



**COURIER**

**2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

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

Editor Ed Willis, Secretary Sharon Paul

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## NOVEMBER 2023

### UPCOMING EVENT

#### 74th Annual Commemoration Ceremony



*Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, 3pm, Sunday 19 November 2023*

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/>

John Burrridge will deliver the address at the service.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

The Association AGM was held at 35/18 Stirling Highway, Nedlands commencing at 5.30pm on 31 October 2023.

As a result of the election of officers and committee members, Noel Strickland continues as President; as will Colleen Thornton-Ward (Treasurer). Sharon Paul takes over as Secretary.

Committee members are Ed Willis, John Burrridge, Louis Crossing, Rob Crossing, Peter Epps, Sue Epps, John Denman, Chantelle Cummins, Geoff Payne, Murray Thornton, and John Cramb.

### COMMITTEE APPROVES FUNDING SUPPORT FOR NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AT DARE

In late June the Association received a letter from the administrators of the Dare School requesting funding assistance to build a new school with photos showing the poor conditions at the existing school and the site of the new school.



### Teaching staff at the site of the new Dare school building

Sr Florentina Maria José, Coordinator of E.B.P Memorial School requested a US\$5,000 contribution towards construction of the new school building that has now been approved by the Committee. Association President, Noel Strickland commented: 'Given the Association's long historical connection with the Dare site, I think this is a very worthy project'.

The new school is being built on a larger and more stable site approximately 500 metres down the road from the existing school. 'With the Building the students will have

decent classrooms, separate toilets, a decent kitchen, a proper library, a big open space to play, and safety because the new building will be built far from the street’.

### CONTAINERS FOR TIMOR PROJECT

This is a Rotary Project, established in or about 2009. It is currently under the auspices of the Rotary Club of Wanneroo.



Donations from the WA community are packed into 40-foot sea containers and shipped to Dili, where they are distributed to organisations such as orphanages, women’s refuges, hospitals and medical clinics, remote schools, and other bodies helping Timorese people in need of support.

Donations typically include clothing and footwear, bed linen, sewing materials, school furniture, stationery, reading and study books, educational aids, toys, sporting equipment, medical instruments, other hospital equipment, first aid items, disability aids and other rehabilitation assistance devices, homeware, gardening implements and other tools.

The packing crew consist of volunteer Rotarians from the Wanneroo and Como Rotary Clubs, members of the Timorese community and other committed volunteers from the WA community. The packing site is now at Kensington Secondary School, 31 George Street, Kensington.

On current indications our 43rd container is expected to be on its way to Dili in December or early in the new year.

We are very grateful to all the many donors of goods and also of cash to meet container and

shipping expenses, making such a wonderful difference to so many lives over the years. This support has included generous assistance from the 2/2 Commando Association.

Further information is available on the ‘Containers for Timor Project’ Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/containersfortimor>

### LA RENDE! (NO SURRENDER!) TREK REPORT

Association Committee member and immediate past-President Ed Willis participated as a member of the vehicle-based support team in the inaugural La Rende! (No Surrender!) Trek operated by Maddog Adventures - Sunday 24th - Saturday 30th September 2023.

<https://maddogadventures.com.au/adventure/s/la-rende-trek/>



For Ed, a memorable event on the Trek was on 30 September when following a moving ceremonial welcome by local villagers “I accompanied a group of Australian Defence Force personnel and members of my tour group to visit the site where Liberator A72-159 went missing on a reconnaissance mission for Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) Operation Sunbaker over Timor on 17 May 1945. Sadly 15 RAAF and Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) men, including former 2/2 man Sergeant Des Lilya, were killed in the crash. Wreckage from the downed plane can be viewed at the site that is located on a remote hill side near the town of Maubisse”.

To read the full report on the Trek go to: <https://doublereds.org.au/forums/topic/433-la-rende-no-surrender-trek-report/#comment-1033>



## **2023 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 19 November 2023, please join us for a drink and a bite to eat at the

**VILLAGE BAR.**

**10/531 Hay St, Subiaco**

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

Hope you can join us.

