



## SAVE THE DATE

2024 Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration

Friday 2 August 2024 6.30pm  
ANZAC Club Perth

Orator - Nova Peris OAM

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**2/16th Memorial ANZAC Service**

**21 April 2024**

10.30am for 11am Service

Further information contact Peter Norrish

[peterchucknorrish@gmail.com](mailto:peterchucknorrish@gmail.com)

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**May Lunch**

**11 May 2024 11am**

**Bedford/ Morley RSL**

**TICKETS \$55 PP <https://www.trybooking.com/CPYMX>**

**BOOKINGS CLOSE ON TUESDAY 30TH APRIL**





# PIGEON POST

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



Vol. 58, No. 156

Price 5c

March 2024

## EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE

Of 2/16 BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION (Inc) 2023-2024

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RFD, KC (Ret'd)

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### EASTERN STATES REPRESENTATIVES:

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# Welcome

*Welcome to 2024 and the March edition of Pigeon Post.*

*We hope you have had a smooth start to the year, although it does seem to be zooming by.*

*And with the passage of time we are losing more of our Veterans. We send our thoughts out to the families of Reg and Harold. We Will Remember Them.*

*Preparations are well at hand for ANZAC Day commemorations and you will find all the information within these pages for the services and activities happening in Perth, Victoria and QLD.*

*It was lovely to see people coming together for the first get together of the year in Kings Park. There are many activities planned across the year so lots more opportunities to join us. If you have never been to a 2/16th event then consider 2024 to be your year! Check the dates on the back page and place them in your diary, book your ticket or simply turn up to the get togethers in July and November. We can't wait to see you.*

*This edition also has the AGM minutes and reports so you can stay up to date with the happenings of the Committee. We are very fortunate to have new members willing to join and support our Association.*

*Enjoy the read, and we look forward to seeing you across the year.*

*Davina and Margaret*

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

# Letters

From Joy & Norm Wheatley  
ACT

Thank you all for the Christmas goodies and Good Wishes, which are returned in full!

*Editor: Thank you so very much, we are glad you enjoyed your "goodies". We sincerely Thank you for your generous donation that was included with your message of thanks.*

Norm, WX 4280, our only known veteran in the ACT, joined the 2/16th Battalion Association's Centenarian Club in 2021. We trust both Norm and Joy are enjoying good health.

---

From Marion Isles WIDOW of TX2434 M.L.ISLES  
TASMANIA

Dear Association

Many thanks for the box of goodies which arrived yesterday. There were some lovely surprises. The box was decorated with the May Gibbs characters and is very pretty.

Thank you so much. I will enjoy looking at them all and eating some. I am pleased to have such a lovely present.

Sincerely,  
Marion Isles.

*Editor: It is always lovely to hear from you Marion. Thank You. We are happy that you enjoyed your little box of goodies. Mary and her grandchildren always find some great little things to include. Hoping you are enjoying good health and good times.*

---

From Neville Browning  
PERTH

To Pigeon Post

I would like to request a post in the Pigeon Post regarding my book on the 16TH BATTALION A.I.F. in WORLD War 1, if ok with you.

I did a Book Launch at Perth Town Hall in November 2022 and had 350 people turn up, quite a few with a 2/16th connection. I have attached a photo of the book cover and an order form and added a few details re the book.

Regards and Thank you  
Neville Browning OAM

*Editor: Neville, thank you for your request and we will happily include it in this March issue. I know many of our members attended your book launch and speak highly of, not only the launch, but also your book itself. I trust many more people will take advantage of your offer.*

Details of "BAYONETS AND BARBED WIRE 16th Battalion AIF" by Neville Browning can be found on later pages of this issue.

---

From Wayne Koch  
PERTH

To Pigeon Post, Hello Margaret

Below is some history of my Grandfather on my mother's side. I only found this information out after being a bit better military informed as described further below.

Thus, I was able to research in 1970 from hard copy Encyclopaedia Britannica, the history from his ribbons which I identified the Military Cross awarded for Gallantry, which will be detailed later. (May be referred to as "one man at war!")

When national service was introduced in Australia in 1965 I was, on turning 20 years old, conscripted to serve my 2 years. During my service I served in Vietnam from November 1968 to November 1969 with the Royal Australian Army Service Corps with Headquarters, 1st Australian Task Force.

In 2012 I made a trip to Gallipoli with 26 other Australian Conservation Volunteers to help with the commemorations of ANZAC Day 2012. Ninety seven (97) years before, on April 25th 1915, my Grandfather Stan Hummerston was where I stood, Shrapnel Valley and Lone Pine.

This was truly a time of reflection. However, this is not a story about me.

Respectively,  
Wayne Koch

*Editor: I have cut Wayne's letter, and the story there, but they are continued on pages further into this issue. We are grateful to Wayne for sharing his and his grandfather's story. I trust that you, our readers, will find this story, which includes letters written home (Stan, to his father) by this 16th Battalion Veteran from Egypt and "somewhere in France", every bit as mind-blowing as I did reading these letters written so many years ago that are now part of the never-to-be-forgotten history of 16th Battalion and Wayne's family.*

*Wayne, thank you so much for sharing this wonderful story of Horace Stanley Hummerston, (Stan) # 677.*

Hi Margaret

My wife, Noelene and I, David Walker were present with a former 2/16 Battalion soldier, Trevor Brooker when he celebrated his 100 year birthday with family and friends at Dungog, NSW.

Noelene and I have become close friends to Trevor and his family over the past years. I have a close connection to the 2/16th Association being the second son of WX 5620 William 'Bill' Walker and Mum, Tana, also knew the Brooker family.

Over the years Trevor and I have had some great conversations in reference to our life journey, both civilian and military service.

I have written a short snapshot of this remarkable person in reference to his life journey. It would be great if you could publish his story in the Pigeon Post.

*Editor: Thank you, David. It is our pleasure to include Trevor's story in this issue of Pigeon Post. Trevor has, for so very many years now, been a dedicated Representative of our association for the members, family and friends in NSW. Trevor, with his lovely wife Edna have always warmly welcomed Association members from all over Australia into their home. I, too, have enjoyed their generous hospitality.*

*Another fact, maybe not known to many, is that Trevor, a Sydney Royal Easter Show Winner for his amazing cross stitch, is the gentleman who has stitched the 2/16 colour patch and made into Ladies brooches that so many of us are very proud to own and wear.*

*David's short snapshot can be found within this issue, Enjoy the read.*

---

From Greg Ivey  
PIB-NGIN-HQ-PIR Association

Dear Editors

I found it very interesting to read in your December 2023 journal the details about the Joint Commemorative Service held recently with the PNGDF Maritime Element in Kings Park.

As shown in your reproduction of the Order of Service, our representative laid a Wreath to honour the PNG and 2/16th Battalion casualties of that Kokoda/ Port Moresby Campaign.

Also of great interest in your journal were the eulogies for Ossie Merritt (QX 50338) and Grace McLuskie-Higgs, both from Woombye Qld. My wife has a long family connection to Woombye and to Buderim which was also frequently mentioned. While we now live in Buderim, I have maintained a military connection to Woombye which has a small

Commonwealth War Cemetery (see picture below). I like to visit this Cemetery to honour the War casualties, for example Pte D.J. Green, No. 1 Canadian Special Wireless Group (secret code breakers), who died from drowning at nearby Maroochydore Beach in March 1945.

Regards,  
Greg Ivey  
Vice President, PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR Association



*Editor: Thank you, Greg, we are very pleased that you enjoyed our article covering the amazing Commemorative Service held with the PNGDF Crew of the latest addition to the PNG fleet. Your representative here in WA, Graeme Johnson is well known to us and it is an absolute pleasure to welcome him and his wife Cheryl, to our association events. It is very interesting to hear of your wife's connection to Woombye and Buderim.*

*How wonderful that you continue to honour our servicemen who have been laid to rest at the Commonwealth War Graves, Woombye Cemetery. Thank you for your dedication and commitment and that shown especially to our Canadian 'cousin' Pte.D.J.Green who sadly passed so far from home.*

## LEST WE FORGET





# Subs & Donations

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2023-2024**

All SUBS are now due to comply with the Association's financial year from 1st July to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 were due for renewal in June 2022. If you are unsure of your membership status please contact the Treasurer.**

*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**

### **SUBS and DONATIONS**

A correction to an entry in December issue should have noted subs as paid in November as R. PALMER \$100 5 Year membership.

#### **DECEMBER 2023**

Lance Stuchbury \$50 for Years 2024 & 2025

#### **FEBRUARY 2024**

Peter Cary \$25

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Michelle Morrison Daughter of NX173972 Fuller R.L. (Russell)

Doug Farmer Son of WX5656 Lennard Arthur Farmer

Peter Hack Relative of WX3921 Ron Hack

Cheryl Kuber Daughter of QX50338 Ossie Merritt

Mary Price Granddaughter of WX1574 Brig.A.W.Potts

# Guardian Roster

APRIL - week commencing		MAY	
1/4/24	Leanne Sammels	6/5/24	Ellen Anderson-Knight
8/4/24	Wayne Koch	13/5/24	Marion Clive
15/4/24	Anna Pollard	20/5/24	Wayne Koch
22/4/24	Noelene Wiseman	27/5/24	Gawned Family
29/4/24	Janice McKenzie		

JUNE – week commencing	
3/6/24	Noelene Wiseman
10/6/24	Peter Norrish
17/6/24	Anna Pollard
24/6/24	Janice McKenzie

**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.

*Marion Clive*

## WE WOULD LOVE TO WELCOME YOU

Members of the 2/16th Battalion Association would be delighted to welcome you, your family and friends to all of our association events. Committee members are always looking at ways to encourage more of our members to embrace their heritage, and/or to engage in the history of the proud '16', the original 16th Battalion WWI and 2/16th Battalion WWII.

The 16 Royal Western Australian Regiment, stationed at Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta proudly honours the tradition of Service & Sacrifice as established by their forebears. As an association we celebrate our heritage and honour our fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers, uncles, brothers and friends, and we welcome anyone who may not be as fortunate as many to have a '16' family member. Please do join us at the many functions that we hold each and every year.

Our next event is the MEMORIAL SERVICE, this year being held on Sunday 21 April at the 16th Battalions' Precinct, home to the memorials for 16th and 2/16th, just to the north of the State War Memorial. From 10.30am, The Australian Army Band Perth, Pipes and Drums will be gathering people towards the Service which will commence at 11am. It is a short, but poignant service and everyone is invited to lay flowers, or a sprig of Rosemary (provided) in Remembrance. The Salvation Army attend and tea and coffee and usually some home made goodies are available for a donation. Many families bring along a picnic lunch to enjoy after the service.

We would love to Welcome you.

*Margaret Smith*

## 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

NX119717 WEBER R.S. Reg

VX108906 RADLEY H.W. Harold

It is our sad duty to acknowledge the passing of two of the 2/16th Battalion Association's Centenarians, Reg Weber and Harold Radley both Life Members, and both Veterans of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F.

The 2/16th Association extends sincere sympathy to the families and friends of Reg and Harold.

## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



**NX119717 REGINALD SYDNEY WEBER**  
**Private 2/16th Battalion - 7th Division – AIF – WWII**



The 2/16th Association lost contact with Reg when he moved from his long-term residence and his copies of Pigeon Post were returned marked “Return to Sender Address unknown”. After this happening quite a few times, Vice President Mary Goldthorpe did some detective work and fortunately tracked Reg down. This happened not long before Reg was to celebrate his 100th Birthday and join other 2/16th Centenarians.

Thankfully, we were able to let Reg know that his old Battalion, and all its members had not forgotten him and his service and were able to CONGRATULATE Reg with a Battalion 100th Birthday card and a gift basket, to help him celebrate his CENTENARY with family and friends in September 2023.



Sadly, our next contact from Reg’s family was the sad news of his passing in December. We are grateful to Reg’s sons, Greg and Ken for forwarding Reg’s own story of his life up to the Markham Valley Campaign in PNG. We are very happy to publish some of Reg’s life story as he wrote it. Reg’s story will be in the next issue of Pigeon Post (June 2024).



Reg Weber 2nd from right Toowoomba 1942

**VX108906 HAROLD RADLEY**

Harold celebrated his 100th birthday in September 2022 and was recognised with Life Membership by the Association in April 2023. His Niece, Jen Regan provided information on her Uncle at the time and a full story will be included in the June edition. After serving with 2/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion in PNG, and at the end of the war Harold was deployed to peacekeeping. On his return to civilian life he became a builder, married Marie and built their home in West Pymble NSW. They had two sons, Stephen and William. Marie passed in 2000 and William in 2003. Harold still very much enjoyed his biweekly outing to have fish-n-chips at the fish factory.

# Articles & Reports

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
2/16TH BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION INC.  
HELD AT O'MEARA'S MESS, IRWIN BARRACKS, KARRAKATTA WA ON  
SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2023**

Meeting Opened at 10:36 am

**Chair:** Vice President Mary Goldthorpe.

**Present:** Peter Norrish, Jim Grayden, Penny Thomas, Anna Pollard, Wayne Koch, Margaret Smith (online), Trevor Ingram (online), Steve Harrold (online). Apologies: Bill Grayden, Davina Goldthorpe, Steve White, Ken Walker, John Murdoch, Travis Hocart, Joanne Baker.

**Vale:** During this year the Association has seen the passing of Beryl Wilder (widow), Tom Keith (veteran), William Forrest (veteran), Phil Clover (past Committee), Dorothy Tideman (widow), Joan Howard (widow), Margaret Woods (widow), Grace McLuskie-Higgs (widow), Mark Stuchbury (past Committee).

Minutes of the last AGM on 6th November 2022 were tabled, after prior distribution by email. The Chair outlined the content to the meeting.

**Motion:** The Minutes of the last AGM on 6th November 2022 be accepted as accurate. Moved by A Pollard, seconded by J Grayden. Carried.

## **Finance Report**

The Chair (on behalf of the Treasurer) tabled a copy of the Auditors Report dated 31st August 2023, from R A Gibb.

The Treasurer summarized the year as having a total income of \$27,995.05 and total expenditure of \$61,295.21 leaving a loss of \$33,300.16. In 2022-2023 the Association funded the past three annual winners of the Potts Scholarship to trek Kokoda Track, clearing the backlog created by the Covid-19 pandemic travel limitations.

The Finance Report is available to Members to view and can be arranged by contacting the Secretary or Treasurer.

**Motion:** The Financial Audit report for the Year ended 30th June 2023 be accepted. Moved by Jim Grayden, seconded by Anna Pollard. Carried.

## **Reports tabled.**

**Presidents Report:** VP Jim Grayden read the Presidents Report on behalf of President Bill Grayden. The report was distributed via email prior to the meeting.

**Victorian Report:** Trevor Ingram provided a written report (attached) via email to the Committee and spoke to the Report during the meeting. Membership in Victoria, Tasmania and ACT is currently 50 Associate Members and Trevor continues to represent the Association at meetings and events held by the 2/14th Battalion Association and the 39th Battalion Association.

**Queensland Report:** Steve Harrold provided a written report (attached) via email to the Committee and spoke to the Report during the meeting. Queensland membership grown this year, and more are anticipated. The 2/16th Battalion will be present at the Brisbane ANZAC Day March in 2024.

**Pigeon Post:** Margaret Smith tabled a written report (attached) via email prior to the meeting. Mary Goldthorpe spoke to the Report in the meeting, as Margaret didn't link online until later. Anna Pollard spoke to the Report that she disagreed with the Report's statement that the Committee was not keeping members up to date with what was under consideration and what decisions are made.

**Website and social media:** Peter Norrish tabled an email Report from Chris Hoath and spoke to that Report. In the past 12 months website page views have increased 1,136% and Facebook reached 12,999 users an increase of 827%. The meeting asked that more photographs be posted on Facebook to generate further interest.

**Social Report and Honours and Awards:** Mary Goldthorpe tabled an email Report prior to the meeting and spoke to the Report. Discussion followed on scheduling of events in 2024 and the purpose of the Potts Oration event. Life Membership was presented to veteran Harold Radley in Queensland and veteran Russell Fuller. Veteran Reg Weber will receive Life Membership this year.

The Scholarship winner for 2022 was Lcpl Brodie Lewis.

The Potts Award at 16RWAR, for outstanding commitment, went jointly to Pte Simpson and Pte Stefaneti.

The Guildford Grammar School Award went to Alexander McAuliffe

**Motion:** The tabled Reports be accepted. Moved by Penny Thomas, seconded by Wayne Koch. Carried.

**Honorariums:** In 2022 the honorariums were \$350 to the Secretary, \$350 to the Treasurer and \$400 to the Editor of Pigeon Post, as this was shared by Margaret Smith and Davina Goldthorpe.

**Motion:** The honorariums for 2023 be maintained at the same level as last year. Moved by Jim Grayden, seconded by Anna Pollard. Carried.

**Election of Executive and Committee for 2023-2024.**

Bill Grayden was nominated again as President and due to his willingness to continue in the position a motion was put to the meeting to overcome the Constitution limit of only three years as President.

**Motion:** Mr. Bill Grayden be permitted to again exceed the normal time limit on service as President for another year. Moved by Margaret Smith, seconded by Wayne Koch. Carried unanimously.

The Chair declared all positions vacant and asked for nominations.

**President** – Bill Grayden was the only nomination and the meeting agreed he is an ideal figurehead for our Association. Elected unopposed.

**Vice Presidents** – Mary Goldthorpe and Jim Grayden were both nominated and accepted nomination. Elected unopposed.

**Secretary:** Peter Norrish was nominated and agreed. Elected unopposed.

**Treasurer:** Jo Baker has advised she will be unable to attend Sunday meetings and is resigning from the position. The meeting thanked her for her outstanding service as Treasurer. There being no nominations for Treasurer, Mary Goldthorpe undertook to perform the duties of Treasurer until one can be identified.

**Victoria, Tasmania and ACT Representative:** Trevor Ingram accepted nomination.

**Queensland Representative:** Stephen Harrold accepted nomination.

**Committee:**

The following people were nominated and accepted.

John Murdoch  
Ken Walker  
Penny Thomas  
Anna Pollard  
Wayne Koch  
Travis Hocart  
Steve White  
Faye Utting  
Phil Utting  
Verity Hobbs.

**Patron:** Major General The Hon. Len Roberts-Smith RFD, KC (Ret'd) has indicated he is willing to continue as our Patron.

**Motion:** The Associations Patron for 2023-2024 be Major General Len Roberts-Smith. Moved by Jim Grayden, seconded by Mary Goldthorpe. Carried.

**Auditor:** Rob Gibb has indicated he is willing to continue as Auditor for the next financial year.

**Motion:** The Associations Auditor be Rob Gibb for 2023-2024. Moved by Jim Grayden, seconded by Mary Goldthorpe. Carried.

**Subscriptions:** Last year's subscriptions were \$25/year per Member, or \$100 for 5 years per member and \$10 for children. The Committee discussed and agreed it continue at that level.

**Motion:** Subscription for 2023-2024 be \$25 per year per member or \$100 per member for five years and \$10 for children. Moved by Jim Grayden, seconded by Trevor Ingram. Carried.

Discussion over Committee numbers identified a need for Committee members to attend meetings to achieve a quorum. The implementation of Zoom online meetings has made this easier to achieve.

**General Business agreed by the Chair:**

Other business and the Monthly October meeting were agreed to be held over until the next monthly meeting on Sunday 5th November 2023.

Next AGM will be Sunday 6th October 2024 at 10:30 am  
O'Meara's Mess, Irwin Barracks.  
AGM Closed at 12:00pm.

- President: Bill Grayden
- Vice President: Mary Goldthorpe
- Vice President: Jim Grayden
- Secretary: Peter Norrish

Minutes endorsed as accurate .....



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to all committee members, office holders, members and visitors for attending our 2023 AGM in person and remotely.

I wish to thank all committee members and office holders for their work over the past year and I want to acknowledge the significant contribution of all who have fulfilled duties since our last AGM. I want to thank those who are accepting or continuing in office as well as those who are stepping down. In every case your contribution has been of enormous value to our Association. Simply put, we could not operate without your selfless support.

I thank our members who have supported the various functions and events during the year. The May Luncheon was well-attended and a very successful event attracting significant support from kindred organisations.

The 2023 Potts Oration delivered by David Cameron at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle was another highlight. The event was thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining despite slightly reduced numbers. Nonetheless, it is an important function honouring "Potts" and his courage and leadership of the 2/16th Battalion during our darkest hours.

A notable achievement this year has been the continued improvement and development of our website which has been very positive and has attracted numerous enquiries from the public. Members are encouraged to visit the website regularly to investigate the new format and content.

During the year, our various functions throughout Australia have resulted in the recruitment of a number of new members and I thank our interstate representatives - Trevor Ingram and Steve Harrold - for their work in keeping the legacy of the 2/16th Battalion alive in the Eastern States.

I thank Margaret Smith and Davina Goldthorpe for the work in putting together Pigeon Post every quarter. This is an essential task and one that is constantly working to a deadline for printing and post.

I want to thank our retiring Treasurer, Jo Baker for her efforts in that vitally important role and Peter Norrish as our Secretary.

The roles of Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary have among the most onerous workloads day-to-day and both Jo and Peter have acquitted themselves with distinction.

I must make special mention of our long-serving vice president Mary Goldthorpe. Her dedicated contribution in every aspect of the operation of our association cannot be

overstated. Mary is largely responsible for organising almost all of our functions throughout the year and without her efforts I am certain that the Association would not function as it does.

Finally, I thank all of those who have supported the association over the past year just some of who include - 16 Bn CO Lachlan Bromley, 16 Bn RSM WO1 Richard Bushnell, Padre Matt Hall, 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 2024.

Bill Grayden  
President

### VIC/ACT/TAS REPORT FOR 2023 AGM

**Last Post** for South East Aus members since Oct 2022  
No Known Deaths

#### **Membership in SE Aus:**

According to membership records we have 44 Association members in VIC, 4x in ACT (incl Jerrabomberra) & 2x in TAS.

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 is 102 and in Aged Care.

#### **Functions attended in Victoria during 2023:**

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

24th April 2023: 2/14th Btn Assoc annual reunion luncheon at East Malvern RSL; Trevor & Dawn Ingram attended.

25th April 2023: ANZAC March in Melbourne with 12x 2/16th marchers plus seven cadets from Camberwell Grammar as banner bearers

25th April 2023: 2/16th combined ANZAC Day luncheon with 39th, 2/14th and 2/27th Battalion Associations at Rising Sun Hotel, South Melbourne; 35 participants.

26th April 2023: ANZAC Commemorative service for schools & service organisations at Dandenong Ranges NP Kokoda memorials (organised by 2/16th Btn Assoc); participants included 10x primary + 2x secondary schools comprising 318 students, 30

teaching staff; in addition 30 invited guests included state MPs, local RSLs, Shire Councils, Vietnam Vets, Carry On, Legacy & 12x Parks Victoria rangers; guest speakers from 39th, 2/16th plus 4x student speakers; the function included school cadets, a piper, bugler, pastor and school choir.

**Upcoming Event:**

Sunday 29th October 2023: Victorian reunion luncheon at Royal Hotel, Bacchus Marsh, Vic.

**Memorials:**

Kokoda Memorial Walkway (1000 Steps), Dandenong Ranges NP: closed from June 2021 until October 2022 due to storm damage Rocky Creek War Memorial at Tolga (QLD); quotes were obtained for the replacement of the 21st Brigade Plaque due to the wear on the existing plaque; awaiting outcome of request for grant.

**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 24 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 Battalion Association Committee:** For the past 22 years, I have been a member of the 2/14th Btn Assoc General Committee as the 2/16th representative. I was re-elected at the 2/14th AGM on Sunday 24th October 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 in the East.

Trevor Ingram  
2/16th Battalion Association  
Vic/ACT/Tas Representative

## QLD/NT REPORT- AGM 2023

The 2/16th Battalion veteran, Harold Radley was presented with his Association Life Membership in April.

I had represented the Association at the 2/14th Battalion Association Qld luncheon on 27 July. The pull-up banner was displayed.

I had applied and received approval from the Anzac Day Parade Brisbane (ADPB) committee for the 2/16th Battalion Banner to be displayed in the Anzac Day Parade in 2024.

I also have a meeting on Teams with the ADPB on 3 October regarding procedures and do's and don'ts for the 2024 Parade.

I had joined the 39th Battalion Association and laid a wreath on behalf of the 2/16th Battalion AIF Association at the Broadbeach Cascades Memorial.

I am also seeking information and costs to get the 2/16th Battalion Badge refurbished and a paver for Alan Haddy at the Broadbeach Cascades Memorial. Will advise.

I am maintaining regular contact with Harold Radley and his family regarding his welfare and support.

I would like to nominate again for the position of committee member and the Qld/NT Rep for 2024.

Many thanks  
Regards  
Stephen Harrold

## PIGEON POST REPORT FOR 2023 AGM

Pigeon Post, the official journal of the 2/16th Battalion Association, continued to connect with members and friends in 2022-2023 with four issues being published since the 2022 AGM.

Pigeon Post continues to be printed and mailed to a large number of members and like organisations, whilst many members have now opted to receive their copy by email. This ensures that information from the committee, based in WA, and information from our Eastern States Representatives, reaches the maximum number of people, as we strive to, honour in perpetuity, the service and sacrifice of all those who have worn, or wear the "16"!

Each issue includes reports on events and services held around the country in the previous three months. We try to include as many photos as possible and continue to produce them in full colour format.

The editors are grateful to receive articles, photos and pertinent information from readers to share with others via the Pigeon Post. News of the upcoming events is always given prominence to help encourage as many attendees as possible.

We often receive comments and gratitude from our readers but, sadly, we hear nothing from our WA based committee members. The exception being when comments are made regarding the costs associated with the printing and mailing of Pigeon Post.

I would like to believe that the committee members actually realise the importance of Pigeon Post as the main point of communication with our members and friends. We would appreciate any feedback from our committee and also their support with information we require for each publication.

New members were always welcomed in the issue after they joined. Notifications of such, and also the 'Subs & Donations' paid and the correspondence to and from the committee were always forthcoming, but sadly not in the recent past. This is something that we too often have to chase up or is just not available to be included.

We, as Committee Members must realise that we need to keep all our members informed and up-to-date with what is under consideration and what decisions are made by the committee. I, personally, do not believe we are fulfilling this basic requirement.

Sincere thanks to Marion Clive who maintains the very important Roster for the Memorial Cleaning. Marion always sends the completed roster to us well before the closing date for the issue. We are very grateful for that.

We are also grateful to our Eastern States Representatives, Trevor Ingram and Stephen Harrold who always submit their local reports within the welcome timeframe.

It is unfortunate that as co-editors, Davina and I cannot attend the monthly meetings on a Sunday morning. So can we gently remind members that we do need their support by contributing to the content, or by providing the necessary information required, for the regular sections of the magazine. Any comments at all would be most welcome.

I have taken time to consider my future as co-editor with Davina. If Davina is willing to continue, then I also will, if the members so wish.

Margaret Smith

Co-editor with Davina Goldthorpe

We nominate for the positions of Co-Editors of Pigeon Post for the 2023-24 year

## WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT AGM 2023

With the upcoming AGM approaching, I thought it would be interesting and important to review the impact of the new 2nd16th Battalion website and the subsequent updates posted to the association's Facebook page. Facebook is a valuable promotional tool which assists with traffic to the 2nd16th Battalion webpage. The connection through Facebook promotes more engagement, interest and interaction with members, families and friends and directs them to the website for information and historical content.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/2nd16thBattalion>

The new website went live on 20 May 2022. As the administrator, I gathered data from Facebook and the Webpage host (WIX) for the 12 months prior to the page going live and then the 15 months following the live date and the figures are captured below.

### 2nd16th Battalion Website...

In the 12 months prior to the launch the website had 555 page views compared to 6,860 in the following 15 months. An increase of 1,136%.

Month	Page views
2022-05-01	34
2022-04-01	112
2022-03-01	10
2022-02-01	52
2022-01-01	93
2021-12-01	120
2021-11-01	79
2021-10-01	55
	555

Month	Page views
2023-09-01	187
2023-08-01	198
2023-07-01	263
2023-06-01	384
2023-05-01	360
2023-04-01	674
2023-03-01	355
2023-02-01	186
2023-01-01	113
2022-12-01	300
2022-11-01	300
2022-10-01	547
2022-09-01	1,017
2022-08-01	492
2022-07-01	665
2022-06-01	618
2022-05-01	201
	6,860

Increase 1,136 %

# Facebook

In the 12 months prior to the launch, Facebook reached 1,404 users compared to 12,999 in the following 15 months. An increase of 827%.



Some very interesting and exciting numbers, and please let me know if I can assist further. The insights available through Facebook and the Wix editor are very comprehensive, right down to country, age brackets, new vs old visitors and the list goes on. I think the visit statistics above speak for themselves and represent the impact we are having on engagement.

The figures also underline the importance of regular updates and posts of information and upcoming events, as it is clear it engages and reaches a large audience.

I would encourage the other States to send updates and event details directly to me to ensure that they are dealt with as soon as possible. And as always, all updates will be vetted through you before publishing.

Regards  
Chris Hoath

### **SOCIAL REPORT FOR 2023 AGM**

The annual events continued as planned for 2023. The fact that dates are not to be advertised 12 months in advance means that we will be notifying of events only weeks in advance.

December issue can notify of End of year windup? New Year Welcome...is it not necessary? March issue for April Memorial service and ANZAC Day. When do we advertise May Lunch? June can advise of functions for June, July. September Kokoda Service Kings Park. And back to December.

Memberships for five (5) years are steady but we need more Annual memberships to come forward. Don't forget Pigeon Post is included in your \$25 hence we need continued support.

We found two (2) forgotten widows who both turned 100 this year, Beth Keith and Jean Bloomfield, as did Harold Radley and Reg Weber, both 2/16th veterans.

Unfortunately, we lost William Forrest WX 22734 and four widows this year. However, due to the arrival of Christmas boxes we heard of a couple that we had not been notified of.

If your family read Pigeon Post can they please notify us if you move from your home to aged care or unfortunately pass away.

We also said farewell to past committee members Phil Clover and Mark Stuchbury.

Please continue to be involved in our Association functions and perhaps consider joining the Committee.

Mary Goldthorpe



## HONOURS & AWARDS

Life Memberships were awarded to Harold Radley and Russell Fuller and will presented to Reg Weber this year.

Scholarship winner for 2022 was LCpl BRODIE LEWIS who travelled to Western Front this year.

Potts Award for 16RWAR soldiers for outstanding commitment went to Pte Stimpson and Pte Stefaneti, jointly.

The Potts Award at Guildford Grammar School went to Alexander McAuliffe. Congratulations to all.

Mary Goldthorpe

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### 2/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF Association

I have audited the financial report of the 2/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF Association account for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023. The Treasurer is responsible for the financial report.

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report to express an opinion on to its members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

It is not practicable to maintain an effective system of internal control (other than bank interest) until their initial entry into the accounting records. Accordingly, the audit in relation to income (other than bank interest) was limited to the examination of the amounts so recorded in the accounting records as being received.

### **FINDINGS**

The Battalions bank accounts were able to be reconciled with all bank statements when compared to the payments and deposit records.

### **QUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION**

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional requirements the financial position of the 2/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF Association account as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the results of its operations for the period then ended.



RA GIBB  
40 Linton Street North  
BYFORD WA 6122

AUDITOR (Dip. Local Govt Treasurer)  
September 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Financial Report for year ended June 30th 2023

INCOME	2023	2022
Donations	5937.23	1688.17
Interest		
Geoff Wainwright Fund 4689	451.23	751.43
Interest account 4788	0.17	0.11
Bendigo Bank 5295	2.12	4.72
Term deposit 3494	115.82	28.96
	509.34	785.22
May lunch	5630.00	4075.00
Name badges	0.00	100.00
Oration	9883.48	110.00
Sale of books	0.00	151.50
Service Bunbury	0.00	860.00
Subscriptions	5975.00	2235.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>27995.05</b>	<b>10005.89</b>

#### EXPENDITURE

Banners	1187.23	0.00
Bank charges	0.80	0.00
Books	468.00	468.00
Care packs	1603.91	1163.88
Donations	5200.00	16000.00
Framing	110.00	1384.00
Functions	0.00	631.34
Honorariums	1100.00	1100.00
Honour board	96.05	0.00
Insurance	220.00	220.00
Kokoda 80th	2038.44	0.00
May lunch	5690.00	7989.50
Membership	25.00	0.00
Meeting expenses	0.00	151.87
Name badges	457.27	1005.13
Newspaper notice	97.80	102.15
Oration	13936.75	0.00
Pigeon Post Printing	3149.30	3501.80
Postage	1536.74	1238.17
Scholarship	23070.00	0.00
Service Bunbury	37.50	1132.75
Stationery	179.65	16.00
Victorian schools service	62.27	0.00
Website	0.00	4009.82
Wreaths	1028.50	840.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>61295.21</b>	<b>39954.41</b>

**Net Profit/Loss on years activities**

**-33300.16      -29946.52**

## TREVOR BROOKER CENTENARY CONGRATULATIONS



Trevor Brooker the last Dungog NSW surviving World War Two veteran and one of the few remaining soldiers of 2/16 Battalion celebrated his 100 year birthday with family and friends at Dungog on 9 December 2023.

Trevor was born 5 December 1923, at Mirannie via Singleton NSW. At the commencement of war in 1939 Trevor too young to serve overseas enlisted in the militia 16 Motor Regiment. In 1943 when 2/16 Battalion returned to Australia after service in New Guinea due to high casualties suffered, the battalion received reinforcement when at Atherton Tablelands, Queensland primary from the disbanded 16 Motor Regiment from Hunter Valley, NSW.

The new reinforcements mainly came from rural backgrounds. Trevor said 'the Hunter Valley soldiers fitted in and was accepted by the battalion's original Western Australian soldiers because of their rural background and mateship'. 'We were also able to field the best hard to beat rugby league team in 7 Division AIF'. 'The reason we volunteered with 2/16 our Commanding Officer Lt/Col Harry Murray was a 16 Battalion soldier in the First World War being awarded a VC CMG DSO/Bar and DCM'.

After battalion training in Queensland in early August 1943 Trevor with 2/16 Battalion, D Company embarked SS Taroon and transported to New Guinea. After further training near Port Moresby they played a minor role in the Lae operations in September 1943. In October he was moved by air to Kaiapit in the Ramu Valley then advanced to Dumpu. In the ensuing months with the battalion he was involved in actions in the upper reaches of the Markham, Ramu, Faria Valleys, Finsterre Mountains, John's Knoll and Shaggy Ridge. It was here Trevor was infected by the deadly mosquito disease scrub typhus along with other soldiers. Trevor said 'ten soldiers with scrub typhus were evacuated back to base hospital and only he and one other survived'. After months in hospital he was classified as medically unfit for military service and sent back to Australia being discharge in December 1944.

After military service Trevor worked as a bricklayer. He married Edna Challen in February 1949 and lived in Maitland NSW. They had three children. In 1952 they bought a farm at Brookfield in the Dungog shire and became dairy farmers until retirement.

Trevor and Edna moved into the township of Dungog in 1980 and built a new family home. Trevor became actively involved in Dungog RSL Sub-branch (NSW) taking on the position of secretary and board member for many years. He has received RSL/NSW life membership, Dungog RSL Club life membership, 2/16 Battalion life membership and Dungog Citizen of the Year for his community work.

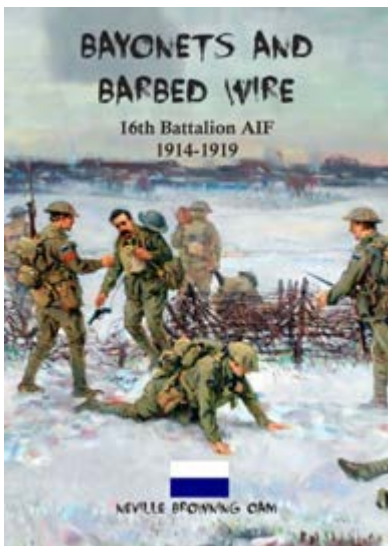
Trevor has a wonderful extrovert personality and people love his humour. He is also extremely talented in cross stitching winning many awards including major awards at the Sydney show. Many ladies proudly wore 2/16 Battalion broachers made by him.

Over the past years Trevor was prime organiser for 21 Brigade yearly reunions in NSW and is continuing as 2/16 association contact for NSW. Until his ageing and ill health he had kept in regular telephone contact with all 21 Brigade widows and colleagues in NSW to check on their wellbeing over many years. Trevor always affectionally finished his telephone calls and conversations by saying - 'I will see you when the mud dries up'.

Trevor Brooker you are indeed a legend in your local and surrounding communities. Congratulations reaching your life milestone of 100 years.

*David Walker*

### BAYONETS AND BARBED WIRE BY NEVILLE BROWNING OAM



The History of the 16th Battalion in World War 1, from its formation in Australia in 1914 and its service in Egypt, Gallipoli and the Western Front. Bayonets and Barbed Wire is a hard covered, 702-page, B5 volume, containing 711 photographs and 18 maps, as well as hundreds of eye-witness reports from contemporary diaries, letters, reports and journals of 16th Battalion men.

The majority of the photographs, journals and diaries are from private collections and have never before been published. The volume includes daily descriptions of Gallipoli and the Western Front and the horror of the battles. Nominal Rolls, Honour Roll, POW Roll, Awards, Biblio and Nominal Index.

Hard covered limited edition \$60, printed in Perth. 750 copies printed (only 100 left!)

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Huntingdale WA 6110

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677 HORACE STANLEY HUMMERSTON  
16TH BATTALION WW1

*Wayne Koch, a Committee Member of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association shares his Maternal Grandfather's story.*



Like many of my generation, my father Fred Koch, (US Navy) and grandfather herein, served during World War 1 and World War 2. This is a story about my maternal Grandfather, Horace Stanley Hummerston (Stan), Service Number 677. Stan was born in South Australia in 1890, the son of Charles Hummerston who later became the owner of the Kalamunda Hotel. Stan enlisted in September 1914 at Bunbury and was allocated to the 16th Battalion.

He was 24 years old, 6 foot 2 inches tall (188 cm) and 175 Pounds (79 kg) and was working as a railway Sleeper Hewer. After initial training, the 16th Battalion left Albany for Egypt on 'HMAT Ceramic' in late 1914 with the second contingent of troops ships via the Suez Canal.

Pictured above circa 1916 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Hummerston, post Gallipoli, pre-Western Front/Bullecourt

On arriving in Egypt Stan wrote from Heliopolis:

**Note: This letter is published as it was written and reflects the language of the time. It shows the wonderment and excitement experienced by many of the young Australians prior to their first time in battle, and was published in the "Swan Express" 19th March 1915:**

*"Heliopolis," February 10, 1915.*

*Dear Dad, Well I, with the rest of the boys, have arrived in the land of the Pharaohs, and what a bonzer trip we had getting here! Not a ripple big enough to drown our sorrow at leaving Australia, let alone make us sick. Well mate, after leaving Melbourne our first stop was Albany, where we put in three days, but the censorship was so severe that I did not think it was worth while writing. After leaving Albany we had a long stretch of water, but the monotony was broken by ships passing and a few islands which we passed. We left (that is, three of the transports) the rest of the fleet about three days off Colombo and made for Aden, so I can tell you nothing of Colombo, but as we stayed three days, at Aden—on board all the time—I will tell you how it struck me. It is one huge rock, honeycombed, the same as Gibraltar, and the town is situated on the only level piece of ground, which is close to the water. The town itself we never had chance of seeing, but I*

*think like all of these places this way, it looks better at a distance. The next thing, and perhaps the funniest of the lot was the "bum boats," which were in swarms.*

*All the boys had been paid a couple of days previously, so business was brisk. The first day the "nigs" had a great win at our expense, but the second and third days we started to "take a tumble," and the things we were paying a shilling for at first we bought for 3d. Oranges, for instance, we paid a 1/- a dozen for at first, but we got them for 3d. a dozen and less just as the boat was leaving. So the "nigs" will be waiting for the rest of the shrewd heads from Australia the same as we were.*

**The letter goes on to describe in detail the remainder of the trip to Alexandria, but this has been omitted from this story.**

*On disembarking we boarded a quite respectable train and started on a 120 mile ride. Dad, this is where I nearly died from shock, and so did everyone else who has never been here. Expecting to go through arid desert on our way to Cairo we went through nothing else but one vast green field of lucerne, clover, and other such grasses, except in places where there were extensive vegetable gardens. You cannot credit it is so fertile a country between Alexandria and Cairo, and right along the Nile unless you see it. But out the other side of Cairo is all desert, and also out from our camp.*

*Where we are camped is about half a mile from Heliopolis, which is an aristocratic suburb of Cairo, and it is one of the finest places as far as buildings and train services go, that you would wish to see. There is not building in the town under 3 storeys high, and every building built of white*

*freestone. The hospitals and mosques here are magnificent, and other buildings, too numerous to mention, are worth a long walk to see. They also have a place called Luna Park here, exactly the same as the one at St. Kilda, aerial railways, water chutes, etc., so we can have a lot of fun for half piastre (1.25 pence). Cairo is the dirtiest place that God ever meant humanity to live in. Some of the streets are not ten yards wide, and every window is a shop—some fruit, others beer, dance rooms, and everything you can imagine.*

*There are also some nice streets and buildings in Cairo but taken as a whole I will write it down as rotten, and I don't think I, or any of the boys, will trouble it much, as Heliopolis is good enough for us. Heliopolis is seven miles from Cairo by train, and the fare is half a piastre. On Sunday we went to the Pyramids, where the first contingent are camped, and that is about 11 miles from Cairo in the opposite direction to us. For that ride they charge you one piastre, so it does not cost you much for travelling. The Pyramids are great giant heaps of stone, built systematically, of course, and how they got some of the stones there, God only knows. We went inside, but to describe it by letter is beyond me, and but for the fact that we had a guide I don't think I would have risked it, as it is very slippery and loose in there. We also went and saw the boys of the first contingent, and on the whole they all seem in splendid "nick." I had a talk to Bert Baker (another Kalamunda continger), and you can tell his people if you see them, he is in splendid health, and as merry as a lark. We are allowed leave till 9.30 in Heliopolis every night, and the boys conduct themselves splendidly— so the Colonel says, and that is good enough for us.*

*One great peculiarity of this place—also of Cairo—is, as soon as you get in the town, there are hundreds of kids—black, of course— who say “stalia goot, boots shine mister?”, and they will clean your boots for half a piastre, and often for a cigarette. Every second “nig” you strike has got either postcards or silks to sell you, and you want about ten men to clear a way for you. There are also a lot of Territorials here, and most of them are not much older than our compulsory cadets, and certainly not as tall, but they are not a bad lot of fellows, and we get on with them all right. Well, mate, I don’t know when we will be in the firing line, but I hope it is soon, as we are all looking forward to having a fly at the Turks.”*

**In concluding his letter, Stan promises any news omitted will be furnished in his next letter, and conveys his kind regards to all his friends. Letters from Stan may not have been frequent, as his sister wrote to a West Australian Senator to obtain help in obtaining his mail address. She was successful in obtaining this.**

On 12 April 1915 Stan embarked Alexandria with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces for the Gallipoli Peninsular. He arrived on the beach on the afternoon of 25 April to a now alerted Turkish Army. In May he was wounded in the left hip, but soon returned to action. During his time in Gallipoli, he was promoted to Corporal, Sergeant, and Second Lieutenant. Like many other troops he had bouts of sickness that required him to spend time on Hospital ships that were offshore from Gallipoli, and on Lemnos.

These were staffed by both Australian and New Zealand Nurses who were also on the first and second contingents of troop ships that left Albany and other ports for Egypt. In September he was admitted to hospital in London and by November 1915 returned to Ismailia via Alexandria in Egypt. He was promoted to Captain in April 1916 and by June that year was in France. Stan served with a Major Black in Gallipoli, right through to the first Battle of Bullecourt where Black was Killed in Action. On Black’s death Stan, as senior officer, took control organising his sector of the battle. As a result of this action, he was subsequently awarded the Military Cross.

On 11th April 1917, Stan was wounded and reported as “Missing in Action”. Stan’s Military Cross was not formally approved until 1919 as he was a P.O.W. for the remainder of the War.

**THE CITATION READS: *This officer is brought to notice for his exceptional powers of leadership, organization, and bravery under very trying conditions. He led his Company in the charge against the HINDENBURG LINE near BULLECOURT on the morning of the 11th April 1917.***

***He was the first of his Company into both the first and second objectives, and by sheer bravery and example carried his men with him over absolutely untouched barbed wire into the second objective. He was the Senior Officer of the Battalion in the line (Major BLACK having been killed after taking the first objective).***

*“He superintended the organization and distribution of the men in all parts of the line captured and held by us. He was always to be found at the points of greatest danger assisting, encouraging and leading his men with a remarkable disregard for his own personal safety. It is due to the resourcefulness of this Officer in husbanding ammunition and organizing troops to the best advantage that our troops were able to hold on to a most hazardous and difficult position for so long. He refused to leave the trenches until he and the handful of men remaining were surrounded on three sides. He then directed the getting away of these men and saw that they had got a fair start for our trenches before he himself left on the hazardous return journey. He was seriously wounded when returning to our trenches and was subsequently picked up and made Prisoner by the enemy. For his magnificent courage and devotion to duty he is very strongly recommended for the highest distinction”. During this action he was taken as Prisoner of War in France and interred for the remainder of the War in Germany. His Service Records show he was P.O.W. in Karlsruhe on the French German border north of Strasbourg.”*

This is described in the History of the 16th Battalion, “Bloody Angle – Bullecourt and Beyond held at our “Omeara’s” headquarters, and CEW Beans, “History of the Great War” (The 2 battles of Bullecourt were a disaster for the AIF, futile and under resourced support from tank and artillery, extensively documented at the Australian War Memorial and elsewhere.)

Stan’s last letter home, probably written immediately prior to his capture, shows a vastly different mood from his first letter, and this is understandable, considering his battlefield experience.

This reads: *“Somewhere in France. Dear Dad, (Charles Hummerston). I hope you are all in the ‘pink,’ for we are well here. As you will no doubt know, things here are moving, though at present slowly, and we are in it, and intend to be in it at the finish. I believe fruit is very plentiful this year. Strange to say, fruit is a thing that does not trouble us much here, for you can just fancy this with a nice ripe orange, and the thermometer at 7deg. less than zero. The ‘burning question’ here at present is: Do the W.A. people know that the 16th Battalion, A.L.F., came from Western Australia? If not, why not? By the people of W.A., I mean people who haven’t any relations or very near friends in the Battalion, and if it is widely known that we are a W.A. Battalion. What have we ever done wrong to deserve the treatment we have had since the two first formed - i.e., if it wasn’t for the extremely patriotic people in South Australia, ‘this Battalion’ would be very poorly represented on the gifts cards. The South Australians in the Battalion are less than 100, and this out of say eleven hundred men is but a small proportion, and yet South Australians practically monopolise the picture with regard to gifts received by us to date. This Battalion has been formed practically from the inception of the A.I.F., and has to its credit some of the finest exploits on Gallipoli and in France; yet when we read our W.A. papers, we see of committees being formed for all Battalions with the exception of the first two.*



*The 'Sunday Times' and daily papers received by the last mail are the papers quoted. The 'Victoria League' has certainly very kindly sent us papers and some gifts, but not more than enough to go round. Hearing our grand lads complaining and talking of this, what we think is lack of interest in some of W.A.'s best men, and knowing it ourselves, is what made me at last mention it. Now I have finished for the time and do not want anyone to think we say that we are any better than any other Battalion, but a little enthusiasm displayed towards a small committee or two will certainly help to get our boys a fair share of W.A. gifts, which are so thoughtfully sent to her lads on active service."*

Stan was repatriated on 1 January 1919 with other Prisoners of War to Rippon, England and embarked to Australia per "HMAT Anchises". He disembarked in Albany on 10 April 1919 and was discharged from Service on 10 June 1919.

Stan was active in the Kalamunda community following the War and records show he was able to win a batting award representing the local cricket club in season 1919 – 1920. Like so many of the young men returning after World War 1 his health was seriously impacted by his service, wounds and gas exposure at Bullecourt in 1917.

He developed "Pulmonary Tuberculous/Galloping Consumption" and died in 1926 at the age of just 36. His Obituary in 'The West Australian' of Tuesday 31 August 1926 stated that his funeral was well attended by members of the community, community organisations and fellow members of the 16 Battalion. It stated that he was yet another victim of the scourge of the War. A short lived life, but just one of many who were lost during, and as a result of World War 1.

Captain Horace Stanley (Stan) Hummerston MC is buried at Karrakatta and his grave site is now registered with the Commonwealth War Graves.

### **ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS WIND-UP PERTH 2023**

Thirty six members and friends attended the annual Christmas Wind-up at Karrakatta on Sunday 26th November, happy to renew acquaintances and catch up on the latest news. The aroma of barbequed sausages and onions added to the atmosphere and whetted many appetites. Thanks to Mary, Penny and Davina, buns were waiting for the sausages and onions and a variety of salads were available, all for a donation.

We are always so very grateful to Bruce Wiseman, son of Ron, WX2859 Wiseman R.K, for the fabulous Christmas Cake he provides thanks to his baker friend. Thank you, Bruce.

It was lovely to welcome new faces and reconnect with others infrequently seen. In attendance were the Greive family, Brett, Trish, Rhys and Tyson, Marilyn and Ian Smith, Penny and Greg Thomas, Bruce Wiseman, Faye and Phil Utting, John and Carolyn Murdoch, Bob and Marey Bayliss, Peter Hack and Alec Hack, Wayne Koch, Davina,

Damien, Amity and Hadley Stilwell, Margaret and Ken Walker, Sandy and Peter Norrish, Anna Pollard, Doug Farmer, Lyn Harvey, Steve White, Mary Goldthorpe and Margaret Smith.

Once again sincere thanks to Mary Goldthorpe for organising this successful event.

*Margaret Smith*

### **ASSOCIATION MEET & GREET PERTH 2024**

The threat of rain did not stop the stalwarts of the 2/16th Battalion Association from gathering in Kings Park and enjoying pikelets and coffee for Morning Tea. Thank you to Faye and Phil Utting who provided the delicious fare.

It was good to see wives of committee members accompanying their husbands. Tammy and Jim Grayden, Margaret and Ken Walker, Carolyn and John Murdoch, Wayne Koch, Mary Goldthorpe and Peter Norrish happily chatted away although light rain brought out the umbrellas.

As the hunger pains set in, we were joined by two Kookaburras keeping an eye out for food. Marion Clive and her friend Rita joined us for a short time. Thank you to all who braved the weather and brought out the sun.

*Mary Goldthorpe*

### **ASSOCIATION MAY LUNCHEON PERTH SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024 11AM**

This year's Perth May Luncheon will see a new venue, thanks to a suggestion from Faye and Phil Utting who are also members of the Bedford/Morley RSL.

Lunch will be held at the Bedford/Morley RSL, 182 Grand Promenade, BEDFORD on Saturday 11th May, commencing at 11AM.

At a recent committee meeting members decided that a buffet style meal would be trialled. Attendees are asked to BYO Alcoholic drinks, glasses will be available, and water, soft drink, tea and coffee will also be available.

Do consider bringing along family and friends and enjoy the friendly atmosphere that we hope will be enhanced by having a Buffet Lunch. The popular, regular raffle will be running and some table quizzes will give everyone a better opportunity to meet and mix with others.

The event will be ticketed through Try Booking please see details below.

If you have any questions or problems with using Try Booking then please contact Mary Goldthorpe, who will be able to assist you.



**TICKETS \$55 PP <https://www.trybooking.com/CPYMX>  
BOOKINGS CLOSE ON TUESDAY 30TH APRIL**

## **2024 THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA REGIMENT & ASSOCIATIONS ACTIVITY CALENDAR**

Welcome to 2024, I hope that everybody had a great Christmas and a happy New Year. Often, when I attend activities and meetings I have many current and past members ask how they can become more involved or find out what is happening in both of the Battalions and Associations. As such, this year the Regimental Committee and Associations have come forward with the dates of all the major activities that are occurring in 2024. This is a great opportunity to support your old units, catch up with mates whom you haven't seen for some time, or make new ones.

As said, these are the major activities, and there are a number more that are available if you contact the secretaries of the associations that are listed below. So, it is now the opportunity to attend activities and association functions that you may normally not have gone to, which will enable you to widen the circle of the Regimental Family and keep up to date on what is happening.

Both the Battalions have a very busy training year ahead but will each run Regimental Activities for you to attend. Provision for our more elderly members in the form of seating etc has also been a key planning element.

Use this calendar to create "keep the dates" on your calendar and I hope to see you at our Regimental functions.

Regards  
Brigadier David Thompson AM  
Honorary Colonel RWAR

### **Calendar of Dates**

24th March RWAR Association AGM 11.00 am Irwin Barracks Sgts Mess  
POC Bill Stevens Secretary [billstevens@iinet.net.au](mailto:billstevens@iinet.net.au)

25th April ANZAC Day Dawn service with both Battalions at the Perth War Cemetery, Corner of Smyth and Karella St Nedlands. 11/28 is the lead on this activity. Guests seated by 0550hrs.

25th April ANZAC Day March 11/28 and 16 attend the march through Perth.  
Both battalions will have functions at their Irwin Barracks locations, past members welcome.

28th April 2/16 Memorial ANZAC Service 2/16 Memorial Kings Park 1030hrs  
POC Peter Norrish Secretary [peterchucknorrish@gmail.com](mailto:peterchucknorrish@gmail.com)

11th May 2/16th Annual May Luncheon. Bedford/Morley RSL Hall 11 am  
POC Peter Norrish Secretary [peterchucknorrish@gmail.com](mailto:peterchucknorrish@gmail.com)

29th June RWAR Birthday Church Service St Georges Cathedral Perth and Morning Tea  
POC Bill Stevens Secretary [billstevens@iinet.net.au](mailto:billstevens@iinet.net.au)

2nd August Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration ANZAC Club Perth. 6.30pm Nova Peris  
OAM – Orator  
POC Peter Norrish Secretary [peterchucknorrish@gmail.com](mailto:peterchucknorrish@gmail.com)

26th Oct 16th Battalion Cameron Supper. Further details to come. All welcome.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# RETRO ROCK

Music from the 70's 80's & 90's  
PERFORMED BY THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND PERTH

**24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**  
**4.30pm - 7pm**



Artillery Barracks, 6 Burt Street Fremantle

ADULTS	\$20
CONCESSION	\$15
CHILDREN	\$5
FAMILY	\$45

Includes Museum Entry

[www.trybooking.com/CNQFH](http://www.trybooking.com/CNQFH)

BYO DRINKS AND FOOD  
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[www.armymuseumwa.com.au](http://www.armymuseumwa.com.au)  

## 21ST BRIGADE MEMORIAL ROCKY CREEK WAR MEMORIAL

As reported in the December issue of Pigeon Post last year, the decision had been made to replace the plaque honouring the men of the 21st Brigade at the Rocky Creek War Memorial, near Tolga on the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland.

We are delighted to bring you the news, thanks to the work of Trevor Ingram, that the plaque is 'on its way'. Approval was required from the Rocky Creek War Memorial Park Committee of Management to proceed, so now, with that approval, the forging of the new plaque will take place.

An email from Trevor reads:-

*"To 2/16th Battalion Association Committee*

*A rededication ceremony for the 21st Brigade replacement plaque will be held at Rocky Creek War Memorial Park on Sunday the 11th of August 2024. A tour of the World War II historical sites will be undertaken the following morning, the 12th of August. Consideration needs to be given to the feasibility of having a 2/16th presence at this service.*

*Regards Trevor"*

Trevor included a letter from John Hardy, member of the Rocky Creek War Memorial Park Advisory Committee, with his recommendations for those attending the Rededication at Rocky Creek Memorial Park.

Suggestions are Saturday the 10th of August you arrive on the Tableland and have an informal visit to Rocky Creek War Memorial Park. Stay overnight on the Tableland.

Sunday the 11th of August - subject to change - a Meet and Greet will take place between 9:00 and 10:00 AM for families present for the dedication of individual and unit memorial plaques.

10 to 10:30 AM unveiling and dedication of individual and unit memorial plaques

11:00 AM Rocky Creek Memorial Service

12 NOON the Memorial Service concludes and tentative organisation has been made for a Picnic in the Park where there will be a band playing and food and coffee van present to finish off the day.

2:00 PM function concludes.

Suggestions that you can then return to Cairns and stay there or fly home or return to overnight Tableland accommodation to participate in the tour the next day.

The tour on Monday the 12th of August is a special morning tour organised for those people attending the VP Day Ceremony or who had individual unit memorial plaques unveiled. The cost of the tour is \$60.00 per head and includes morning tea. Following the tour people can choose to adjourn to the Tolga Hotel for a \$20 lunch special. The hotel courtesy bus is used for the bus tours.

It would be wonderful if we could have representatives of the 2/16th Battalion Association attend this significant rededication service. It is a long way from Western Australia where the Battalion was originally formed and where the vast majority of their family members live today.

August on the Tablelands is an amazing time to visit, so if you are planning a trip for later this year do consider including this Rededication Service and Tolga in your plans. The tour covers many of the sites that were visited and used by the 2/16th blokes whilst they were undergoing training on the Atherton Tablelands.

*Margaret Smith*

**REPORT FROM STEPHEN HARROLD  
QUEENSLAND/ NT REPORT  
2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

Thank you to Trevor Ingram for his work to enable the refurbishment of the 21st Brigade Memorial in the Rocky Creek War Memorial Park in the Atherton Tablelands. A Rededication Service will be held on the 10th August this year. It would be wonderful to see members of our 2/16th Association in attendance.

Good news to report that the brick pavers at the Broadbeach Cascades Memorial have been approved and it is hoped that they will be installed prior to ANZAC Day. There will be a new 2/16th Battalion Colour Patch, and a new addition will be an individual paver for 2/16th Battalion soldier, Alan Haddy.

WX3636 Lieutenant Alan Campbell Haddy was a West Australian who served with the 2/16th both in the Middle East and on the Kokoda Track where his bravery made him a legend. Sadly, Alan Haddy was one of the many tragic losses suffered during the battle for Gona. Alan's story is told in "An Unrewarded Hero", by Russell Mehan.

As reported in the December 2023 issue of Pigeon Post, the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. will again be honoured in the 2024 ANZAC DAY PARADE in BRISBANE. Hopefully the final details from the ANZAC DAY Parade Committee will be available prior to this magazine going to print.

We are hoping that members, friends and family will accept our invitation to join us to honour and recognise the men of the 2/16th Battalion. It is anticipated that those attending will join together for Lunch after the event, hopefully with members of the 2/14th and 39th Battalion Associations.

Sad news to report that Harold Radley VX 108906 Radley H.W. passed away on the 3rd March.

**BRISBANE 2024 ANZAC DAY PARADE  
ORDER OF MARCH**

The 2/16th Battalion Association members, families and friends are **NUMBER 67 IN GROUP 7** falling in behind the 2/14th Battalion Association. The Association Banner will be carried by School Students.

Please locate us around the intersection of **GEORGE & MARY STREETS** with time allocated to move off as 11.50hours. Suggest to meet any time after 10AM. Immediately following us will be the St Andrews' Pipe Band.

For up to date last minute details or any information please contact Stephen Harrold  
Ph: 0417 515 786 E: [steve.harrold@bigpond.com](mailto:steve.harrold@bigpond.com)

*Editor: Thank you Steve for your determination and success in having the 2/16th Battalion Association be included in the ANZAC DAY March in Brisbane this year. We hope that your participation and representation will encourage people, who may have connections to the 2/16th or 16th Battalions, to become involved themselves.*

*We are grateful to you for your persistence and commitment to ensure that the 2/16th Battalion Colour patch at Broadbeach Cascade Gardens Memorial is renewed and that a paver recognising Lieut Alan Haddy is to be installed.*

*The association's thanks are also extended to you for your support and friendship shown to Harold Radley and his family.*

LEST WE FORGET

**REPORT FROM TREVOR INGRAM  
VICTORIAN/TASMANIAN/ACT REPRESENTATIVE  
2/16TH BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION**

We have now received approval for the installation of a new plaque for the 21st Brigade at the Rocky Creek War Memorial Park on the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland. (Further information on this can be found in a separate article in this issue.)

My wife, Dawn and I, were to attend the 39th Infantry Battalion Association's Annual barbecue, held in January, in Treemont (Vic) but sadly illness prevented us. I do keep the 2/16<sup>th</sup> Association connected to both the 2/14th and 39th Battalions and I am a member of the 2/14th Committee.

Parks Victoria have once again committed to support the Schools Service that is organised as an ANZAC Commemorative Service at the Kokoda Memorials in the Dandenong Ranges in Victoria.

In 2024 this will be held on 23rd April and will see 16 schools attending as well as many dignitaries. This is held in conjunction with 2/14th, 2/16th and 39th Battalion Associations.

I will be attending the AGM of the 2/14th Battalion Association on the 24th April. The 2/14th have extended their thanks to the 2/16th Battalion Association for their funding of the refurbishment of the Rocky Creek 21st Brigade Memorial. The 2/14th along with the 2/16th and 2/27th Battalions made up the 21st Brigade.

Following are important dates to remember.

*Editor: Thank you, Trevor, for your ongoing commitment to ensuring the service and sacrifice of all who wore the "16", continues and flourishes. Your dedication in the organisation of the ANZAC Service for schools, on a yearly basis, is an amazing contribution. This is where we must all look to; educating our young people!*

*It definitely should be something that we emulate, especially here in Western Australia where the 16th and 2/16th were established and their proud histories carried on today by 16 Royal Western Australian Regiment.*

## **DATES FOR VICTORIAN COMMEMORATIONS 2024**

**23 April ANZAC Commemorative Service for Schools  
11am at Kokoda Memorials Dandenong Ranges**

**25 APRIL ANZAC Day March Melbourne City followed by lunch at the Rising Sun Hotel with 2/14th, 2/27th & 39th Battalions.**

Please contact Trevor Ingram for more information Ph: 0419 333 347

E: [trevor.ingram@bigpond.com](mailto:trevor.ingram@bigpond.com)

## **WELCOME TO A NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER**

A very warm welcome is extended to Mary Price who has generously taken on the position of Treasurer for the 2/16th Battalion Association. Thank you Mary.

Mary is the daughter of Judy Matthwin and is a Granddaughter of Brig Arnold Potts. It is wonderful to welcome a member of the Potts' family on to the committee.

Our next issue of Pigeon Post will include a short introduction to newer members of our committee, those who have joined since we issued short bios of committee members a couple of years ago.



## LAST POST CEREMONY AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA

A Last Post Ceremony honouring WX4268 SGT BERNARD WILLIAM WALSH (Bill) was held at the AWM on 6th December 2023.

Bill was born in Kalgoorlie and enlisted in Northam in June 1940 and was allocated to the 2/16th Battalion. Bill saw service in the Middle East and Kokoda and was killed in action during the Battle of Isurava-Abuari on 29th August 1942.

Family members were in attendance at the ceremony, as was Gail Haidon representing the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association. We are grateful to Gail for not only attending the service but for laying a wreath to honour on behalf of the Association.

*Editor: We will bring you more information on Bill Walsh in a future issue of Pigeon Post.*



**2024 Military Tour of Darwin  
28th Battalion (The Swan Regiment) Association  
25 May – 1 June 2024**

Offered by Frank Taylor of Kokoda Tours

For more information please contact  
Frank Taylor Ph: 0428 686 899  
[frankhtaylor@kokoda.com.au](mailto:frankhtaylor@kokoda.com.au)



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

# BIRTHDAYS

Birthday wishes to all members, veterans and widows

## MARCH

4 Verna Buck  
5 Ronald Hack  
7 George McQuade  
11 John Grant  
13 Kevin McKenzie  
14 Ian Goldthorpe  
20 Andrew Haidon  
23 Peter Emmett  
Nola Rose  
24 Marion Iles

## APRIL

5 Maris Palmer  
7 Jeff Turner  
Doug Raymond  
Ian Smith  
10 Elizabeth Shepherd  
Mick Thomas  
13 Faye Utting  
14 Gail Haidon  
16 Vicki Hamersley  
17 Penny Thomas  
22 Murray Jorgensen  
23 Gladys Lee  
30 Trevor Ingram

## MAY

2 Neil Hamilton  
Jennifer Regan  
7 Trevor Thomas  
9 David Mathwin  
14 Ivan Walter  
Neil Macpherson  
19 Nan Harper  
29 Frank Gosatti

WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO CELEBRATE THEIR SPECIAL DAY IN  
MARCH, APRIL & MAY

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY & MANY HAPPY RETURNS



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

*Dates subject to change and venues to be confirmed*

APRIL	
21	ANZAC Service Kings Park 11am
25	ANZAC Day March & Lunch at 16RWAR
MAY	
11	May Lunch Bedford RSL 11am
JULY	
21	Army Museum Event Fremantle
AUGUST	
2	Brig Arnold Potts Oration ANZAC House 6.30pm
SEPTEMBER	
15	Kokoda Memorial Service Kings Park 11am
OCTOBER	
20	Memorial Service and Lunch Bunbury 11am
26	16 RWAR Cameron Supper
NOVEMBER	
24	Association Christmas Wind Up

**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](mailto: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.