



COURIER

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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

Editor Ed Willis, Secretary Sharon Paul

April 2024

UPCOMING EVENT

ANZAC DAY 2024 MARCH ARRANGEMENTS



Members of the Association, family and friends can participate in the Anzac Day Parade. The Parade starts at 9 am from the corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace. Moving east along St Georges Terrace, the parade passes the Saluting Dais before turning right onto Victoria Avenue and dispersing on to Langley Park.

Information about the Order of March, route map and parking, or other frequently asked questions are available on this RSL web page: <https://www.rslwa.org.au/events-calendar/anzac-day-the-march>.

Younger members of our 'great fraternity' are especially encouraged to participate. If anyone would like to have the honour of carrying the unit banner, please contact our President Noel Strickland when forming up before the March.

CALL FOR PROJECT FUNDING PROPOSALS

The Committee is seeking new proposals from members about a project that the Association

should consider giving financial support in 2024. A grant of up to A\$5,000 may be provided.

The committee has a broad discretion, but will, in considering these proposals, take into account any benefit to the people who live in the areas in which the unit saw action.

If you wish to make a proposal that the Association support a project, or spend money in a particular way, please start a new Forum topic in the Funding Proposals page on the Doublereds website:

<https://doublereds.org.au/forums/forum/22-funding-proposals/>

Include in your submission how much you propose be spent, who would benefit and why you think we should support that project and post it as soon as you can.

The committee is more likely to support proposals that will achieve a clear or measurable benefit than proposals that are more general or open-ended.

NEW PONILALA PRE-SCHOOL BUILDING NOW OPEN

The Ponilala Pre-school building for which the Association provided a grant of \$5000 in 2021 to Timor Leste Vision (TLV) for the construction of the new toilet block was handed over for use by the community on 8 March. There will be a formal opening ceremony for the pre-school in June. Joanne Pollard (TLV president) has requested wording to be used on a dedicatory plaque acknowledging the Association's contribution.



Students, staff and community members in front of the newly opened Ponilala Pre-School

LUNCH MEETING WITH THE DIRECTORS OF ST ANTHONY’S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Noel Strickland (President), and Ed Willis, Geoff Payne (Committee members) along with Hylton Hayes and Leonie Robson (son and daughter of Keith Hayes) met Cesar Dias Quintas and Cristina Costa (Directors, St Anthony’s International School) over lunch at the Globe Hotel, Perth on 3 January. Cesar and Cristina were in W.A. visiting family and friends along with their daughter. Ways in which the Association could assist SAIS in the future were discussed including with the cost of maintenance work required for the Keith Hayes class room building.

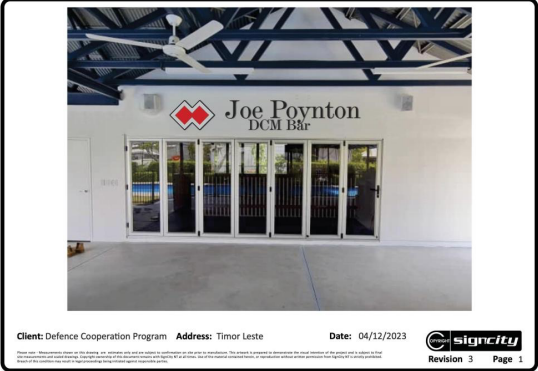


JOE POYNTON DCM BAR – AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND, DILI

Thanks to an initiative by Warrant Officer Tom Vallas, Defence Cooperation Programme-Timor Leste the new bar in the recreation area of the Australian Diplomatic Compound, Dili will be named after 2/2 veteran Joe Poynton.

Tom took this initiative because Poynton was a member of ? Section that defended the old Dili airfield against the Japanese assault on the night of 19 February 1942. For his heroic

actions at the airfield Poynton was awarded the Australian Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Dutch Bronze Cross. The residential compound is located on an extension to the old airfield that was built by the Japanese soon after they occupied Dili.



A reproduction of the following contemporary graphic representation of Poynton’s exploits is displayed inside the bar along with other images related to the 2/2’s Timor campaign. These displays will help promote awareness of the latter amongst Australian defence and diplomatic personnel based in Dili.



The Association has expressed its gratitude to Tom for his work on this project.

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.