency Malcolm McCusker, AC CVO QC, Governor of Western Australia has kindly agreed to give the address.

Please join us as we pay tribute to the men of the 2/2 Commando Squadron.

Our commemoration ceremonies are kindly supported by the SAS Regiment. After the ceremony, you are invited to join us for refreshments at "The House" at Campbell Barracks.

Debt of Honour exhibition on tour

In February 2012, the Debt of Honour exhibition was opened at the WA Museum ("WAM"). The exhibition ran there for three months, with very impressive attendance figures. Some 30,000 people saw the exhibition and market research showed that visitors stayed for an average of 1½ hours, longer than at other exhibitions, such as the highly publicised British exhibition attached to CHOGM.

Debt of Honour began a tour of regional Western Australia in July 2013. The exhibition has been to Geraldton and will be at WAM in Kalgoorlie from 26 October until 2 February and in Albany from 15 February to 18 May 2014. The association is also helping to seek funds from Visions Australia for a national tour.



Debt of Honour exhibition in Timor Leste

The association is now hopeful that there might, sometime soon, be a touring Debt of Honour exhibition in Timor Leste, but with a greater emphasis on Timor-Leste culture, including the stories of the creados. WAM has had preliminary talks with Timor Leste to organise this, having met some months ago with the association and Kirsty Sword Gusmao in Western Australia. WAM representatives have also met with Timor Leste's Secretary for Education and Culture and representatives of the National Museum of Timor Leste.

It is hoped that, apart from helping the Debt of Honour story to be better known in Timor Leste, the touring exhibition will help to foster a sense of national pride among the many ethnic groups in Timor Leste, and especially among the young.

Anzac Day 2013 in Denmark, WA

On 25 April 2013, Murray Thornton, son of Norm Thornton and one of the trustees of our association, spoke at the ANZAC Day ceremony in Denmark, WA. He spoke of the links between Denmark and Timor Leste, links forged during the unit's presence in East Timor, as three of Denmark's young men were 2/2 soldiers - Jeremiah Haire, Geordie Smith and Norm Thornton.



Above: Dom Bosco Fulgoro Agricultural College in Timor Leste

Murray paid tribute to Libby Corson, a former English teacher at the Denmark Agriculture College, who played an important part in Denmark's connection with education and East Timor. He also recognised the fine work done by the Denmark East Timor Fulgoro Association, which, with the great support of the Denmark community, has provided East-Timorese students with over \$100,000 worth of school fees and books, between 2002 and 2012. To read the whole of Murray's speech go to our website Doublereds.org.au and click on Articles.

Website contributions – Nominal roll

As part of our plan to continue to develop the Doubleds.org.au website into an authoritative and thorough historical resource for all things relating to the 2/2 Commando Squadron (whether you favour that name or one of the unit's other names), we have now added the Roll of Honour and have begun to add the nominal roll to the history page of the site. We aim to add a photograph and some words about each soldier. As there are over 750 men who were in the unit from its inception to disbandment, this is a significant task and one that will not be completed overnight. Much of the material will come from Couriers, mostly from the "Vale" tributes, given by family members over the years.

We also seek contributions from you, the friends and family of 2/2 soldiers. We invite you send us some words about the 2/2 soldiers who were important to you personally, be it in the form of a tribute, a poem, a few words of recognition or thanks or something more. We also need photos. These will be added to the website, so that, by clicking on the soldier's name, the words about the soldier can be seen. Please email any contributions to Peter Epps at update@doublereds.org.au.

