



Commemoration ceremony on 15 November 2015



Our 66th annual commemoration ceremony will be held at 3pm on 15 November 2015 at the association's memorial in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park.

This year's address will be delivered by Ms Joan Karmelita, daughter of 2/2 veteran Chas Sadler. Please join us as we pay tribute to the men of the 2/2 Commando Squadron.



Charles and Stan Sadler

Vale George "Happy" Greenhalgh

George Frederick Greenhalgh was born on 6 July 1920. He joined the 2/2 as one of the originals, training at Wilson's Promontory, where he gained the nickname "Happy", which stayed with him for the rest of his days.

Happy was alert and upbeat to the end, despite having had his legs amputated some years back. He is said to have declined to attend this year's high-profile Anzac Day commemorations, saying that he would instead head to the place where he was "going to get his legs back".

Happy was the loving husband of Rene (dec'd), brother of Alma (dec'd), uncle of Heather (dec'd), Bill (dec'd), and Lewis (dec'd). He was the great uncle of Amelia, Phoebe, Cameron, and Sally and dear friend of Kim Wiblen. He died peacefully at Mareeba Nursing Home on 18 April 2015, aged 94.



George "Happy" Greenhalgh

2015 AGM

The 2015 AGM was the first one since the association changed its constitution to expand membership eligibility. The committee of the association now comprises Peter Epps (president), John Denman (vice president), Colleen Thornton-Ward (secretary and treasurer) and committee members Jenny Beahan, John Burrridge, Louis Crossing, Rob Crossing, Helen Kenneally, Noel Strickland, Murray Thornton and Ed Willis.

The minutes of the meeting can be seen at courier.doublereds.org.au/agm2015. The president's report can be seen at courier.doublereds.org.au/pres2015. Incoming president Peter Epps gave thanks to Jenny Beahan for all of her work as president since the "new" association came into being.

Since the new constitution came into effect, our membership has grown from seven to 53 members. If you would like to join, go to doublereds.org.au and click on Membership.

Toilet block gift



One of the existing inadequate toilets that currently provides for the needs of over 300 children

In Timor-Leste, girls choose to leave school when they reach puberty, as most schools don't have toilets. Providing toilet blocks can therefore be a very cost-effective way of improving education standards in Timor-Leste, especially for women.

Through the Melville Friends of Hatolia, our association recently provided AUD\$6,500 to build toilet blocks at the Buburia and Lebumeo schools in Fatu-Bessi, in the western part of the Hatolia district of Timor-Leste. For more information, go to

courier.doublereds.org.au/fatu-bessi.



Anzac Day 2015



Keith Hayes and others marching in the 2015 Anzac Day parade

The centenary of the landing of ANZAC troops on the shores of Gallipoli was commemorated in ceremonies across the nation this year.

As always, a wreath in honour of the 2/2 was laid at the dawn service in Kings Park, with new president Peter Epps carrying out that role this year. Vice president John Denman laid a wreath at the dawn service at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne.



The Double Reds wreath (in foreground at left) at Campbell Barracks

A contingent comprising veteran Keith Hayes, Timorese veterans and family members of 2/2 soldiers also marched in Perth's Anzac Day parade.

VP Day 2015

On 15 August 2015, the Allies recognised the 70th anniversary of victory in the Pacific - VP Day. Several members of the association attended a ceremony in Kings Park to mark the occasion, including veteran Keith Hayes, who laid a wreath, and association president Peter Epps.



Keith Hayes lays a wreath at the 2015 VP Day commemoration in Kings Park

Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra delivered a speech at a ceremony to mark the occasion. Noting the absence of reference to the 2/2 in the speech, vice president John Denman wrote to Dr Nelson about the omission. John's letter can be seen at courier.doublereds.org.au/john-letter. Dr Nelson responded to the effect that, although the unit's contribution to Australia's war effort in the Pacific was very significant, it had not been possible to mention all units in his speech. See Dr Nelson's letter at courier.doublereds.org.au/nelson-letter.

Sunset ceremony



Jenny Beahan speaks at the sunset ceremony

On 20 April 2015, a sunset ceremony was held at the unit's memorial in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, to coincide with a visit of East Timorese veterans.

His Excellency Xanana Gusmão, the inaugural president and former prime minister of Timor-Leste, laid a wreath with 2/2 veteran Keith Hayes. Also in attendance were Timor-Leste's ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Abel Guterres and Timor-Leste's honorary

consul to Australia, Dr Barry Mendelawitz, as well as a large number of members and friends of the association.

The speech delivered by association president Jenny Beahan can be seen at courier.doublereds.org.au/sunset.



Xanana Gusmão speaks to Keith Hayes at the sunset ceremony

Paddy Kenneally honoured



President Jose Maria de Vasconcelos addresses the Independence Day ceremony at Maliana

On 20 May 2015, Timor-Leste celebrated the 13th anniversary of its independence. There were ceremonies across the country, but the biggest was at Maliana and it was attended by the president, Jose Maria de Vasconcelos. Also known as Taur Matan Ruak (which is Tetum for "two sharp eyes"), the president presented the Order of Timor-Leste to 2/2 veteran the late John Patrick "Paddy"

Kenneally, in recognition of the valuable contribution given by him to the Timorese people's struggle for self-determination.

Paddy's daughter, Helen Kenneally received the medal on Paddy's behalf. Also present were Helen's brother, Michael Kenneally and 2/2 committee members Murray Thornton and Rob Crossing. A brief version of the story of Paddy's work in support of the East Timorese can be seen at courier.doublereds.org.au/paddy.



Michael and Helen Kenneally with the Order of Timor-Leste awarded to their father, Paddy Kenneally.

Donations

We thank all of those who have made donations great and small to help the association to carry out its objects.

Since the last Courier was published we have received donations from Rob Crossing (\$350) and Kerry Barber (\$200). Many thanks to Kerry and Rob. Please note that donations can be made online through the forums page of the website or by sending cheques to our treasurer, Colleen Thornton-Ward at 43 Marriott Way, Morley WA 6062.