



16TH BATTALION RWAR

ANNUAL 'CAMERON SUPPER'



16TH BATTALION
THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA REGIMENT



16th Battalion's annual mixed all ranks, family and friends dinner celebrating our rich history & traditions, including dance & piping. Entertainment and dance floor provided with a buffet meal and 4-hour drinks package. All funds raised maintain the units highland clothing & equipment for future generations serving in the Battalion.

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER 2025 | 6:30pm - 11:59pm

DOOR PRIZE
(included in your ticket purchase)

AUCTION & RAFFLE ON OFFER

TICKET PRICE - \$ 135 PP

ACCOMMODATION

Available by contacting the hotel directly
(Corporate discount available)
Enter NPLMEET into the Promo Code Box on the website:
www.novotelperthlangley.com.au

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Gentlemen - Formal Suit and tie
Ladies - Evening gown
Military Serving Personnel - Optional but encouraged - Mess Dress/Service Dress

LOCATION

Novotel Perth Langley (Riverside Ballroom)
221 Adelaide Terrace,
East Perth WA 6000

BOOK VIA TRY BOOKING

<https://www.trybooking.com/1444880>



2026 BRIGADIER ARNOLD W. POTTS ORATION ADVANCE NOTICE - SAVE THE DATE

7 AUGUST 2026

Richard James, author of *“Australia’s War with France”* will present the 2026 Oration.

Once again, this event will be held at ANZAC Club here in Perth so plan to be in Perth for another special event.



PIGEON POST

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



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September 2025

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Of 2/16 BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION (Inc) 2024-2025

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Welcome

Welcome to the September 2025 issue of Pigeon Post, the official journal of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association (Inc).

We trust you enjoy this issue which carries reports of events held around the country, Kokoda Day events in Victoria and Queensland and the very successful Oration that was held in Perth.

We cannot forget the wonderful “Back to where it all began” with members and friends travelling to Northam despite the continuous rain and chilly weather.

In WA we will be commemorating Kokoda with our upcoming Memorial Service in Kings Park and in October we will be joining Perth and country friends in the Annual Country Memorial Service in Bunbury. Late in November, in Perth, we shall enjoy a Christmas gathering to end our year.

Please do remember that if you have any stories, memories or photos that you would like to share then do send them to us at Pigeon Post and we can share them with everyone. We would love to hear from you and do please let us know what you would like to see more of.

In a world of so much uncertainty and challenges we must be grateful that we are Australians, living in an amazing country, the legacy bestowed on us by all those who have defended our homeland. They shaped our nation into what it is today and we must uphold the values of mateship, freedom, a fair go for all and mutual respect, just as they did for us.

LEST WE FORGET

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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

Upcoming Events

We would love to welcome YOU to these upcoming events here in WA in the next couple of weeks and months.

PLEASE DO JOIN FELLOW 2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION MEMBERS & FRIENDS as we strive to perpetuate the Service & Sacrifice of the men of the 16th & 2/16th Battalions.

2025 KOKODA MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 11AM 16TH PRECINCT – THE BATTALIONS’ MEMORIALS KINGS PARK

This annual service in Kings Park draws the attention of many park visitors who follow the sounds of the Pipes and Drums of the Australian Army Band, Perth to the memorials.

Joining us will be members of the local Papuan and New Guinea community as we remember, not only our men, but the wonderful Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels and members of the Papuan Infantry who served side by side.

Wreaths will be laid and there will be the opportunity for everyone to lay their own floral tributes with Rosemary, the plant of Remembrance available to all.

The amazing Salvation Army catering van will be in attendance providing tea, coffee and home made delights, all for a small donation. Veterans of the Kokoda Track often spoke of how The “SALVOS” were always there; turn a corner and they would be waiting with a hot cuppa and more. We do hope to see you there!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE 2/16TH BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION

The **AGM** of the association will be held on **Sunday 5th October 10.30 am** at **IRWIN BARRACKS, Karrakatta**.

ALL members and friends of the association are invited to attend. PLEASE do remember to contact the Association Secretary Peter Norrish as a list of all attendees must be submitted prior to the event for security purposes. PHOTO IDENTITY is required for entry to Irwin Barracks as it is an operating Defence facility.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION must be submitted to the secretary prior to the date of the meeting. Secretary details peterchucknorrish@gmail.com Ph: 0417 985 400

ANNUAL COUNTRY MEMORIAL SERVICE & LUNCH BUNBURY

Join us in Bunbury on **Sunday 26th October** at the **Bunbury War Memorial**, ANZAC Park at **11am for the Memorial Service**. Bunbury is where so many of the 2/16th Battalion men, from all walks of life in the south west, joined up. This year we will be joined by 515 Australian Cadet Unit Bunbury who will establish an honour guard for the service.

Following the short but important service, where everyone will have the opportunity to lay floral tributes in remembrance, and wreaths will be laid and the appropriate tunes will be played, and thanks will be given, we hope you will join us at LUNCH at The Rose Hotel. The Rose Hotel was a favourite of our vets when BUNBURY was an entire weekend of commemoration and catching up.

Check out the MENU for The Rose Hotel at <https://www.rosehotel.com.au> Food and drinks are at own cost and they also have a special 'kids menu'.
WE SO LOOK FORWARD TO GREETING YOU THERE.

2025 ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS GET-TO-GETHER

This annual event brings members and friends, to gather with their families, as we remember our reasons for being there; to honour and remember those who made great sacrifices for all of us.

SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
O'MEARAS VC MESS, IRWIN BARRACKS KARRAKATTA

A Sausage Sizzle will be provided but please do bring a plate to share. Children will be most welcome as hopefully they will be another generation to whom the baton can be handed to in years to come.

PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY PRIOR TO THE EVENT AS A LIST OF ATTENDEES MUST BE GIVEN TO SECURITY AND PHOTO ID PRESENTED FOR ENTRY TO THIS DEFENCE FACILITY. SEE YOU THERE!

Subs & Donations

PLEASE do take a minute and check if your SUBS are due. Sadly, printing and mailing costs, just like everything else, keep climbing. SUBSCRIPTIONS \$25 per annum or \$100 for a 5 YEAR membership. JUNIORS UNDER 18 \$10 per annum.

Where Juniors are members of a subscription paying family they will NOT receive an individual Pigeon Post by mail but can request to be added to the growing list of members who receive their Pigeon Post via email.

VETERANS & WIDOWS & LIFE MEMBERS are not required to pay subscriptions

NAME BADGES can be ordered at a cost of \$20. There is a minimum number of badges that can be ordered to keep this cost so we do only order when that number has been reached.

PAYMENTS

Please make cheque or money order payable to 2/16th Battalion Association and forward to The Treasurer PO Box 434 COTTESLOE WA 6911. EFT to Bendigo Bank BSB: 633-000 Account: 1499-652-95. Please ensure you state NAMES for each payment or donation.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED THANK YOU

JUNE	5 YEAR	Shirley Cirillo	1 YEAR	Kayler Thompson
		Wayne Murray		Robyn Kerr
JULY	2 YEAR	Ken Birch	1 YEAR	R. Hitchens
AUGUST DONATION Joy Wheatley				

Editor: Thank you Joy, we are so grateful for your continued support.

Guardian Roster

OCTOBER - week commencing		NOVEMBER - week commencing	
29/9/25	Leanne Sammels	3/11/25	Noelene Wiseman
6/10/25	Wayne Koch	10/11/25	Julie Neale
13/10/25	Ellen Anderson-Knight	17/11/25	Peter Norrish
20/10/25	Janice McKenzie	24/11/25	Anna Pollard
27/10/25	Marion Clive		

DECEMBER – week commencing		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.
1/12/25	Janice McKenzie	
8/12/25	Noelene Wiseman	
15/12/25	Wayne Koch	
22/12/25	Marion Clive	

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

Marion Clive



VALE

THE ODE

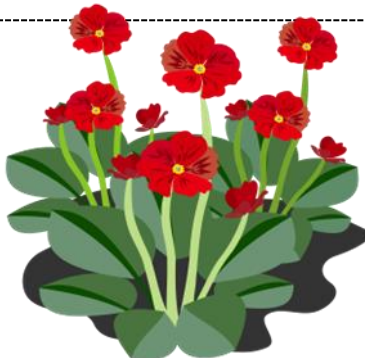
*They shall grow not old
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them*

LEST WE FORGET

NX173972 (R.L.) RUSSELL FULLER

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

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



VALE
NX173972 (R.L.) RUSSELL FULLER

Sadly, we have received the news of the passing of Russell Fuller, one of the last veterans of the 2/16th Battalion.

Unknown to the association for many years we were made aware of Russell's connection to the 2/16th when he visited the Australian War Memorial in Canberra some years ago now.

We congratulated Russell on becoming a Centenarian back in February this year. A photo of Russell, smiling and ready for the ANZAC Day Service in Springdale, NSW, appeared in the last (June 2025) issue of Pigeon Post.

Russell also featured later in that issue with comments he made regarding the landing at Balikpapan, July 1945.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Russell's daughter, Michele who informed us of her father's passing.

Articles & Reports

EVENTS HELD IN QUEENSLAND KOKODA DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE 8TH AUGUST 2025

Steve Harrold, our Queensland/NT Representative has reported on the successful Kokoda Day Memorial Service held at the Kokoda Memorial Wall at Cascade Gardens on the Gold Coast.

This annual event has been held for very many years at the beautiful Memorial to all those who were part of the battle that was - the Kokoda Track. This event draws crowds of locals and many more travellers visiting the Gold Coast are also drawn to this event, and it is widely covered by all the various media outlets.



The 39th Battalion Association plays a major role in this event, but with the appointment of Steve Harrold as the 2/16th Battalion Association Representative for Queensland and the NT there has been greater acknowledgement of the 2/16th Battalion and the other battalions of the 21st Brigade who achieved the

seemingly impossible task of beating the Japanese and saving Port Moresby and thereby Australia.

The Kokoda Memorial Wall honours all those who served on the Kokoda Track and this year's main speaker was Nova Peris OAM, former Senator and a descendent of a Kokoda Veteran, WX10522 John Marcus Charles KNOX (Jack) of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F.

Nova was delighted to see her great grandfather recognised with a paver, in his honour, which had been organised and donated by Steve Harrold, joining other such pavers in the area of the 2/16th Battalion plaque and individual pavers. See photo right of Nova and Steve Harrold at the site of the paver.



Also present on the day was Ron Smith to see the newly installed paver honouring his father, NX127113 Edwin Oliver Smith, a 2/16th Battalion Veteran.

We are most grateful to Steve for liaising with the other battalion associations and for ensuring that the men of the 2/16th Battalion received due recognition.

If you would like a paver installed for your relative, please contact Steve and he will gladly organise.

Steve Harrold Ph: 0417 515 786 steve.harrold@bigpond.com

From Steve:

Please see email below from Mr Ray McCabbin from Rotary Southport thanking the 2/16th for the \$200 donation towards some of the operating costs for the 2025 Kokoda Day Memorial Service held at Broadbeach Cascade Gardens.

'Dear Steve

Thanks again for your committee's generous donation toward the cost of this year's Kokoda Day Service at the Rotary Kokoda Memorial Wall, Cascade Gardens on the Gold Coast on the 8th August.

We can confirm donations were forwarded to the Surfers Paradise RSL Sub-Branch, the event organiser, and that all donors were acknowledged and thanked during the service.

We look forward to your continued support in the future.

Regards,

Ray McCabbin'

Editor: Thank you Steve. You are certainly making a difference in Queensland.

Photos from that event are available at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/A3fiq8x3nKiFWge18>

KOKODA DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE KOKODA MEMORIALS ON ONE TREE HILL 8TH AUGUST

The 39th Battalion Association held their annual Kokoda Day commemorative service in the picnic grounds by the Kokoda Memorials at One Tree Hill in Tremont Victoria on Friday 8th August 2025.

This is a very scenic location on the top of the Kokoda Memorial Walk in the Dandenong Ranges National Park. The 2/16th Battalion Association was invited to attend. Dawn and myself represented the 2/16th. Our marching banner was proudly displayed for the duration. The weather was warm and sunny (unlike this service last year).

Guest speakers included both Liberal and ALP politicians. The year 6 students from Belgrave South Primary School participated.



Wreaths were laid including one on behalf of the 2/16th Battalion Association. The 39th Battalion Association provided refreshments at the conclusion of the service.

Thanks to Alfred Mallia from 39th Battalion Association for organising this event and including us in the service.

Trevor Ingram
Vic/ACT/Tas Representative

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The RWAR Association held the annual Church service in St Georges Cathedral, St Georges Terrace in Perth on Saturday July 6th 2025.

An impressive turn out by 16 RWAR with an Honour Guard for the arrival of the Governor, and the procession of the colours added to the morning. The sound of bagpipes and Bugle in the Cathedral really added to the atmosphere.

Although civilian numbers were down all who attended enjoyed morning tea afterwards supplied by St Georges Cathedral members.

ASSOCIATION VISIT TO THE ARMY MUSEUM FREMANTLE

On July 13th a smaller than usual group of 2/16th Battalion Association members and families once again were enthralled by a showing of Medals and their history by Army Museum member Bob Wise.

Always available with stories to distinguish the different type and country of origin of medals and awards, Bob maintained interest not only during his presentation but when he joined members for a light lunch that followed.

Our thanks once again to Bob for enlightening us with knowledge and offering his assistance in identifying family medals.

BRIGADIER ARNOLD POTTS ORATION 2025 FRIDAY 25 JULY 2025

Just over 100 people enjoyed another great Oration at ANZAC House. Everyone was moved by Scholarship winner, LCPL Ryan Taylor's presentation of his trip to the Western Front. It was lovely to see Ryan's parents join us for the night and we hope to see them at future Orations.

Our Orator, Myles Pollard weaved an interesting and emotional story for us. We were taken on a journey across his career and into his family, connecting us to our combined 2/16th history. Thank you Myles for sharing your story with us.

The cocktail style allows for casual mingling and catching up with people in attendance. The catering was delicious and included something for everyone – from sliders, pies, sausage rolls to arancini balls and fish with potatoes – and had people heading home content.

If you haven't joined us previously or for a while, consider coming in 2026. If this year is anything to go by, I'm excited to see who we will have for our Orator next year.

Davina Goldthorpe



Myles with Brig. Potts' daughter Nan Harper, and with his mum and dad, Anna and Robert Pollard



2/16th Battalion Association Patron Len Roberts-Smith and his wife Sue, with Assoc. Vice President Mary Goldthorpe and granddaughter Amity Stilwell

John Murdoch and Cheryl Johnson



Squadron Leader (AAFC) Roger and Annette Buddrige



Orator Myles Pollard with Faye Utting

Penny Thomas, Peter Norrish, Davina Goldthorpe and Damien Stilwell



THE 2025 BRIGADIER ARNOLD W POTTS ORATION 2025
PRESENTED BY MYLES POLLARD
Grandson of 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Member SYDNEY BELL WX4050

Good evening. Thank you for being here—to remember, to honour, and to reflect.

My name's Myles Pollard. I'm an actor, a teacher, a director—and now and then, I've played war heroes on screen. Far easier than being one. No leeches. No malaria. And catering usually turns up on time. But tonight, I'm not here in any of those roles. I'm here as a grandson. As a son. As someone who inherited a legacy I didn't fully understand until much later in life.

Fair warning—I might get a little emotional. I never met my grandfather, but I've lived with the echoes of his trauma through my mum, and the silence of my grandmother. It means a lot that you're here. Because like many of you, I have a direct link to the 2/16th Battalion—to the men who gave everything, and to the families who brought the war home in silence.

I want to briefly touch on Brigadier Arnold Potts—because tonight is in his name and you can't really talk about the 2/16th without eventually bumping into Potts. He's one of those figures whose name echoes through military history—not just for his leadership, but for how he was treated. A decorated veteran of WWI, he went on to lead the 2/16th in the Middle East, and later the entire 21st Brigade—during the crucial first phase of the Kokoda Track campaign (as most of you already know).

It was 1942. Japan was advancing fast. Potts was tasked with the near-impossible: hold back the enemy across the brutal terrain of the Owen Stanley Ranges with a battle experienced force that was committed hurriedly, was under-supplied and ultimately exhausted. And somehow—through grit, tactical smarts, and sheer force of will—he delayed the Japanese long enough to turn the tide. He didn't waste lives. He didn't grandstand. He withdrew when it was smart to do so and preserved what strength his men had.

That decision saved Port Moresby. But Potts paid for it. Despite doing exactly what was needed under horrific conditions, he was removed from command after the Koitaki parade. Instead of another front-line role, he was shuffled into a posting in Darwin. Why? Well, it was politics. Pressure from above. General Sir Thomas Blamey - keen for public victories, misunderstood Potts' strategic withdrawal as a failure—and even accused his troops of cowardice. A moment that still stings, even in the retelling.

But to the men who served under him, Potts wasn't a coward. He was the opposite. He was there in the mud, the jungle, the hell of Kokoda. He was calm when things got chaotic, compassionate when lives hung in the balance, and courageous enough to make hard decisions that didn't win headlines—but did save lives. He never commanded in

combat again. But his legacy has only grown. Today, he's rightly remembered as a hero of Kokoda—an example of moral courage in a war that didn't always reward it. And of course, none of this happened in isolation.

Australia had been caught off guard—we'd trusted British assurances that Singapore would hold. When it didn't, and Churchill tried to keep our troops in the Middle East, Prime Minister John Curtin famously turned to the United States.

That brings us to Balikpapan—where the 2/16th played a key role in what was one of the final major ground operations of World War II. The battle began in early July 1945—just weeks before the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Soviet invasion of Manchuria, which ultimately brought the war to an end. So, was it necessary?

Many historians argue it wasn't—at least not strategically. By mid-1945, Japan was already on the brink of defeat. Its navy crippled. Its supply lines shattered. Its cities bombed relentlessly. But General Douglas MacArthur had a promise to keep. "I shall return," he declared after being forced out of the Philippines in 1942—and he was determined to make good on that vow.

So, the focus shifted from defeating an already-faltering enemy to reclaiming symbolic ground. Balikpapan became part of that push—less about military necessity, more about MacArthur's legacy. Strategically? Doubtful. Tactically? Flawless.

Whatever the politics, the soldiers didn't get a choice. They landed under fire, pushed through oilfields, swamps, and chaos—and did their job with grit, discipline, and quiet courage. The legacy of the 2/16th—under Potts and beyond—isn't written in policy papers. It's written in mud, blood, and the weight of what they carried. From Kokoda to Balikpapan, they showed us what duty really looks like.

My grandfather, Sydney Bell, was an orphan from a Carlisle workhouse. Survived the Western Front in WWI fighting in the British Army. Re-enlisted in the Australian Army for WWII. Served in the Middle East, Kokoda, Balikpapan. Lost a finger in a sawmill accident—but still played piano in a small dance band at the Denmark town hall in WA's Southwest. Chopsticks got a bit avant-garde, but he made it work. Sydney Bell like many of his counterparts never complained. They just got on with it. The piano's still there. Same hall. Bit dusty. Middle C leans slightly left. But it still gets wheeled out for concerts—like it's waiting to play *The White Cliffs of Dover* one more time.

My dad was living in Denmark, in the southwest, working as a young teacher—and he knew Sydney well. He once said that Syd was one of the most decent, grounded men dad ever met. Quiet as a whisper. Solid as a tree stump. Every bit the humble dairy farmer—one of those soldier settler blokes who came back from war and built a life from scratch. Cleared the bush. Milked the cows. Never complained.

The kind of bloke you'd follow into a storm—or a shed full of cows with diarrhoea. He never talked about the war. But he carried it. Quietly. Just like everything else. The only time Mum saw him cry was when The White Cliffs of Dover came on the radio. He died of cancer when she was just 14. Gone before she could ask the hard questions. And that silence—that absence—shaped her more than words ever could.

Now, you might be wondering if this is a tribute to Arnold Potts or an episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?* with trauma. All I'm missing is a couch and a Medicare rebate.

That's my mum! Anna Pollard - née Bell. Only in recent years has she begun to unpack the legacy she inherited. Her father—my grandfather Sydney—survived two world wars. Her mother? Survived a Japanese internment camp in Java. Anna Marie Bell (Granny Bell) was a young Dutch woman, a physiotherapist and gymnast living in Java, when war took everything. She was imprisoned. Starved. Stripped of agency. The guards called her a “massage therapist”—a name loaded with fear, power dynamics, and implication. There was no food. No safety. Just survival. And still—she lived. She came back. Built a family. Walked every day. Didn't drink. She cried sometimes—but laughed more. She carried trauma the way so many women of that era did—quietly. Without fuss. I don't remember a victim. I remember a survivor.

She chased me with a wooden spoon once—but let's be real, I'd been such a little turd I'm surprised she didn't upgrade to a cricket bat. There was one moment that stuck. My sister had a Japanese boyfriend, and my grandmother couldn't accept it. At the time, I thought she was just being difficult. Now I understand. She never really left that camp. The war lived on—in her kitchen, her fears, her silence.

I wish I'd been more patient. More curious. I wish I'd seen the child behind the fear. Her silence wasn't bitterness—it was love. She buried her pain to give her kids—my mum and her brother John—a life of peace on a dairy farm in Denmark, WA.

My grandfather—Sydney—never took a holiday. Cows don't take holidays. This was a man who lost his first wife and child in childbirth. His second wife left him while he was serving overseas. And yet—he came back from the war able to play piano with nine fingers... and write loving letters to his daughter. Mum remembers those letters. Still has them. She remembers his gentleness. His devotion. She says, “I always remember the happy times with Dad. I don't dwell on the negative.” That's the legacy he left her—along with music. She's still playing. Still teaching. My mum turned inherited trauma into quiet strength. She lost her dad at 14, but still—she chose joy. She chose to move forward. That grit? That came from her mum. A woman who survived the unimaginable, and somehow still managed to create safety, structure, and discipline. My grandmother was a survivor and my mother—she carried that forward. A quiet force of resilience. A maker of music. A woman who turned pain into purpose.

Now, my siblings and I—we carry them both forward. Their quiet defiance. Their instinct to dust off and keep going. That’s our inheritance. I want to show you something. This sword belonged to a Japanese soldier. My grandfather brought it back from the war. How it came into his hands—we don’t know. Like many returned men, he didn’t speak of it. And like many families—we didn’t ask. It sat in the back of a cupboard for decades. Not displayed. Not forgotten. Just there—like a question no one knows how to answer.

I’ve wrestled with what to do with it. Keeping it feels like clinging to pain. Letting it go feels like erasing something unresolved. We even offered it to my teenage son. For five minutes he thought it was cool. Then he handed it back. Said nothing. But I could tell—it didn’t sit right. Because it’s not a trophy. It’s a scar. A remnant of violence. Of silence.

One day, I’d like to return it. To someone, somewhere, who can hold it with the gravity it deserves. Not to celebrate it—but to understand it. To honour both sides of the pain. Let go of the relic. Keep the lesson. And maybe—pass on something better.

As someone who works in film, TV and theatre I’ve had the chance to tell a few war stories. Stepping into the boots of soldiers who never made it home. In *The War That Changed Us*, I played Archie Barwick—a Tassie farm boy turned soldier. His diaries weren’t polished history—they were messy, funny, full of grit and heart. Just one bloke trying to make sense of madness.

At the premiere, I met his daughter. She shared stories of Archie, not as a war hero, but as a father. She spoke of his humour... and his silences. Of how every Remembrance Day, he’d take a longer walk around their Tassie farm—never explaining why.

Years later, when she was grown, he took her to the NSW State Library to see his wartime diaries. The receptionist didn’t believe it at first—that this quiet man in front of her was Archie Barwick. But once it was confirmed, a librarian emerged wearing white gloves, carrying the diaries on a tray. She remembers him hovering his hands just above the pages—mud-stained, blood stained—like he was feeling the war without touching it. She said it was the only time she ever saw him cry. In *Danger Close*, I took on the Battle of Long Tan—playing Flight Lieutenant Frank Riley, who risked his life flying low over the treetops to drop ammunition to a small band of young Aussies. They held their ground against overwhelming odds with mateship, grit... and pure bloody-mindedness. One of the highlights of the project was meeting the vets themselves. The men who fought at Long Tan - Harry Smith (since passed), Dave Sabben, Geoff Kendall (since passed) and Bob Buick. There were two things I noticed about them. Firstly, they were men of quiet authority — sharp, steady, and unshakable. They carried their history in their eyes, spoke little with nothing to prove. Secondly... they were about this tall (gesture) - 5 foot nothing. Maybe that’s because I’m a giant.

It was one of the highlights of my life meeting these men.

Now on the ground running around in the mud with guns shooting blanks and have a grand old time was Travis Fimmel from Vikings, Richard Roxburgh who was in Moulin Rouge and Mission: Impossible 2, Luke Bracey - Point Break and Hacksaw Ridge. Meanwhile I drew the shortest of straws stuck in a studio in QLD, suspended from a 10 metre high crane strapped into helicopter shell pretending to be flying into battle and receiving artillery fire in front of a huge green screen. Too high up for toilet breaks, trips to the catering truck and just literally, stuck in suspended animation.

In Sydney II: Lost and Found, we told a different kind of war story—not one of victory, but of longing. A family desperate to know what happened to their son. It's the story of Australia's biggest naval disaster in World War II—when HMAS Sydney II was sunk by the German raider Kormoran off Shark Bay, taking 645 Australian lives with her.

I've never toured a live theatre show before that had such strong audience reactions. We toured RSL halls and theatres all over the wheatbelt and southwest. Beverly, Northam, Kalgoorlie, Esperance, Albany to name a few and following every show I would be introduced to someone with a shoe box or photo album filled with photos of the lost sailors still being mourned by their descendants. It was an incredible experience to see firsthand how a play can actually provide real people with closure.

Then there was Before Dawn—set on the Western Front. Shot just outside Esperance. The trenches were dug to perfect WWI specs... then abandoned for 18 months thanks to COVID. By the time we arrived, they were less 'set' and more 'biohazard'. Rats. Spiders. Enough mud to start a rice farm. We were dressed in wool uniforms that felt like sandpaper sacks, carrying packs through ankle-deep sludge in boots that leaked from day one. The novelty wore off fast—about midnight, middle of winter, under a rain machine soaking us for hours while we crawled back and forth through freezing mud. For cinema.

But we only did it for five weeks. No one shot at us. No one died. We had catering. Warm jackets. Cold beers at the end of the day. The real soldiers? They did it for years and they did it for us.

That's why these stories matter. Not because we pretend to know what they went through—but because we try to feel it. Just a flicker. And if we're lucky—really lucky—we walk away, clean up and carry the story forward.

As Philosopher and poet George Santayana once said "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

In 1942, Australia was caught off guard. Darwin bombed. Broome attacked. Our vast coastline suddenly felt exposed—and very far from help. Our defences were thin. Our allies stretched. The war wasn't "over there" anymore. It was here. At our doorstep.

By 1945—Balikpapan. The 2/16th were there- advancing under heavy fire in a campaign still debated by historians. But hindsight is a privilege soldiers never get. Because when the order comes—you carry it. With courage. With competence. With unwavering resolve. The men at Balikpapan didn't debate geopolitics. They didn't choose the mission. They executed it—with honour, precision, and the quiet professionalism that defines Australia's armed forces to this day.

So, if Balikpapan holds any caution—it's not about the men. It's about the moment. It's about how war, strategy, and politics don't always align—and how quickly circumstances can shift when clarity lags behind action.

Nearly 80 years on, the world is teetering again.

The 2027 Theory suggests China won't just be ready to take Taiwan—they'll dare the world to stop them, as tensions rise across the South China Sea and the fuse for a broader conflict quietly shortens. Ukraine is still burning. The Middle East remains a powder keg. And the U.S.—our long-time ally—is... well, harder to read than usual, especially with Trump back in the mix and treating geopolitics like its season five of *The Apprentice*.

That's why Balikpapan isn't just a chapter in our past—it's a strategic reminder. A marker of what readiness looks like when the world turns chaotic. A demonstration of resolve when purpose isn't always obvious—but duty still is.

Peace is fragile. Information is fallible. And in an age of misinformation, echo chambers, and algorithmic outrage—we're more connected than ever, but often less informed. The consequences of rushed or misaligned decisions don't just echo—they ricochet across generations. And history doesn't care whether we got it from a credible source... or a comment thread.

What the 2/16th gave us wasn't just their service—it was vigilance. The kind that doesn't flinch in uncertainty. The kind that questions, thinks, and prepares—before the sirens sound. They showed us what it means to be ready when no one else is. To hold the line in mud and smoke—even when the why isn't yet clear.

So, remembering them? That's not nostalgia. It's strategy. It's how we stay awake. It's how we make sure that lessons written in blood aren't lost in comfort.

So, what did Brigadier Potts really stand for? He led from the front. He stood with his men. When military politics turned on him, he stayed silent. Not out of weakness, but because he understood where true honour lives. It's not always loud. It doesn't always come with medals. Sometimes, it's about quietly standing by your mates, even when it costs you everything.

Potts didn't get to choose how history would remember him. But he chose how to lead — and that's the legacy we carry forward.

My grandmother couldn't make peace with the Japanese. Maybe she didn't need to. Survival was enough. But because of her, I can try. Even my teenage son felt it—the unspoken heaviness of it all. And if he can feel it without words, maybe it's our job to name it. To reckon with it. To pass forward something lighter than silence. Legacy isn't just what we inherit. It's what we choose to carry. And what we're brave enough to lay down

When I think of the 2/16th Battalion—of Potts, of my grandfather, of my mum— I don't just see grief. I see music. Humour. Strength. Love.

We're not here tonight to mourn. We're here to remember. To connect. To carry forward. Because the most powerful stories—the ones that stay with us—aren't about war. They are about humanity.

Let me leave you with a line from a soldier's diary. A poem called Bouquet of Memory

"Every flower a memory-
Reflushed by dews of tears
Lovelier and dearer
With the passing of the years."

Thank you for remembering. Thank you for being part of this story.

**PRESENTATION BY LCPL RYAN TAYLOR
RECIPIENT OF THE 16TH BATTALIONS FOUNDATION 2024 SCHOLARSHIP
AT THE BRIGADIER ARNOLD W. POTTS ORATION 2025**

Hi, my name is Ryan Taylor and I am a Lance Corporal in the 16th Battalion RWAR. This year I had the honour of being awarded the 2nd/16th Battalion Association scholarship. This scholarship sent me to the Western Front, to join a tour operated by Frank Taylor and Neville Browning under Frank Taylor's Australian Military History Tours.

The scholarship was created by veterans and is funded by the association to honour and perpetuate the memory of all soldiers who have served in the 16th and 2/16th Battalions. I have never had an overt interest in WW1 history and have no direct family who have ever served, so I embarked on this journey with a clean slate and no expectations.

Last year I spent roughly three months at home in Perth, with the rest of the time spent travelling across various parts of the world. I expected a history tour in France and Belgium to feel routine. What I didn't expect was for the trip to have such a lasting impact on my life.

Before I left, I knew I would be speaking with you all today about my experience and had planned to base this speech on following the 16th Battalion through the Western Front, however in doing so I would be doing a disservice to the experience I received.

Instead, I will share with you, prominent moments that honour all soldiers of this war.

To set the scene, Australia's involvement on the Western Front began in 1916, after the withdrawal from the Gallipoli campaign in December 1915. The Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was redeployed to Europe to support the Allied effort against the German Empire.

Among the units sent was the 16th Battalion, which faced its first major engagement at the Battle of Fromelles in July 1916. The battle proved disastrous. In just one night, the 16th Battalion suffered over 1,500 casualties, including more than 400 killed. This loss shocked the Australian public and marked a grim introduction to the brutal nature of trench warfare on the Western Front.

Following Fromelles, the 16th Battalion continued to fight in some of the most intense battles of the war, including at Pozières, Bullecourt, and many others.

Soldiers endured appalling conditions—indescribable mud, constant shellfire, and the ever-present threat of death. Each engagement exacted a heavy toll, both on the battlefield and at home.

As reports of the war's toll filtered back to Australia, the emotional and social impact became increasingly severe. Families grieved sons, brothers, and fathers. The shared trauma left a deep and lasting scar on the national psyche—one that continues to weigh heavily on countless families.

Neville Browning and Frank Taylor's work serves as a powerful act of remembrance, ensuring that history is preserved and that the names, stories, and sacrifices of every soldier are never forgotten. The sacrifices of the 16th Battalion and countless others helped shape a new Australian identity—one forged in loss, resilience, and a deeper awareness of the true cost of war.

Brigadier Thompson, Frank Taylor, and I were given the honour to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate ceremony in Belgium, where the last post has been played at 8pm every day, only being interrupted by WW2. This ceremony is not only important to discuss due to 16's efforts in the Ypres offensive of 1917, but to draw attention to the scale of loss seen in Ypres.

I came away from this trip with an understanding of the scale that is difficult to convey through words alone. It is one thing to hear the numbers, but with no terrain to appreciate, no graves to touch, and no walls to see; they are just numbers.

The Menin Gate bears the names of over 50,000 soldiers—each one missing in action in Ypres between June and November 1917. These men have no known graves, no marked resting place, and for many, their names go unnoticed on the towering gate walls. There are over 18,000 Aussie soldiers in France and Belgium with no known grave, their only trace lies engraved on memorial walls far from home.

62,000 Aussie soldiers died, 5.7% of the male population aged 18-44. 155,000 Aussie soldiers were wounded, just over 14.4% of the male population aged 18-44. Although the fighting occurred on a large scale, involving battalions, brigades, and entire divisions, the front lines were, at times, so close that opposing sides were within throwing distance of each other. An image from Messines otherwise known as Hill 60, shows how close the allied and German lines were. With me standing on the allied lines and the group standing on the German lines. It is nearly impossible to grasp just how close the fighting was at times, while considering the significant losses incurred for such minimal gains.

The most memorable part of the trip for me was somewhere I didn't know we would be visiting, a German cemetery in Langemark, Belgium. There are 44,000 Germans buried here, with almost 25,000 buried in the central mass grave. Over 3,000 reservists who died in October and November of 1914 are buried here, giving rise to the name Studentenfriedhof – meaning student cemetery, due to the majority of these reservists being students. The students and professors, the hope and future leaders of the German people, fallen side by side on the battlefield, now laying atop one another, nearly forgotten.

To contextualise this site, with specific reference to the German reserve corps, they had been marching for days before reaching Langemark on the 20th of October. They arrived exhausted, with few or no tools to build trenches and endured a sleepless night with constant bombardment from a well-trained and sheltered British force.

They were ordered to attack, without any preliminary or effective artillery support, with their strategy consisting of forming rows facing the enemy and charging, shoulder to shoulder. These forces were mowed down, with vivid accounts from the students detailing the grief, sorrow and anger of which they were all suddenly overcome.

“We can't believe it” they said. From this attack came one of the most powerful myths in German history, one the soldiers on their front lines had already been sold. “To the west of Langemark, our young regiments attacked enemy positions while singing, Deutschland, Deutschland uber alles.”

This one sentence appealed to a deep yearning at the home front in Germany and directly contributed to the thousands of young men signing up to be sent to the front lines, not knowing they would see their friends killed beside them, their names and their bodies forgotten in the soils of Belgium.

Peronne, a small town in northern France, was where we spent the last 5 days of the tour. Upon the start of our visit we were greeted by the town's local council and mayor. They sought to demonstrate, not only their enduring gratitude for the Australians' role in liberating the town, but also their ongoing celebration of Australian culture. On our walk through the town centre to the Town Hall, we passed a few small bars/restaurants. I vividly remember the local town's people clapping as we walked on.

Having no idea who we were or what we were doing, seeing the service medals on the chests of ex-serving members and their family members was enough for them to stop what they were doing and show their gratitude.

In passing conversations at the local bar, a man thanked me incessantly for my service to my own country, with tears in his eyes that I may one day serve alongside France in war. Although he was not old enough to know what had happened when his town was liberated in WW1 or WW2, the emotion and stories had been passed down through generations so much so that it had affected him in conversation with a stranger from Australia.

Not only was this small town so grateful and cognisant of Australia's efforts during the war on the Western Front, they had woven Australia into their customs and traditions, so much so it was a common courtesy to say "to Australia" when raising a glass.

Driving through country France, it is easy to be desensitised to the constant sight of war cemeteries, especially as we would visit at least two each day, it felt repetitive, as if you had seen one cemetery, you had seen them all. This is a sentiment that was shared amongst the tour group along the journey, however on one of the final days of the tour, at a non-descript AIF burial ground in France, my perspective, along with my purpose for being on the tour was changed completely.

Frank read to us a poem by Michael Edwards. They say you die twice: once when you stop breathing, and a second time when someone says your name for the last time.

I wasn't given the opportunity to visit France and Belgium merely to follow the 16th Battalion on the Western Front, but to ensure that these soldiers from both sides—whose families could not visit their graves—are not forgotten and, in that sense, not truly dead.

I would like to share this poem with you all today, so you too may remember this sentiment.

"I half awoke to a strange new calm and a sleep that would not clear
For this was the sleep to cure all harm and which freezes all from fear.
Shot had come from left and right with shrapnel, shell and flame
And turned my sunlit days to night where now, none would call my name.
Years passed me by as I waited, Missed the generations yet to come,

Sadly, knew I would not be fated to be a father, hold a son.
 I heard again the sounds of war when twenty years of sleep had gone,
 For five long years, maybe more, till peace once more at last had come.
 More years passed, new voices came, the stones and trenches to explore,
 But no-one ever called my name, so I wished and waited ever more.
 Each time I thought, perhaps, perhaps, perhaps this time they must call me,
 But they only called for other chaps, no-one ever called to set me free.
 Through years of lonely vigil kept, to look for me they never came,
 None ever searched or even wept, nobody stayed to speak my name.
 Until that summer day I heard some voices soft and strained with tears,
 Then I knew that they had come to roll away those wasted years.
 Their hearts felt out to hold me, made me whole like other men,
 But they had come just me to see, Drawing me back home with them."

Michael Edwards

Editor: Video presentation of the Oration can be found on the 2/16th website.
www.//2nd16thassoc.com.au/videos with highlights at <https://youtu.be/PoUTrwxH-c>

THE ROAD TO KOKODA

A poem by Gwen Bessell-Browne

Dear God: What men are these	Are these our husbands,
That we have bred,	Brothers, sons, our friends
Who bravely tread	That once we knew —
The way to hell	These heroes
Along the road that leads	Who, fever-stricken, drenched with rain,
To dark Kokoda?	Through jungle swamp and endless pain
	Tread the road that leads
	To dark Kokoda?

A TRIP BACK IN TIME NORTHAM 9TH AUGUST 2025

Revisiting where our fathers, grandfathers and their mates' stories, as fellow members of the Australian Army, as a Battalion, the 2/16th began. John Murdoch, son of WX3254 Ken Murdoch, organised a trip back to Northam WA, where it all began for the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F., a Western Australian raised battalion, following in the footsteps of the original 16th Battalion also WA raised and the most decorated Australian Army Unit in WW1.

John continues:

After the Battalion was raised in April 1940, training was conducted at the Northam Army Camp until embarkation for overseas service in October 1940. Subsequently reinforcements were also trained in Northam before deploying to the Battalion in the Middle East.

On Saturday 9th August 2025, families and friends of the Battalion attended a Memorial Service at the Northam War Memorial, hosted by the Northam RSL Sub-Branch. Due to the weather the service was moved inside the Memorial Hall.

John Murdoch spoke of the Battalion's activities whilst in camp, and their relationship with the town of Northam. Wreaths were laid by Mrs Denette Bernard, President Northam RSL Sub-Branch, and Mary Goldthorpe on behalf of the Association. Tributes were also laid by others present. Once again, the proceedings were accompanied by bagpipes, played by Damien and Davina. Thanks to AAB-Perth Pipes and Drums.



On behalf of the Association, John presented Stephen Dyer, Secretary of the Sub-Branch, above, with a set of books detailing the history of the 2/16 Battalion for the sub-branch reference library. Many thanks to Stephen for co-ordinating the event, and other members of the Sub-Branch who were present.

All adjourned to The Rec Hotel to enjoy lunch, before a visit to the Army Camp.

Despite the weather about 50 people took a brief tour of the camp. An accommodation hut and a mess hall were opened to enable visitors to gain an insight into camp life for the Battalion. Many of those present had more recent recollections of time in camp with CMF/Army Reserves and/or Army Cadets. Thanks to Army and Defence staff for opening up and guiding us through the buildings.



Families and friends who were present included:

Pam Anderson; Robyn Caporn; Marion Clive; Mary Goldthorpe; Prescott Harper; John McMaugh; Thomas Mervyn; Carolyn and John Murdoch; Wayne Murray; Lauren and Wynton Perera; Anna Pollard; Mary Price; Margaret, Brian, Brian, Glenn, Hudson and Zara Smith; Davina, Damien, Stirling, Neve, Hadley and Amity Stilwell; Pam Taylor-

McKenzie; Penny Thomas; Phil and Faye Utting; Steve White; Bruce and Noelene Wiseman. Newcomers Merv and May Speedie, also, Graeme, Cheryl and Ian Johnson representing the 2/11th Infantry and 2/4th Machine Gun Battalions' Associations joined our ranks.

Editor: Members and friends who gathered in Northam were most appreciative of the work John Murdoch undertook to organise this trip back to where it all began. Our most sincere Thanks and gratitude to you, John.

We are also grateful to Mike Whittington from the Northam Sub-Branch of RSLWA for his report on that special day.

Shared sacred moments at Northam Army Camp recall Battalion's origins

THEY SHARED unique sacred moments standing together: small children, young adults, their parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, as rain lashed the rusty tin roof and memories echoed around the unlined corrugated walls that are the remnants of Northam's once-splendid Army Camp.

As dust swirled above the bare, abandoned wooden floors, their thoughts were for family members who, 85 years ago, trained here as soldiers in the shadow of World War II, preparing for overseas journeys that would see their newly formed battalion become Australia's second-most decorated

The August visit was the culmination of a day trip by members of the 2/16th Battalion AIF Association, that included a service at Northam's Memorial Hall, followed by lunch and then, for the majority of the 60-plus guests, the rare pilgrimage to Northam Army Camp courtesy of Defence.

As bagpipes accompanied the stirring Memorial Service – moved indoors due to the weather – the visitors, joined by members of Northam Sub-Branch, were reminded that many of the Battalion's original recruits were from the Goldfields, which accounted for what later military historians described as the Battalion's "hard and rough character".

The Battalion was born in April 1940, with the first recruits arriving at Northam Army Camp in May. It was a varied collection of individuals from many walks of life, and coming from all over the State, they brought with them a wide range of skills and experience. Many had never seen a rifle; yet within months, they formed a coordinated unit, capable for any operation, attack or defence, counter-attack or withdrawal, as they paraded at Northam Showground and then marched through Perth, before embarking for the Middle East at the end of October. The link with Northam continued, with replacements training here before joining their comrades overseas. Serving with distinction, the Battalion also saw action in New Guinea before being disbanded in 1946.

The memorial service concluded with wreath-laying, and a thankyou presentation to the hosts, Northam RSL Sub-Branch, accepted from master of ceremonies John Murdoch by Sub-Branch secretary Steve Dyer. The gift, a book collection related to the 2/16th Battalion's history, makes a welcome addition to the Sub-Branch's extensive library.

The visitors adjourned to the Rec Hotel for lunch, where – in a relaxed setting – stories were exchanged of the hardships also experienced by post-war service personnel at Northam Army Camp: freezing in winter, stifling in summer. And on this particular day, true to its reputation, the site did not disappoint, it bucketed down!

Then, as Defence personnel opened up relics of past dormitories and a mess hall, it was time for each visitor to begin their own journey of nostalgia at what is now called Yongah Hill.

They were also reminded that it was not only Australian military who had endured the challenges of the ageing camp's primitive facilities; the site had been home to countless numbers of prisoners-of-war, and then, after hostilities ended, became a clearing house for the multitude of displaced Europeans seeking a new life in post-war Australia.

ALPHONSUS RYAN WX4265

Alphonsus Ryan was born in Boulder WA in 1915. He was one of 8 children, they grew up on Boulder City Dairy, it was a close family and Alph kept in contact with all of his siblings his whole life. As a young man he would go to the dances at the Boulder Town Hall, with his sister Molly and great friends Bernard and Carmel Walsh.



In 1940 Alph (WX4265) and Bernard WX4268) enlisted in Northam WA. Alph sailed out of Fremantle on 25 October 1941 on the Aquitania to India and then onto the Middle East to fight the Vichy French. He is mentioned in "1000 men at war" / Malcolm Uren, as one of the Kalgoorlie boys who crossed the Litani River. He sustained a gunshot wound to this ankle.

When the 2/16th was recalled Alph returned, with the Battalion, to defend Australia from the Japanese. Alph was a bit of a larrikin, and not on his own I'm sure. His pay book has many notations of docked pay from being AWOL. He was from the Goldfields after all. After jungle training in Queensland the Battalion headed to New Guinea and the infamous Kokoda Track.

Alph was still with his best mate Bernard on the track. Bernard was shot and died on 30 August 1942. On the same day Alph was shot and wounded on his shoulder and spent many days with the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels going back down the track for medical help.

During this time he kept his Catholic faith and vowed to say the rosary every day if he survived.

During this time Alph suffered from malaria, asthma, gunshot wounds and sadly the mental trauma of war. He was discharged prior to the end of the war. Very soon after while walking on the beach in Perth, in his civies, he was given a white feather by an elderly woman. No words were exchanged.

Alph married Carmel 'Joan' Taylor and they went on to have 6 children. Three boys then three girls. The second child is named Bernard. Alph got a job in the public service. He was very active in his son's school cricket team at CBC Fremantle. Sunday mass saw the Ryan family take up the 2nd pew from the front, on the right. He was also an active member of the church. He loved the horse races and supported his nephew who was a jockey. A family day out could be a day at the races or picnics at the National Parks, or a trip to the beach.

His body suffered from the war and he found it hard to keep up full time work. Alph spent time in and out of hospital later in his life and died at the age of 57 in 1972. He and this family said the rosary every day right up to the end.

Postscript

In 2016 Alphs youngest daughter Regina had a chance meeting with Bernard's niece Alison. Regina met several times with Bernard's twin sister Carmel and attended her 100th birthday. Alison submitted Bernard to the Australian War Memorial to be honoured in one of their daily Last Post Ceremonies. It was attended in Canberra by 7 of Bernard's family and 2 from Alphs. All travelled from Perth. On the day a large portrait is displayed of the person being honoured. This ceremony had the image of Bernard Walsh and Alph Ryan, as requested by the Walsh family.

Regina Ryan

ANNUAL COUNTRY MEMORIAL SERVICE BUNBURY

This year the Memorial Service will be held at the Bunbury War Memorial in ANZAC Park on SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER commencing at 11AM.

All members and friends are invited to attend as we pay tribute to the Service and Sacrifice of the men of the Western Australian raised 2/16th Battalion, many of whom enlisted in Bunbury coming from the south west "where the tall timbers grow"! (2/16th Marching Song)

We are delighted that 515 Australian Cadet Unit, Bunbury will for the first time join us and will provide an Honour Guard for this commemorative service which adds to the significance and importance of this event.

Wreaths will be laid, and everyone is encouraged to lay their own floral tributes or Rosemary, the Flower of Remembrance, will be available for all.

Following the commemorations The Rose Hotel will be waiting to welcome everyone with your choice from their Menu and drinks all at your own expense.

For many years, when the Country Weekend in Bunbury came along so many of our Veterans stayed at The Rose Hotel and the hotel are very happy to be welcoming back the 2/16th Association. Check out their Menu at rosehotel.com.au

It would be so good to see members and friends from Perth travelling down to Bunbury to join with many locals who have been great supporters in recent years.

Please do let me know if you are planning to attend so that I can update The Rose Hotel on numbers. Nothing will be set in concrete with the hotel and they are very accommodating with numbers. So PLEASE do join us!

Margaret Smith Ph: 0419 914 534 margaretsmith14@hotmail.com

Editor: *"We would really love to see as many people as possible at this fantastic event as we want to keep up the tradition of the Battalion's Country Dinner. It has always been an important occasion to bring city and country members of the Battalion together to reminisce and pay homage to those who are no longer with us in person but who will always be with us in spirit. Please bring your family and friends along and help us keep up this very important tradition!"*

I found this when checking past editions of Pigeon Post and consider it appropriate to add to this year's notice.

It was in the September 2014 issue of Pigeon Post when its editors were two granddaughters of 2/16th Battalion veterans: MICHELLE MOIR granddaughter of WX10664 JIM MOIR and my own daughter ADELE SMITH granddaughter of WX3254 KEN MURDOCH.

They indeed said it better than I can!



<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/189821>



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

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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		

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VETERAN WIDOW LIFE MEMBER FREE

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c/- The Treasurer PO Box 434 COTTESLOE WA 6911

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

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday wishes to all members, veterans and widows

David Walker, Barry Ashby, Garth Symington, Irene Rainsford, Glenice Sanders, Tony Mathwin, Paul Stevens, Ian Haidon, Keith McCullough, Kevin Looby, Hazel Higgins, Mark Johnson, Jim Grayden, Gaye Cruikshank, Renny Gosatti, Davina Goldthorpe, Jacynth Reid, Phil Bell, Janet Bentley, Michelle Moir, Ian Brodribb, Rodney Haley, Sue Worth, Margaret Smith, Michael Jervis, Mary Goldthorpe, Neil Trantham, Stuart Maver, Peter Wain, Amity Stilwell, Mike Cumming, Annette Egan, Harry Hounsham

Wishing all our members who celebrate their special day in

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER and DECEMBER

a very happy birthday and many happy returns



Note: Due to privacy reasons we will no longer be advertising birth dates in Pigeon Post.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

Dates subject to change and venues to be confirmed

SEPTEMBER	
14	Kokoda Memorial Service Kings Park 11am
OCTOBER	
5	Association AGM Karrakatta 10.30am
25	Cameron Supper Novatel Perth 6.30pm
26	Memorial Service & Country Lunch Bunbury 11am
NOVEMBER	
23	Association Christmas Wind Up Karrakatta 11am
Save the Date	
7 August 2026 Brig. Arnold Potts Oration	
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	

Keep an eye out in the December Pigeon Post for the 2026 Calendar

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.