



COURIER

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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

President John Denman, Secretary Rob Crossing, Editor Ed Willis

APRIL 2019

69TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE



**Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, 3pm, Sunday
18 November 2018**

About 80 family members, supporters and invited guests attended the service.

Ed Willis, newly elected Vice-President of the Association 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.

Photos of the Service can be found at:
<https://doublereds.org.au/gallery/category/35-2018-ceremony/>

ANZAC DAY 2019 MARCH ARRANGEMENTS

Peter Epps will lay a wreath on behalf of the Association at the Dawn Service in Kings Park.

Colleen Thornton-Ward will represent the Association at the Dawn Service at Campbell Barracks.



Members of the Association, family and friends can participate in the Anzac Day Parade. Noel Strickland and Colleen Thornton Ward will carry the unit banner on the day. The Association is at position G92 in the Order of March.

For full details of Anzac Day events in Perth see:

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

Those participating in the Parade are also invited to join marchers associated with the 2/8 Commando Squadron for lunch (12:30 pm) at the Ambassador Hotel, 196 Adelaide Terrace, Perth. Members and friends of other commando associations will also be invited.

The cost is \$25 for a two-course meal including coffee (drinks are extra).

To attend, please contact our secretary, Rob Crossing at rob@crossing.com.au by Tuesday 23 April.

TIMOR 1942 COMMANDO CAMPAIGN TOUR

Timor 1942 Commando Campaign Tour 

16 family members of former 2/2 soldiers are participating in the 2019 tour which will take place 24 April – 4 May. This follows on from the successfully completed 2018 tour. Strong interest has already been expressed in the 2020 tour. If you are interested in touring next year please contact Ed Willis (ew988662@bigpond.net.au or 0438907480) for more information.

OPENING OF KEITH HAYES BUILDING, ST ANTHONY'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, DILI

The 2/2 Commando Association of Australia has provided a grant of USD\$5,000 (A\$7,254) to St Anthony's International School in Dili to fund the construction of a new classroom.



To acknowledge receipt of the grant, the Association requested that the School name the classroom after the former esteemed member of the old Association, the recently deceased Keith Hayes, OAM. This was done with the approval of Keith's family. The School responded by naming not just an individual classroom, but the whole building consisting of three classrooms after Keith. The Association greatly appreciates this gesture.

The classroom building has been completed and in use since the end of January. The Association has worked with the School to organise an official dedicatory opening of the classroom building to take place on 24 April at which a plaque honouring Keith will be

unveiled with three of his children (Leonie Robson, Trevor and Hylton Hayes) in attendance.

Association President John Denman and Vice President Ed Willis, who will be touring Timor-Leste at the time, will also participate in the opening.

St Anthony's International School is located in Rua De St Antonio in the Farol district of Dili. Keith Hayes survived the notorious 'Ration truck massacre' that took place not far from the school on the day the Japanese invaded on 20 February 1942. Keith was protected and cared for by a local Timorese woman Berta Donnabella Martins and assisted by her family members in rejoining the unit in the hills outside Dili.

BIG ANNIVERSARIES FOR TIMOR-LESTE IN 2019

On 30th August 2019, Timor-Leste commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the Popular Consultation when the Timorese people exercised their right to self-determination and voted overwhelmingly for independence.

20th September marks the anniversary of the deployment of the International Force East Timor or INTERFET, the Australian led peacemaking taskforce that came to Timor-Leste to address the humanitarian and security crisis from 1999–2000.

Many former Australian Defence Force personnel and others associated with these milestone events will be visiting Timor-Leste around those dates.

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/>