



UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY 2 JULY

RWAR Association

Memorial Service for 62 years 16RWAR
St Georges Cathedral Perth 10.30am

SUNDAY 24 JULY

Association visit to Army Museum of WA
Bring picnic lunch and join friends 11am

COMMEMORATIVE FUNCTIONS FOR 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOKODA CAMPAIGN



FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration
Perth Convention Centre
6.30pm Details to follow

SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

Afternoon Concert with
Australian Army Band Perth and Pipes And Drums
Government House Ballroom 2.30pm

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

Kokoda Commemorative Service
Flame Of Remembrance
King Park Perth 11am

SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER

Memorial Service and Luncheon
Bunbury 11am



PIGEON POST

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2/16 Battalion (A.I.F.) Association Inc.



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Welcome

Welcome to the June 2022 issue of Pigeon Post, the official journal of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association (Inc).

Preparations are well underway, all across the country, for events to Commemorate The 80th Anniversary of the Kokoda Track Campaign. Details can be found in the March 2022 issue of Pigeon Post.

Wherever you may be in our wonderful country, we do hope that you will join in the planned commemorations and involve family and friends, honouring the men who 'Saved Australia'.

With very few WWII Veterans and Veterans of Kokoda still with us, these commemorations give us all the opportunity, not only to show them our gratitude for their sacrifice, but by our participation, give them the confidence that, we as Australians, will ensure that their deeds of service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

This issue contains photos and details of our Battalion Memorials in Kings Park (16th Battalions' Precinct) and an introduction to the Kokoda Memorial Walkway, so significant in this, the 80th Anniversary Year of the Kokoda Campaign.

More photos and much more information can be found on our new/upgraded website. (details within this issue).

The "WHO, WHAT, WHERE", commenced in March, will be continued in the September issue. ANZAC DAY commemorations throughout Australia regained some 'normality' as reported by members within these pages.

Please do become involved in the commemorations for this special year; we owe it to our 'blokes'. Once more we trust that you will enjoy the stories and reports that we bring to you.

Again, we think of the people of Ukraine with hopes for a peace that they truly deserve having shown such resilience and courage that we could only hope to emulate if the unthinkable ever threatened Australia.

Best wishes to all; enjoy the read.

Margaret & Davina

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ISSUE MONTH	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
March	First Friday in February
June	First Friday in May
September	First Friday in August
December	First Friday in November

Letters

By email from Dot Tydeman to Mary
27/4/2022

What a SURPRISE – Thank you Mary and others for this delightful parcel that has just arrived..... tea, coffee and biscuits and not to mention the must needed bed socks. It has been an emotional few days ... local ANZAC Day ceremony and I had the pleasure of laying the wreath on behalf of Legacy. Today my friend took me to local cemetery which was a mass of Aussie flags and took extra flowers and rosemary for Keith. Next week our branch of War Widows and Legacy have our own service of wreath laying at RSL Memorial. Today to be greeted with this parcel, and extra happy memories of Pigeon Post and what it all means to me, not to mention joy – comradeship he had with all those in WA.

Thank you. God bless you.
Love Dorothy Tydeman

Editor: Thank you for your beautiful letter Dorothy. It truly is a delight to read and to share with all our members. It is always a pleasure to read your letters and know that in some small way your day has been brightened. Thank you for brightening our days too, with your most welcome letters.

A Thank You card to Mary
28/5/2022

Dear Mary

I write to thank you for the parcel I received yesterday from 2/16 Battalion. It is all very useful, so I do thank you. I did not know that you could get coffee in tubes and have yet to try it.

The socks are very heavy, and I will enjoy the biscuits and tea. I am now in a nursing home which my unit was connected to. I am very well cared for, but I find the restrictions caused by Covid annoying.

Thanks again
Marion Iles

Editor: It was lovely to hear from you Marion and to know that your parcel arrived safely. So pleased to hear that the small gifts are useful for you. We are glad that your move has been successful and happy to know that you are being well cared for. We too hope that the Covid restrictions will disappear soon. Thank you for sending us your new address, Pigeon Post will find you there.

By email from Bevan Norrish
6/4/2022

Received my latest Pigeon Post today. I was particularly interested to read the history and background of Committee members.

The inside cover brief summary of the 2/16th should be made compulsory reading in schools. It might make kids research further.

Kind regards
Bevan Norrish

Editor: Thank you Bevan I do appreciate your comments on content of March Pigeon Post. I am always looking for ways to better communicate with our members to make them realise how important they are to our association and try to encourage them in our efforts to spread the message. I believe it is also important that they know who their committee are as we are trusted to make decisions on all members' behalf. We do need people just like you to help push for our Australian Military History to be part of our school curriculum. Kokoda was such an important campaign for Australia but so few people know about it, let alone appreciate its significance.

5/4/2022
To Mary Goldthorpe
Vice President 2/16th Battalion Assoc.

Thank you Mary for your kind thoughts on behalf of the 2/16th Battalion at the time of Allan's passing.

We really appreciated Allan's typesetting for Pigeon Post being acknowledged by you at this time.

I remember Keith Norrish calling at our home with copy for Allan to typeset and Allan enjoyed this.

When Allan went into Care, I still took him the copy of Pigeon Post to him which you kindly sent to him and hoped it would bring back memories for him.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Yours sincerely
Edythe Beste & Family

Editor: WX 5859 Keith Norrish, father to Peter and Tim Norrish and Penny Thomas was for many years Editor of Pigeon Post. Although, I am assured that Keith was amazing on the electric typewriter he used to get Allan to do the typesetting for him to send it to the printers, PK Print. I am sure that Keith was very grateful to Allan. How often life repeats itself, for now, as current editor of Pigeon Post, I am immensely grateful to Davina Goldthorpe who formats the entire copy to send to the same printers.

Subs & Donations

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2022 – 2023

ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE TO COMPLY WITH THE ASSOCIATION'S
FINANCIAL YEAR
FROM JULY 1ST TO JUNE 30TH

THE OPTION FOR 5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP FOR \$100 IS STILL OPEN TO ALL
MEMBERS

Those members who took the OPTION of 5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP when it was first offered are now due for renewal. Those members who have paid 5 Year Memberships at other times will only be due on completion of the fifth financial year from when they paid: 2017 Due NOW, 2018 Due 2023, 2019 Due 2024, 2020 Due 2025.

MEMBERSHIP FEES \$25 PER YEAR

\$100 FOR 5 YEARS

Membership entitles you to receive four copies of Pigeon Post annually, to contribute articles, photographs, enquiries to same and the opportunity to Vote at the AGM of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association (Inc) held in October annually. To attend all Association events and promote the objectives of the Association.

\$10 FOR JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

VETERANS & WIDOWS are NOT required to pay, so will never be unfinancial. Likewise, **Life Members** are the same.

**THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS WHO CONTINUE TO PAY
THEIR SUBS WHEN DUE.**

Our most sincere apologies to Elizabeth Morton, daughter of WX4359 Victor Frederick Campbell. Elizabeth paid her five year membership way back in 2019 and this has not recorded or acknowledged. We do acknowledge it now Elizabeth. Many thanks.

A good thing to come from this is that I have now 'met' Elizabeth by phone, having spoken with her a few times and we do hope to meet in person at this year's Country Luncheon in Bunbury.

Margaret Smith

PAYMENTS

Please make cheque or money order payable to 2/16th Battalion Association and forward to The Treasurer PO Box 434 COTTESLOE WA 6911. ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER to Bendigo Bank BSB: 633-000 Account: 1499-652-95.

Please ensure you state NAMES associated with each payment for subs or donation.

SUBS & DONATIONS RECEIVED

3/3/22 5 year Michael Northcott

9/4/22 2 years Lance Stuchbury

20/2/22 \$150 Anne-Marie Hill

27/3/22 5 year Peter Knight

14/4/22 5 year Bruce Wiseman

Guardian Roster

JULY - week commencing		AUGUST – week commencing	
04/7/22	Leanne Sammels	01/8/22	Wayne Koch
11/7/22	Anna Pollard	08/8/22	Janice McKenzie
18/7/22	Marion Clive	15/8/22	Marion Clive
25/7/22	Noelene Wiseman	22/8/22	Gawned Family
		29/8/22	Marion Clive

SEPTEMBER – week commencing	
05/9/22	Ellen Anderson-Knight
12/9/22	Peter Norrish
19/9/22	Anna Pollard
26/9/22	Noelene Wiseman

Please Note: The Roster Week now commences on a MONDAY going through to the Sunday. That way the Saturday / Sunday are offered as a 2 day block at the end of that roster week

THANK YOU so much to everyone volunteering their time for the cleaning.

Please contact Marion Ph: 0427 184 503 if you would like to participate

NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLEANING BATTALION MEMORIALS IN KINGS PARK

Marion Clive, our member who maintains the Guardian Roster, printed in every issue of Pigeon Post, has provided us with new instructions for the cleaning of the Memorials. Marion was given the advice on how best to maintain the plaques and memorials by her niece, who is a highly qualified Metallurgist.

BRASS PLAQUES set in the granite of the main memorial and in the surrounding paving.

WIPE down the plaques with WHITE SPIRITS

WASH the white spirits off with MILD DETERGENT, then RINSE with WATER and DRY.

APPLY the CLEANING CREAM – AUTOSOL METAL POLISH. This cleans the brass and leaves a good protection on the plaque.

WIPE OFF with a SOFT CLEAN CLOTH ANY BLACK MARKS that are on the granite around the plaques.

THE KOKODA MEMORIAL & THE ORIGINAL 16TH MEMORIAL

These both require a different cleaning method with NO POLISH required and NO SCRUBBING or use of HARSH CLEANING AGENTS.

BRUSH dirt and leaves off with a SOFT HAND BRUSH then continue with the SOFT BRUSH with WATER ONLY.

Marion Clive

Of course, everything else remains the same; sweeping and removing all the fallen leaves, dirt and rubbish that collects within the surrounds, and also please be prepared to engage with visitors should they require information about 'our Blokes', the Battalions and/ or directing them to the KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALK by following the 2/16th colour patches set in the pathway heading around the State War Memorial and down the escarpment.

We are extremely grateful to Marion Clive who maintains our Guardian Roster to ensure that cleaning of the memorials takes place each and every week. Marion will, when necessary, take on the task herself if there are gaps in the roster or if people are unable to fulfil the task during their allotted week. Thank you, Marion.

Our sincere thanks to those members who volunteer to help maintain our significant Memorials in beautiful condition as a tribute to all those whose Service & Sacrifice will be remembered with pride and grateful thanks.

Margaret Smith

Sick Parade

To those not feeling the best we send our wishes for a speedy recovery.



VALE

THE ODE

*They shall grow not old
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them*

LEST WE FORGET

WX39180 VICTOR LARDI

TRAYANA 'TANA' WALKER WIDOW OF WX5620 BILL WALKER

*The 2/16th Association extends sincere
sympathy to family and friends of all those
mentioned in "Last Post"*





Victor Lardi was born in Kellerberrin WA. in 1924, the fifth of six children born to Catherine and Frank Lardi of Tammin W.A.

Frank and his brother Jack owned the Lardi Brothers' Store in Tammin.

Victor attended school from the age of four as his mother was ill with rheumatic fever. Sadly, Catherine Lardi passed when Victor was only seven years of age.

Life changed for Victor and his siblings after that.

Ethel arrived from Melbourne having been sent by the "family mafia", Victor's aunties, who were nuns. Ethel was not good with the children and never had, nor ever would 'do the washing'. Thankfully for Victor's father, Ethel was a very good bookkeeper and eventually they married.

Victor earned the nickname 'Pup' as when his father was a stock agent going from farm to farm organising sheep sales, Victor would follow his father. According to one of his sisters, Victor was the "favourite" so whenever the children wanted something it was Victor who was sent to ask their Dad.

In the Depression times were tough; Victor had a rabbit round selling skinned and cleaned rabbits to local farmer's wives for six pence a rabbit, the skins he sold to Elders for nine pence each. When Victor buckled the wheel of his bike he was told to use 'his' savings to buy a new one.

Victor and his siblings were all encouraged to grow a veggie patch. Although life was hard the family always had a maid and a family cow which made them very privileged for that time. Any itinerants who came looking for work were set the task of chopping wood then they were provided with a meal. Victor never understood why they had to sit outside on the steps to eat that meal and could not sit with the family at the dining table.

Victor spoke to his family with fond memories of Charlie Massey, one of their workmen who could do everything from milking the cow, repairing the family's shoes and even cutting their hair. He told his family that many years later Charlie would wait outside the bank in William Street in Perth City where he was the manager. Too shy to go into the bank, when Victor was told that Charlie was outside, he would go out with Charlie to lunch and reminisce.

Victor had two great loves as a child, school and Scouts! He was an able student whose favourite teacher was John Deakin – ‘a man of vision who was mighty’! Mr Deakin would ask his pupils to read the newspaper and next day report on a story they had read. That encouragement led to a lifetime love of ‘The West’ for Victor and he would credit John Deakin by telling his family, “He was the making of me”.

Victor’s other love as a child was Scouts. They would gather at the Railway Dam south of Tammin every weekend to swim, enjoy scouting activities and camp out. A week spent in Perth with the Scouts was remembered by Victor with great enthusiasm; visiting all the tourist spots, sports grounds and attending games of footy and cricket Victor was always grateful for that experience.

One of his fondest memories was when Victor, with his father, attended the WACA in 1936, to see Donald Bradman bat.

Victor’s father Frank had one of the first cars in the wheatbelt. Every Sunday, without fail, after Mass the family would pile in the car and drive to Kellerberrin to pick up Victor’s two older sisters from boarding school and head off for a bush picnic.

Later Victor’s wife Bonnie, who was a boarder at that same school, remembered the Lardi girls as being ‘well off’. After holidays they would return to boarding school with tins of jam and jars of vegemite. They would then have to put a teaspoon of each on every girls’ plate at breakfast.

Victor was sent off to boarding school, firstly to CBC in St Georges Terrace (Perth) and then to the newly built Aquinas College. His memories of the early days at Aquinas were of an unfinished building, no rails on the balconies, nor balustrades on the stairs. He remembered all the students having to pick up the stones from the school oval before it could be planted. Victor also remembered the good times, swimming in the river so near the school, attending WAFL games and cricket at the WACA or playing tennis. Just back to school by 6pm.

At age 15, Victor left school as times were tough and money was scarce and his father told the Christian brothers at Aquinas that “Vic has to work”. This despite ‘Vic’ having passed all eight subjects at Junior Level and the Brothers asking his father to let Victor stay on at school.

Having left school, Victor started working for the NAB. He turned 18 in February and on April 2nd Victor was called up for army duty. He was sent to Swanbourne for army intelligence training but was transferred to Broome before finishing the course. Along with his squad Victor travelled to Broome by ship, their job being to protect the wharf from the Japanese bombing. Whilst in Broome Victor was asked to map out where all the bombs had landed on the airstrip. He used his intelligence training where he had learnt to use a prismatic compass.

Dad always spoke fondly of his time in Broome. He spoke about a fish-trap the army had built. The tide would come in and they would close the trap; the tide would go out and they would drive out a truck and pick up the fish. They supplied the army and the town. In the morning they would do their training, then they would march out to Cable Beach for the afternoon, how lucky where they?

Dad had gone to school with the son of the publican of the Roebuck Bay Hotel, Bill Ward. At the time Bill's son was in the army in the Middle East. Bill put on a roast dinner every Sunday for five soldiers and Dad had to be one of them.

Dad never smoked throughout his life. The army provided cigarettes for stress relief so Dad swapped his ration for other soldiers' beer rations. Vic was always very popular amongst the other soldiers. They said Vic always had a quid in his pocket. He was being paid a retainer by the National Bank and also had his army pay.

Dad did not want to be called a 'chocolate soldier'. A Chocolate Soldier was one who wanted to stay in Australia and not go overseas to fight. So Dad volunteered to go overseas and went into the 2/16th Battalion.

On 1st July 1945, Vic encountered his first active service. They landed by barge in Balikpapan, Borneo. Soldiers were being killed all around him but he managed to survive. During a later battle he caught a piece of shrapnel in his legs. That night he pulled it out and carried it around in his pocket for a week before throwing it away.

Viv said he could always smell the enemy when they were near and they could probably smell them too.



The soldiers received mail from home and always a letter there for Victor; one of the things his stepmother did was write to the boys while they were away from home. Victor said he always felt sorry for the men who received no mail from home.

Six weeks after he landed the war was over, but the Japanese did not know. It was a very dangerous time. Eventually he was transferred to Rabaul for the occupation. The soldiers with the longest service were released first. Victor was discharged in July 1946 and by then had made a life-long friend in Bob Stewart.

Upon returning from the war in 1946 Vic did not go back to the National Bank, which he was entitled to do, but instead he joined the R&I, later to become BankWest, as they made him a better offer.

Vic was posted to many country branches and it was at Bruce Rock, in the bank's strongroom, that he met Bonnie. They married in Bruce Rock in 1948. Whilst in Bruce Rock Vic played in the local football team and was Best on Ground kicking three goals to help them win a Grand Final by three goals.

Bunbury was Vic's favourite country posting. With three young children under three it was busy times, but they did enjoy crabbing in the estuary.

Returning to Perth in 1954, Vic was sent to the Fremantle Branch. He loved the way the customers would chat with each other in Italian whilst waiting to be served and loved the village atmosphere in the town. It was in Fremantle that Vic met his loved lifelong friend, John Biffen. Biff was excellent at running the branch and this gave time to Vic to go out into the community and visit customers, often returning home with bags of potatoes or other produce. In the six months that Vic was at Fremantle he wrote up more business for the bank than had been done in the previous three years. Vic was due to return to Bruce Rock as Manager but once his results in Fremantle became known he was instead chosen to open a new branch in Victoria Park.

Vic's best mate Biff followed him to Victoria Park and then as Vic was promoted to Manager, William Street, Biff followed. They were a great team. It was whilst he was at William Street Branch that Vic bought a farm in the south west, working the farm at weekends with two of his boys, fencing, running sheep and at shearing time, acting as cook for the men.

Vic always had a goal of retiring before he was fifty; after more promotions within the bank, he decided that future was not for him. Vic retired in 1973, at the age of 49, half way to 98. Vic liked to say that he retired BC – before computers! On retirement he drove Bonnie, his wife, crazy.

Bonnie increased her volunteer work as Vic took over the household, becoming an expert in making marmalade, jam and stewing seasonal fruits. Vic regularly returned to the Lardi Brothers' General Store in Tammin to assist with stocktake or to allow his brothers to take a holiday.



Vic and Bonnie loved to travel and visited most every continent and Vic was so happy they did so much travelling before Bonnie was ill. When Bonnie's health declined Vic became her devoted carer, continuing to manage the household and resisting the idea of aged care for her. Eventually when Bonnie did enter aged care Vic visited her every day.

Vic handed in his driver's licence at age 89 but continued to live in his family home. Unfortunately, when he was 94, Vic fell and fractured his hip and this is what led him to going to live in aged care. This was chosen very carefully as Vic needed to be able to have his Foxtel to enable him to continue watching his beloved sports. Father to six, grandfather to 15 and great grandfather to 14, Vic enjoyed the regular visits from family members. His family also loved to travel and Vic was so pleased that they had inherited his love of travel.



Vic celebrated his 98th birthday in February this year with his family. He said he could not believe he had lived so long, and his family knew that he was ready to go.

Thank you to Julianne Lardi for providing us with the eulogy for Victor from his Service. We are very grateful to his family for sharing Victor's story with us. Sadly, we have had to edit so much of Victor's long and well led life but I trust that we have given you a real insight, and done Victor justice.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to all Victor's family and friends.

Margaret Smith

RWAR Association

Details of the Regimental Birthday Service:

Date and time Saturday 2 July 2022 10:30am

Venue St George's Cathedral St Georges Terrace Perth

Service

Marching In of the Battalion Colours in and out of the Cathedral
11/28 RWAR and 16 RWAR.

Service in celebration of the 62th Anniversary of the Regiment,
including the laying of Army and Association wreaths.

Light refreshments after the Service

Served in the adjoining Burt Hall.

TRAYANA 'TANA' WALKER
12TH AUGUST 1920 – 18TH MAY 2022
WIDOW OF WX5620 BILL WALKER

Tana was born in August 1920, the second child of Christie and Menka Pavlovich in Bistrica, Yugoslavia, which is now in the Republic of North Macedonia.

In 1935 Tana came to Australia with her mother and sister Val (Velika). Her father Christie had arrived ten years earlier and had been able to purchase an undeveloped farm at Forrest Hill near Mount Barker. The original property is still owned by the Pavlovich Family.

Tana, her mother and her sister Val arrived in Australia unable to speak English like so many others who migrated to Australia. At Mount Barker three more children were born into the family, Peter Mary and Tom.

It was at Mount Barker that Tana met Bill Walker when they were working together on a farm. With the outbreak of the Second World War, Bill enlisted in the Army in May 1940. He and Tana saw little of each other in the years that followed as he was serving overseas with the 2/16th Battalion.

Their love was not diminished in the time apart and soon after Bill was discharged from the Army he and Tana were married on 8th December 1945. They moved to Fremantle, initially living with Bill's parents. With assistance from the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Programme, Bill was able to train as a carpenter and eventually he and Tana were able to buy a house in Beaconsfield. Over the years Tana and Bill welcomed three children into their lives, Ken, David and Sharmaine.

In 1955 Tana and Bill purchased a corner grocery store in South Street, Beaconsfield which they ran together until 1964. After the sale of their shop they moved to Hamilton Hill.



Tana and Bill enjoyed a wonderful social life together being involved with the Cockburn Bowling Club, Dancing, the Druids Lodge, the Masonic Lodge, Probus and the 2/16th Battalion Association.

Sadly, Bill passed away suddenly in 1989, at the age of 67. Tana, after 44 years of a strong and loving marriage with her soul-mate Bill, eventually settled into an independent routine and continued to live in their Hamilton Hill home.

Tana continued to lead an active social life. With three children, six grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren, family meant the world to her, and she loved to see them together; she was dedicated to the family that she and Bill had created together. Tana had a big heart that had room for everyone.



In recent years Tana has found great companionship with Bill Grayden, pictured together left. Tana's husband Bill and Bill Grayden served together in the 2/16th Battalion, AIF during the Second World War.

Members of the 2/16th Battalion Association were graced by Tana's presence at every get together, formal and informal events that Tana was able to attend. Her warmth, caring, and vivaciousness attracted everyone to her. Tana even flew to Sydney with Ken on occasions to attend the 21st Brigade Reunions held at Maitland in the Hunter Valley. Of course, there was the added incentive that she would also see David and his family. Tana was warmly welcomed by everyone and they did miss her when she did not attend.

Tana greeted everyone with her beautiful, welcoming smile. It was a delight to be around her, her love of life, enthusiasm and enjoyment in others' company, always obvious. Tana outshone all other ladies with her elegance and grace, always looking at her very best, and this she continued, when at the age of 98 years, she made the decision to enter aged care. Here Tana continued to enjoy the social activities and, so like Tana, continued to have her hair done every week. A beautiful lady, inside and out Tana was loved and appreciated by so many.

Tana passed away peacefully on 18th May, just a few months short of her 102nd Birthday. Tana's life was celebrated, and family, including her younger siblings Mary and Tom, gathered from near and far to say 'farewell', at a loving Service at Fremantle Cemetery.



Thank you to Ken Walker (and Ken Booth) for providing a copy of the Celebrant, Ken Booth's Service "A Celebration of Tana's Life" " With thanks for the person she was". I am grateful for being able to share so much of this with you, as well as adding some personal memories of a beautiful lady who will be so sadly missed by us all. Now reunited with her beloved Bill.

Margaret Smith

Articles & Reports

ANZAC DAY CELEBRATION CARE PACKAGES

After delivery of the ANZAC celebration parcels being received, I have had several phone calls from our veterans and widows.

Dot Tydeman, Maxine Cross, Myril Bunt, Vera Bailey, Joy & Norm Wheatley, Ossie Merritt and Trevor Brooker all phoned me and all were delighted with the items, including the regular ANZAC Biscuits.

Deliveries were made to Perth residents including Joan Howard, Cecily Jones, Margaret Woods, Judy Curran, Gladys Lee, Sally Riley, Bill Grayden and William Forrest.

Ken Walker took the gifts to his mother, Tana, on our behalf.

It was a pleasure to catch up with them and it would take all week if offers of a 'cuppa' were accepted.

Due to COVID regulations parcels were dropped off to nursing homes for Beryl Wildy and Verna Buck.

Mary Goldthorpe

***Editor's Note:** We owe Mary a huge debt of gratitude for organising these care parcels, packing them, mailing some and personally delivering to all our veterans and widows in the Perth metropolitan area from Erskine in the south, Joondalup in the north and Gosnells & Kelmscott in the east and everywhere in between. We know how much our veterans and widows appreciate these packages and Mary's visits, which also show them they are not forgotten.*

Thank You Mary.

ANZAC COMMEMORATIONS PRIOR TO ANZAC DAY

Association Secretary, Peter Norrish, represented the association at this year's ARALUEN BOTANIC GARDENS Commemoration for ANZAC DAY and laid a wreath in honour of the men of the 2/16th.

Mary Goldthorpe, Vice President, attended a special ANZAC DAY Commemoration in Kings Park that was organized by Brigadier David Thomson, ex 13 Brigade CO, Karrakatta, for the senior students of Rosalie Primary School, where he is the Headmaster.

The ANZAC Commemorations centred on the 80th Anniversary of Kokoda that is being celebrated this year. The students completed the Kokoda Track Memorial Pathway, up and down the escarpment from The State War Memorial, down to Mounts Bay Road, and at various stages were met by soldiers from 16 RWAR who provided information on the actual Kokoda Track and the Kokoda Campaign.

A Service was held at the Flame of Remembrance and Wardens from The State War Memorial were in attendance.

**ANNUAL ANZAC DAY CEREMONY FOR SCHOOLS
& SERVICE ORGANISATIONS
FERN TREE GULLY DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK**

The 23rd Annual Commemoration for ANZAC DAY held for school children at the Kokoda Memorials in Fern Tree Gully was held on 2nd April 2022.

Victorian Representative of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association, Trevor Ingram, was once again responsible for the organisation of this impressive commemoration.

On behalf of the 39th, 2/14th and 2/16th Battalion Associations Trevor acknowledged the valuable assistance of Parks Victoria Staff of the Dandenong Ranges National Park who provide amazing support every year. This year Trevor was exceptionally grateful for their added contribution in providing the colour printed Order of Service.

This year's Catafalque Party was provided by Camberwell Grammar and the musical support was provided by the Upwey High School Concert Band and the Tecoma Primary School Choir. Luke James, from Upwey High provided the haunting tunes of The Last Post and Reveille, on his bugle and the Piper playing the Lament during the wreath laying was Mick Ryan. The Upwey/Belgrave RSL Sub Branch and the Outer East Vietnam Veterans Association also made significant contributions to the success of the commemorations.

After the Welcome by Ross Darrigan, President of the 39th Battalion Association, Trevor Ingram presented the Opening Address on The Kokoda Memorials and Military Terms.

Pastor Judith Turnham officiated with students from Belgrave South Primary School reading "In Flanders Fields". Prior to the laying of wreaths, Craig Iskov, President 2/14th Battalion Association spoke on 'The ANZAC Spirit Through the Years' and Charli Hancock from Reservoir High School addressed the gathering on "Service'. Wreaths were laid by members of the Official Party, Battalion Representatives, Students and other guests. Michael Ralston, 2/14th Battalion Association recited "The Ode".

ANZAC DAY PERTH 2022

Once again COVID interfered with ANZAC DAY commemorations in Perth, but it was wonderful that the Dawn Service was held in Kings Park, albeit with very restricted numbers. Many people did hold their own Driveway Service and it is good to know that COVID may have contributed in a positive way to our nation, as many people are holding these commemorations in their own streets, which after three years, may just be the start of a new tradition.

Associate Member George McQuade represented the Association and laid a wreath, both during the main service at our State War Memorial and also at the 16th Battalions' Precinct Memorials adjacent to the State Memorial. Thanks to George, the Battalion's flag was also flown at half mast during the service.

Committee Member, John Murdoch representing the Association, laid a wreath at the Dawn Service, held by 16RWAR at Irwin Barracks in Karrakatta.

Both John and George then joined up with fellow Association Members who gathered in St Georges Terrace to proudly march behind the Battalion's banners.

Although numbers were down on participants this year, from pre-Covid days, the pride and honour was still apparent in those who carried the flags and banners and all those who marched behind.



Thank you to everyone who turned up to march and also those who were there to cheer them on, always remembering the service and sacrifice of all members of the 2/16th Battalion and all service men and women who have served Australia in all theatres of war and Peace Keeping operations.

Also on parade, as part of the Australian Defence Force contingent, were the men and women of 16 RWAR, including the CO Lt Col Leigh Partridge and 2 IC Major Ogden, pictured right, resplendent in their Kilts, as were the members of Bravo Company.





Following the revived ANZAC DAY MARCH through Perth City, association members had been invited, with family and friends, to join with 16 RWAR for lunch, camaraderie and games of Two Up.

Pictured above: Combined Pipes and Drums, Australian Army Band Perth and 16RWAR.

Mary Goldthorpe and her family, Davina, Damien, Stirling, Neve, Hadley and Amity Stilwell attended, as did Duncan Symington and his daughter.

It was at this gathering that the winner of the 16th Battalions' Foundation Scholarship for 2022, was announced.

Margaret Smith



Scholarship winner Cpl Jamie Ogilvie left, Assoc Member Duncan Symington, Mary Goldthorpe and CO Leigh Partridge

ANZAC DAY MELBOURNE MARCH & COMBINED LUNCH

The weather was fine and sunny for the ANZAC DAY March in Melbourne.

RSL Victoria reverted to allowing participants to march behind their Battalion banners once again. The 2/16th had 9 members, plus 2, 7th Division members marching from Federation Square along Swanston Street and St Kilda Road to the Shrine of Remembrance.

In a show of solidarity, the 2/14th Battalion kindly provided several of their members as banner bearers for us.

It was an appreciative crowd that welcomed the marchers for the first time since 2019.

Following the march, the 2/16th Battalion Association marchers adjourned to The Rising Sun Hotel in South Melbourne where they were joined by additional family members for the traditional annual get together. Members of the 2/14th, 2/27th and 39th Battalion Associations joined us for lunch. This took the total number in the 2/16th reserved area at the hotel to thirty four.

There was plenty of interesting discussion had between the Association members. The chefs were lauded for the quality of the food.

Trevor Ingram

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION AT ISURAVA KOKODA TRACK

Travis Hocart, a 2/16th Battalion Association Committee Member and a Director of 'Kokoda Crossing' told us of his recent reconnaissance mission, travelling with Ian Lumb, from 'On Track Expeditions', to assess the conditions on the Kokoda Track and the situation of the local population, before potentially embarking on tours later this year.

The OTE operators' Support Unit is based at Aburai, a 'stones throw' from Isurava, site of a significant action by the 2/16th Battalion during the Isurava Battle of August 26th to 30th 1942. Travis reported that their mission was a huge success, with the local population along the track ecstatic that the trekking industry may return in 2022.



Travis and Ian with the wreath

On April 22nd, Travis, Ian and their seven porters, conducted a Dawn Service at Isurava. The porters constructed a magnificent wreath from surrounding bushes, and Travis and Ian were proud to lay this on behalf of the 2/16th Battalion Association.

Sadly, there was no official Dawn Service this year. According to Travis, the memorial area is in excellent condition, with local land owner, Martin, doing a great job.



Travis at the Gona Memorial



The morning of our Dawn Service with lighting for the memorial stones

Our sincere thanks to Travis and Ian for honouring the men who served and sacrificed on Kokoda, and to Travis for supplying us with this information to share with you via Pigeon Post.

ANZAC DAY MESSAGE
The Hon. Melissa Price MP
Minister for Defence Industry Minister for Science & Technology

REMEMBERING & HONOURING PRIVATE KEVIN TONKIN
K. I.A. KOKODA TRACK 1942

“On ANZAC Day we stop to remember those who have given their lives for Australia, from the landing at Gallipoli to the dust of Afghanistan. This ANZAC Day, I’d like to pause to remember one West Australian who lost his life in the Kokoda Campaign 80 years ago.



Young Kevin Tonkin was passionate about golf, he was working as a tutor at the Claremont Golf Club, juggling his job with his studies in Mechanical Draughtsmanship when war broke out in 1939. He enlisted in Claremont and joined the 2/16th Australian Infantry Battalion and saw action in the Middle East. In January 1942, as the war in the Pacific drew closer, he returned to Australia with his unit before deploying to Papua New Guinea in August that year. In the jungle, on the high mountain passes he was one of those brave Australians who fought the advancing Japanese Army.

On the 14th September 1942, near Efogi, Private Kevin Tonkin died of wounds received in battle. He was buried on the side of the Kokoda Track, the location now lost to history.

Dedicated teams within the Australian Defence Force continue to search for all Australian Service Personnel, like Private Tonkin, whose final resting place is unknown, to bring certainty and closure to their families.

Private Tonkin’s father, Alfred Bert Tonkin, was an original ANZAC who landed on the shore of ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli on 25th April 1915. He was unfortunately wounded at Gallipoli but recovered to go on to serve with the ANZAC Corps on the Western Front in World War One.

On ANZAC Day we give thanks to all those who have served our nation in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. We acknowledge the pain of those whose service left them wounded in body and mind, and we honour the 103,000 Australians who fought and died in defence of our country and our national interests and pay our respects to their families.”

‘They are never truly gone if they live in our memory.’

LEST WE FORGET

Thank you to our Associate Member Sister Bernice Tonkin for sharing this beautiful tribute to her brother Kevin from The Hon Melissa Price MP. The message came in a video format with closed captions, so I transcribed them to share with you, as it is such a beautiful tribute to a true, young Western Australian hero.

Margaret Smith

16TH BATTALIONS' FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNER 2022 CORPORAL JAMIE OGILVIE

Corporal Jamie Ogilvie was announced as the winner of this year's scholarship at the O'Meara Mess function after the March on ANZAC DAY.

The Foundation Committee and the 2/16th Battalion Association congratulate Cpl Ogilvie on his achievement, and we trust he will enjoy his experience of trekking the Kokoda Track later this year.

From the CO 16RWAR Lt Col Leigh Partridge:

"Corporal Ogilvie is a capable Junior Non-Commissioned Officer who has performed well above his peers during the last twelve months showing significant commitment and dedication to his role with 16RWAR.

As a section commander in Support Company, he has managed his section to a high standard and achieved excellent training outcomes for Support Company. He has driven the implementation of reconnaissance and urban training across the unit, instructing unit members, on multiple training weekends, to ensure a higher level of training.

Corporal Ogilvie has also been integral to the implementation of small boats within 16RWAR. He has performed exceptionally well on course, earning the Small Craft Handlers course Student of Merit and he has shown significant commitment to this capability by completing his safety supervisor course which will enable the growth of small boats in 16RWAR".

THANK YOU TO OUR QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVE IAN KAYLER-THOMSON

After many years of service as the Queensland Representative of the 2/16th Battalion Association, Ian Kayler-Thomson has tendered his resignation.

On behalf of all members, the Committee extends our sincere and grateful thanks to Ian for his years of support and service. We wish Ian and his family well and hope you continue your interest as a member, and keep in touch through Pigeon Post, our new website and Facebook page.

Thank you Ian.

STOP PRESS!
WELCOME TO OUR NEW QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVE

We are happy to let everyone know that the Association will continue to have a Queensland Representative. Welcome and thank you to Stephen Harrold who has agreed to be our Representative in Queensland. Stephen was the instigator, that led to the Memorial for Brigadier Potts being erected on The Kokoda Track. More news from Steve next issue.

ANNUAL MAY LUNCHEON
28th MAY 2022



Over seventy members, family and friends of the 2/16th Battalion Association enjoyed this year's May Luncheon at the beautiful new Function Room at the RAAFA Estate, Bull Creek.

All attendees, and many of the estates' residents enjoyed the wonderful skirl of The Australian Army Band Perth, Pipes & Drums, prior to sitting down to a delicious three course lunch.

This year, our President, Mr Bill Grayden was accompanied by twenty-five members of his family; it was wonderful to see the different generations all enjoying each other's company, with some of the younger generation looking to becoming Junior Members of the association. They will, of course, be welcomed with open arms.



Above: Bill Grayden, centre, and his family

Sadly, Vice President Jim Grayden and his wife Tammy were absent owing to COVID again hitting the family.

WO1 Stephen White was resplendent in his Army uniform; whilst an Association Committee member in his own right, Stephen was also representing 16 RWAR. I believe he enjoyed the company sitting with four of our Junior Members, Stirling, Neve, Hadley and Amity Stilwell, children of Davina and Damien.

We are very grateful to Davina and Damien, both Pipers who greeted and entertained the guests with the Pipe Band, and then remained in their stunning uniforms to play the appropriate tunes that accompanied the toasts.

Ken Walker showed his excellent ability as the MC (added to his well-known auctioneering skills) and kept the formalities to a minimum.

The "Loyal Toast" was proposed by WO1 Stephen White accompanied by our National Anthem. Then followed Peter Norrish, proposing the Toast to "The Battalion", accompanied by "March of the Cameron Men". Ian Grayden proposed the Toast to "The Ladies" to "I Love a Lassie" and the final Toast was proposed by John Grayden to "Fallen Comrades and Absent Friends" whilst the Piper played the haunting "Mist Covered Mountains".

The beautiful rendition of the Pipes that accompanied every toast added to the atmosphere and significance of the occasion.

A table full of raffle prizes, the majority of which were donated, ensured that many guests went home armed with booty.

Peter Norrish gave a brief update on the Association's website, introducing Chris Hoath who is the 'technology' behind the update. We were very happy to hear that Chris has offered to 'maintain' the website for the association. Chris and Peter will continue to work together, and we do hope that they will receive many bios and photos of Battalion members from family and/or friends so Chris and Peter can make the Nominal Roll on the website, become a data base of information on the men and deeds of the battalion.

Without the commitment of Vice President, Mary Goldthorpe, events such as this just would not happen. Once again Mary organised the entire event and her persistence and encouragement resulted in so many people enjoying another memorable May Luncheon.

Many attended for the first time and it was wonderful to see Bill Stevens, his wife Elina, and David and Lin Carr from RWARA enjoying the event. Mary along with Margaret Smith had attended the RWARA A.G.M. earlier in the year and it was a delight to welcome them to our function. We do hope to see many more of their members attend our events in the future. Newcomers also included Susan Lorimer and her son Tom. Susan's father was WX15714 Edward Odgers. Susan generously donated a set of two books for the use of the association and they will be kept in the History Room at 16RWAR.

Other newcomers included Alan Rustand, with son Grant, Mark Hinchliffe and Dale and Bob Beecham. We also welcomed our new webmaster Chris Hoath and his wife Judy, Shirley and Frank Cirillo and Pam and Hans Anderson.

It is wonderful to see new people attending and we hope they enjoyed the Lunch and the company, as that is the aim of the association in its endeavours to increase membership and support.

Thirteen Veterans of the 2/16th were represented by family members at the luncheon.

WX 2872 ERIC ANDERSON
WX8005 TOM BAXTER
WX11826 RAY HINCHLIFFE
WX5859 KEITH NORRISH
WX14606 J.N. RUSTAND
WX5620 BILL WALKER

WX8422 TED BAXTER
WX4050 SYDNEY BELL
WX3254 KEN MURDOCH
WX15714 EDWARD ODGERS
WX7283 JOHN E. SMITH
WX2859 RON WISEMAN

And, of course, our only Veteran in attendance WX8868 BILL GRAYDEN.

Sadly, there was one regular attendee at all our events who was missing at this May Luncheon. The beautiful and charming Tana Walker passed away just ten days prior to the lunch. Tana's presence was missed by all who knew her and who delighted in her company, her warmth and sense of humour.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Ken and Margaret Walker, daughter Sharmaine and her husband David, and David Walker and his wife Noelene. We sincerely appreciated their attendance at the Lunch and are especially grateful to Ken for his contribution to the warmth of the day.

Tana Walker will be sorely missed at our association events but will be remembered with much love.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOKODA EVENTS IN MELBOURNE

The following is a copy of an email sent by the Association Victorian Representative Trevor Ingram to the Victorian members.

"I hope that this email finds you all well. I wish to advise you of two special events that hopefully you can participate in.

A combined committee from the 39th, 2/14th & 2/16th Battalion Associations has been meeting monthly since August 2021 to explore ideas, and undertake planning for this final major Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. It will be marked by commemorative events in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

We are really hoping that you and your families will be able to attend one or both of the planned Victorian events listed below.

The Commanding Office and Regimental Sergeant Major of the 16th Royal West Australian Regiment (16 RWAR) based at Irwin Barracks in Karrakatta, Perth are planning to attend these events.

Kokoda 80 Dinner: Saturday 13 August at the newly renovated East Malvern RSL at 6.00pm. The special guest speaker is Dr Brendan Nelson. Cost TBA (likely to be in the \$40 - \$50 range), special memorabilia display.

Kokoda 80 Shrine Service: 12.30pm Sunday 14th August at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance auditorium. The guest speaker is Patrick Lindsay. Following his address, there will be a shrine service including wreath laying, then guests will be invited to lay a poppy. Following the service, refreshments will be provided in the closed auditorium. We do need to lock in numbers soon as it is a limited seating event. Our Association has an allocation of seats reserved with costs covered by our Association.

As we have had very few opportunities to gather in the last two years, this would be a wonderful opportunity to once again be together to commemorate the service and sacrifices of our veterans.

We would dearly like to have the 2/16th Battalion Association well represented at these events.

Please advise me asap as to whether you and a family member are able to attend either or both of these special events or not."

Trevor Ingram

SOLDIER ON AN ASSOCIATION FAMILY'S COMMITMENT

One of the Objectives of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. is to provide... 'welfare for members of the Australian Forces or their families'. To this aim, searches were undertaken for organisations supporting the mental health issues of veterans and serving members of the ADF.

During the enquiries it was found that a family of Associate members had joined in fundraising for 'Soldier On'.

"March On with Soldier On" was a virtual walking challenge to raise funds to provide programmes and support to help prevent veteran suicide. It pays tribute to the sacrifices

made by our brave soldiers in Kokoda in WWII and highlights the importance of the need to help our soldiers of today.

The aim was to walk 96 kms, the length of the Kokoda Track, during the month of March this year, 2022, the year that commemorates the 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOKODA CAMPAIGN.

As our family tell it, “we had been attempting to walk the 96 kms, to symbolise the courage and sacrifice of our veterans and their families. We were raising funds to support Soldier On’s life changing mental health services and programmes so that our returned ADF members and their families can ‘march on’.”

Why 96kms - The Kokoda Track marks the course of one of the most important battles for Australians in the Second World War. The men who defended this rugged 96km track were the only line of defence protecting Australia from imminent invasion.

“Unfortunately, at the 52km mark we were hit by a major pandemic, not what our soldiers faced when they were hit with dysentery, malaria or scrub typhus, but we had to isolate due to COVID, so were forced to ‘return to base’. We were still registering kilometres every day, but we think we were probably picked up by a ‘Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel’ and taken back down to safety.”

The Association family is the Goldthorpe – Stilwell family, Davina, Damien, Stirling 14 years, Neve 12 years, Hadley 11 years and Amity 9 years.

All four children have been Junior Association Members since birth and attend almost every event that the Association holds. Davina and Damien are both members of the ADF as reservists in the Australian Army Band Perth, Pipes and Drums. Damien served for 6 years in the Australian Army with the 5/7RAR, first at Holsworthy, NSW, and then transferred with them to Darwin NT, and served in Timor 1999-2000 before returning to Darwin.



On hearing of the dedication and commitment of this family, the Association Committee made the decision to support their efforts and donate \$10,000 to Soldier On.

From L – R: Stirling, Damien (back), Soldier On, Hadley, Davina (back), Neve and Amity

In recognition of their amazing commitment, and their desire to honour the soldiers of Kokoda, the Association invited the family to present the \$10,000 cheque to Soldier On

at a special presentation held at the top of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Kings Park.

Thank you to each and every one of you. Congratulations on accepting the challenge.

Soldier On <https://soldieron.org.au>

PRIVATE JOHN EDWARD JOYCE SERVICE NUMBER 2009

Pte Joyce was part of the 5th Reinforcements/16th Battalion/4th Brigade/4th Division and joined the 16th Battalion on the 9th February 1915. He was a farmer from Koojan, Western Australia.

In 1942 John Joyce, still hampered by injuries he had received as a prisoner of the Germans in WWI, was allocated to local service with an Intelligence Unit in WWII, his Service Number being WX75052.

Pte Joyce embarked from Fremantle on the 26th April 1915 as part of the reinforcement for Australian troops fighting at Gallipoli. He went initially to Alexandria for training with an intelligence unit and preparation, and then on to Gallipoli. By July, and as part of the 16th, he saw many months of active service but was sent to Alexandria at one point due to measles infection. He returned to the fighting but due to further health issues was sent to Cairo for 10 days recovery, then again returning to Gallipoli. The Battalion was finally evacuated in December 1915 and returned to Egypt where the 16th regrouped to full numbers. This Gallipoli experience was written about in a diary by an Australian soldier. Private Phillip Owen Ayton "An Inferno of Fire", as he describes living in dugouts "under constant fire night and day".



From Gallipoli they sailed to France and to the Western Front arriving in 1916. At the Battle of the Somme in France, Pte Joyce was part of the battle in the trenches at Pozieres which faced Mouquet Farm (in the Somme Valley). As we know the fighting was horrendous on a battlefield of only 600 acres resulting in a total of 23,000 casualties.

Private Phillip Owen Ayton, again in his WW1 diary wrote, "If ever a place was hell, that was poor Pozieres". "We just crouched down where we were and waited for the end as we fully expected being blown to pieces". "What a sight. Nothing was standing and the surface of the ground was ploughed up and tossed about great craters, rim on rim".

John Edward Joyce continued with the 16th through many further battles. By April 10th, 1917, he was part of the Battle of ARRAS and in the attack at the Hindenburg line at the Village of Bullecourt. Here the Battalion suffered heavy losses. In the lead up to the attack British Tanks had been promised to provide cover. Due to the worst winter in 40 years the men lay in snow and sleet waiting for this support which didn't arrive. The men were withdrawn, and the following morning the 16th Battalion, plus the 12th, 13th, 14th, 46th, and 48th Battalions were ordered to attack and break through the wire with very little support. On that day, the 11th of April, Pte Joyce was captured at Reincourt (a small village 1.5 km from Bullecourt) and was one of almost 400 men of the 16th Battalion to be taken prisoner. They were sent to a German Prisoner of War camp where he remained until he was liberated towards the end of 1918.

Muriel, Marion's mother and daughter of John Edward Joyce, said her father was a kind, caring and gentle man. After returning to Australia and surviving the ravages of war, there were times when he had to leave his family for work.

Some excerpts from a letter he wrote to his children while away working shows his love for the Australian bush.

"Dear Kids...

Dad will not be much longer here now and then home and I will not be sorry for Dad is longing to see you all very much. Now just come for a walk with Dad in the bush (just playing of course)so we will go across to the Ord River, see those birds, they are pretty little fellows, top knot fringe blue with bronzed wings and pretty spear feathers on top of the head.... that's an Emu, thousands of them around here. Those black and white birds hopping about in that bush there. They are called kat birds or Mockingbirds and they can mock anything, he can mock a cat best from which it gets its name. Here we are at the river which enters the sea somewhere about Carnarvon. See those trees, they are the only ones up this way. They are Sugar Gums, how pretty they look overhanging that long pool with bare stony country on all sides. Well dears, the sun is going down and if we get caught up here we will get lost. So we will go back... from here I will wish you goodnight (give my best love to Mum) ...

From your Loving Dad".

NB: The 16th Battalion was formed on the 16th September 1914 and became part of the 4th Brigade. In WW1 the 16th became the most decorated Battalion of the AIF with 3 Victoria Crosses, (VC) 13 Distinguished Service Orders, (DSO), 30 Military Crosses, (MC), plus many other Honours. After WW1 the 16th Battalion was disbanded, and members returned to civilian life. Some of the men became army volunteers forming "The Cameron Highlanders" of WA as a Militia Force (Battalion). The 2/16th Battalion was raised in 1940 from many of the original members from all ranks.

Marion Clive

The previous article on Pte John Edward Joyce 16th Battalion WW1 and in an Intelligence Unit in WW11 has been written by his granddaughter, 2/16th Associate Member, Marion Clive. Thank you Marion for sharing your grandfather's story.

Marion's Maternal Grandfather was John Edward Joyce who served in both the original 16th Battalion WW1 and in an intelligence unit in WW11. A short VALE was published in the last, March 2022, issue of Pigeon Post for Marion's late Mother, Muriel Clive. My apologies that Muriel's father's Service Numbers were not correctly transposed and, sadly, I did not know that he had served in both World Wars.

Margaret Smith

**SERVICE CONTINUES IN THE FAMILY
AN INTERESTING LETTER & ARTICLE FROM ASSOCIATE MEMBER
ELIZABETH BRADSHAW**

Elizabeth is the daughter of Ivy Roberts whose brother was WX5632 Harry Dusting.

An article appeared in an earlier edition of Pigeon Post, March 2016, relating the story of Corporal Harry Dusting and his best mate WX7961 Victor Hovell.

First is Elizabeth's letter.

*I am so very grateful to Elizabeth for allowing me to share her personal letter with you.
I know it will resonate with so many of us. Thank you Elizabeth.*

"I am going through all my copies of Pigeon Post before filing them in order for the family to know which ones are more significant as far as family history goes, when I am no longer here to treasure them. That has been the stimulus to at last to write to you.

It will always be a regret of mine that Mum left it so late to show us Uncle Harry's letters, and also that special one from Victor Hovell. Although it has brought some comfort to know that we made contact with Victor's lovely daughter and brother. I can't help wondering what it would have meant for Victor to meet up with Mum.

Another of Mum's regrets was that she missed out on meeting a lady from the east when she came over here to especially meet up with Harry's family.

She traced Mum's sister to Broomehill, but Auntie Rose never contacted Mum to say she was here and the lady went away without meeting Mum. Mum was close to her sister but was bitterly disappointed with her when telling me this all those years later.

Mum felt this lady might have been in love with Harry. If not, she was still a special person in Harry's life, and all the boys from WA. She ran a boarding house in the city where they went to stay when on leave from training before leaving for New Guinea. She had been very good to them and called them 'her boys'.

Many regrets of opportunities lost. However, it was a different time.

People were not mobile then, money was short, people wanted to get on with life after the war, and I know Victor married, he had the responsibilities of running the farm with his brother (one brother lost in the war)' and he had a little girl born.

So my brother and I were grateful for what we were able to do for Mum, and therefore for Uncle Harry. She would have loved the Arnold Potts Day in Kojonup but was unable to face the trip. She never even saw her brother's name on the Honour Roll there.

I did take a photo, years before, of the Brigadier Potts' wonderful statue. I should have taken Mum way back, but she never expressed a wish to go. Possibly because she did not want 'to be a nuisance'.

She really did not want to attend the service and Luncheon in Bunbury that first year, but loved it, and even attended the following year, when we were elsewhere, thanks to two wonderful men who collected her from her unit.

As a family, when I was quite young, we did attend a Dawn service in Kings Park, once. Mum said she did not want to go again because it was too emotional. Perhaps that is why she never spoke about any of it until so late in the day.

I have scribbled some notes. If you think they are worthy of inclusion in Pigeon Post use whatever parts you think others may enjoy hearing. I feel I want to share this because it is an indication of how the boys are still remembered and valued, those who returned home, and those who did not.

So few left, but the families still care so much. If you don't have room (so many stories lately), that is ok too."

Now onto Elizabeth's article written for Pigeon Post.

It has been over a year since Mum died (Ivy Roberts, Pigeon Post March 2021) and I am only now making time to communicate MY family's gratitude for the kindness shown by THE family of the 2/16th.

As you know, Mum was the sister of her much-loved brother WX5632 Cpl Harry Dusting KIA on the Kokoda Track. He is mentioned in "1,000 Men" for his bravery during the Litani River crossing.

Readers of Pigeon Post would have heard of my efforts at tracing Harry's best friend, WX7691 Victor Hovell.

Mum had not conveyed her long held wish to meet Victor, who served with Harry, until it was too late. However, we did meet Victor's lovely daughters and his youngest brother (story in Pigeon Post March 2016). Mum found these meetings very comforting.

At Mum's funeral I was privileged to be allowed to give a tribute to her 100 years. I divided her life into decades, linking worldly events with what was happening in mum's life at the time. I had practiced at home in front of my husband, Merv, to gauge timing and continuity and when I came to the line in the 40's "WWII and the loss of a much loved brother", the tears started. Well, I did not want to do that on the day so I practiced several times more. I also read it to my brother to make sure he approved, and I was able to hold my composure, no worries.

However, on the day, when I reached that line, I choked up and the tears flowed. The only time all day. I knew how much it meant to Mum.

It was wonderful to see Mary Goldthorpe there on the day (in Bunbury) and I received a beautiful letter from Margaret Smith.

What I haven't mentioned before is that my brother, Trevor Roberts was a National Serviceman, 1966-68 and served in Vietnam with 2RAR.

I served three years in WRAAC with 13 Psychology Unit in Watsonia Army Barracks outside Melbourne. I met my husband-to-be there, three weeks before he left for Vietnam with 145 Signals Squadron. When we were married in 1969, I had to take discharge because married women could not serve in the military in those days, but I worked for twelve months in the CMF FTD in Hobart. My husband was an apprentice radio technician, 17th Intake, at the age of seventeen and served nine years.



So, you see, our family has a history of serving.

Although we are very passive in our support for the 2/16th, being Associate Members, I read the stories of everyone in Pigeon Post and often feel an emotional connection.

Since 2016 we have served in a different way. Blaze Aid first came to WA after the Esperance fires. Merv and I helped restore fencing then, and continued to do so after the Ravensthorpe floods, fires in Hyden and York, tornado at Clackline, cyclone in Northampton, fire in Bridgetown. No shortage of disasters it seems.

We know that the work we do, erecting fences, has a visual impact for the farmers we work for (all voluntary work), but we know that the psychological impact is far greater at a time when some do not know how they will be able to begin again. Very rewarding work. So, as I said, the service continues.

Thank you so much to the family of the 2/16th Committee and supporters.

Editor: We are grateful to you, Elizabeth, for allowing us to print your heartfelt letter. I am sure that much in it will resonate with so many daughters, sons and other family members. I am very glad that we were able, in some small way, to support you at the sad time of losing your Mother. Mary is amazing with the support she provides to so many veterans and families.

We will always remember Ivy, and we do look forward to seeing both you and Merv at the Bunbury Country Luncheon. Congratulations on the incredible contributions you are now making that enhance people's lives and Thank You all for your service to Australia.

16TH BATTALIONS' MEMORIAL PRECINCT KINGS PARK PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

After many years of the 2/16th Memorial being close by a carpark, some distance from the State War Memorial, additions and renovations in Kings Park required the re-positioning of our Memorial.

We were so very fortunate that, the then Kings Park Board, offered the 2/16th Battalion Association a magnificent position, just to the north of the State War Memorial and with a beautiful view over Perth and the Swan River, for the placing of the Memorial.



Many years later, in 2003, the long-awaited and long overdue Memorial to the “Original” 16th was unveiled by the then Governor of Western Australia.

The large bronze plaque is a tribute to the, approximately 9,000, men who served in the Battalion, showing the Battle Honours of the 16th in WW1. This Western Australian formed Battalion, many members of which trained at Blackboy Hill W.A., went on to become the most highly decorated Battalion of WW1.

Also installed within the Precinct is a bronze “relief” of the entire Kokoda Track, detailing the terrain and the battles.

In 2001, The KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALK was installed with 2/16th Battalion colour patches inserted in the pathway leading from our memorial along the path, past the State War memorial, overlooking the magnificent Swan River, and then turning slightly west to the point where it descends the escarpment to the base of Kings Park underneath beautiful trees to Mounts Bay Road, facing the Swan River yet again.



I often wonder just how many of our blokes, who did not make it home, would have been so proud and humbled by this beautiful tribute walkway.

At various stages along the descent/ ascent are rest areas with plaques inserted in plinths with information about some of the battles that took place at Owers' Corner, Imita Ridge, Brigade Hill,

Templeton's Crossing, Alola Village, Isurava, and Aburui.

The "Walk" consists of 150 steps of a steep climb that ascends a height of 62 metres, 203 feet.

For those West Aussies who have not visited our Memorial Precinct or traversed the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk I urge you to do so and then tell others about what you have seen.



To all our members who are not so fortunate as to live in WA (apologies, I am a born Sandgroper who only returned at age 16 - never to live elsewhere since) please do visit Kings Park whenever you come to WA. With notification we will ensure that you will be met by a fellow member of the association and shown our renown Western Australian hospitality.

Many of our 2/16th 'diggers' came from the Western Australian Goldfields, and to honour them, there is also a Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Kalgoorlie. There are many Memorials to the brave men who served on Kokoda all around Australia, honouring them, and providing fitting memorials to their service and sacrifice.

I hope to write about these other memorials in the next, September issue of Pigeon Post, as we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Kokoda Track Campaign, the "Campaign That Saved Australia."

Margaret Smith

THE LISTENING POST BROADCAST 16 MAY 2022

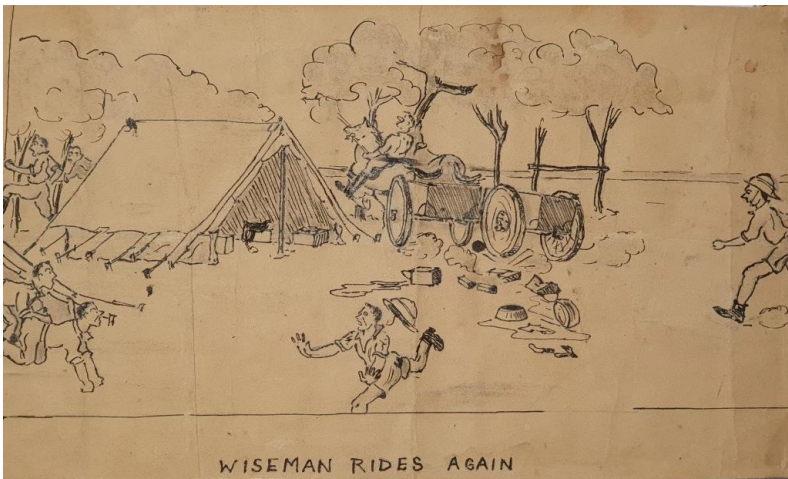
Mary Goldthorpe, Vice President of 2/16th Battalion Association and a vital member of the 16th Battalion Foundation in its work for Veterans and families in WA, was the guest for the Listening Post Broadcast on 16 May 2022 on Capital Community Radio.

Whilst the broadcast covered many aspects of Mary's life to date, she also took the opportunity to discuss the formation of the 16th Battalions Foundation and its endeavour to perpetuate the history and traditions of the 16th and 2/16th AIF Infantry Battalions. With the upcoming Arnold Potts Oration and weekend of commemorations in September for the 80th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign, the interview was an opportune time to promote the importance of this occasion.

WISEMAN RIDES AGAIN

Thank you to Bruce Wiseman for providing the example of drawings from Ron Wiseman WX2859 completed whilst the 2/16th were training at the Northam Army Camp.

As Bruce tells the story, "apparently Dad was asked to shift the horse and wagon, because of the horse and carts back at Brown & Burns Bakery in Subiaco where he worked before he joined up. According to Dad, something spooked the horse and off it went with Dad on seat.



Check out the new 2/16th Battalion Association website

<https://www.2nd16thassoc.com.au>



2/16th BATTALION (AIF) ASSOCIATION INC
Annual Membership Subscription or Change of Details
Financial Year is 1 July to 30 June each year

DATE			
NAME			
POSTAL ADDRESS			
HOME ADDRESS			
PHONE		MOBILE	
EMAIL			
DATE OF BIRTH			

CHANGE OF DETAILS ☐ Yes

Please tell us your connection to 16th Battalion and/or 2/16th Battalion

I am.... (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OF THE BELOW)

VETERAN	WIDOW	SON	DAUGHTER	SON IN LAW	DAUGHTER IN LAW
GRANDCHILD	GREAT GRANDCHILD	NIECE	NEPHEW	FRIEND	ASSOCIATION
NAME OF VETERAN					
SERVICE NO				16 th or 2/16 th Batt	

APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP

PROPOSER _____ SECONDER _____

Cheque/ money order enclosed to the value of \$ _____ being the subscription fee for (circle)

VETERAN WIDOW LIFE MEMBER FREE

ASSOCIATION MEMBER \$25 OR 5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP \$100 JUNIOR MEMBER \$10

With \$100 Membership please nominate if you would like your 5 year membership badge to be a ☐ pin or ☐ magnet backing

PIGEON POST required ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please indicate how you would like to receive your copy ☐ Post or ☐ Email

IF YOU WISH TO DONATE..... THANK YOU Donation (Amount \$ _____)

Please make cheque/ money order payable to: 2/16th Battalion (AIF) Association

c/- The Treasurer PO Box 434 COTTESLOE WA 6911

(Please include your name clearly on the reverse side of the cheque/ money order and include your membership details when using direct payments)

DIRECT PAYMENTS Bendigo Bank BSB Number 633-000 Account Number 1499-652-95

Privacy Disclaimer: The 2/16th Battalion (AIF) Association Inc will only use personal information collected for the purpose which it was supplied and your details will not be disclosed to any third party unless required by law.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday wishes to all members, veterans and widows

JUNE

1 Kevin Anderson
4 Elizabeth Morton
5 Pamela Bunnett
6 Alan Partridge
7 Peter Shugg
10 Darryl Newton
13 Judy Curran
 Kathryn Pougher
14 Elizabeth Stearne
15 Joyce McDonald
17 Maxine Cross
19 Rodwin Palmer
21 Margaret Woods
 Ken Patton
22 Joan Harrison
 Lyn Harvey

JULY

1 Jennifer Pond
4 John Murdoch
6 Adiel Thomas
 Neve Stilwell
 James Salvaris
9 Robyn Daley
11 Peter Hurst
15 Paul Lazzarini
19 Frank Farrell
 Earle Hopkins
20 John Curnow
 Owen Marshall
 Greg O'Reilly
22 Agnes Pearce
23 Ruth White
27 Duncan Symington
 Ted Astbury
28 Dennis Spinks
30 Nannette Cannon

AUGUST

4 Jim Guthrie
5 Bill Grayden
7 Beverly Hobson
9 Karen Brkic
10 **Joan Howard 100**
 David Baker
11 Mary Gillett
 Phil Clover
12 Shirley Cirillo
14 Andrew Johnson
18 John Williamson
19 Virginia Davidson
21 Paul Wilding
22 Sharon Friend
24 Pamela Anderson
 Robert Huston
 Phil Murphy
25 John Pascoe
26 Glenys Smith

WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO CELEBRATE THEIR SPECIAL DAY
IN JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY & MANY HAPPY RETURNS

SPECIAL MENTION TO JOAN HOWARD CELEBRATING HER
CENTENARY IN AUGUST



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022

Subject to Change

JULY	
2	RWAR Association Memorial Service St Georges Cathedral Perth 10.30am
24	Association Visit to Army Museum 11am
SEPTEMBER	
16	Brig Arnold Potts Oration 6.30pm
17	80 th Anniversary Concert 2.30pm
18	Kokoda Memorial Service Kings Park 11am
OCTOBER	
23	Memorial Service and Lunch Bunbury 11am
NOVEMBER	
TBC	Association Christmas Wind Up 16RWAR Karrakatta

All committee meetings First Sunday of each month

10.30am 16RWAR Karrakatta (Feb – Dec)

All members are invited to attend – please contact the Secretary,
Peter Norrish, for confirmed details

Email: peterchucknorrish@gmail.com Phone: 0417 985 400

Note: All events in WA will have details in the “Can You Help” column in Monday’s edition of ‘The West Australian’ the week prior to the event; or please phone/email a committee member as listed in the front of this and all issues of Pigeon Post.