



COURIER

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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

Editor Ed Willis, Secretary Chantelle Cummins

NOVEMBER 2022

UPCOMING EVENT

73rd Annual Commemoration Ceremony



Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, 3pm, Sunday 20 November 2022

Association members, their families, friends and other supporters are reminded and encouraged to attend this year's commemoration ceremony.

The ceremony will again be live streamed online for those that cannot attend and for later viewing. Save the link and make sure you subscribe to our YouTube channel while you're there: <https://live.doublereds.org.au/>

Erica Smyth AC, daughter of 2/2 original member Lt Eric William Smyth (WX12124), will deliver the address at the service.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The Association AGM was held at 35/18 Stirling Highway, Nedlands commencing at 5.30pm on 24 October 2022.

As a result of the election of officers and committee members, Noel Strickland has taken over from Ed Willis as President; Ed will continue as editor and committee member. Other office bearers are Chantelle Cummins

(Secretary) and Colleen Thornton-Ward (Treasurer).

Committee members are John Burrridge, Louis Crossing, Rob Crossing, Peter Epps, Sue Epps, John Denman, Sharon Paul, Geoff Payne, Murray Thornton, and John Cramb.

WWII IN EAST TIMOR - AN AUSTRALIAN ARMY SITE AND TRAVEL GUIDE Site Survey Exercise Completed



In the 80th Anniversary Year (1942-2022) of the Timor Commando Campaign, Ed Willis and Murray Thornton travelled to East Timor between 1 August – 1 September in an attempt to finalise the survey of WWII sites. The harsh realities of travelling in East Timor given overall poor road and track conditions meant that many key sites were not able to be accessed and investigated. The attached map shows the sites accessed and the route followed during the month long tour. Notable sites accessed during the tour included those at Fatu Bessi, Lautem, Fuiloro, Los Palos, Lore, Calicai, Ossu, Lacluta, Soibada, Alas, Lolotoi, Cailaco and Lete Foho. Sites visited that were particular highlights included (1) an overgrown Japanese cave complex located behind the chicken house at Dom Bosco Escola Fuiloro that rivals the better known and more accessible examples at Venilale and (2) the recently revealed Portuguese era posto at Alas that includes a separate hospital, substantial gateway and

walls – all these structures were hidden from view until vegetation cleared recently under a Timorese government funded work programme.

Ed will now focus on completing the 'WWII site and travel guide' incorporating the information and images gathered during the site visits.

Ed and Murray express their appreciation to Major Guy Warnock and other members of the ADF's Defence Cooperation team based in Dili at Sparrow Force House for the assistance they provided to them during the tour.

A big thank you to Julio dos Santos and Alicio Amaral for their guiding and interpretation support and Manny Napoleon for his site and travel advice.

Ed is also extremely grateful to his travelling companion Murray for his exemplary driving work under such demanding conditions, navigation and generosity in supplementing the grant and donated funds for the project by covering much of the costs involved in completing this exercise including accommodation, meals, vehicle hire and fuel – 'we could not have progressed without Murray's involvement and support'.

COLLEEN THORNTON-WARD'S ENGLISH TEACHING VOLUNTEER ROLE IN MALIANA, TIMOR-LESTE

2/2 Commando Association of Australia Treasurer Colleen Thornton-Ward arrived in Maliana on July 15 to commence her year-long assignment as English Teacher Mentor at Escola Colegio Infante de Sagres (<https://www.facebook.com/ColegioMaliana1948>).

The Colegio is sited outside Maliana, close to the border with Indonesian West Timor – Colleen says the lights of Atamboea in that province are visible from her location. Palms Australia (PA) organised Colleen's placement and the Association was pleased to make a donation to assist with covering the associated costs. PA describes her role as follows:

"The Diocese of Maliana has requested the assistance of a qualified and experienced English teacher to develop local teachers' capacity to deliver the Diocesan school's language programs.



Colleen outside her house in Maliana with her brother Murray and Mary Haire, daughter of 2/2 veteran Jerry Haire, 6 August 2022

Palms has prepared and is supporting Colleen Thornton-Ward, who has expertise in language study, a CELTA Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and a long association with Timor Leste through links with the men of the 2/2 Commando Association. Her role will include:

- improving the existing English language program in the local catholic secondary school,
- developing the capacity of teachers in the school to implement improved language programs, and
- strengthening relationships between the school and international visitors".

Colleen, who is the daughter of 2/2 original member Norm Thornton, says: "I've always wanted to volunteer in East Timor to repay the Timorese for everything they've done for our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other relatives".

SUPPORTING THE 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

To ensure the future of the Association we would appreciate our supporters purchasing or renewing memberships, buying products from the store (pins and e-books) or donating. Younger members of our 'great fraternity' are especially encouraged to follow up this way to better ensure that the Association has a longer-term future even after the current generation of immediate descendants of the soldiers moves on.



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2022 AFTER CEREMONY DRINKS

The committee of the 2/2 Commando Association invites you for a drink and a chat.

After the commemorative ceremony in Kings Park on 20 November 2022, please join us for a drink and a bite to eat at the Captain Stirling Hotel.

80 STIRLING HIGHWAY, NEDLANDS

We expect the ceremony to finish at around 4pm. Drinks will be from 4.15pm.

Hope you can join us.

