



**COURIER**

**2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

<https://doublereds.org.au/>

President Peter Epps, Secretary Rob Crossing, Editor Ed Willis

**APRIL 2018**

## 68TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, 3pm, Sunday 19  
November 2017



The special effort made to encourage a larger attendance at the Service was successful with about 80 family members, supporters and invited guests in attendance, most of whom signed the new visitors' book.

Notable guests included Senator Linda Reynolds, representing the Commonwealth government, Tim Hammond MP, Member for Perth, the Hon. Peter Tinley MLA, Minister for Housing, Veterans Issues and Youth representing the WA government and John Carey MLA, son of 2/2 stalwart Jack Carey, who delivered the address.

After the commemorative ceremony many of those attending gathered for a convivial drink and a bite to eat at the Captain Stirling Hotel.

Full video coverage of the Service can be found on the [Association Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/2nd2niddoublers/):

<https://www.facebook.com/2nd2niddoublers/>

## ANZAC DAY 2018 MARCH ARRANGEMENTS



Association President Peter Epps will lay a wreath at the Dawn Service.

Members of the Association, family and friends can participate in the Anzac Day Parade. Noel Strickland and John Denman will carry the unit flag on the day. Peter Epps will also be at the march and will have Double Reds pins available for purchase (\$20 each).

For full details of Anzac Day events in Perth see:

<https://www.rslwa.org.au/march-anzac-day>

## TIMOR 1942 COMMANDO CAMPAIGN TOUR - FULLY BOOKED!!

Back in mid-November 2017, Committee member Ed Willis called for expressions of interest in touring sites in Timor-Leste associated with the 2/2's campaign against the Japanese in 1942.

Ed is happy to report that there was a strong response and 12 men and women have signed up to join the tour that is now FULLY BOOKED.



All participants, except one, have a family connection with a soldier in the 2/2 who served on Timor, so it will be great bonding experience for everyone. The exception on the tour is Michael Stone, a former member of the ADF, who has a long connection with Timor-Leste through his service there and his Timor Awakening tours.

The tour runs from 22 April – 2 May and tour members will attend and participate in the Anzac Day Dawn Service in Dili and lay a wreath on behalf of the Association.

Given the exceptional interest in the tour, Timor Adventures, the tour operator is calling for expressions of interest from others who may like to tour either later this year or in 2019.

If you are interested in a future tour, please contact:

Shirley Carlos  
Timor Adventures  
Mob: 0448514333 (Australia)  
[www.timoradventures.com.au](http://www.timoradventures.com.au)

### **ASSOCIATION FUNDS COMPACT TEACHER TRAINING FOR CALOHAN-LETEFOHO VILLA PRIMARY**

At its meeting on 7 February, the Committee decided to provide funding to support Compact Teacher Training (Professional Development) for Calohan-Letefoho Villa Primary School, Letefoho Subdistrict, Municipality of Ermera, Timor-Leste. This follows on the successful completion of a similar training program funded by the

Association at Ailelo/Cosbouk and Samara Schools in the Hatolia Subdistrict in July 2017.

The Melville Friends of Hatolia (MFoH) organised the training session at Ailelo/Cosbouk and Samara Schools but wound itself up as an association in late November 2017. At its final meeting MFoH members agreed to donate the bulk of its remaining funds (approximately \$3,800) to the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia to be used to fund professional development training for teachers in Timor-Leste. This was in recognition of the successful cooperation between the two organisations in completing teacher training and toilet construction projects over the previous three years.



Committee member Ed Willis invited Snr Francisco Jorge dos Santos, Program Manager, Learning Resource Development Center to submit a budget proposal for professional development training at another school and he sent the proposal for teacher professional development at Calohan-Letefoho Villa Primary School for consideration that the Committee approved.

The total cost is US\$5,315 = AUD\$7053.75. The Association has used the \$3800 donated by MFoH towards the cost of the training and 'topped up' the balance (approx. \$3,200) from its own funds.

The training program will proceed after the Timor-Leste elections that will be held on 12 May (see the following story about the elections).

## **ASSOCIATION FUNDS REPAIR WORK AT DARE MEMORIAL**

The Association funded repair works and tidy up at the Dare Memorial that were required as a result of damage to the site related to nearby road works. The repair works and tidy up were efficiently organised for the Association by WO2 Troy Butler, Medical Advisor, Specialist Training Wing, Defence Co-operation Program (DCP), Australian Embassy, Dili and completed in time for the Remembrance Day ceremony that was held at Dare on November 11, 2017.



The ceremony was attended by staff from the Australian and New Zealand Embassies, DCP, Timor-Leste Police Development Program, Timor veteran representatives and the members of the public. It was a solemn occasion with all reflecting on the past and current relationships that Australia, New Zealand and Timor-Leste have developed.

## **UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN TIMOR-LESTE**



The people of Timor-Leste will vote in a general election to be held on Saturday 12

May. The early election is being held in an attempt to resolve a hung Parliament where the incumbent government of Mari Alkatiri was unable to pass key elements of its legislative programme including the budget. Association committee members Colleen Thornton-Ward and Murray Thornton have volunteered to act as election observers.

## **TIMOR GAP TREATY WELCOMED**

The 2/2 Commando Association of Australia welcomes the signing in New York on 6 March of a new treaty between Australia and Timor-Leste establishing their maritime boundaries in the Timor Sea.

However, the negotiations still have some steps to complete. The details of the treaty and other arrangements have not yet been made public, and the decision on where the gas pipeline from Sunrise will go is being deferred, probably until a new Timor-Leste government is formed after the 12 May Parliamentary elections.

The veterans who formed the 2/2 Commando Association felt they and the Australian nation owed a 'debt of honour' to the Timorese people for the support they received from them during their campaign against the Japanese in 1942. Over the years they lobbied successive Australian governments to reach an agreement with the newly independent Timor-Leste that would assist its economic viability by ensuring a fairly apportioned revenue stream from the exploitation of the oil resources of the Timor Gap.

The committee of the association is still supportive of such an outcome from the new treaty and the ongoing negotiations.

## **ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS AND PRODUCTS FOR SALE**

Remember, new Association memberships and renewals, digital books and memorabilia are available for purchase from the Doublereds Store:

<https://doublereds.org.au/store/>