



PIGEON Post

2021 President's Christmas Message

With Christmas and the Holiday Season nearly upon us I look back over the past year and am encouraged by the resilience of people throughout the world who have endured another year of disruption to their lives by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Eighty years ago the world was engulfed in a global conflict and the people of our nation and throughout the world made necessary sacrifices in the fight. Men and women enlisted in our Armed Services, families gave up sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers. Rationing of food, clothing and fuel was introduced.

We tend to remember the stoicism and forbearance that was prevalent at the time but it is worth recalling that there were also staunch anti-war advocates, protests against rationing and other measures along with opportunistic industrial action - all of which seem very familiar today.

Eighty years ago, Christmas 1941, the 2/16th Battalion was in Syria near the town of Syr. While some were billeted high in the mountains, my platoon was camped in an olive grove at the foot of the range. On Christmas Eve the area experienced the heaviest snowfall in over 25 years and we awoke to three feet of snow which had collapsed all our tents. Those in the mountains had twelve feet of snow! For men from Western Australia this was an alien landscape and one in which the novelty soon wore off as the reality of freezing conditions soon took hold. It was my first and only white Christmas.

I had had my 21st birthday in Syria just a few months earlier and would celebrate that Christmas separated from my family and friends but alongside my brothers in arms. I am fortunate to have enjoyed many, many more celebrations with friends and family in the following years but I wonder what those years might have been like if I and millions of others had refused to make those sacrifices in a time of desperate need.

This Christmas, despite many of us still unable to be with loved ones, I wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year in 2022.

Yours,

Bill Grayden WX8868



BIRTHDAYS

Birthday wishes to all members, veterans and widows

DECEMBER

4 Ellen Anderson-Knight
5 Trevor Brooker
6 John Vivian-Williams
10 Dawn Whitehurst
11 Pamela Godsall-Smith
12 Ken Walker
14 Kerry Parnell
15 Ron Jarratt
19 Robert Looby
24 Beryl Wildy
25 Max Donohoe
27 Bevan Norrish
29 Aileen McKay
30 Lorraine Learmonth
31 Alex Northcott

JANUARY

1 Stirling Stilwell
7 Alan O'Meara Peta Hewitt
9 Doris Beech
10 Elaine Gibbs
13 Leanne Sammels
15 Lindsay Allan
Russell Mehan
21 Anne-Marie Hill
John Caro
Frank Taylor
Peter Norrish
24 Lorna Williamson
Peter Cary
28 James Griffiths

FEBRUARY

1 Jillian Woodthorpe
Lauren Murdoch
2 John Speed
4 Mary Holloway
5 Janice MacKenzie
6 Michael Northcott
7 Hadley Stilwell
8 Carolyn Murdoch
11 Ian Smith
12 Alec Hack
13 Anna Pollard
14 Dawn Ingram
15 Damian Sharrock
18 Richard Ingram
Vera Bailey
19 Bob Bayliss
23 Tim Murdoch
24 Margaret Smith
26 Mardi Dungey
28 Bernice Tonkin
(29) Judith Mathwin

WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO CELEBRATE THEIR SPECIAL DAY
IN DECEMBER, JANUARY & FEBRUARY

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY & MANY HAPPY RETURNS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022

Subject to Change

FEBRUARY	
27	Association Welcome Irwin Barracks Karrakatta 11am
APRIL	
17	ANZAC Service Kings Park Perth 11am
25	ANZAC Day Lunch at 16RWAR
MAY	
21	May Luncheon RAAFA Bullcreek
SEPTEMBER	
TBC	Kokoda Memorial Service
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.



PIGEON POST

Official Journal of the
2/16 Battalion (A.I.F.) Association Inc.



Vol. 55, No. 147

Price 5c

December 2021

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE

Of 2/16 BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION (Inc) 2021-2022

PATRON:

Major General The Hon. Len ROBERTS-SMITH
RFD, QC (Ret'd)

HON. TREASURER:

Joanne BAKER
c/- Lauren MURDOCH
Email: Murdoch_lauren@hotmail.com
Phone: 0402 127 911
C/- PO Box 434, Cottesloe WA 6911

PRESIDENT:

The Hon. William (Bill) GRAYDEN, AM
25 Riverview Street, South Perth WA 6151
Phone: (08) 9367 2100

PROPERTY OFFICER:

George McQUADE
Phone: 0408 733 843

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Mary GOLDTHORPE
10D Bird Street, Cottesloe WA 6011
Email: mary.goldthorpe@yahoo.com.au
Phone: 0409 085 987

Jim GRAYDEN
85 Strickland St, South Perth WA 6151
Email: jgrayden@yahoo.com.au
Phone: 0400 611 020

PIGEON POST EDITOR:

Margaret SMITH
Email: pigeonpost16@hotmail.com
Phone: 0419 914 534

HON. SECRETARY:

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

C/- Pigeon Post
PO Box 434, Cottesloe WA 6911
www.2nd16thassoc.com.au

COMMITTEE:

John MURDOCH 0411 535 831	Penny THOMAS (08) 9275 1128	- Ken WALKER 0422 477 127
Trevor INGRAM 0419 333 347	Anna POLLARD 0412 210 084	Steve WHITE 0419 957 734
Travis HOCART 0401 679 409	Lauren MURDOCH 0402 127 911	David BAKER
Ian KAYLER-THOMPSON (07) 3348 2774		Davina GOLDTHORPE 0403 956 882

EASTERN STATES REPRESENTATIVES:

Victoria/ Tasmania/ ACT:

Trevor I. INGRAM, 11 Green Street, East Ringwood VIC 3135
Phone: (03) 9870 1524/ 0419 333 347 Email: trevor.ingram@bigpond.com

NSW (Northern):

Trevor BROOKER, 10 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420 Phone: (02) 4992 1778

Queensland:

Ian KAYLER-THOMPSON, 44 Pine Street, Wynnum QLD 4178
Phone: (07) 3348 2774 Email: iankaylerthomson@gmail.com

Welcome

Welcome to the December 2021 Issue of the Pigeon Post, the official magazine of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association Inc. With another year coming to a close we look back at the year and wonder, have we accomplished enough of what we set out to do? Maybe we can do it better and should we try something else? This is very pertinent to your committee. Many things have been put in the pipeline over many years with committee members coming and going with different ideas as to what should be done and how and why it should be done. Now we can confidentially say that progress is being made.

The official website is being refurbished to what should be a more user-friendly, up-to-date source of information and pride. The website will be maintained to ensure that it keeps all members and viewers completely informed, not only on current events, but information on the proud history and stories of the men of the Battalion.

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Kings Park, leading from the 16th Battalions precinct will be enhanced to provide for a greater experience and better education for those visiting the walkway, a plan that has been on the back burner for many years.

2022 marks the 80TH ANNIVERSARY of THE KOKODA TRACK CAMPAIGN - THE BATTLE THAT SAVED AUSTRALIA.

We want to ensure that we commemorate this campaign in a manner befitting the service and sacrifice of our Aussie soldiers who fought in that horrendous theatre of war and to also show our gratitude to the families of those amazing Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels who were responsible for saving the live of so many of our men. Planning for many events of commemoration are under way for here in Perth as well as in the Eastern States. Please enter these events into you diary and do your very very best to join us. We want the Australian public to understand the importance of what these Aussies did for us and our country, so we must get out and about in our communities telling the Kokoda Track story and its importance to our country.

The Kokoda Track Walkway in Kalgoorlie is urgently in need of attention and this should also be one of our priorities. In Victoria, as reported in previous issues, planning has commenced with a committee representing 2/14th, 2/16th & 39th Battalions. We will keep you updated through Pigeon Post, commencing with the March 2022 issue.

My grateful thanks to Davina for her amazing skills and commitment and to all who have contributed to Pigeon Post this year.

Davina and I have again enjoyed keeping you, our members, up to date, in yet another year that has been challenging to so many Australians. We wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and our hope for 2022 is for a year that brings you good health, happiness and all that keeps you and yours safe.

Margaret & Davina

Contents

Association Executive and Committee	1
-------------------------------------	---

Welcome	2
---------	---

Contact the Pigeon Post	2
-------------------------	---

Submission Deadlines	2
----------------------	---

Regular Features

Letters	3
---------	---

Subs & Donations	4
------------------	---

Memorial Guardians' Roster	4
----------------------------	---

Last Post	5
-----------	---

Articles and Reports

Annual General Meeting	18
------------------------	----

Norm Wheatley Centenary	24
-------------------------	----

Care Packages	26
---------------	----

Update from 16 RWAR	28
---------------------	----

Kokoda Memorial Service	31
-------------------------	----

Remembrance Day	33
-----------------	----

Country Lunch Bunbury	34
-----------------------	----

PK Print Thanks	39
-----------------	----

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

From Dorothy Tydeman One of our lovely widows after receiving her 'lockdown' package.

Dear Mary

Your parcel much appreciated during this time of isolation- rain and cold days; all the goodies much enjoyed. Soup – an extra hot meal, not to mention variety of coffee and much spoils with biscuits in between. Just an extra message to say timing was good and not only for body but for memories.

Love Dorothy

Editor - Always a pleasure to hear from you Dorothy and to know that your care package did make a difference!



A short message to all my friends, I send sad news that Peter left us late in November to return to his beloved surf. Always supportive of 2/16th Battalion Association.

Mary

WITH LOVE & SYMPATHY

It is with a heavy heart that I acknowledge the sad and sudden passing of Associate Member Peter Goldthorpe.

Peter, the dearly loved husband of Association Vice President Mary Goldthorpe, beloved father of Davina and Ian, father in law of Damien and much loved Granddad of Stirling, Neve, Hadley & Amity Stilwell passed away on Wednesday 24th November after a short time in hospital.

A Service to celebrate Peter's life was held at Cottesloe Civic Centre last Monday 6th December. Over one hundred and fifty attendees heard of Peter's life as a 'beautiful' person with time for everyone, a Champion Australian Surf Lifesaver, swimming teacher to generations and an iconic figure in Cottesloe.

Deepest sympathy is sent with much love to Mary, Davina, Ian, Stirling, Neve, Hadley, Amity and Damien. Peter truly will be sadly missed. Peter was one of the very best, and a gentleman to all who knew him.

Margaret Smith

Subs & Donations

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2021-2022

All SUBS are now due to comply with the Association's financial year from 1st July to June 30th, With the EXCEPTION OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THE FIVE YEAR MEMBERSHIP. SUBS are \$25 per year, no increase, which also covers your receipt of Pigeon Post every three months.

THE OPTION FOR 5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP FOR \$100 IS STILL AVAILABLE

Please note the first 5 year memberships will be due for renewal in June 2022

VETERANS and WIDOWS are NOT required to pay, so you will never be unfinancial. Likewise, Life Members are not required to pay but donations are gratefully accepted.

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.

THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS WHO MAINTAIN THEIR CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS

Due to the large number of reports and articles in this issue we will update all NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS and RENEWALS in the next issue, March 2022.

Guardian Roster

JANUARY - week commencing		FEBRUARY – week commencing	
03/01/22	Peter Norrish	31/01/22	Murdoch Family
10/01/22	Noelene Wiseman	07/02/22	Ellen Anderson-Knight
17/01/22	Janice McKenzie	14/02/22	Anna Pollard
24/01/22	George McQuade	21/02/22	Murdoch Family

MARCH – week commencing	
28/02/22	Gawned Family
07/03/22	Noelene Wiseman
14/03/22	Peter Norrish
21/03/22	Marion Clive
28/03/22	Anna Pollard

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

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

Yvonne Christian Day	Widow of WX3093. R.H. (Ron) Christian
Gwen Duncan	Widow of WX3280 William James Duncan
Helen Jean Higgins	Widow of NX127098 Edward (Ted) George Higgins
Eileen Lynch	Widow of WX3015 John Terence (Jack) Lynch
Mary Mabel Morey	Widow of WX4870 Eric Osmond Morey
Peter Stanley Goldthorpe	Associate Member

A sincere Thank You to all the families of our lovely widows who so generously shared the stories of their loved one's life.

It gives us all an insight into a time in our history that many of our members, especially the younger ones, know little of, showing the strength of our ladies supporting their husbands who had been through so much

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

YVONNE CHRISTIAN DAY
WIDOW OF WX3093 R.H. (RON) CHRISTIAN

Yvonne Marceline Antoine was born at home in Cottesloe on March 24, 1918. For some perspective as to how long ago that was, World War I was still raging at the time. The 100-year-ago Spanish Flu pandemic had just begun.

Yvonne was the seventh and youngest child of French parents, Alice Boivin and Edmond Antoine, whose family lived towards the river end of what was then Cottesloe. She recalled growing up on large property with a homestead at its centre called Cernay, after her father's birthplace in France. There was plenty of room to develop her lifelong love of nature and animals, including her beloved pet Pomeranians. She loved animals and they loved her.

She had already acquired Dickie as a lifelong nickname, apparently because the policeman's wife across the road had said that as a baby she was always hungry, just like a dickie bird. She remembered hot summer days as a young child, with she and her sister Odette bringing water for the draft horses in their dollies' pannikins as workers were repaving Stirling Highway at the family's front boundary.

As she grew older, Yvonne and her siblings frequently skipped the long walk to Cottesloe beach for a swim before school, and rode the horses that grazed around what is now the Cottesloe Civic Centre. This carefree life of family, friends and school ended abruptly in turmoil when Yvonne was just fourteen. First her mother died suddenly, followed by her father's remarriage, and then by his death three years later.

Yvonne's life was up-ended. She had to leave the family home, which was sold along with its contents. She needed to find a new home and a job, with the help of her siblings. In those days no matter how intelligent, there were few higher education or career opportunities for teenaged women.

Yvonne went to business school, and then found herself at the front counter of West Australian Newspapers in St Georges Terrace, Perth. There she was courted by handsome young advertising salesman Ron Christian, who worked at the other end of the vast entrance concourse. They were both 17. After hours they enjoyed a full social life with their many friends, with music, theatre, ballroom dancing and sailing to Rottnest Island on camping trips.

Having wanted to train as a nurse, Yvonne instead joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment, the VADs, and spent several pre-war years training as a nurse's aid as the prospect of war became inevitable. Then, turmoil again. World War II broke out and Ron, already a member of the Cameron Highlanders, disappeared to fight overseas, his destination a military secret. Before he left they became engaged, in October 1940.

Yvonne's VAD detachment called for volunteers to serve overseas (but they had to pay for their own uniforms!), and amazingly, she found that her frontline service brought her into contact with Ron's battalion in Egypt. They joyfully reconnected, considering marriage in Bethlehem, but for the rest of her life Yvonne romanticised this as a great love story, with Ron and herself at its centre.



Yvonne was a war bride, returning to Australia and marrying Ron in 1943 just after the tragic events on the Kokoda Track, before Ron disappeared again, back to the steaming, deadly jungles of the New Guinea campaign.

It's hard to believe now, but in those days it was illegal for a woman to retain her government job after she married, and heavily frowned upon in private industry. A woman might be taking the job of a family man.

So, unable as a married woman to return to active service, Yvonne continued to work as secretary to the CEO of Hollywood Hospital, until her first child was born 18 months later.

The searing experiences of war, and the enduring friendships forged in that cauldron, were repeated as Yvonne's core reference points for the rest of her life. She had also made the most of her gift of photography and writing, recording in great detail those Middle East adventures, and leaving her children with an amazing visual record of their childhoods. Their first daughter, Julie, was born in 1944.

When the war ended Ron returned to the newspaper. The couple tried to forget their wartime demons and settle into suburban life in a little house in Inglewood.

The little family soon expanded with the birth of a second daughter, Janet in 1946, then Ron was promoted to run interstate offices for the newspaper in Melbourne and Sydney, where three boys, Bret, Rodney and Gregory were added to the brood. Somehow Yvonne and Ron kept up their active social lives on the east coast, attending parties, receptions and balls, entertaining their wide circle of friends, taking the family on interesting holidays and exciting visits to the beach.

Her children recall that their parents' love of music often filled the house – Yvonne playing piano or spinning long-play records of the big musicals of the time – all the Rogers and Hammerstein smash hits and a special favourite, *My Fair Lady*.

They were so happy in Sydney that when Ron was recalled to become a senior newspaper executive in Perth, the family discussed staying put and finding other work.

But return they did, settling at 12 Thomson Road, Claremont, the kids squeezed into share bedrooms, until they built a larger house south of the river.

Always the adventurer, Yvonne decided the family needed a holiday shack by the beach. She found the block and Ron built the house, where for many years the family shared their parents' love of the beach, fishing and crabbing.

Both parents took a keen interest in the education of their five children, emphasising the need to master the basics, especially English and Maths. They encouraged a love of music and its performance, while Yvonne was relentless in leading her daughters to ballet – successfully with Julie, not so much with Jan. She bought Rod his first musical instruments and encouraged Bret's love of cars with his first two-stroke motor.

The older children's teenage years coincided with the appearance of bodgies, widgies and the Sixties 'revolution' with its alien rock-n-roll, hippies, anti-Vietnam War protestors and sexual liberation.

Yvonne was as bewildered and disapproving as any of her early-century contemporaries, if not more so. As the child of Edwardian parents, she struggled to come to terms with a world that was changing before her eyes, berating her children for embracing what she disparagingly called "freedom of the individual".

An intelligent woman, Yvonne did her best to understand and cope. It could not have been easy for the youngest and over-protected child of a close and privileged family, but her children made their own way in the world and successfully raised their own families.

Our parents' upbringing had been all about discipline, service to the community and respect for your elders, whether that respect was deserved or not.

Family was everything, and many are remembering Yvonne's organisation of family picnics in Kings Park, numerous house parties and the constant visitors to their beach house at Madora Bay. One of the earliest photos of a joint Antoine-Christian celebration is of children from both sides of the family at the christening of Jan and cousin Julian in 1946.

Yvonne and Ron had sold up in Melville and built a new house a few streets from their original holiday shack at Madora Bay, devoting their retirement years into community life, as well as their obsession with fishing, shared with the older grandchildren in the 1970s and '80s.

Then, as midnight clicked over on the eve of Anzac Day, 1989, Yvonne was widowed with the sudden death of Ron. Yvonne was devastated, but five years later she again found great happiness when she married the charming and likable George Day, a colleague and friend of Ron's from WA Newspapers.

Yvonne was again widowed in 1999 with the sad passing of George, but they had shared a love of the outdoors, and enjoyed five years of caravanning, camping and touring WA during that time.

Yvonne was to live another 22 years, revelling in her huge brood of children, step- children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She lived on her own for the next 15 years, remaining stubbornly independent even when it came clear she badly needed help in looking after herself.

She became comfortable and happy at what is now called Bethanie, celebrating her 100th birthday with a huge reunion of families from Perth, Canberra, Melbourne, Singapore, London, New Zealand and France. She was delighted to welcome her father's descendants from Reims and Lyon on their first visit to Australia for her centenary.



Four generations of family gathered in March this year with admiring Bethanie staff to help Yvonne celebrate her 103rd birthday. She participated fully, engaged, charming and aware as to what was going on. Photos from the day show that clearly.

A full medical report about six weeks before Yvonne died show a clean bill of health, every organ operating normally. Typical of Yvonne, she was at the end touched by her lucky charm. She died peacefully in her bed on a Friday evening, 24 September 2021, five minutes after falling asleep.

Yvonne had a good life and a good death. We all thank and miss her.

Our sincere thanks to Yvonne's family for sharing this story of their Mother's life with us and all the readers of Pigeon Post.

At the 2/16th Association's May Lunch in 2018 those present were delighted to see Yvonne who had recently celebrated her 100th Birthday. They also 'were enthralled' by highlights of the musical "MATES" written by West Australian composer/music educator Rod Christian, son of Yvonne and Ron. Reported in June 2018 issue of Pigeon Post, an amazing yet true story of a love triangle, two soldiers, best mates, who fell in love with the same girl.

Eulogy for Hazel Higgins
St Paul's Anglican Church, Gloucester, 30/6/2021
Written by her daughter, Liz Higgins and read by her grandson, Troy Higgins

Good morning. I am Hazel's grandson, Troy Higgins, and I welcome Hazel's friends and family in the church and joining us on-line via the streaming service.

Hazel was an organised lady. Today, with only a couple of tweaks, we will be hearing the songs she wanted, the Psalm she wanted and the flowers (irises) she wanted. And, of course, we are here in the Church she attended for much of her life (even if the Catholics did get her children for a while).

Hazel leaves us at the age of 92. Born in October 1928 as a Latimore, she was the oldest of 4 children – Phyllis & Joan, and Eric deceased.

She wasn't always "a townie". Half of her life was spent living on farms in the Gloucester district – starting as a child on Merewether Lane before moving to Wirragerie (off the Bundook Road); then as a wife and mother at Barrington.

As a child, she grew up in the extended Latimore and Merchant families. As Nell (her mother) was one of fifteen Merchant children there were plenty of days playing with siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. Playing cards, riding horses and walking over the Wirragerie property to Ninnie and Pop's house (her father's parents) were times Hazel spoke about often and with fondness.

On finishing school in Maitland, Hazel got a job in Gloucester at Parrish and Street (now IGA) as an accounts clerk and loved to dance away her Saturday nights with friends and family at the local dance halls.



In her early 20s, Hazel met and married Ted and, a year later, when Ted's father died, they moved to the Higgins dairy farm at Barrington where they first share farmed it with Ted's mother Esther, then rented it from her before owning it themselves. Four children were born – three boys and a girl – Tony, Terry, Peter (deceased last year) and Elizabeth.

Life changed direction for Hazel when she was in her early 40s when Ted and her decided to move off the farm and into Gloucester based on medical advice that Ted move to a lighter occupation than dairying. They decided to build their own home and Hazel found the land she liked in Onslow Street. They moved into their new home in 1975 – the house that Hazel lived in up until her death last week.

So, what did Hazel enjoy?

Her 5 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. She always wanted to know what we had been up to.

Gardening. Hazel for years had a cottage garden (before I knew what one was).



Keeping active. With sport and as a volunteer for community organisations (church guilds, meals on wheels, Probus). She played tennis, golf, bowls and croquet. With golf (she played for many years), strong friendships were formed that lasted for decades. Then as she got older she kept active by “circuit training” – walking up the high school lane, through the hospital and down the hill to home. This she did every other day until early this year.

Playing cards with family and with friends – 500, euchre and canasta. Hazel was very competitive at cards; as children we sometimes cried because she wouldn’t let us win!

Travel – with Ted to army reunions across Australia and overseas to New Zealand, Hong Kong and Europe to visit Elizabeth; she had numerous holidays with old friends and new friends on cruises, bus and train trips.

And now we say goodbye to Hazel. She departs our lives with one treasured possession still intact – a valid NSW Drivers Licence expiry not until 2026!

Thank you to Mary’s family who have provided us with two eulogies from her funeral service; a service that celebrated her long and well-lived life! I decided that I could not combine the two eulogies and do them, or Mary justice, so here they both are. They remind us of an age that will soon be forgotten, how life was in the early 20th century and the strength of the womenfolk as they embraced a whole new world of the late 20th and then the 21st century.

Margaret Smith

MARY MABEL MOREY
21st June 1920 - 9th October 2021

Mary was born to Mabel and Rueben Dorrell, publicans in Gillingham, England, in their home above the pub. In 1924, at the age of 4, Mary came to Australia with her parents and they settled on a sheep and pig farm called Dunkton near Bridgetown. Sadly, they lost this farm but with their last £50 they put a deposit down on a 100 acre block, sold to them by a neighbour Bert Young. To pay off the block Bob worked for Bert during the week and on weekends, with the aid of young Mary, and a horse, they cleared the block. The property was named “Cloverlea” and is still in the Dorrell family today.

Once the block was cleared Bert gave the Durrells 6 cows so they could start a herd for milking. The house from Dunkton was moved to Cloverlea and Mary's father added to this home. Mary having a new bedroom with only a hessian door, was at times scared by dingoes who would come to her door.

Mary had little schooling but did what she could by correspondence. Her mother passed away when Mary was just 18 and so Mary helped raise her brother until her Dad remarried.

Living on the farm Mary would milk the cows, process the milk and also grow vegetables. She was able to milk 10 cows in an hour, of course by hand. Mary would start at 4am and finish just before the cream truck arrived at 8am. During the depression the lowest "cream" cheque for a month was £2. 1shilling. The farm also provided vegetables, meat, butter and bread.

WWII saw Mary continuing to milk 29 cows, twice daily, by hand until they purchased a milking machine that made the process a lot easier.

After the war, at a party for a returning soldier, Mary met Eric Morey. Courting was mainly by mail as the only way Eric could visit Mary was via the "Cream Truck." Engaged in 1947 and married in 1949, Mary and Eric honeymooned in Albany before making their home with Eric's parents on their farm Doopenup Flats, 7 miles from Manjimup.

On the sale of that property in 1951, now a family of 3, the Moreys moved to Wodanilling and then to West Wagin for Eric to gain experience working on a wheat and sheep farm.

A couple of years later, the now family of four, moved to working on the War Service Land Settlement Project. Here they lived in a three room tent prior to being allotted a farm now known as Marrivale and there they moved into the original farmhouse.

Mary continued to work alongside Eric and again milked cows to provide milk for the family and sold the cream to make extra money. When the Bokerup Community Hall was built Mary was very involved with fund raising and cooking for the events that were held.

By 1961 Mary and Eric had four children who all went on to attend Franklin River Primary School and then high school in Manjimup.

Mary's garden was one of her passions, always providing vegetables in season as well as having an orchard and Rose and flower gardens. The old farmhouse was relocated to a new location up the hill and away from the sheds and creek in the late 1960s. Mary, again, started a new orchard and garden around the house. In the 1970s a new farm house was built on that location.

Both of Mary and Eric's sons, Bill and Rob, worked on the farm after completing their schooling. Due to Eric's ill health, in the early eighties, Eric and Mary retired but stayed living on the farm; later also spending time at their house in Manjimup.

Retirement saw them 'travel Australia', but apparently Eric was impatient and did not want to "sight-see", wanting to get from point A to B to visit friends and relatives. A quick trip round the world saw them visit relatives in England and America.

After Eric passed away in 1997 Mary spent most of her time on the farm where she was happiest looking after her sons and grandchildren and still being involved in the Frankland CWA. Before Mary left the farm she was awarded Life Membership of that CWA branch.

When each of Mary's great grandchildren was born Mary set about knitting squares to make into blankets for them.

Mary moved permanently to the house in Manjimup in 2007 where her garden was still her passion, growing all varieties of flowers as well as tending a vegetable garden. This she did until around the age of 92. Mary had settled into town life and visited her daughters, Kathleen and Jen frequently.

In 2013 Mary made the move to Moonya where she busied herself helping out as much as possible. That was what Mary always used to do to get things done! Mary was very particular about how she liked her bed made and staff would certainly be told if it was not done correctly. Mary walked with the aid of her walker and she was nicknamed "Speedy Gonzales" as she moved so fast that the staff had to hurry to keep up with her. Mary tried to keep herself busy by knitting squares for blankets and covers for wooden coat hangers. Mary loved her food and hated to see food left on a plate. When taken out by family, or to appointments, she would continually look at the time to let us know that she had to get back so she would not miss out on meals.

Mary was a very independent lady and liked to do everything for herself as much as she could. She shared many stories about her years as a child and also enjoyed sharing the memories of family holidays at Hamelin Bay, staying in old trams and then progressing onto a tent and then a caravan.

Mary became a Centenarian in June 2020 and enjoyed the celebrations organised by and shared with her loving family.

Mary rarely missed the 2/16th Association Annual Country Reunion functions in Bunbury usually accompanied by Kathleen or Jen or both daughters. In fact she was dearly missed this year and the last couple of years, by members who always looked forward to her beautiful smile and very welcome company.

**MARY MABEL MOREY
WIDOW OF WX4870 ERIC OSMOND MOREY
FROM HER YOUNGEST SON RON**

101 years-What a great innings. She has been saying that she is old and worn since she was 80 and yet she has lived another 21 years. It is not easy trying to find friends of hers when you have lived 101 years and 4 months.

Mary Dorrell was born in 1920 and she was 12 when her brother Ed was born in 1932. Her mother, Mabel died of TB in 1938 when Mary was 18. Ed was only 6! Mary's mother had been sick for 6 years so spent a lot of time in Perth away from her family. That meant that Mary and her father Bob had to carry on with the farm and chores and look after a young Edward. Mary formed a very strong bond with her brother, sadly Ed passed away in his early 50s.

For many years Mary, Ed and their father only went to town in Manjimup once a year.

Mary was a pioneering woman who just simply did what had to be done; no dilly dallying, just get on with it. If her children had an accident Mary would put on a bandaid, strap them up and say "you are alright".

Most of her life Mary grew a good veggie garden and fruit trees that she used for food and also to make preserves for the off season. She also milked cows providing milk for the house for many, many years.

It is quite modern these days and referred to as 'organic' and being 'self sufficient'. In Mary's day it was called 'survival' and a way of life.

Mary ran a good household for her family who were always well fed and looked after. Mary always raised chooks, some to eat but mainly for eggs. One of son Rob's chores was to shut the chooks up and collect the eggs after school. Mary sold eggs to friends in Franklin. There were no egg cartons in those days so each egg had to be wrapped individually in newspaper and placed in a stock branding tin that had been made into an egg Billy. Rob reckoned that he did not stand out much, walking onto the bus in his brown sandals and handing over a hand made egg billy to the driver in front of all the other kids.

In 2007 Mary was driving to Manjimup and was going a bit too fast and she lost control and her car rolled over a few times and finished up on its roof. Luckily for Mary two locals were fencing in a paddock nearby and rushed over and pulling her door off, undid her seatbelt and moved her to safety. Mary's first remark was "I hope the three dozen eggs in the boot are ok???" Mary suffered a few bruises which healed in a few weeks, but she needed a new car as she had "totalled" the other one.

87 year old Mary, as usual, just kept on going and kept driving. She did slow down a little bit!



In Mary's life of 101 years life has changed so much. A horse was more reliable and faster than the automobiles of the day. A horse was the main source of transport, if you were fortunate enough to have one. There were no jet planes, TVs, electricity, fridges, microwaves, washing machines, computers etc etc.

Mary lived in a marvellous time; she experienced an industrial revolution that is not comparable to any other. Mary loved her gas stove, washing machine, telephone and TV. A fridge and freezer were life changing and remarkable. Mary grasped the use of a mobile phone and used it well until only a few years ago.

Mary's husband Eric passed in 1997. So it was just Mary and son Rob on the farm. Mary wanted Rob to have his own life partner and for her to wind down and go and live in Manjimup. In 2007 Lisa joined Rob on the farm which made Mary very content and happy for her son. At 87 Mary moved to Manjimup. She liked town life and enjoyed her neighbours, arts and crafts, bingo and church, also still growing a veggie garden.

Rob had lived with his mother Mary for 46 years and and commented that you always knew where you stood with her. As he wished her well to the other side, he said "Happy Journey Mum -- and no doubt you will let them know if something is not to your liking."

EILEEN PATRICIA LYNCH
WIDOW OF WX 30145 JOHN (JACK) LYNCH
April 1925 - September 2021

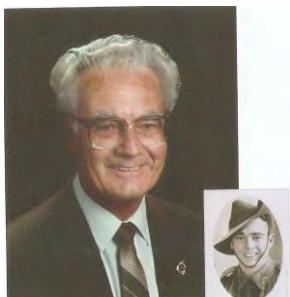
Eileen Patricia Lynch
23 April 1925 - 03 September 2021



Eileen Patricia Ryan, the sixth of eight children, was born to George Valentine & Mary Pauline Ryan.

Early in 1923, under the Australian Government's Group Settlement Scheme, the family, Eileen's parents and her four older brothers and sisters, had come to Australia from their home in Ireland. The farming lot they were allocated was in Cowaramup in Western Australia's south west. Life in those early years was extremely difficult as the newly arrived prospective farmers were expected to clear the heavily timbered land by hand. Living conditions were very basic until a house was built on the property.

Sadly, when Eileen was only eight, her father was killed in a traffic accident. This necessitated Eileen and her younger sister Kath, going to boarding school as her widowed mother had to seek employment.



Eileen met her future husband Jack, when she accompanied a workmate, Molly on a hospital visit. Molly was visiting her nephew Jack in hospital where he was recovering from malaria, a condition he had caught whilst serving as a soldier in WWII.

Apparently Jack decided there and then that Eileen was the girl for him! Eileen and Jack married in St Mary's Cathedral in Perth on 19th July 1947.

Jack's service in WWII made them eligible for a War Service home and they 'were beyond excited' when they were told that they were next in line.

A home became available in Floreat and that began the family's life long association with Floreat and the church in Wembley. In the early years their home was only the third house completed in their street and Eileen remembered regularly seeing kangaroos in the native bush on the other side of their road.



The nearest bus stop was a very, very long walk, especially for Eileen pushing the pram all the way. The family never missed a Sunday Mass, walking to and from every week, occasionally getting a lift from neighbours who had a car.

Eileen was a wonderful cook and was very house proud, working tirelessly ensuring that everything in the house was 'just so', and then would knit or sew for her children in the evenings. As Jack was on numerous committees and involved with volunteer groups Eileen always kept 'the home fires burning' and was always so supportive.

Many Saturday mornings would find her making many rounds of sandwiches that Jack would take along to the Past Players' Room for the after game functions at their beloved West Perth. (WAFL CLUB).

They had a great group of "West Perthite" friends and would regularly celebrate with them. One thing that everyone associates with Eileen was her "cup of tea"; no excuse was ever needed to sit down and enjoy a cuppa!

Even in her final days at MercyCare when the family would visit, there was Eileen, with both hands wrapped around a cup.

Eileen's beloved husband Jack passed in 2010 and she was determined to stay in the family home. This she did, managing very well until she had several falls. Her family thought that the time had come for Eileen to progress to the next stage of her life.

Although at first reluctant to leave her family home, Eileen understood her family's concerns, and so agreed to move into Mercy Care in Wembley in November 2019. Eileen quickly adapted to her new surroundings and would tell her family how lucky she was to be in such a beautiful room, in lovely surroundings. With just a couple of hiccups along the way, Eileen remained in very good health.

'Eileen was a truly wonderful Mum, we could not have asked for anyone better. Since her passing her family have received very many comments, from family and friends about the impact she made on the lives of others, often through a gentle word of encouragement or acceptance, or providing an ear just to listen and always having a smile on her face.

Eileen never complained no matter how difficult a situation was. Family was so important and many, who were friends, became like family to her.

Whilst grieving the loss of Eileen, the family take comfort in the fact that she is now reunited with her husband Jack, her parents and her brothers and sisters. They are very grateful that Eileen was lent to them for her allotted life span, to be their Mum, their teacher, their sounding board, their guide, their friend and, instilled in them the skills that they needed to live full and happy lives.

Eileen has done her duty very well and has now gone to enjoy a very well earned rest.'

Thank you to Eileen's daughter, Maureen, for allowing us to tell you of Eileen's life from her Eulogy.

Maureen wrote "This does not come any near doing justice to what an amazing wife, Mother and community member she was, but it does give a good insight. As you know our Dad was a wonderful man too; Patricia, Kathleen and I were so blessed to have such wonderful parents."

We remember Eileen with fondness and know she loved the Association's May lunches and everyone loved seeing her there. Maureen tells us that Eileen felt she was 'spoilt' by the 2/16th.

Articles & Reports

2021 AGM

At our AGM on Saturday 3rd October all present welcomed Mr Bill Grayden's commitment to remain as our President for the next year. His acceptance was noted with thanks and pride by the members.

'As the senior surviving veteran of the 2/16th Battalion Mr Grayden is an eminently suitable person to represent the Association as our President.'

Our sincere thanks go to Lauren Murdoch who relinquished her position as Hon. Treasurer. We are very grateful to Lauren for her three years as our treasurer and her assurance that she will continue with the duties of Hon. Treasurer until the newly elected Hon. Treasurer, Joanne Baker, returns to Perth early in 2022.

The committee welcomes back Davina Goldthorpe and David Baker to its ranks. Newcomers to the committee are our Queensland representative, Ian Kayler-Thomson, Travis Hocart and Stephen White. All committee members will be introduced via the March 2022 edition of Pigeon Post.

At the AGM it was agreed that a Special General Meeting will be called to further discuss the use of the Wainwright Bequest. Your thoughts are most welcome on this matter.

A 'Special Resolution' as noted in the minutes to amend some very minor issues ie. grammar, cross references & word changes was passed.

Please do read our AGM Minutes & financials. Committee members will happily answer any queries, receive comments and/or pass them on.

W.L. [Bill] Grayden AM
25 Riverview Street
SOUTH PERTH WA 6151

Peter Norrish
45 Glyde Road
LESMURDIE WA 6076
E-mail: peterchucknorrish@gmail.com

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at O'Meara's Mess, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta on Sunday 3rd October 2021.

Meeting opened at 10:10 am
Welcome by Chair, VP Mary Goldthorpe

Present: Peter Norrish, Trevor Ingram, Ian Kayler-Thompson, Mary Goldthorpe, Jim

Grayden, Travis Hocart, Lauren Murdoch, John Murdoch, Margaret Smith, Penny Thomas, Anna Pollard, Steve White. (9 Committee members, 3 Associate members) Apologies from Bill Grayden, Ken Walker, Davina Goldthorpe

Vale: Robert Pearce RAAMC, Betty Murphy (widow of WX32729 Ken Murphy), Enid Ingram (widow of WX2703 Cyril Ingram), Bessie Bowman (widow of NX149321 Fredrick Bowman), Lorna Devlin (widow of WX3827 John Devlin), Ivy Roberts (sister of WX5632 Harry Dusting), Joan Emmett (widow of Ken Emmett WX14058), Constance Taylor (widow of VX93033 Jim Taylor), Eileen Lynch (widow of WX30145 Jack Lynch), Yvonne Christian Day (widow of Ron Christian WX3093) and our Past Patron Maj. Gen. Michael Jeffery (nephew of Ivan Johnson WX1592).

Apologies: Bill Grayden, Ken Walker and Davina Goldthorpe

Ode: CSM Steve White recited

Order of Business:

Annual General Meeting 2020

The Minutes of the 2020 AGM were presented, having been previously distributed to Committee members by email. It was moved by A Pollard and seconded by J Grayden that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

Presentation for Approval of the Annual Financial Accounts of the Association.

Treasurer L Murdoch presented the Independent Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2021 from R A Gibb. A statement of Income and Expenditure disclosed total income for the period of \$11,519.26 and total expenditure of \$17,530.54 providing a Net Loss of \$6,011.28.

The Treasurer commented the Care Packages accounted for a significant component of the Loss. VP M Goldthorpe challenged this conclusion and requested the Treasurer query the amount allocated to the Care Packages with the Auditor.

Current Assets of the Association are

Geoffrey Wainwright Fund 4689 \$300,000.00

Interest account 4788 \$617.77

Bendigo Bank account 5295 \$58,709.94

Term Deposit 3494 \$25,707.29

Total at June 30, 2021 \$385,035.00

Current Liabilities nil

Motion: The Financial Report of the Auditor be accepted pending clarification as to what was included in the \$4,685.48 listed as Care Packages.

Annual Reports of the Committee of Management:

President: J Grayden read the President Bill Grayden's Report to the meeting.

"I welcome all committee members, office holders, members and visitors attending this AGM both in person and electronically. I thank all committee members and office holders for their work for our association over the past year and I thank our members for their support of the various functions and events despite the ongoing challenges and

uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is my hope that the coming year we will bring a return to circumstances that will allow us to resume normal activities. Highlights of the past year include the May Luncheon in new facilities at the RAAFA Estate which was a wonderful event albeit with reduced numbers compared to previous years. The annual Potts Oration delivered by Hon. Graham Edwards was another highlight. Organised at short notice and delivered in a new format at the Memorial Hall, Scotch College, this event was a credit both to Graham and, importantly, to those responsible for the planning and execution of the function. I want to acknowledge the contributions of the descendants of veterans to the ongoing operation of our association. Without your support it is unlikely our association could continue to operate. I want to thank our retiring Treasurer, Lauren Murdoch, for the work she has done in that vitally important role and wish her well as she moves on to a new and exciting adventure in married life. I also thank all of those who have supported the association over the past year just some of who include - 16 Battalion CO Lt Col. Leigh Partridge and RSM Peter Duff, WO Steve White, The Australian Army Band (Perth) Pipes and Drums, Cpl David Scott (Rtd.), Australian Army Cadets (Guildford Grammar School) and the Salvation Army among others. With your continued support I look forward to a new and exciting year ahead.

Bill Grayden President."

Eastern States Representative Report: T Ingram was present via a Zoom online link and tabled a Report.

Last Post for South East Aus members since Oct 2020

- Connie Taylor (Widow of Jim Taylor) on 24th June 2021

Note: I have lost contact with widow Elizabeth McKenzie from Kooyong, Victoria (not answering voicemail messages)

Membership in SE Aus:

According to my records we have 44 Association members in VIC, 4x in ACT (incl Jerrabomberra) & 2x in TAS). During the past year, the membership lists for Vic/Tas/ACT members held in both Perth & Melbourne have been cross checked and are in agreement. I keep in touch by phone with those who cannot receive emails including 2/16th veteran Norm Wheatley & his wife Joy (Canberra, ACT) and widow Vera Bailey from Corryong, Vic who turned 100 this year.

Functions in Victoria:

Summary of 2/16th Battalion Association (Vic) functions over the past 12 months:

- 20 April 2021: ANZAC Commemorative service for schools & service organisations at Dandenong Ranges NP Kokoda memorials (Cancelled due to Covid 19)
- 25 April 2021: ANZAC March in Melbourne (Cancelled by RSL Vic due to Covid 19)
- 25 April 2021: 2/16th organised luncheon with members of 39th, 2/14th and 2/27th Battalion Associations (Cancelled by T Ingram due to Covid 19)
- October 2021: Victorian reunion luncheon at Royal Hotel, Bacchus Marsh (Postponed due to Covid 19)

Committee for 80th Anniversary of Kokoda 2022: a joint committee was formed with reps from 2/14th, 2/16th & 39th Battalion Associations in August 2021. This committee meets via Zoom monthly to develop commemorative services for this event Minutes are taken and circulated to the 2/16th Btn committee. Ideas are welcome.

Memorials:

Kokoda Memorial Walkway (1000 Steps), Dandenong Ranges NP: sections of the railing along the walk were badly damaged by fallen trees during a storm in June 2021; the Parks Victoria rangers are still clearing and repairing the track which has been closed. The memorial wall, statues & Battalion plaques were not damaged. The letter of thanks to Parks Victoria from the 2/16th acknowledging their efforts in maintaining the memorial was well received and appreciated.

Parks Victoria Education Officer, Julia Pickwick, has proposed to develop an electronic story map of the Kokoda memorial in the Dandenong Ranges NP to describe the plaques for each village in PNG that are represented along the Walkway together with the other features of this extensive memorial. She will be looking for ideas and input from 2/16th including specific stories/information/photos that could be incorporated into the story map.

Kokoda Track Walk, Land Warfare Centre, Canungra, QLD: the 2/16th Bn Assoc were invited to send a rep to the official opening on 10th August 2021 however, due to Covid 19, this event was postponed until 2022.

Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach, QLD: the 2/16th Btn Assoc were invited to send a rep to attend the Kokoda Day service on 8th August 2021 however, due to Covid 19, this event was postponed until 2022.

Pigeon Post: I wish to acknowledge the great work that has been undertaken by the Pigeon Post editors over the past year (the electronic version is a great success).

Executive & Committee: I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work that has been undertaken by the executive & committee over the past year; the members in Victoria are keen to support the newly elected executives over the coming year.

Vic/Tas/ACT Rep: I have been on the 2/16th committee for the past 22 years as the Vic/ACT/Tas representative: I am happy to continue in this position for another year if re-elected.

Rep on 2/14th Bn Assoc C'tee: For the past 20 years, I have been a member of the 2/14th Bn Assoc General Committee as the 2/16th representative. Their AGM has been postponed until March 2022.

I also have a strong relationship with the committee of the 39th Battalion Association. These relationships help foster and maintain the close bond with the 2/16th Battalion Association. Regards, Trevor Ingram.

Ian Kayler-Thompson was also present at the meeting, via on-line links, and added comments that he was the invitee to Broadbeach Queensland for the service and to the Canungra service but didn't attend, as both were postponed due to Covid-19.

Pigeon Post: M Smith (Editor) thanked Davina Goldthorpe for the work she does in producing each edition of the Pigeon Post. Editor also sought submissions by the Committee to the content of Pigeon Post and emphasised the need to get it to her early, as well as the importance of Pigeon Post as a line of communication to the membership

to inform them of the Committee's intent and actions. Editor also urged the Committee to find ways to encourage new Members and get them involved.

Honours and Awards Sub-Committee: Life Membership has been awarded to veterans Victor Lardi, William Forrest and Ossie Merritt this year.

Social Sub-committee: VP M Goldthorpe reported verbally for the Sub-Committee. In October 2020 the Bunbury service and lunch were conducted. In November 2020 the Association wind-up took place at O'Meara's Mess, Irwin Barracks. February 2021 meet and greet also occurred at O'Meara's Mess, Irwin Barracks. April 2021 ANZAC Day was cancelled due to Covid-19 lockdown across the Perth metro area, but the 2/16th Bn Service did take place in Kings Park, outside of the lockdown, and the emphasis was on the Battle for Bullecourt by the 16th Battalion in World War 1. May 2021 May Lunch at RAAFA was successful and enjoyed in the new facilities at Bullcreek. July 2021 visit to the Army Museum of WA took place and included a talk by the film Director Jordan Price-Wright about his recent creation "Before Dawn". September 2021 Kokoda Service in Kings Park with guest speaker Martin Dell, OC of Guildford Cadet unit. October 2021 the AGM November 2021 will see the Christmas windup again.

Motion: That the Reports be accepted moved by P Thomas, seconded by A Pollard. Carried.

Honorariums: It was moved by J Grayden, seconded by A Pollard that the following honorariums be approved for payment for the year ended 30 June 2021, in line with the previous year:

P Norrish in recognition of service as Hon Secretary \$350.00

M Smith in recognition of service as Hon Editor \$400.00

L Murdoch in recognition of service as Hon Treasurer \$350.00

Motion carried.

Election of Executive and Committee:

In accordance with the Constitution the election of office bearers took place.

President: A nomination for Bill Grayden for the position of President was received from L Murdoch, seconded by P Norrish. As this would be Bill Grayden's fifth year as President a Motion was put by John Murdoch and seconded by Margaret Smith that the Association approve his exceeding the three-year limit again. Carried.

The membership present felt Bill Grayden as the senior surviving Veteran, of the 2/16th Battalion was an eminently suitable person to be formally President. There being no further nominations Bill Grayden was declared re-elected.

The Members note they are proud to have Bill Grayden as President.

Vice Presidents (2): A nomination of M Goldthorpe and J Grayden to be Vice Presidents was moved by T Ingram and seconded by P Thomas. There being no further nominations they were declared re-elected.

Hon Secretary: A nomination of P Norrish for the position of Hon. Secretary was moved by P Thomas and seconded by J Grayden. There being no further nominations P Norrish was declared re-elected.

Hon Treasurer: A nomination of J Baker (not present) for the position of Honorary Treasurer was received from M Goldthorpe seconded by J Grayden. There being no further nominations J Baker was declared elected. L Murdoch, retiring Treasurer,

assured the meeting she would continue with the duties until Jo returned from travelling.

Hon Editor: A nomination of M Smith for the role of Editor Pigeon Post was received from P Thomas and seconded by J Murdoch. There being no further nominations Margaret Smith was declared re-elected.

Election of Committee Members:

VP M Goldthorpe questioned why the Committee was restricted in size when there were more people willing to serve. Opinions expressed that achieving a quorum is difficult with a large committee, but the meeting agreed to include more individuals. M Smith moved that the following people, in addition to the Executive, form the Committee. Seconded by J Grayden.

Penny Thomas, Anna Pollard, John Murdoch, Ken Walker (not present), Trevor Ingram, Ian Kayler-Thompson, Travis Hocart, Lauren Murdoch, David Baker (not present), Steve White and Davina Goldthorpe.

All declared elected.

Committee reminded that they could attend meetings electronically and of the need to lodge apologies for non-attendance.

Eastern States Representatives

T Ingram (Victoria, ACT and Tasmania), T Brooker (NSW) and I Kayler-Thompson (Queensland) nominated and appointed by the meeting.

VP J Grayden formally thanked those who have served in Executive and Committee positions for 2020-2021.

Election of Patrons:

Having indicated his acceptance of the role, it was moved by P Thomas and J Grayden, that Major General, Len Roberts-Smith RFD, QC (Retd) be elected as patrons. Carried.

Election of Auditor: It was moved by J Grayden, seconded by P Thomas that Rob Gibb be re-elected to the position of Auditor. Carried

Subscriptions: It was moved by J Grayden seconded by A Pollard that the annual subscriptions for 2021-2022 be set at the following rates:

Juniors (under 18 years of age) - \$10.00 (no Pigeon Post to be posted)

Associate members - \$25.00 with the option to pay \$100 for 5 years membership

Veterans and Widows - free.

Motion carried.

General Business

M Smith addressed the meeting to urge spending of the Wainwright Bequest money to promote the Association. Past Treasurer L Murdoch advised the meeting that there was currently \$80,000 available to the Committee and the \$300,000 was secured in a term deposit to earn interest. Different opinions were expressed, so the meeting agreed to hold over to the General Meeting discussion about a Special General Meeting to further discuss the use of the Wainwright bequest. Motion to do so was moved by J Grayden and seconded by A Pollard.

Carried.

A Pollard reminded the meeting of the need for Committee members to attend meetings and sought clarification about the process for Committee members to cease functioning if not attending for four meetings. J Murdoch highlighted that the application of the Rules was required and not optional for the Association.

Special Resolution:

Secretary P Norrish explained to the meeting that the previous resolution to amend the Association Rules (Constitution) made at the 2020 AGM had not been submitted within the time limits of Consumer Protection, so it was being re-tabled and would be acted upon promptly. The amendments to the Rules are not significant in the operation of the Association and were raised by J Murdoch initially.

Special Resolution: *The Rules (Constitution) of the 2/16th Battalion AIF Association Inc. be amended in minor way to correct grammar, cross references within the Rules and change the procedure of financial payments from “cheques” to “payments”, as shown in the attached copy of the Rules.*

Moved by P Norrish and seconded by S White. Carried.

Meeting closed at 11:26 am

On joining the 2/16th Battalion (A.I.F.) Association Inc. all members should have received a copy of the Constitution or Rules.

If you did not receive a copy, or would like the updated copy please do let either the Secretary, Peter Norrish or Margaret Smith at Pigeon Post, know and we will ensure a copy is sent to you.

Please do indicate your preference for digital (via email) or printed. If digital please remember to send us your email address.

NORM WHEATLEY - 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to Veteran WX4280 Norman George Wheatley of Canberra who celebrated his 100th birthday on 28th September.

Norm and wife Joy’s amazing neighbours staged a fitting Covid-safe, (maximum 5 people, all masked except when drinking or eating) celebration in “lockdown” on their front lawn.

The Minister for Veteran Affairs, Andrew Gee posted, on his Facebook page, his congratulations to Norm for his centenary birthday.

“Happy 100th Birthday to Norman Wheatley who was born in Perth. In June 1940, Norm joined the Australian Army and was a signaller serving with the 2/16th Australian Infantry Battalion. He was based in the Middle East, Palestine, Syria and Australia.

Norm recalls one event on a Friday 13th when they were fighting the Vichy French and had to retreat. They left a bundle (booby trap) for the Vichy French, and it was set off by a soldier. Norm remembers the incident every Friday 13th!

(NOTE: Patrick Hone, Norm's neighbour, posted this correcting comment on the Minister's Facebook page in regard to his encapsulation of Norm's story:

"Just had COVID-19 safe lunch with Norm and Joy. Ever the perfectionist Joy asked me to correct one point above " They left a bundle for the Vichy French," – in fact the reverse was the case, the Vichy French had left a bundle (booby-trap) that was set off by an Australian soldier.)



Photos of Norm Wheatley: About to cut (STAB) his 100th cake; Norm as soldier; Norm Portrait; Norm & Joy Wedding; Norm & Joy.

When he came home to Australia, Norm and others were sent to Mooloolaba to defend Australia, armed only with their .303 rifles. Norm was 'mates for life' with members of his Battalion. He is a current member of the 2/16th Battalion Association.

Before the war Norm won a scholarship to Perth Modern School but he was unable to attend as his family needed him to work. After the war he was able to go straight to university without matriculating. Norm is a qualified accountant and an Arts graduate. He moved to Canberra to set up the Audit Branch for the Department of Territory and later travelled around setting up libraries and computers in schools. Norm joined the Australian Public Service in 1963. He has been married to Joy since 1949.

Norm credits his long life to staying mentally and physically active, and being cared for by Joy."

Thank you to Tony Stokes who forwarded the above information for Pigeon Post readers. We do appreciate it.

Our sincere Congratulations to Norm as he joins the 2/16th Association's **Centenarian Club**, an elite group of veterans and widows. We owe so much to them and are so very grateful for their selfless contributions both in war and peace time.

Those of us from the West, who were fortunate enough to attend the Dedication of the 2/16th Plaque at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, remember Norm and Joy for their amazing contribution to this event and their wonderful hospitality.

We are grateful too, for Norm's commitment to members of the '16th family' by laying wreaths, on the association's behalf, when they are the subject of the Australian War Memorial's Last Post Ceremony. So wonderful to have a 2/16th Veteran honouring our own.

Thank you Norm.

Margaret Smith

CHRISTMAS CARE PACKAGES FOR VETERANS AND WIDOWS

As we look forward to Christmas we want to let our Veterans and our Widows know that we are thinking of them.

We owe so very much to our Veterans for their service and the sacrifices that they made during their time in the 2/16th Battalion in World War II.

Obviously they had all left behind families and friends as they served in the various conflicts in the many countries where their battalion saw service. Many were not home to see their children enter the world, for birthdays, anniversaries or even for the farewell of loved ones who passed. So often we forget the sacrifices that they and their families made.

Now 81 years after the formation of the Battalion I believe that more than ever we are understanding these sacrifices and we are so grateful and proud of our soldiers and their families.

Our Widows are special ladies in their own right. Bringing up the children by themselves and forever wondering how their loved one was and no doubt where he was, longing for the day that he would come home.

So very sadly many husbands and fathers did not return home and the widows had to face life without the support of their partner. What an amazing thing to have to cope with; I am in awe of how so many of them were able to carry on in such very difficult circumstances.

Not only do we associate members owe them all a debt that can never be repaid, our entire nation similarly owes them all such a debt of gratitude.

This was a very special generation, the likes of which we will never see again. COVID and the ensuing lockdowns have shown us that for the majority of Australians they cannot endure the enforced separations and other restrictions that they have been forced to obey. Our battalion soldiers and their families were of a different ilk and we are so very, very proud of them.

In some small way we hope that the Christmas packages that they will all be receiving will let them know that that they are not forgotten and accept that they are sent with gratitude and love.

Mary Goldthorpe, her daughter Davina and her four children have been out on shopping sprees and will soon be packaging the small gifts that will be arriving at their homes very soon. Thank you all.

To each and everyone of you, the Association members wish you a Happy Christmas, enjoy the small box of goodies and we trust that the New Year of 2022 will treat you well enjoying good health and happiness.

Margaret Smith

CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR SOLDIERS

Twenty more Care Packages, with quite different contents, have been assembled for the 20 soldiers from 16RWAR who will be deployed, away from home and their families, over the Christmas festive season.

We do hope that this small gesture will remind the soldiers that they are not forgotten and in fact how grateful we are for their service and sacrifice just as their forebears who served wearing the "16"!

We wish them a Happy Christmas and a safe return home to their families when their deployment ends.

ENGAGEMENT CONGRATULATIONS

Our most sincere Congratulations to our Hon. Treasurer Lauren Murdoch who has recently announced her engagement to Richie Caspersz. A wedding date has been set for December 30th 2022.

Lauren is the granddaughter of WX 3254 J.K.(Ken) Murdoch and daughter of Committee Member John and associate member Carolyn Murdoch.

UPDATE FROM CO 16RWAR LT. COL. LEIGH PARTRIDGE

As we approach the end of a busy year, 2021 has proven to be another rewarding year in both operational and training settings. The year commenced at a hectic pace in early February with our soldiers immediately being required to support multiple domestic support tasks associated with the Perth Hills Bush Fires, COVID 19 tasks and State Government lockdowns. Demonstrating the continued commitment to soldiering and support to the community, 16 RWAR (and 13 Brigade) soldiers were deployed within 24 hours to assist the Police and Emergency Services in clean-up efforts for fires or implementing COVID lockdown restrictions. The speed of response and willingness to support the community was pleasing to see and encapsulates some of the service values that the unit stands for.

As April approached (and having just conducted a refit from the February/March tasks), Tropical Cyclone Seroja struck the Kalbarri coastline causing significant damage across a wide front. Again, the unit was required to rapidly deploy engineer/infantry teams in order to assist the emergency services during the post cyclone clean up. A grouping of 65 personnel from 13 Brigade (including 25 members from 16RWAR) deployed to Geraldton and provided immediate assistance in the aftermath of the cyclone. Over a two week period, spanning ANZAC Day, 16 RWAR personnel ably assisted the WA emergency services with supporting the Kalbarri region to get back on its feet after the destruction caused by TC Seroja.

During the second half of the year, the operational tempo eased and the unit was able to get back to training. The focus for the unit was improving our corps skills and preparing ourselves for new capabilities that will be brought into 16RWAR throughout 2022. Individual training courses, trade specific promotion courses, combat shooting, infantry minor tactics and engineer specific qualifications was the main effort in order to set a solid foundation for the 2022 training programme and organisational changes.

Excitingly for 16RWAR, 2022 will see the introduction of new capabilities. Changes to the Army's footprint in WA, which has included the re-raising of 10 Light Horse Regiment and planned growth of 13 Field Squadron to an engineer regiment, will see 16RWAR establishing a small boat capability and reconnaissance element. This growth has already commenced with soldiers completing small boat courses and into the future

it will see 16RWAR working closely with other amphibious elements under the evolving Army Littoral Manoeuvre concept. In addition to the growth of AMPHIB in 16RWAR, foundation warfighting will continue to be a mainstay in the training programme, building on the training completed this year.

Finally, as we break for Christmas, I ask that you spare a thought for the unit's members who are again deployed to Darwin, supporting operations in the Torres Strait. 20 members of the unit will be deployed, to support border protection in various roles, with the first element commencing tasks in early December. These members will remain on task throughout the Christmas/New Year period, conducting important operational tasks, but away from their families.

I look forward to catching up with the 2/16th Association members in early 2022 and being involved with commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign.

ASSOCIATION THANKS CO & MEN OF 16RWAR

Members of the Association appreciate the ongoing support that we receive from Lt Col Leigh Partridge, CO of 16 RWAR and his soldiers. O'Meara's Mess at Irwin Barracks Karrakatta is made available for our events and meetings for which we are very grateful.

WO II CSM Bravo Coy Stephen White is now an Associate Committee member in his own right, and still maintains our liaison with the Battalion. Stephen is the 16RWAR Representative on the committee of the 16th Battalions' Foundation. Thank you Stephen for your continued support and input. It is most welcome.

Our sincere thank you to Lt Col Leigh Partridge for his updates on the very interesting happenings within 16RWAR this year and what will be occurring in 2022. We are grateful for his commitment to support the planning for the 80th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign in 2022. We thank you for your support and assistance that is freely given whenever requested.

Associate members are so proud that the "16" is continuing to be worn with pride by the soldiers who are carrying on the proud traditions of service and sacrifice, by serving our communities so well in times of need. At short notice their jobs and families and their normal lives are put on hold as they answer the call of governments, local, state and national to support Australians who are in need.

We thank each and every one of them and their families as they put their all into assisting communities devastated by fires and cyclones and protecting all of us from the ravages of COVID as well as supporting and protecting our borders.

You are our heroes and such wonderful role models for all young Australians.

All members of the 2/16th Battalion Association thank you and we wish each one of you, especially those on deployment, and your loved ones, a Happy Christmas and all the very best for the New Year 2022.

2022 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOKODA TRACK CAMPAIGN

As reported in the September issue of Pigeon Post plans are being made around Australia to commemorate and celebrate the 80th Anniversary of The KOKODA TRACK CAMPAIGN, now recognised by so many as THE CAMPAIGN THAT SAVED AUSTRALIA.

More news of the plans being made in the Eastern States and those for our Perth commemorations will be featured in the March 2022 issue of Pigeon Post. Hopefully we will be able to publish the dates of all the events that will be held to commemorate this campaign.

We look forward to, not only the support of you, our members and your families, but support from the wider community. As Australians we owe it to all Kokoda Track Veterans to honour their service and sacrifice; as members of our association we will, with your help, spread the message to many more amongst us who call Australia home.

LEST WE FORGET

WEBSITE UPGRADE

The committee has made the decision to hand the 'upgrade' – 'development' of the Association website to a company who specialises in this work.

Whilst we try to keep expenses to a minimum and are so very grateful to our members who devote their time and energy to assist wherever they can we do realise that we need to catch up with social media before we are left too far behind.

Many new features will be made available and we expect the completed project to be available prior to ANZAC DAY 2022.

NEWS FROM VICTORIA

We are so pleased that Trevor Ingram is joining our monthly committee meetings via ZOOM. Trevor reports that with Victoria coming out of lockdown he is very hopeful or organising a luncheon and events surrounding ANZAC DAY in the new year.

Of course we will keep you updated and we are grateful that lockdown or not, Trevor makes every effort possible to keep in contact with our members in Victoria, the ACT and Tasmania. Thank you, Trevor.

NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

Queensland representative, Ian Kayler-Thomson also joined our December committee meeting via Zoom. Welcome Ian and thank you for keeping us up to date with events and news in your home state.

KOKODA MEMORIAL SERVICE KINGS PARK 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday 19th September saw our Annual Kokoda Memorial Service held in Kings Park. It was a typical spring day with quite a crowd of the general public in the park to see the magnificent wildflowers.

The Australian Army Band Perth, Pipes and Drums, playing prior to the Service, caught the attention of many passers-by and The Salvation Army van did a roaring trade.

Numbers attending were down on other years but, despite this, there were several people who had not been before and were keen to become members of the Association. They were there to honour family members who had served in the proud Battalion.

We were thrilled to have Nan Harper amongst us and she laid a wreath supported by family members. Judy Mathwin was unable to attend but sent her best wishes through her son Nan and Judy are Pottsie's (Brig. Potts) daughters.

'Scotty', David Scott, was there as usual to play The Last Post and Reveille. Many thanks to him and the Pipes and Drums for their unfailing support. They add so much to the occasion by being there.

Because of our long-standing connections with Guildford Grammar School, Martin Dell was invited to be our Guest Speaker. Martin is the Officer Commanding of the Cadet Unit at Guildford Grammar. It was an entertaining story of his "awakening" to the proud history of the 2/16th Battalion. Thank You Martin.

Penny Thomas

ADDRESS BY OC GUILDFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL CADET UNIT KOKODA MEMORIAL DAY

Good Morning. My name is Martin Dell and I am the Officer Commanding of the Guildford Grammar School Cadet Unit. I am honoured to have been asked to address you this morning. As many of you would be aware, Brigadier Arnold Potts was an old boy of Guildford Grammar School and served as a Colour Sergeant in the school cadet unit around 110 years ago. When Mary asked me to speak this morning on the topic of 'what Kokoda means to me', it led me to reflect upon my knowledge of the campaign

and of military history more widely. Having grown up in the 1970s in the UK, the major military events I had been aware of at that time were The Western Front, Dunkirk, The Battle of Britain and D Day.

My family had certainly been impacted by both World Wars. One of my great-grandfathers served in The Royal Navy during World War I and saw action in The Battle of The Falkland Islands, whilst both my grandfathers served in The Royal Navy during World War II. My father was evacuated from Plymouth, where his family lived close to the docklands, during the height of the Blitz. One of my mother's maternal cousins was raised by my maternal grandparents after his father was killed in The Battle of Britain. For my family, my generation was the first that was not directly affected by war and certainly I do not recall hearing, or learning, about the Kokoda Campaign whilst I was at school in the United Kingdom.

When I initially moved to Perth in 2000, I initially recall hearing about the Kokoda Track as a physical challenge or teambuilding exercise, but even then I was not aware of the military history behind it. It was not until I started teaching at Guildford in 2008 and later became involved with the cadet unit that I started to become acquainted with the significance of the campaign.

I was privileged to be invited to one of the Foundations early Dinners, in 2013, and recall the impact that chatting to some of the veterans had, on both myself and the senior cadets who attended. The matter of fact way in which they recalled the hardships and dangers they had endured was certainly memorable.

So having set the scene with regard to my knowledge of the campaign, or rather the lack of it, what does Kokoda mean to me? I think that three different aspects of the campaign stand out.

Firstly, the extreme physical hardship and prolonged proximity to the enemy endured by the soldiers during the campaign are notable. Whilst there are some parallels with Gallipoli, The Western Front and Vietnam, the heat and steep terrain of The Kokoda Track are notorious and indeed, are often described as the defining features of the campaign.

Secondly, I believe the campaign was a clear example of Brigadiers Potts' tactical awareness and military leadership. Despite overwhelming odds, the difficult terrain, the lack of effective communications and the number of wounded carried by his men, he managed to achieve a fighting withdrawal back along the Track.

Lastly, the Kokoda Campaign highlights the gulf between those who actively participate in combat and those who observe from a distance, either in higher command, in government at the time, or indeed, those who look back through the years as we do today.

I think it is almost impossible for those who have not been called to serve during time of war, to fully appreciate the hardships and suffering that those men endured. All we can do is be thankful that they did and that young men and women continue to be willing to serve in our Defence Force today.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021 KINGS PARK PERTH

A large crowd gathered at the Flame of Remembrance at the State War Memorial just prior to 11AM on Thursday 11th November. A very warm spring day greeted the assembled people, veterans, families, dignitaries and many who just wanted to show their respect and gratitude, as they waited for the commemoration to begin.

2021 Remembrance Day Commemorations were held in the presence of The Hon. Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia, the Premier Mark McGowan and senior representatives of the three Armed Services, The Salvation Army and the WA Police Force. Mr John McCourt, CEO of RSLWA was the MC.

The Churchlands Senior High School Band and Choir played in the lead up to the ceremony including a fine rendition of the 16th Marching Song.

The two Pipers in attendance from the Australian Army Band Perth Pipes and Drums were two of our associate members, Davina Goldthorpe and Damien Stilwell. The Bugler for the ceremony was from the Royal Australian Navy and a flypast by a single PC21 from the RAAF was right on schedule. A large service helicopter maintained a presence over the city and Swan River throughout. This year's Guest Speaker was Air Commodore Fiona Dowse from the RAAF.

Mary Goldthorpe laid a wreath on behalf of our Association. Association members Marion Clive and George McQuade were both in attendance.

Marion, seemingly effortlessly, manages the Memorial Roster to ensure that it is always looking its best and George was active for many, many years managing the association's banners and flags as well as, with fellow member Earle Hopkins, spending many hours taking care of the Kokoda Walkway from the 16th Precincts, passing on the river side of the State War Memorial and winding around until the final descent down Mt Eliza to the Swan.

Prior to the official commemorations, Association members laid a wreath of beautiful blue and white flowers, the colours of the 16th and 2/16th colour patch, on the Memorial at the 16th Battalions' Precinct overlooking the beautiful Swan River, just to the north of the State War Memorial.

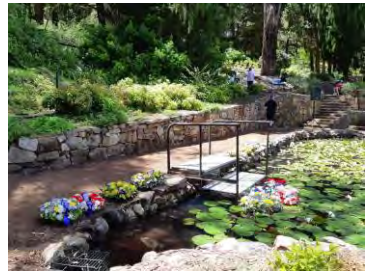
REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE ARALUEN BOTANIC PARK WA 11.11.2021

On Remembrance Day this year I had the very great pleasure of laying a wreath on behalf of the Association at Araluen Botanic Park. Araluen is situated some 60 kms from Perth in a sheltered valley in the Darling Ranges. As locals would know, Araluen has a very long history. The Grove of the Unforgotten was built to honour the memory of 88 Young Australia League (YAL) members killed in World War 1. It is situated on a steep hillside with a waterfall, gardens and amazing stone walls and footpaths.

The first Armistice Day Ceremony, now called Remembrance Day, was held at the site in 1934. The Pool of Reflection is at the base of the Grove and those wreaths that would float were put amongst the lilies. The others were placed along the pool wall. There were at least a dozen colourful displays.

The Commemorative Address was given by Joe Librizzi, a Vietnam Veteran, who related a different side of that War than we usually hear about. It was his personal experience when assisting a local village re-establish food crops and a market place. His Christmas church service being like no other!! It was very moving.

Two young men from Armadale Senior High School spoke also. One recited a poem called "Forever We Shall Remember" while the other lad told the story of Private John Mason, an Aboriginal soldier. Three young ladies from Roleystone Community College sang two songs. It was great to see so many schools involved in the occasion, both primary and secondary levels. Each school in attendance laid a wreath.



The Town of Victoria Park Brass Band played The Last Post, Rouse and the National Anthem adding the final touch to a great dedication.

Penny Thomas

ANNUAL COUNTRY LUNCH AND REUNION BUNBURY 2021

This year's event in Bunbury was an outstanding success thanks to the dedication and commitment of Mary Goldthorpe, Association Vice President. Mary contacted past attendees, regulars and also encouraged members living within the region to join in the Memorial Service and lunch that followed.

Over recent years the numbers attending have fallen dramatically, so from having a weekend of celebrations in Bunbury, where over 100 plus Veterans, widows, members and their families enjoyed the comradery, we have celebrated with a Memorial Service and Luncheon with fewer than 30 people attending.

2021 saw over 40 people meet at the Bunbury War Memorial at 11am on Sunday 24th October for a Memorial Service to honour and remember the service and sacrifice of the men of the 2/16th Battalion.

Bagpiper and committee member Davina Goldthorpe drew the crowd together as the clock moved close to 11am and the start of the short but emotional service that involved all those present.

Wreaths were laid, the first on behalf of the Association by President Mr Bill Grayden, followed by many family members who laid flowers for their departed love ones. Mary again provided sprigs of Rosemary, the symbol of Remembrance, for those wishing to pay their respects to family and to all members of the Battalion, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice and did not return home to their/ our wonderful country, Australia, for which they had given their all.

The Ode was recited by Ken Walker, a committee member who had travelled from Perth with wife Margaret. Preceding the two minutes silence the Bugler played The Last Post , the Australian flag and the Battalion flag were lowered to half- mast and then the sounds of the bugle broke the silence of peoples' thoughts and silent contemplation with the playing of the Rouse.

We are grateful to our bugler Graham Martinson from the Bunbury City Band who came to the rescue when our Bugler for many past years, Brett Corker was called away.

It was a beautiful day and it seemed that everyone was enjoying meeting and greeting, still congregated at the War Memorial at the end of the service. The Stilwell children undertook the task of ensuring that everyone attending the lunch at The Lord Forrest made their choice of meals so that the hotel's kitchen could be prepared. Mary had ensured that The Lord Forrest would cater for our group as they now operate on reduced restaurant hours. The food turned out to be amazing and everyone complimented the chef.

Prior to lunch being served Mary welcomed the guests and read out the names of 2/16th Battalion members who were being honoured by the presence of family and friends.

WX11256 T. ELPHICK
WX4356 GEORGE EDWARD MORRIS
WX12928 JOSEPH JAMES PEARCE
WX5867 NOEL STUCHBURY
WX2859 RONALD KEITH WISEMAN

WX1558 DOUGLAS G HORLEY
WX3254 JAMES KENYON MURDOCH
WX7283 JOHN E. SMITH
WX5620 WILLIAM (BILL) WALKER

Also GEORGE MCKENZIE although not a member of the Battalion, George had trained the Battalion members in 1940, whilst they were in camp, in Northam W.A. Of course all members of the Battalion were remembered and honoured on that day.

During the lunch new friends were made and people enjoyed catching up with those that they only get to see at the Bunbury Reunion each year.

The accompanying photos were taken by Frank Pearce who has become a 'regular' with his mother, Agnes, Widow of WX 12928 Joseph James Pearce. We do look forward to seeing them each October.



It was wonderful to see so many new faces amongst those who travel from Perth each and every year, and the loyal bunch of country people who are increasing in number each year. Everyone attending was thrilled to see our Association President, 2/16th Battalion Veteran, the Hon. Bill Grayden in attendance. It added so much to the significance of who and what we were all there to commemorate. At a grand 101 years of age it is quite an undertaking to do a return trip from Perth in one day. Thank you Mr Grayden, and thanks also to son Jim, Association Vice President and his lovely wife Tammy for escorting our President to Bunbury.

Former Association Vice President, Mark Stuchbury was once again accompanied by his wife Ann and son Lance. Perth attendees are always delighted to see Mark and his family as we do miss him since he and Ann moved to Harvey to be closer to their family.

The number of country people who attended this year was amazing with David & Janine Morris (WX 7283 George Morris) travelling from Boyup; Jacynth Reid, daughter of WX1588 Capt. Douglas Horley and her daughters Margot and Tammie, who had joined with us only last year, bringing along many family members to make it three generations of Capt. Horley's family. Jacynth is the last remaining child of Capt. Horley.

Family members namely, Riki Horley, Lucinda and Noel Cobb with their children (all beautiful young adults), Renee, Jake, Dallas & Campbell, and Sarah & Patrick Williams and Peter & Carolyn Reid travelled from Donnybrook, Williams and Perth to join the family Matriarch Jasynth. It was very special to see three generations of another family there.

Our other family with three generations in attendance was the family of Ken Murdoch. Mary Goldthorpe, with daughter Davina & her husband, Damien Stilwell with Stirling, Neve, Hadley and Amity who have all attended most association functions since before their births. Davina is one amazing young lady who does not let a pregnancy or four, restrict her commitment to her maternal grandfather's battalion. Davina and Damien regularly support our functions as Pipers with the Australian Army Pipes and Drums Perth. We do owe them our sincere thanks and gratitude for their commitment. Margaret & Brian Smith and John & Carolyn Murdoch added to the Murdoch family representation.

Jenny Bagshaw from Bridgetown was another very welcome attendee for her second year in a row. We were very pleased to see Jenny who submitted her application for Associate Membership that day. (The membership application was approved at the November committee meeting so 'Welcome Jenny' to the many other family and friends who proudly remember and commemorate the members of the gallant 2/16th Battalion.) Jenny's father was WX12256 T Elphick.

Kevin and Jillian McKenzie were first-timers who travelled from Collie; son and daughter-in-law of George McKenzie. Others who travelled from Perth were regulars,

Bruce & Noelene Wiseman . Ian & Marilyn Smith (WX 7283 John E. Smith) also made the trip down from Perth and it was very pleasing to see Ken & Margaret Walker there also.

The 2021 Bunbury Memorial Service and Country Reunion was a special time, meeting family members of our veterans as we all came together with one purpose, to Honour the men of the 2/16th Battalion who sacrificed so much.

Grateful thanks are due to Mary Goldthorpe, who once again organised the events and made every effort to ensure that numbers attending are rising, ensuring the 2/16th Battalion Association will continue to grow and fulfil its objects, "to preserve and perpetuate the name, records and traditions of the 16th and the 2/16th Battalions" which in turn acknowledge the contributions of these Battalions and promote greater community awareness of their heroic deeds.

In 2022 we hope to welcome many, many more friends and family, especially members from Perth, as we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Kokoda Track.

Margaret Smith



NAME BADGES FOR MEMBERS

Mary Goldthorpe is in the process of collecting names from those members who would like to receive their personal name badge. It is particularly useful to wear one if you represent the association at events or meetings.



The cost is \$25 per badge. Please send details of NAME you wish to be on badge to Mary at mary.goldthorpe@yahoo.com.au or PO, BOX 434, COTTESLOE W.A 6011

Payment made be made by cheque or money order to 2/16th Battalion (A.I.F) Association or by Electronic funds transfer to Bendigo Bank BSB: 633-000 Account: 1499-652-95. Please ensure NAME is associated with each payment plus "badge"! All contact & banking details can be found in every edition of Pigeon Post.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Due to the inclusion of the AGM MINUTES, and the many reports of recent events we, unfortunately, need to carry over much information that we wished to share with you in this issue.

Therefore the March 2022 issue will contain updates on the wonderful progress being made with the History Room and details of items that have been recently donated. There will also be an introduction to the members of the Committee of your association. Details re the commemorations of the 80th Anniversary of Kokoda will also be included. There is much to look forward to and we would love to hear from you with your memories, photos, poetry, questions or comments- good or bad. All contact details for Pigeon Post can be found on page 1.

Margaret Smith

FIFTY ONE YEARS OF PRINTING PIGEON POST



Since 1970, Peter from PK PRINT, has been responsible for the printing of the Pigeon Post, the 2/16th Battalion Association's quarterly magazine that is distributed to all its members around Australia and overseas; copies also go to, The State Library of WA, The Australian War Memorial, and the RSLWA.

In 2021, each quarter has seen around 450 copies printed; this continuing despite the issues being available digitally. Members really enjoy 'turning the pages'.

Peter says "I first printed Pigeon Post back in 1970 when I was an apprentice at West Australian Newspapers. I continued to print or arrange production until 1987 when I left and commenced PK Print. I have printed the magazine at PK Print since our inception in 1987. At one stage we were typesetting, printing and mailing the magazine."

Thank you to Peter and his staff at PK Print for such wonderful service and commitment to our association and Pigeon Post for over half a century! The fact that most of our members still want the printed copy is a testament to Peter and the quality of the magazine that he produces.

Many times that I know of, Peter has gone over and beyond just printing our magazine, always ensuring that it gets printed on time and even delivering the finished product to our "envelope stuffer".

It was amazing to hear that Peter was doing the job that takes at least three of our members to do. THANK YOU PETER! May we hope for another fifty years?



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

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.