



COURIER

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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

President John Denman, Secretary Sue Epps, Editor Ed Willis

APRIL 2020

UPCOMING EVENT

Anzac Day Commemoration

RSLWA is encouraging all Aussies to get creative in a show of mateship this ANZAC Day by amongst other things:

- Lighting a candle and standing in quiet contemplation at the end of their driveways, or on their balconies, at 6am on April 25.
- Firing up a family barbecue or a traditional gunfire breakfast of bacon, eggs and sausages ... plus a mug of (rum-spiked) tea or coffee to toast the fallen.

For more information, see:

<https://www.rslwa.org.au/news/rslwa-invites-aussies-to-embrace-the-spirit-of-mateship-this-anzac-day/>. Similar arrangements are being promoted by the RSL branches in other states.

70TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE



Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, 3pm, Sunday 17 November 2019

Association members, their families, friends and other supporters gathered in encouraging

numbers for the latest Commemoration Service.

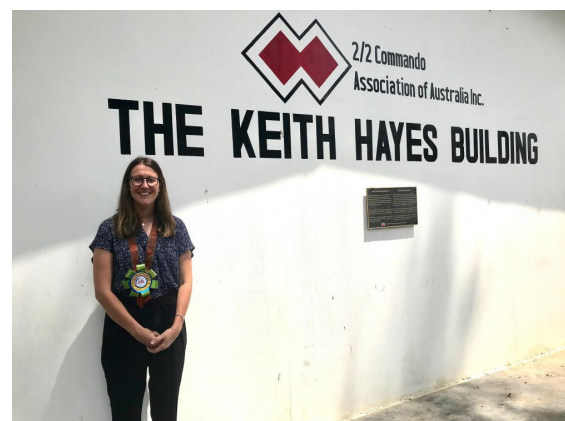
The ceremony was again live streamed for those that could not attend and can still be viewed at <https://live.doublereds.org.au/>

Colleen Thornton-Ward gave the address at the service.

Many of those attending the service gathered afterwards at the Captain Stirling Hotel for a drink, a bite to eat and a chat.

GRADUATION CEREMONY AT ST ANTHONY'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, DILI

In 2018, the association donated money to St Anthony's International School in Dili, for the construction of a classroom building. In April 2019, members of the committee attended the opening of the Keith Hayes Building, named in honour of 2/2 veteran, the late Keith Hayes OAM.



Adelaide Crossing in front of the Keith Hayes Building

The school recently invited members of the association to attend its annual graduation ceremony, on 14 December 2019. A granddaughter of 2/2 veteran Warwick Crossing, Adelaide Crossing, who was in Dili as

part of her studies with the University of Sydney, accepted the association's invitation to attend the ceremony on the association's behalf.

Adelaide says she was honoured to be invited to attend and was very impressed by the students and the school.

In speeches, staff and students paid tribute to the association's generosity.

**VALE JOHN HAROLD ('SNOWY') WENT -
NX123562 – 1923-2020**



Association members and supporters will be saddened to learn of the passing of former 2/2 Commando Squadron soldier John Harold 'Snowy' Went (NX123562).

His daughter, Lorraine Hickey, advised the Association that Snowy passed away aged 96 at Bateau Bay, NSW on Thursday 26 March 2020. His funeral was held on 2 April.

He served in New Guinea and New Britain as a member of 7 Section of C Troop.

Post-war he was an active member of the NSW Branch of the Association and Lorraine noted that he 'proudly attended many reunions over the years'. There are frequent mentions of him in the back issues of the 'Courier' and Col Doig expressed his thanks to Snowy and others who helped him 're-constitute' the manning lists included in his unit history.

A fuller Vale for Snowy will be prepared and published on Doublereds once more information about him becomes available.

Up until being contacted by Lorraine we had assumed that Jack Hansen was the 'last man standing' from the 2/2. If any Association member or supporter is aware of another 2/2 veteran still with us, please contact the Association with his details

[\(https://doublereds.org.au/forums/forum/8-open-discussion/\)](https://doublereds.org.au/forums/forum/8-open-discussion/).

TIMORESE SEASONAL WORKERS IN WA

12 Timorese seasonal workers have been employed on a tomato farm at Carabooda near Yanchep north of Perth.

The young men had accepted an invitation from the committee to lead and carry the 2/2 banner in forthcoming Perth Anzac Day parade. Unfortunately, this will not happen now because of the cancellation of Anzac Day commemorations.



Hannah Thornton (granddaughter of 2/2 veteran Norm Thornton) with some of the Timorese seasonal workers

The men's stay in WA will be prolonged because Timor Leste's Foreign Affairs Minister, Dionísio Babo Soares, is pleading with Timorese citizens currently abroad not to return home, to avoid spreading Covid-19.

**TIMOR 1942 COMMANDO CAMPAIGN
TOUR**

Timor 1942 Commando Campaign Tour 

The planned 2020 tour unfortunately had to be cancelled because of the travel restrictions imposed by the current COVID-19 crisis. 10 people with a 2/2 soldier family connection had booked to go on the tour.

We are hopeful the tour will proceed again later, most likely in 2021.