





2/16th Memorial ANZAC Service

13 April 2025

10.30am for 11am Service

Further information contact Peter Norrish

peterchucknorrish@gmail.com

BOOK NOW

Information and booking details on page 34

2025 Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration

Friday 25 July 2025 6.30pm

ANZAC Club Perth

Orator – Myles Pollard

Grandson of

WX4050 Sydney Bell





PIGEON POST

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



Vol. 59, No. 160

Price 5c

March 2025

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

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Welcome

Welcome to the March 2025 edition of Pigeon Post, the official journal of the 2/16th Battalion AIF Association.

Pigeon Post is the means by which our Association connects with you, our members all over Australia and overseas.

Whether you have chosen to receive a printed copy, or a digital copy, we trust that it provides an interesting read and helps you realise that you are part of our 2/16th family and community.

Details of ANZAC DAY Commemorations, and other planned association events can be found within this issue.

We endeavour to inform and update you on events which are occurring around our country that have special significance for all of us and which we hope you will attend, as they do commemorate our 'blokes'; the men of the 2/16th Battalion AIF and their forebears, the Original 16th Battalion.

What an amazing Legacy they left us! One we shall forever be grateful for. LEST WE FORGET

The arrival of 2025 also saw 16RWAR welcome a new Commanding Officer Lt Col Alex Davidson. The Association extends our welcome to the new CO and his wife.

Sadly 2024 saw so much conflict, both in the world and within Australia, that has not dissipated. Our wish for 2025 is for a much more amalgamated Australia where our Australian values are universal; a legacy that was delivered to all Australians by those who 'served and sacrificed'. This is something that we all can contribute to.

And whilst this edition has been collated, we have watched the destruction from Cyclone Albert across SE Queensland and Northern NSW. To all those affected we are thinking of you, please take care & stay safe.
Margaret & Davina

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

Letters

From MARION ILES
Widow of TX2434 M.L. ILES
Glenorchy, TASMANIA.

Friday 29th December 2024

Dear Members,
Thanks for my parcel. It was full of very useful items. I was very pleased to have the box. Many items will come in handy for me.

Thanks again,
Marion Iles

From MAXINE CROSS
Widow of NX127180 E.W. CROSS
Evans Head, NEW SOUTH WALES

Dear Mary and 2/16 Battalion AIF Association
Sincere gratitude for your kind gifts and communication throughout the years.
Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year,

Maxine Cross.

*Dear Ladies
We are so happy that you enjoyed receiving the small box of goodies that Mary Goldthorpe and her family put together and sent to you just to let you know that you are not forgotten.*

Is it wonderful to receive your very welcome notes and to be able to share them with our members. Thank you!

*As we are well into 2025 we trust this new year sees you enjoying good health.
With our very best wishes.
Members 2/16th Battalion AIF Association Members*

Editor: *Following the receipt of the Christmas Care Packages that are mailed to our eastern state and country widows, Mary received phone calls from grateful recipients including Joy Wheatley from Canberra.*

Mary undertakes to deliver the packages- Christmas bags- to all those living in the metro area and they make her so welcome.

WELCOME CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR PATRON

The following was received for publication from the Patron of the 2/16th AIF Battalion Association, MAJOR GENERAL THE HONOURABLE LEN ROBERTS-SMITH, RFD, KC, (Retd).

The letter from Shirley Cirillo in “*Pigeon Post*” of December 2024 was profoundly poignant. It graphically highlighted the lifelong consequences of wartime service not only for the soldier who fought for his country but also his wife and children.

Real courage and steadfast loyalty characterised this whole family in the face of horrific challenges and intractable hardships, with which they were left to deal without any support from the nation in whose service her father PTE Eric Anderson fought. Tragically the consequences of his service destroyed the family relationship and ultimately took his life. The account given by Shirley on behalf of the whole family in this letter is beyond important.

Until recently, it was rare for such accounts to be expressed, much less acknowledged. As distressing as it is to learn of them, many similar stories have come to notice in the last few years.

Eric's family experiences, sadly, are a reflection of the stories recounted to (amongst others) the *Defence Abuse Response Taskforce* and the *Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicides*. These stories of “lived experience” have generated a much greater awareness of the need for our government and Ex-Service organisations to provide vastly better and more effective support to the whole of the veteran community.

Shirley's letter outlining the awful experience of Eric Anderson, his wife Sylvia and their children shows graphically the stark reality of service for country.

Len Roberts-Smith

Editor: We are extremely grateful for the comments of our Patron who has brought attention to the fact that unfortunately experiences as suffered by Eric Anderson and his family following his service to our country in World War II were still being perpetuated, as reported in recent day enquiries, by our service personnel who proudly and heroically served our country in recent conflicts. As Australians we all owe so very much to every man and woman who dons the uniform as a member of our Defence Force. Sadly, it is only very recently, and many years after, that we now know that as a country, as a people, and that our own governments have let those who protect us down. So many veterans and families have suffered immensely, and it has been left to other veterans to help their mates, and no matter how willing they are, so often this is not enough.

IT IS NOW TIME THAT WE STAND UP AND DEMAND THAT SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING ARE PROVIDED TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR US. THEIR FAMILIES TOO MUST RECEIVE THE ASSISTANCE THEY TOO REQUIRE TO MOVE FORWARD.

SADLY, IT IS TOO LATE FOR FAR TOO MANY WHO SO PROUDLY AND COURAGEOUSLY
DEFENDED US, OUR COUNTRY AUSTRALIA AND THE VALUES WE WERE SO FORTUNATE
TO INHERIT; THE LEGACY LEFT BY THOSE WHO SERVED BEFORE.
LEST WE FORGET

MAJOR GENERAL THE HONOURABLE
LEN ROBERTS-SMITH, RFD, KC,(Retd).
PATRON 2/16 BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION

The Honourable Bill Grayden, AM
PRESIDENT and the COMMITTEE of the
2/16th BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION.

Dear Bill and members of the Committee,

In addition to its usual interesting collection of articles, letters and photographs the most recent addition of the “*Pigeon Post*: (September 2024) carried the full text of the outstanding Potts Oration delivered by Nova Peris, OAM, OLY on 2 August 2024.

This was a brilliant and moving address, the content of which highlighted the importance of maintaining the Potts Oration as an annual event.

That there is now on the Association’s (and public) record a full and permanent copy of this address is also particularly important. The Orations present aspects of the Battalion history and personal commentary which would otherwise not be ventilated in this way, and which deserve to be permanently retained and available.

These reflections lead me to suggest that perhaps the Committee might wish to consider publishing over time in the “*Pigeon Post*” the full text of any previous Potts Oration addresses the Association may still hold and require any future speaker to provide a digital copy for that purpose.

Congratulations on the wonderful event on 2 August.

With best regards
Len Roberts-Smith
13 Sep 2024

Editor: Thank you, Sir, for your compliments and comments which have just recently come to my attention. We do appreciate them. We do endeavour to reproduce the addresses from the Potts Orations in Pigeon Post following each event. Sadly, the early addresses were not covered in the Pigeon Post but many of the more recent have been reproduced especially for those members and friends who were not able to attend the presentations. I have hoped for many years that a Video recording would also be made available for these such people. Your idea to reproduce earlier addresses is very worthwhile and I will do some research to see what, if any, are available to share via Pigeon Post.

VERA BAILEY TURNS 104



Congratulations to our 2/16th widow, Vera Bailey who recently celebrated her 104th Birthday.

Thank you to Trevor Ingram for sending us the news and beautiful photos of Vera ready to cut her celebratory cake. Vera is the widow of VX122443 Bob Bailey.

How wonderful Vera; we all send you our very best wishes.

Vera is residing at the Corryong Aged Care in north east Victoria and it was here that she celebrated with her daughter, Heather McCormick who took and sent the photos to Trevor.

Thank you, Heather, pictured right with Vera, we are so pleased to see the photos of your beautiful smiling mother, Vera.

Thank you, Vera, for your contribution to the 2/16th over very many years especially attending the reunion lunches at Hepburn Springs which was where I had the pleasure of meeting you.



Upcoming Events

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

23rd March 2025 Join THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND PERTH at the AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WA for an AUSTRALIAN ROCK CONCERT 4.30 -7PM

Please support the Australian Army Museum of WA in Fremantle and enjoy the atmosphere with a wonderful Western Australian sunset as the backdrop.

www.trybooking.com/CXKWO

13th April 2025 2/16th Battalion AIF Association's ANZAC MEMORIAL SERVICE 11am at 16TH PRECINCT KINGS PARK

Everyone is welcome to lay wreaths, flowers in remembrance of loved ones.

25th April 2025 ANZAC DAWN SERVICE KINGS PARK

Join our 2/16th Battalion Association Representative as they lay a wreath on our Memorial after the main service.

ANZAC DAY MARCH PERTH CITY

Join our Association members and friends as they proudly march with Flags Flying and the Banner held high honouring our forebears who also proudly marched along St George's Terrace prior to their departure from Australia, many never to return home.

ANZAC DAY: CATHEDRAL SERVICE

11am at St George's Cathedral, 38 St Georges Tce Perth.

This is a free event however tickets are required through the RSLWA website

<https://www.rslwa.org.au/events-calendar/anzac-day-cathedral-service> Details of all ANZAC Day events in Perth and beyond can be found on the RSLWA website.

Following the events in the city join **16RWAR for LUNCH at IRWIN BARRACKS, KARRAKATTA.**

24th May 2025 2/16th Battalion AIF Association ANNUAL MAY LUNCH

11am at BEDFORD-MORLEY RSL CLUB

We want to welcome you to our annual metropolitan lunch for good food, great company and to create new memories to add to those gathered over many, many years. See you there!

VICTORIA

22nd March 2025 BACCHUS MARSH REUNION LUNCHEON

ROYAL HOTEL, 200 MAIN STREET, BACCHUS MARSH

12 NOON FOR 12.30 START

PARKING: Free parking access from Main Street, opposite the ROYAL HOTEL

Behind the Bacchus Marsh RSL. COST as per hotel price list payable on placing your order on the day (Menu can be viewed at <https://eatdrinkroyal.com/eat>)

RSVP ASAP to TREVOR INGRAM trevor.ingram@bigpond.com Ph: 0419 333 347

23rd April 2025 THE ANNUAL ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SCHOOLS KOKODA MEMORIALS DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK

Organised by Trevor Ingram 2/16th

25th April 2025 ANZAC DAY MARCH MELBOURNE

Join our Victorian Representative, Trevor Ingram, Association members and friends as they honour the men of the 2/16th Battalion AIF, proudly marching behind the Banner with BATTLE HONOURS of the 2/16th displayed, never to be forgotten.

LUNCH AT THE RISING SUN HOTEL, SOUTH MELBOURNE

Families & friends all welcome.

QUEENSLAND

25th April 2025 ANZAC DAY PARADE BRISBANE

For only the second time in recent years, the 2/16th Battalion AIF Association Banner will be on parade with Association members and friends marching proudly behind. Please join our Qld/NT representative Steve Harrold to honour the men of the Battalion. More than ever now we must never forget what they gave for us; more than we can ever repay.

LUNCH FOLLOWING PARADE AT THE COFFEE CLUB, 128 CHARLOTTE STREET, BRISBANE.

LEST WE FORGET

PLEASE DO REMEMBER THAT THIS IS YOUR ASSOCIATION HONOURING IN PERPETUITY THE SERVICE & SACRIFICE OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE WORN OR WEAR THE '16'. PLEASE JOIN IN THESE EVENTS SO OUR 'BLOKES' KNOW THEY WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN!

Subs & Donations

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024-2025

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

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

Please note the first 5 year memberships 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

SEPTEMBER 2024
5 YEAR

Terrance Devereux
1 YEAR
Regina Ryan
R Kerr

OCTOBER 2024

Kevin Looby x 2
Doug Farmer

NOVEMBER 2024

P. Gillies

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are so very happy to welcome new MEMBERS to our Association.

KEN BOYNE son of WX13693 Harry Boyne
PETER GILLIES nephew of WX2945 Peter Dungey

We are hoping to meet you at our upcoming events, notice of these can be found in this and all issues of Pigeon Post.

It is gratifying to see that we are still reaching family members and friends who want to join with us to honour our 'blokes'!

Thank You!

Guardian Roster

APRIL - week commencing		MAY - week commencing	
31/3/25	Leanne Sammels	5/5/25	Ellen Anderson-Knight
7/4/25	Noelene Wiseman	12/5/25	Marion Clive
14/4/25	Marion Clive	19/5/25	Wayne Koch
21/4/25	Anna Pollard	26/5/25	Gawned Family
28/4/25	Janice Mackenzie		

JUNE – week commencing	
2/6/25	Noelene Wiseman
9/6/25	Peter Norrish
16/6/25	Anna Pollard
23/6/25	Janice Mackenzie

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

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

Judy Mathwin (Daughter of Brig. Arnold Potts)

David Mathwin (Grandson of Brig. Arnold Potts)

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

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



VALE
JUDY MATHWIN
"Mum's Eulogy"

Judy Mathwin was the eldest daughter of Brigadier Arnold Potts (Brig) and Doreen Potts (Gran). Judy was born on 29th Feb, a leap year child. So even though she reached the age of 92 she has only had 23 birthdays in her lifetime. All her family and friends rocked up for her "21st" and she was duly presented with the keys to her front door and allowed a small glass of red wine.



Judy had an older brother David and younger sister Nancy. Their household also included Gran's father, one of Brig's sisters and Gran's friend and helper. Judy grew up during the depression and remembers being excited if Gran bought a tray of granny smith apples because they were each wrapped in soft paper. Very handy for the toilet!

When the war cameso did the Mathwins. Brig and Rod Mathwin joined the army, so Marg Mathwin and her four children, moved in with Gran at the Potts family farm "Barrule". M did the cooking, Gran ran the farm, and Judy and brother David were relieved to now be part of a team of farmhands. (Although Judy always said Uncle David tended to see his role as being more managerial!) The war only became real to Judy when close friends of the family, Frank Sanderson and Charlie Smith, were both killed in Syria by a landmine they drove over. They were both members of the 2/16th.

The Potts, Mathwins and Sandersons used to spend Christmas and holidays together. They often went to Mandurah, and Gran would drive Lizzie (an A model Ford) that had been modified into a ute. The kids all piled onto the back and thought it a great adventure especially as it was often done at night when it was cooler.

Horses were a big part of growing up. All the mustering was done on horseback, they played polo and polocrosse, and they took their horses to the camp at Denmark for their summer holidays. And of course they rode their horses the 9km to school every day. Judy's pony Betsy had a particular spot along the way where she regularly dislodged her.

Judy went to Perth College where she excelled at Hockey, made many lifelong friends and became Head Prefect. During the latter part of her teens, Judy said she and Brig enjoyed arguing about many topics. Judy saw things in black and white and Brig tried to teach her about all the shades of grey in between.

After leaving school, Judy travelled to NZ and then studied mothercraft nursing at Torrens House in Adelaide. She practiced as a mothercraft nurse for a while, then she was Brig's driver during his political campaign, she worked on the farm, went to the local dances, and enjoyed Gran and Brig's matchmaking endeavours. These parties usually involved a meal, singalongs around the piano and various games (once a group of Judy's friends were all discussing how they met their husband or wife and all of them said it was at the Potts's place!).

Then she fell in love.

Dick Mathwin made sure they were engaged before he showed Judy where they were going to live after they were married. The "house" was a derelict ironstone dwelling frequented by shooters and all sorts of wildlife. So, undaunted they set about helping to renovate this building, that became our home for the next 61 years. And what a great home it was –our growing up years were rich with family and friends.



Judy's firstborn was David followed shortly after by Helen. When Dave was three and Helen was nearly two, a nearly tragic accident was only averted because Judy showed level headedness, strength and courage in the face of adversity. Helen followed Dave 300 m from the house to a dam which Helen slipped into and sank. Luckily Judy was looking for them and when she heard Dave shrieking for help, she was able to locate them quickly. Judy swam out, found Helen unconscious in the muddy water and then ran back to the house with her slung over her shoulder. Dick had taken their only vehicle over to Upwood and she was unable to raise anyone on the phone (which was a party line). So, Judy, carrying Helen, ran, with barefoot Dave, 3 kms through ploughing and pin grass to the closest neighbour, who then took them to the hospital, 30kms away, where everything ended well.

Judy had three more children, Tony, Mary and finally Tim. Tim was born with cerebral palsy, which didn't hold him back in life. Judy taught Tim resilience, independence and problem solving. She often wore the disapproval of others when she didn't rush over to help him get up from a fall but let him do it by himself. Judy could see the long game.

She loved us bringing our friends home to the farm and anyone who walked through our front door had a seat at the table and a meal, or just a cuppa and some of Judy's home baked biscuits.

After we had all left home Judy and Dick started to travel. Dick bought an F100 and put a Villa Nova on the back, and off they went. Dick would drive and Judy would knit and

together they would do quizzes and crosswords as they covered the many miles between destinations all over the Northwest and to Roxby Downs. In the evenings they would play scrabble, chess and mastermind.

Then in the early nineties, Dick was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and over the next four years the cancer progressively took hold. Judy and Dick fought it all the way but in 1997 Dick succumbed to the cancer and Judy lost her best friend and soulmate. They had been a team for 43 years.

Judy continued to work on the farm until 2005 when she moved into Kojonup to live in the house that Gran built. Judy had created a great garden out at the farm but the garden in town had fallen into disrepair, so she worked hard at reviving the roses and hydrangeas, planting geraniums, fuchsias, bulbs, annuals and much more. She loved to be surrounded by a sea of colour, especially blue. Judy enjoyed her retirement and besides the gardening filled it with such activities as bridge (despite the no talking rule!), croquet, paper folding, book club, volunteering for Meals on Wheels and at Renew and Kodja Place. Then her macular degeneration forced her to stop participating in many of her activities. When she voluntarily handed in her driving licence, she also gave away much of her cherished independence, but Judy had some wonderful neighbours and friends who constantly helped her out.

The family Judy was brought up in was a family dedicated to community service, and she was no different. She volunteered for the school canteen, CWA, Red Cross, St Mary's Church, the Women's Club, P&C at the District High, the P&F at St Bernards, the RSL, she was a jam judge at the Kojonup show. In 2012 Judy was surprised and humbled to receive the Kojonup Lions Citizen of the Year award for her lifelong dedication to the Kojonup community. In order to receive her award, they had to get her from the kitchen where she was helping with the catering!

Judy had a great sense of humour, strong opinions and a desire to always help others. She was a font of knowledge about our family history, and we all loved to listen to her stories of bygone days.

She was our home.

Mary Mathwin

Editor: Thank you, Mary, for sharing your "Mum's Eulogy" with us. For those of us who had the pleasure of meeting Judy, we remember her as a gracious lady and a very proud daughter of, hero to many, "Brig"-Brigadier Arnold Potts.



VALE
DAVID RICHARD MATHWIN
Dave, Daffy, Smiley



David Richard Mathwin is Brigadier Arnold William Potts' eldest grandson, eldest child of Judy and Dick Mathwin, brother to Helen, Tony, Mary and Tim, husband to Lyn, father to Graham and Russell and Grandad to Isla and Daisy. And heir to the Potts Family Farm "Barrule".

Dave grew up on "Andover", the Mathwin's Boscabel Farm. He was born a wanderer and didn't like being fenced in, so he used to go walkabout with the family dog, Sooty, usually down to the creek. The first time he went, Judy had to get the Mathwin boys and the neighbours to come and help find him. The barbed wire that Dick then added to the fence still didn't stop the little wanderer, but Mum worked out that when she called the dog, and it came running she at least knew in which direction to find Dave.

Dingo Rock was a rocky outcrop near the house at Andover, where Dave, along with Helen and Tony and various cousins, constructed a stone fort at the top of the hill and built a giant ging in the fork of a dead tree at the base of the hill. Then at family gatherings the kids would divide into two teams and would battle to take control of the fort using rocks as their ammunition. Always conducted in the dark. (And all our parents were kept in the dark!) And amazingly there were no injuries.

Dave went to Guildford for high school. Whilst he was not a dedicated scholar, (he considered 50% more than adequate) he thoroughly enjoyed boarding life and developed many lifelong friends there.

After finishing high school, he completed his diesel fitters' certificate, driving from Kojonup to Albany each week for the lessons. This meant he and Dick could share the maintenance of all the farm equipment.

Then Dave got itchy feet and took off to NZ with no fixed plan on when he would return. About a year later he arrived back full of tales about driving trucks on ice, negotiating tidal movements to get from one paddock to the next and driving the beer tankers. It was a great experience, and he made some great friends.

Dave worked on Andover and Upwood after he returned from New Zealand. He helped to clear hundreds of acres of virgin bush and then decided that he needed to do a lot of replanting. He took great pride in his replanting efforts and took a keen interest in trying new plants and pasture to combat the increasing salinity problem.

As a young adult, cricket, golf and tennis were his favourite past times, all of which he was good at and enjoyed playing socially. He continued the family cricketing tradition by playing for the heritage Boilup Cricket Club. He was involved in the Moodiarrup and Kojonup repertory clubs, he was a member of the Changerup Badminton group, a major instigator of the refurbishment of the Boscabel Tennis Club in the mid-eighties, a member of Rural Youth (where he had a lot of fun), the National Party and Apex.

In 1978 Dave, along with two fellow Apexians, started the annual “Kojonup Blue Wool Shears” competition at the Kojonup Show. Initially the sheep were shorn on the back of two trucks, until Dave oversaw the construction of the shearing shed at the Kojonup Show grounds, which is still used today. He was also actively involved in the Kojonup Show as the Wool Steward and was recently awarded life membership for his dedication by the P&A Society.

He was a lifelong member of the Kojonup Bushfire Brigade and took his turn as the Lumeah Fire Control Officer. This entailed the ability to use WhatsApp which meant he had to get that dreaded technology, a mobile phone. He was pleasantly surprised though, when he found his hearing aids could be blue toothed to the phone and he could talk to people more easily again. He was also chuffed when he mastered doing a pin drop for the fire brigade.

Dave was always ready, willing and able to help people at any time, whether it was carting water for garden weddings, joining a busy bee, or participating in community sports and social events.

He rarely complained, even when he chopped off the tip of his finger while driving the bulldozer. He walked 2 km back to the house, where he nonchalantly walked in and apologised but suggested they should probably take him to hospital. Similarly, when he was riding his horse from Barrule to Andover, approximately 50 km, he had an attack of appendicitis halfway. So he tied off the horse and caught a lift to the hospital where they organised urgent surgery.

Dave was meticulous in a lot of things, a good mechanic, a wood worker and a dedicated diary writer, (just like his father and grandfather). He kept this habit going even in hospital where he meticulously recorded the name of every nurse, doctor and visitor that walked through his door. His record keeping also extended to a love of photography and at one stage he was developing his own pictures. He liked action shots like when he was driving the fire truck at breakneck speed to cut off run away bush fires while casually taking photos out the window.

He was also obsessed with straight fences which occasionally led to a few sheepyard walk outs! It was a great relief to Lyn when Barrule started hosting French students, and they could help Dave with straightening his fences.

Dave could also be a bit vague like when he lost his wallet in Doha airport on the way to France to visit the students that had worked at Barrule. Graham had the task of getting Dave to the airport on time, teach him how to use Google Maps (in the airport lounge) and remind him to keep his passport safe.

He probably should have added his wallet too!

Despite this rather catastrophic loss, Dave still managed to make his way in a foreign country without speaking the language or having any money! He survived with the help of a fashion wholesaler, some fellow tourists, his hotel, and various French people, all of whom obviously recognised a man with a kind and gentle soul. Upon his return, he flew back through Doha and picked up his wallet – with not a single cent missing. When he returned home, he also made sure everyone who had lent him money was reimbursed. Walking the Kokoda track was no problem for Dave. He was one of the few that carried their own pack and was always the first to volunteer to fill everyone's water bottles from a nearby stream. His grandfather would have been proud of him.

Dave faced his illness with positivity and courage. It is a testament to his popularity that he had so many messages of support from so many people. He was constantly surrounded by family and friends throughout his whole stay at the hospital and hospice. And in typical Dave fashion, he didn't want to be a burden to anyone...even those who were paid to look after him.

An excerpt from his son Russell's tribute:

"Dad's legacy is one of happiness, caring, hard work and connection.

Rachel and I were especially thankful to be let into the hospital when we had covid. It was the final proper conversation I was to have with Dad. He had a few final bits of advice for us, such as, "don't run over your children" ...which seems fair enough, and also "Don't let Graham drive the tractor" ...also fair enough!

I hope to follow in Dad's footsteps as best I can, except for one thing, it's not looking promising but hopefully I can keep my hair longer than he did."

An excerpt from his son Graham's tribute:

"The art of a good conversation is not easy, but Dad was exemplary at it, and I believe that it was one of his goals to make others comfortable and bring joy, and at this, he was highly successful.

Dad's love of a good long chat is known to many. All visitors to the farm at Barrule; truck drivers, fuel distributors, lost travellers, old acquaintances or someone just dropping something off, didn't realise that they had just volunteered to become the recipient of one of Dad's legendary chats.

These chats served an important purpose for Dad, connecting him to the world, fostering friendships and creating community. A chat with Dad was filled with his infectious smile and his bright laughter.

We would often debate politics, and talk about the world, about nations and states, the future of energy generation, the economics of farming and industry. I look back with happiness on the many great conversations I have shared with dad, and his willingness to engage with so much of the world.

These past few weeks I have been recalling the image of my father, a few months ago, laughing as he ran around the yards chasing a mistakenly drafted sheep. He found joy in all types of situations. He brought great happiness to the world, was unrelenting in his determination and work ethic and lived his life to the fullest.

I am honoured and proud to call myself his son."

Mary Price (nee Mathwin)

Editor: *Sincere thank you to Mary Price for sharing her brother David's Eulogy, giving us a wonderful insight into the life of her elder brother, Brigadier Arnold Potts' eldest grandson. Reading her beautifully written words I see much of David's character and traits being reminiscent of the "Brig" himself.*

David's passing, so soon after his mother, Judy passed, leaves the Mathwin Family without two very generous, strong and caring personalities; leaders in their own rights.



Articles & Reports

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 6TH OCTOBER 2024

Meeting Opened at 10:43 am

Chair: Vice President Mary Goldthorpe.

Present: Peter Norrish, Jim Grayden, Mary Price, Phil Utting, Faye Utting, Penny Thomas, John Murdoch, Ken Walker, Mary Goldthorpe, Trevor Ingram (online), Anna Pollard, Marion Clive, Bob Bayliss, Maren Bayliss, Doug Farmer.

Apologies: Bill Grayden, Davina Goldthorpe, Steve White, Steve Harrold, Wayne Koch, Travis Hocart, Margaret Smith, Carolyn Murdoch, Tim Murdoch, Lauren Perera (Murdoch). Lt Col Lachlan Bromley, Capt. Gillespie. RSM Scott Myers.

Vale: QX50338 V O (Ossie) Merritt of Queensland
VX119717 R S (Reg) Weber of New South Wales
VX108906 H W (Harold) Radley of Queensland
NX4280 N G (Norm) Wheatley of the Australian Capital Territory
NX124005 T (Trevor) Brooker of New South Wales
Jean Bloomfield, widow of WX5668 C Bloomfield
Kevin Milne, husband of Life Member Joan Milne.

Ode: Recited by Ken Walker

Minutes of the last AGM on 1st October 2023 were tabled, after prior distribution by email. The Chair outlined the content to the meeting.

Motion: The Minutes of the last AGM on 1st October 2023 be accepted as accurate. Moved by Phil Utting, seconded by Jim Grayden. Carried unanimously.

Finance Report: The Treasurer Mary Price tabled a Financial Report for financial year ending 30th June 2024.

Total Income	\$30,713.53
Total Expenditure	\$38,682.85
Net Loss	\$7,969.32
Balance Sheet at June 30th 2024	
Current Assets	\$313,817.00
Current Liabilities	\$nil
Total Net Assets	\$313,817.00

The Treasurer is in touch with Auditor Rob Gibb and is working with him to produce the Auditors Report by the next General Meeting.

Two members present identified they had not received the Treasurers email and requested all Committee ensure their group emails include all Committee members.

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

Motion: The Financial Report for the Year ended 30th June 2024 be accepted. Moved by Jim Grayden, seconded by Faye Utting. Carried unanimously.

Reports tabled.

Presidents Report: VP Jim Grayden reported verbally that President Bill Grayden is not well enough to provide a written report this year but wished to thank all Committee for their work during the past year.

Victoria Report: Trevor Ingram tabled an emailed report and spoke to the main points via Zoom. There are 50 Association members in Victoria, Tasmania and ACT.

Functions conducted and/or attended were a 2/16th Luncheon in Bacchus Marsh for 20 attendees on 29th October 2023; ANZAC Service for Schools at Dandenong Ranges N.P. on 23 April 2024 with over 400 students and others attending; 2/14th Bn Luncheon at Caulfield RSL on 24th April; ANZAC Day March in Melbourne with 12 descendants of veterans attending followed by the Luncheon at Rising Sun Hotel with 36 attendees; 39th Bn AGM at Darebin RSL on 28th April; 39th Bn Service for Kokoda Day at One Tree Hill for AWM filming on 8th August 2024; 2/14th Bn AGM at South Melbourne on 22nd September 2024.

Trevor will continue as the 2/16th Association representative on the 2/14th Bn Assoc committee, for the 25th consecutive year. The challenges he faces are no remaining veterans in Victoria and dwindling numbers attending and organising events.

Queensland Report: Stephen Harrold emailed a report, as he is an apology for the AGM. Trevor Ingram outlined the key points to the meeting via Zoom.

The 2/16th Battalion banner participated in the Brisbane ANZAC Day March in 2024, for the first time in many years with a small group marching. Steve attended the 2/14th Bn Assoc lunch on 25th July 2024, and the commemoration service at Broadbeach Cascades Memorial Gardens where veteran Alan Haddy had an engraved paver installed. Also, the Tolga Memorial Park, near Cairns, for the unveiling of the renewed 21st Brigade Plaque during the VP memorial service, on half of the Association.

Trevor Ingram and Steve Harrold were thanked by the Chair for the outstanding contribution to the functioning of the Association.

Pigeon Post: Editor Margaret Smith emailed a Draft Report to the Committee prior to the meeting but was an apology for the meeting. Copies of her submission were circulated, and discussion followed. The Committee present agreed that the content of the submission went beyond reporting and incorporated commentary on unrelated matters.

Motion: The meeting does not accept the Pigeon Post report in its current form and refers it back to the author/s and requests they edit it and remove unnecessary commentary. Such referral to stress the gratitude of the committee for the work done by the editorial team and the sincere appreciation for their efforts. Jim Grayden moved; Ken Walker seconded. Carried.

Honours and Awards: Mary Goldthorpe proposed a Certificate of Merit be prepared for the Guildford Grammer School Cadet Unit for providing a Catafalque Party for commemorations and for the Army Pipes and Drums for providing music at commemorations.

Life Membership was then presented to serving Secretary Peter Norrish for service to the Association. He expressed his gratitude for the recognition.

Honorariums: Honorariums have remained unchanged for several years, and it was proposed they be raised due to cost of living increases. However, both the Secretary and Treasurer assured the meeting the current amount covered any costs incurred. It was agreed that Honorariums will be \$350 for the Secretary, \$350 for the Treasurer and \$400 for the Editors of Pigeon Past, as Margaret and Davina share the role.

In preparation for election of office holders the following motion was moved by Peter Norrish, seconded by Mary Goldthorpe and carried.

Motion: The serving President of the Association, Bill Grayden, be exempt from the constitutional restriction on years of service, as he is an eminent elderly veteran and best represents the qualities espoused by the Association.

The Chair declared all positions vacant and called for nominations.

President. The only nomination was Bill Grayden, and he was elected unopposed.

Vice Presidents. Mary Goldthorpe and Jim Grayden were both nominated and elected unopposed.

Secretary. Peter Norrish was nominated and elected unopposed. Treasurer. Mary Price was nominated and elected unopposed.

Editor of Pigeon Post. Margaret Smith and Davina Goldthorpe were nominated and elected unopposed.

Committee. Ken Walker, John Murdoch, Penny Thomas, Anna Pollard, Faye Utting, Phil Utting, Steve White and Wayne Koch were nominated and elected.

Past Committee members Verity Hobbs and Travis Hocart were not nominated as they didn't wish to continue serving as they are unable to attend meetings.

Trevor Ingram accepted nomination as the Victoria, Tasmania and ACT Representative.

Stephen Harrold also accepted nomination as the Queensland and Northern Territory Representative.

Patron. Major General the Hon. Len Roberts-Smith RFD, KC (Ret'd) has accepted nomination as Patron and has communicated to the Committee his honour in being nominated.

Auditor. Mr. Ron Gibbs has communicated he accepts the nomination as Auditor for the Association.

Subscriptions. Subscription for membership of the Association was discussed and determined to remain unchanged.

Motion: Len Roberts-Smith be the Patron, Rob Gibb the Auditor and membership subscription be \$25 per year or \$100 for five years. Moved by Mary Goldthorpe, seconded by Penny Thomas. Carried.

General Business

The Chair, Mary Goldthorpe, spoke of wishing to reactivate the Foundation sub-committee by co-opting two non-committee members to consider researching and writing a history of the Battalion. The Committee agreed with the proposal.

The Chair also tabled a letter from our Patron, Len Roberts-Smith, complimenting the Committee of the 2024 Oration by Nova Peris and urging them to ensure the Oration continues annually and copies of each presentation are published and preserved. The Committee agreed to this proposal and inquiries will be made to have past Oration presentations placed on record. Consideration may be given to the compilation of a book containing the speeches.

The Secretary briefed the meeting on the new requirement for all Not-for-Profit Associations to report annually to the Australian Tax Office to maintain their status, and

explained the need to have a new person to the key positions required to enable that reporting to occur, as the previous official position holders are unknown. The Secretary is preparing a formal application to the ATO to be named as the key person. Who can also nominate others to undertake some roles. The meeting thanked the Secretary for his work and moved the following Motion.

Motion: The Hon. Secretary Peter Norrish is authorised to change the registration details of the Association as recorded by the ATO and the ABN Register to record himself as the Associate, Public Officer and Authorised Contact Person, to manage mandatory reporting to the ATO of the Association's status as a Not for Profit, as the current recorded position holders for the Association are unknown. Further and future appointees are to be appointed when the process is established. Moved by Mary Goldthorpe, seconded by Jim Grayden. Carried

Association Member Dave Farmer addressed the meeting about the process of having a new plaque placed in Kings Park's Honours Avenues, for a veteran killed in action. He also displayed a phone application that enables searching of plaques already in place.

Next AGM will be Sunday 5th October 2025 at 10:30 am O'Meara's Mess, Irwin Barracks.

The next General Meeting will be on Sunday 3rd November 2024 at 10:30 am O'Meara's Mess, Irwin Barracks.

AGM Closed at 11:54pm.

President: Bill Grayden

Vice President: Mary Goldthorpe

Vice President: Jim Grayden

Secretary: Peter Norrish

Treasurer: Mary Price

Minutes Endorsed as accurate on 16 October 2024 by the Committee.

VICTORIA/ACT/TASMANIA REPORT FOR 2024 AGM

Vale Norm Wheatley WX 4280 MAWSON ACT

Membership: Records Indicate:

Victoria	44 members
ACT INCL JERRABOMERRA	4 members
TASMANIA	2 members

This includes widows of deceased veterans.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED OCTOBER 2023 to SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday 29th October 2023: Luncheon at the Royal Hotel, Bacchus Marsh with 24 attendees including Presidents from 2/14th and 39th Battalion Associations.

Mary Goldthorpe flew in from Perth for the day to attend, amazing commitment.

Tuesday 23rd April 2024: ANZAC Service for Schools & Service Organisations at Dandenong Ranges Memorials.

Organised by 2/16th Battalion Association Representative, three months in preparation. Participants included 400 students from 13 Primary and 3 secondary schools (an increase of 92 students from the previous year 2023), 45 Principals/School Coordinators, Shire Council Mayors, local CFA Captains, Parks Victoria Managers, Legacy and Vietnam Veterans Associations and local Members of Parliament.

Parks Victoria provide 12 Rangers to erect Banners, marquis, control parking and serve food and drinks. 2/14th, 2/27th and 39th Battalion Associations supported the function on the day. All equipment, speakers, piper, audio technician and finger food were provided free of charge, no cost to 2/16th. The schools also provided a choir, a concert band and army cadets for the catafalque party.

Wednesday 24th April 2024: 2/14th Battalion Association Annual Reunion Luncheon, at Caulfield RSL. Attended by Trevor & Dawn Ingram.

Thursday 25th April 2024: ANZAC Day March Melbourne. 12 descendants marched behind the 2/16th Banner with 6 army cadets from Caulfield Grammar School as banner bearers.

Thursday 25th April 2024: 2/16th combined ANZAC Day Luncheon with 39th, 2/14th and 2/27th Battalion Association members and guests at The Rising Sun Hotel in South Melbourne. 36 participants.

Sunday 28th April 2024: 39th Battalion Association AGM at Darebin RSL Trevor and Dawn Ingram attended as invited guests.

Thursday 8th August 2024: AWM filming at the 39th Battalion Association Kokoda Day Ceremony, Kokoda Memorial Walk & Cairns, One Tree Hill. Three 2/16th attendees.

Sunday 22nd September 2024: 2/14th Battalion Association AGM held at The Rats of Tobruk Association Hall in South Melbourne.

Trevor Ingram was re-elected on the 2/14th committee as the 2/16th representative for the 25th consecutive year in this position.

Upcoming Functions

Interest in holding another reunion lunch at Bacchus Marsh will be gauged October/November.

Challenges in Victoria for 2025

There is an increasing challenge to maintain interest in organising and attending events in Victoria. We have no remaining veterans in Victoria, the ACT or Tasmania.

The organisation of events is left to one or two individuals and attendances are dropping off at the reunion and ANZAC Day marches.

Support from the 2/16th Committee to assist from afar will be crucial to being able to continue with events in Victoria without amalgamating with sister Associations.

VICTORIAN/ACT/ TASMANIAN REPRESENTATIVE: I have acted as the Victorian/ACT/Tasmanian representative for the past 25 years and am happy to stand for re-election for a further 12 months.

I commend the wonderful work undertaken by the 2/16th committee and PP editors during the past 12 months.

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

QUEENSLAND/ NORTHERN TERRITORY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

This year has been quite busy for the Association.

ANZAC DAY

Approval was sought and received from the Brisbane ANZAC Day Parade Committee for the 2/16th Banner to be displayed through Brisbane for the ANZAC Day Parade. The banner has gained a lot of public and media attention. A new member was added as a result of the parade.

COMBINED LUNCHEON

The combined Luncheon with the 2/14th Battalion Association, held on the 25th July also went well.

BROADBEACH CASCADE GARDENS MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Association Paver at the Broadbeach Cascade Gardens was replaced as well as a new paver installed for Lt. Alan Haddy. Lt Haddy had his name read out and a brief of his outstanding service was delivered to the audience.

I am pleased that this soldier has finally received some recognition. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Association. The actual service went very well with over 100 plus persons attending.

TOLGA MEMORIAL PARK

The day following the Broadbeach Service, my partner Emely and I, then flew to Cairns to participate in the unveiling of the new 21st Brigade plaque and to attend the Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day Memorial Service at Tolga near Atherton.

I would like to congratulate Trevor Ingram for a job well done with the organising and planning of this replacement plaque. Great job, Trevor. A wreath was also laid on behalf of the Association.

I would like to seek re-election as the QLD/NT Representative and Committee Member for the 2/16th Battalion AIF Association.

Regards

Stephen Harrold

QLD/NT Representative and Committee Member

2/16th Battalion AIF Association

PIGEON POST REPORT

Pigeon Post is the official journal of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association and is distributed Australia wide and overseas by print post mail and via email, with four issues every year.

We, Davina and Margaret, as the co-editors, do enjoy what we do, and we do take seriously the legacy of this 'journal' that has served the "16th" community so very well since its first edition.

Although many members have taken up the offer to receive Pigeon Post via email, a great proportion of members still prefer to receive a printed copy of our quarterly 'journal'.

Printed copies are also provided to RSLWA and ANZAC House, 16 RWAR and the Army Museum in Fremantle. Our eastern states representatives are also provided with extra copies, especially if they have forthcoming events where the Pigeon Post can be distributed. We are happy to report that this distribution has resulted in new members joining our ranks which is such an essential component to ensuring the growth and continuation of the association into the future.

Pigeon Post continues to be the main source of information to, and connection with, all members of the association.

We are so very grateful to all our contributors. We enjoy receiving your stories, comments and photographs and are delighted to share them with all our members. Without you Pigeon Post would not be the informative and enjoyable read that it now is.

Please do continue to share your thoughts, stories, photos, remembrances and know that they will always be valued as we endeavour to honour, into the future, the service and sacrifice of all those who wore or wear the "16"!

Sincere thanks to Marion Clive who continues to provide us with the latest roster for our Memorial cleaning well prior to the closing date for the upcoming issue of Pigeon Post. Marion ensures that the roster of volunteers for the following three months is full, that is a huge task in itself, and we are so grateful for her diligence.

Thank you, Marion.

Our Eastern States Representatives, Trevor Ingram and Steve Harrold must also be thanked for their willingness to provide their comprehensive reports well before the due date. Thank you, Steve and Trevor. We are always delighted to receive and include your news.

Our long term printer, PK PRINT are also deserving of our gratitude for their continuing high quality product and quick turnaround printing. Thank you to Peter and your team.

Committee member Wayne Koch provided us with a great article about his Maternal Grandfather, Capt. Stan Hummerston published in Pigeon Post March 2024. I am grateful to Wayne, along with Phil Utting who answered my call for 'photographers' for the Potts Oration, an amazing event that I was unable to attend. Thank You both.

We express thanks to Vice President Mary Goldthorpe, who continues to pass on the information on birthdays, notifies of members who have passed, correspondence that she receives and updates on future events. Thank you to Mary. Mary also keeps the mailing list up to date and organises the address stickers and 'stuffs' the envelopes for each edition.

This year I have added a new section to keep you, our members, up to date on the matters that your committee are considering and making decisions on. I am following what was established in earlier editions of Pigeon Post when the Minutes of the Committee Meetings were published in full.

When I decided to add this section, it seemed a better idea would be, to summarise the committee's minutes, and hopefully turn them into a more enjoyable read.

The biggest and most deserved Thank You of all must be made to Davina Goldthorpe, my co- editor, who does all the formatting prior to sending it to PK Print.

Lastly, a reminder to you, our members and readers, without your contributions our Pigeon Post would only be a series of reports.

We look forward to another year of great stories, reminisces and photos.
CO-EDITORS Margaret Smith & Davina Goldthorpe.

SOCIAL REPORT

Sunday 26 November 2023 saw 40 plus people attend the end of year get together at Irwin Barracks with friendships renewed and ended with a magnificent cake provided by Bruce Wiseman, the highlight of the lunch.

Functions clashed in October 2023 – PNGDF Navy requested a Commemorative Service with 2/16th Battalion A.I.F Association after the handover of HMPNGS Gilbert Toropo 404 from the Australian Government to PNGDF Navy at Garden Island. The very successful service was held at the 2/16th Battalion Memorial in Kings Park attended by 100 people including PNGWA Association, 16RWAR, RWAR Association, PIR and MP Dr David Honey.

The same weekend saw 35 people in Bunbury, including many who travelled from Perth and surrounding Districts to once again honour all who served in 2/16th Battalion with a Memorial Service followed by lunch at the Lord Forrest Hotel. New faces and attendance by the Mayor of Bunbury highlighted this event.

In February we met, although only a small group, to welcome in 2024 in Kings Park surviving the threatening weather.

April 21st gave us the pre-ANZAC Day Service attended by Guildford Grammar School Cadet Unit as Catafalque Party and over 50 drawn to the service by the Australian Army Band, Pipes and Drums Perth welcoming one and all.

ANZAC Day in Perth started with Dawn Service at Karrakatta Military Cemetery and at the State War Memorial in Kings Park followed by our group marching in Perth. A very small group, then attended the lunch at 16RWAR upon return to the Barracks.

The Annual May Lunch was held this year at the Bedford/Morley RSL organised by Faye and Phil Utting. Thank you for making this such a success for the over 50 people who attended.

Our visit to the Australian Army Museum in Fremantle in July gave us an insight into Military Medals awarded during WWI and WW2. Bob Wise from the Curatorial Section of the Museum gave us a very interesting and informative talk answering many questions thrown at him.

2/16th Battalion Association had representatives attend and lay wreaths at the POW Service and the Dedication of the Greek Memorial in Kings Park. We also attended the dedication of two plaques added to Lovekin Drive for two 2/16th Battalion Members. The annual RWAR Association Church Service in St Georges Cathedral Perth also saw our members attending.

The Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration was this year held in the ANZAC Club at RSL Headquarters in Perth in early August. Prior to our Orator, Nova Peris speaking, Pte Anthony Smit recounted his visit to Gallipoli for ANZAC Day 2024 as a recipient of the 16th Battalion Foundation Scholarship. Both he and Nova brought their thoughts and feelings to life and left many stirred emotions. Nova told of her story of the Kokoda Track where her Great Grandfather Sgt John (Jack) Marquis Charles Knox served with the 2/16th Battalion.

September saw our service in Kings Park that coincides with Arnold Potts birthday, again with many members of the Potts family, joining to honour those who serviced. We had a beautiful rendition of the PNG National Anthem sung by members of the PNGWA Association. Once again Guildford Grammar School Cadet Unit performed their duties with perfection.

Later in September we joined again at the State War Memorial to commemorate 25 years since the Australian Service in Timor-Leste. A wreath was laid in recognition of this more recent service by Australian troops and many of those present mentioned the importance of acknowledging these more recent campaigns. Associate Member, Damien Stilwell was a service member of 5/7RAR and one of the first to arrive in Timor in September 1999. Following the service the Stilwell-Goldthorpe clan joined the Timor-Leste group for a get to know you function at the Cottesloe Civic Centre.

Thank you to all the regular people who help us to continue an interest in maintaining our promise to preserve and perpetuate the name, record and traditions of all units who served or are serving under the numeral 16. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the coming year.

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK REPORT AGM 2024

A very detailed report, with graphs included, was received from Webmaster, Chris Hoath, for the 2024 AGM.

Website insights from Wix Reports Manager for the last 12 months, show site visits were comparable to the previous same period. An encouraging flow, which indicates a good and continuous connection to our members.

Top pages in order that were visited were, Homepage then Soldiers, Events, History, Pigeon Post, Nominal Roll and Photos. Interactions on Facebook continue to be strong.

2/16th BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2024

RA Gibb
40 Linton Street North
BYFORD WA 6122
9525 1021 / 0408 510 219

robert.gibb7@bigpond.com

To the President and Members of the 2/16th Battalion AIF Association

2/16th Battalion AIF Association

I have audited the financial report of the 2/16th Battalion AIF Association account for the year ended June 30th 2024. The Treasurer is responsible for the financial report.

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report to express an opinion on it 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 2/16th Battalion AIF Association account as of June 30th, 2024 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)
October 29th, 2024

2/16th BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION

Financial Report for year ended June 30th 2024

INCOME		2024	2023
Donations		725.00	5937.23
Grants		2571.00	0.00
Interest			
Geoff Wainwright Fund 4689	14005.77		451.23
Interest account 4788	0.65		0.17
Bendigo Bank 5295	1.00		2.12
Term deposit 3494	278.37		115.82
		14285.79	569.34
May lunch		3277.74	5630.00
Name badges		130.00	0.00
Oration		7284.00	9883.48
Raffle		300.00	0.00
Sale of books		120.00	0.00
Sundry income		95.00	0.00
Subscriptions		1900.00	5975.00
Total Income		30688.53	27995.05

2/16th BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION**Financial Report for year ended June 30th 2024**

EXPENDITURE	2024	2023
Banners	431.96	1187.23
Bank charges	0.55	0.80
Books	0.00	468.00
Care packs	1555.28	1603.91
Donations	2000.00	5200.00
Framing	0.00	110.00
Functions	143.85	0.00
Gifts	214.90	0.00
Honorariums	1100.00	1100.00
Honour board	0.00	96.05
Insurance	220.00	220.00
Kokoda 80th	0.00	2038.44
May lunch	2850.00	5690.00
Membership	25.00	25.00
Meeting expenses	246.29	0.00
Name badges	164.67	457.27
Newspaper notice	362.03	97.80
Oration	9461.90	13936.75
Plaque, pavers	3992.87	0.00
Pigeon Post Printing	2943.00	3149.30
Postage	1185.28	1536.74
Scholarship	9145.00	23070.00
Service Bunbury	0.00	37.50
Stationery	0.00	179.65
Victorian schools service	0.00	62.27
Website	520.27	0.00
Wreaths	1850.00	1028.50
Total Expenditure	38412.85	61295.21
Net Profit/Loss on years activities	-7724.32	-33300.16

2/16th BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION**Balance Sheet as at June 30th 2024**

Assets	2024	2023
Current Assets		
Geoffery Wainwright Fund 4689	150000.00	300000.00
Geoffery Wainwright Fund 7938	150000.00	0.00
Interest account 4788	3978.25	1820.71
Bendigo Bank account 5295	7151.25	12872.11
Term deposit 3494	0.00	5852.07
Prepaid expenses	245.00	245.00
Prepaid oration deposit	2687.50	1759.99
	314062.00	322549.88
Total Current Assets	314062.00	322549.88
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	0.00	763.56
	0.00	763.56
Total Current Liabilities	0.00	763.56
Total Net Assets	314062.00	321786.32
Equity		
Retained earnings	321786.32	355086.48
Current years profit/loss	-7724.32	-33300.16
	314062.00	321786.32
Total Equity	314062.00	321786.32



16th Battalions' Foundation



2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association

2025 Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration

Oration to be delivered by

Myles Pollard

Honouring the 2nd/16th Battalion & the Battle of Balikpapan

Acclaimed actor, writer, director, producer, teacher, and professional communications facilitator, Myles Pollard delivers a heartfelt keynote on the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Balikpapan, reflecting on the enduring legacy of the 2nd/16th Battalion and the lasting impact of war.

**Myles is the Grandson of 2/16th Battalion member the late
WX4050 Sydney Bell**

Friday 25th July 2025

6:30 – 11.30pm

ANZAC Club Perth

Tickets \$65

Includes canapes following Oration. Cash bar available.

Dress Code: Mess Dress or Formal wear with Medals or Miniatures

Book now through TryBooking



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

Bookings close 4pm 11 July 2025

For more details contact Mary Ph: 0409 085 987

ASSOCIATION 2025 NEW YEAR GET TOGETHER



A rather small group of members joined the gathering in Kings Park on Sunday 23rd February on a very warm Summer's day. Chairs were moved according to where we could find the shade of the beautiful trees.

A hungry and opportunistic Kookaburra, pictured left, joined the group and enjoyed a delicious sandwich before all the food was covered so he did not overeat.

Faye and Phil Utting had set the Coffee & Tea table in the shade of one of the larger trees and everyone was very grateful for their contribution yet again, especially Faye's 'scrumptious' cookies, as described by one very delighted seven year old!

Those who attended did enjoy catching up with Bruce and Noelene Wisemen who made the trip up from Busselton where they were holidaying in their caravan. Maran and Bob Bayliss travelled from their home in Halls Head to join with Tammy and Jim Grayden, Margaret and Ken Walker, Peter Norrish, Wayne Koch, Margaret Smith with son Glenn, his son Henry and another of Margaret's grandsons Hudson Smith.

Piper Murdoch brought along her 'devoted slaves' John and Carolyn, in fact John was her Chauffeur! Carolyn and Piper pictured right. Whilst the number attending was low, those who did 'get together' enjoyed the day.



NEWS FROM QLD/NT REPRESENTATIVE STEVE HARROLD

Steve has reported that preparations for the 2025 ANZAC DAY PARADE in Brisbane are progressing well. Recent correspondence from the ANZAC DAY PARADE BRISBANE (ADPB) Committee indicated that the 2/16th may amalgamate with the 2/14th on the day due to lack of numbers.

Steve thanked Peter Norrish (Association Secretary) for fulfilling the requirements of the ADPB committee registration.

ARRANGEMENTS for ANZAC DAY PARADE 2025 IN THE ORDER OF MARCH

2/16th Battalion AIF Association is in **GROUP 4, SECTION D, NUMBER 39** moving off **10.25-10.30am.**

MEETING IN GEORGE STREET- Between Mary & Margaret Streets by 10am.

Look out for 2/16th, 2/14th Banners.

LUNCH following the Parade has been organised at the COFFEE CLUB 128 Charlotte Street, between Edwards & Albert Streets from 11.30 onwards.

Everyone is welcome to join in. Confirmation is requested but not essential, so if you make a last minute decision to join, or watch the Parade you will be made most welcome. Further details from steve.harrold@bigpond.com Ph: 0417 515 786

Editor: At a recent 2/16th Association Committee meeting Steve White thanked Steve Harrold for getting the 'old' 21st Brigade Plaque, recently replaced at the Rocky Creek Memorial Park on the Atherton Tablelands (see December 20024 Pigeon Post), transported back to Western Australia where it is now being prepared for display in the History Room at Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta.

NEWS FROM VICTORIA/ACT/TASMANIAN REPRESENTATIVE TREVOR INGRAM

Trevor has been very busy planning and coordinating the services and luncheons for our members, families and friends in Victoria and keeping in touch with members throughout Victoria, the ACT and Tasmania.

The Australian War Memorial, Canberra invited Trevor to the Opening celebrations for the unveiling of the new Main Entrance. The celebrations included viewing of the 'Places of Pride' film followed by a meal and refreshments. Trevor contacted Gail Haidon, an Association member who lives in the ACT, asking if she would represent the association at that event.

Trevor is hoping that the 'Places of Pride' film that is on a constant repeat basis at the new entrance and shows memorials from around Australia, includes footage of the 2/16th Memorials.

Trevor will be once again meeting with Lt Col Frank Sublet's daughter, Irene Rainsford to find out what his family wish to with his memorabilia.

With wife Dawn, Trevor attended the 2/14th annual picnic at the top of the Kokoda Memorial Walkway on One Tree Hill.

The memorial Wall at the Kokoda Memorial Walkway has now been repaired thanks to a grant obtained by Parks Victoria, who will continue to monitor the situation.

**GREAT NEWS! There will be a REUNION LUNCH on
March 22nd in BACCHUS MARSH
12 noon for 12.30 START at the
ROYAL HOTEL, 200 MAIN STREET, BACCHUS MARSH**

Free parking is available: access from Main St, opposite Royal Hotel, behind the RSL.

Cost as per hotel price list & payable as you order on day <https://eatdrinkroyal.com/eat>
RSVP ASAP TO trevor.ingram@bigpond.com Ph: 0419 333 347 or (03) 9870 1524

**23rd APRIL 2025 ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE
for SCHOOLS at KOKODA MEMORIALS
DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK 11AM**

25th APRIL ANZAC DAY MARCH MELBOURNE
followed by **LUNCH at THE RISING SUN HOTEL SOUTH MELBOURNE**
with 2/14th, 2/27th & 39th Battalion Associations.

Please contact Trevor for more information. SEE TREVOR'S DETAILS ABOVE

MARCH ON
Walk in the footsteps of our heroes!

This month, MARCH, walk or run 96km, symbolizing the length of the Kokoda Track, to honour the courage and sacrifice of our veterans and their families.

By 'marching on' you will support Soldier On Australia's mental health services to help prevent veteran suicide and save lives.

Together, those 'marching on' will show our brave heroes that they are not alone.

REGISTER for free and commit to walk or run, swim or paddle 96km throughout the month of March in the footsteps of our heroes.

All details at www.marchonchallenge.org.au

TRIBUTE TO WX 5667 CROUCH ROBERT THOMAS JAMES
2/16TH BATTALION A.I.F.

On a visit to India in 2024, Brigadier Brett Chaloner, former Brigade Commander 13 Brigade, Karrakatta, unexpectedly came across the grave of a 2/16th Battalion Member at the Kirkee Cemetery in Bombay.

The headstone states that it is the final resting place of WX5667 Robert Thomas James CROUCH.

Robert Thomas James Crouch enlisted at Northam WA on 22 June 1940 giving his occupation as "Labourer" and his address as "Mt Barker". Robert, or "Bob" as he was known to his colleagues was born 7 August 1912 at Albany W.A. to Robert Thomas John Crouch and Charlotte Amelia Herbert. Bob was one of eight children with siblings, Will, Simon, George, Elizabeth, Bert, Victoria and Leah.

In 1937 he married Winifred Adeline Herbert, daughter of Thomas Herbert and Rose Alice Haynes. Winifred was born on 06 Jun 1913 in Mount Barker, W.A.



Bob was assigned to the 2/16th Australian Infantry Battalion A.I.F. and sailed from Fremantle for the Middle East on 25 October 1940 with the battalion. Bob was with the battalion during their campaigns in Syria in 1941 and during this period he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal (LCpl).

His service records show that he was evacuated to 3 CCS (Casualty Clearing Station) on 9 December 1941 with "Contusion of back" and the following day to "1 ACRS" (Australian Casualty Receiving Station) before returning to the Battalion on 11 January 1942. There is no further information as to the nature of his injury, but anecdote suggests he may have been injured in an accident when working on the docks at Beirut.

He died of illness onboard the Isle de France on 07 Feb 1942 enroute to Australia from Beirut. His records state "Died of disease. Pneumonic condition of the lung with subsequent heart failure". There is no information to link the pneumonic condition with his earlier accident.

Bob was initially interred at Sewri Cemetery, Bombay and his remains were later reinterred at Kirkee Cemetery, India. His gravestone bears the personal inscription:

"EVER REMEMBERED BY WIFE DOLLY AND CHILDREN BETTY AND ADRIENNE"

So it seems that Bob and Winifred had children and possibly other descendants. Winifred died on 22nd August 1999.

In 2024, members of 16RWAR visited Kirkee Cemetery in India and visited the grave of LCpl R T J Crouch who is the only 2/16th member to be buried there. The current members of 16Bn paid tribute to LCpl Crouch in honour of his service and sacrifice. Lt Alex Morreau presented a 2/16th Battalion Association Certificate of Appreciation and coins from the CO to the four cemetery staff on behalf of the 2/16th.

Originally Robert Crouch was buried in Sewri Christian Cemetery in Bombay.

Between 1955 and 1960, internments from both World Wars were removed from the civil cemetery to KIRKEE WAR CEMETERY, PUNE, where maintenance by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission could be assured in perpetuity.



Above: Cross of Sacrifice at Kirkee War Cemetery, India

In further research into the story of our 2/16th veteran, LCpl Crouch, I found a document entitled “‘For Your Tomorrow’ ANZACS Laid to Rest in India”. The edition I took information from was published in April 2021.

The document provides biographical information and details about 91 Australian and New Zealand soldiers who lost their lives during WW1 and 2 and are buried in Commonwealth War Graves across India. The Foreword, written by Group Captain Terence Deeth, Defence Adviser to India, Royal Australian Air Force includes,

“Sadly, the living relatives of the ANZAC fallen are invariably separated by many thousands of kilometres from the gravesites of their loved ones here in India. It is my great hope that this small offering, in the way of an historical listing, serves to reduce the burden of the great distances separating our brave departed from their loved-ones and the lands they once called ‘Home’..

Lest We Forget”.

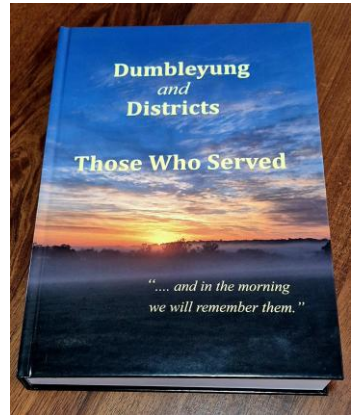
***Editor:** Margaret Smith gathered information from service records and other documents freely available when researched. It would be wonderful if we could find any descendants of Robert and Winifred, (Dolly) or their children Betty and Adrienne.*

“THOSE WHO SERVED”
A NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE NOW.

A project undertaken by a dedicated group “Dumbleyung ADF” has come to fruition with the publishing of a book “Those Who Served” now available for purchase.

This hard cover 640 page book is a record of the men and women from the Dumbleyung District who served in the Boer War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, National Service and those still serving.

It is the result of a long journey for the group and the fact that the publishing was SELF FUNDED is testament to their dedication.



Although this is not a 2/16th Battalion Association project it has the full support of our Association. Many members of the Original 16th and the 2/16th Battalions came from the Great Southern Region, including Dumbleyung. Two copies of the book have been purchased by our Association.

Sincere thanks to our Secretary, Peter Norrish for providing us with the information on this publication and for the details on how to purchase your own copy.

CONTACT JILL CLARKE PO BOX 38 DUMBLEYUNG WA 6350 Telephone: 0427 854 249 Email: dumbleyungshiredefencebook@gmail.com

COST is \$80 per copy Postage costs on request. Order & Pickup depots are also available in Albany, Dunsborough, Bunbury, Rockingham, Ardross and Greenwood, all in WA.

MARY'S VISITS TO WIDOWS

During a recent trip to Queensland and New South Wales I had the great pleasure of catching up with 2/16th Battalion widow, Edna Brooker.

Having met Edna many times before, along with Trevor at their home in Dungog, we enjoyed a great get-together with Edna's daughter Margaret and my daughter Davina and her family.

We enjoyed a good chit-chat over morning tea and as we were admiring Trevor's needlework, art pieces adorning the walls, Edna explained the signature that Trevor had used in his needlework. Amazingly it was Davina's elder daughter Neve, who found this without help.

Back in WA I visited Kojonup where I eventually met Elaine Gibbs. What a wonderful lady! We spent our time chatting about family and also the history of Kojonup. By the time I left I felt I knew Elaine's family.

In Perth, I yet again had the pleasure of catching up with Gladys Lee in Thornlie. So close, but still a distance away for a quick visit.

It was really a great honour to speak with three of our widows. It makes me even more anxious to meet and chat with any others who I may see in my travels. I guess I need to buy a camper van and start heading East, South and anywhere in between.

Thank you for sharing your time and stories with me.

Mary Goldthorpe

GUILFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL BRIGADIER ARNOLD POTTS' AWARD 2024

The Brigadier Arnold Potts Award is awarded to a student of upstanding character who embraces every opportunity to be involved in school life and contribute positively to the community, both within and outside of Guildford Grammar School.

IN 2024 THE BRIGADIER ARNOLD POTTS AWARD GOES TO ISOBEL CAMPBELL



Isobel has continuously thrown herself into service opportunities with gusto at Guildford Grammar School this year.

She is always the first one to respond to any email I send asking for volunteers and support in a range of activities.

Isobel signed up to be an Anglicare Ambassador and has attended the compulsory meetings run by Anglicare, as well as the more informal planning meetings we have held at school. She has taken an active role in fund raising both in the planning of and the execution of events.

As part of her role as an Ambassador Isobel was invited down to the Preparatory school assembly to talk about what she has done this year, what she has learnt about herself and service and to support the younger students in their Christmas appeal.

She has also been invited to support the Preparatory school Christmas concert and help organise the appeal donations for Anglicare.

In addition, due to her service to Anglicare, Isobel has been invited to participate in a service activity that will help new students arriving to the Preparatory school in 2025/2026.

On top of her role as an Anglicare Ambassador, Isobel is a regular Chapel server providing service to the School and the wider Community. She has attended weekly Chapel services as well as 'special' events/services that are held in and outside of normal school hours.

She takes an active role as a server, supporting myself and the younger members of the serving team.

A small group of 2025 Year 12 students wrote a Consent and Healthy relationships program in conjunction with Curtin University. To examine the effectiveness of this program, we asked for volunteers in the current year 10 cohort to participate in the lessons written by the students.

Isobel was one of the first to volunteer and she took an active role in the program, providing feedback which allowed the program to be tailored and refined to suit a range of needs across other schools in WA.

I would highly recommend Isobel and support her nomination for the Brigadier Arnold Potts Award.

Miss Sarah Langley

Editor: *The members of the 2/16th Battalion AIF Association Congratulate Isobel on being the recipient of this prestigious award; named for Brigadier Arnold Potts, ex scholar of Guildford Grammar School, (1911-1914) veteran of WWI & WWII. In the Original 16th Battalion serving on Gallipoli and The Western Front, then 2/16th Battalion serving in the Middle East, and gallant Brigade Commander of the 21st Brigade on the Kokoda Track where his incomparable leadership and resolute determination turned back the Japanese thus saving Australia!*

MAY LUNCH

Please join us for the 2025 May Lunch to be held on

Saturday 24th May 11am
The Bedford-Morley RSL Hall
182 Grand Promenade Bedford.

Tickets are \$60.00 through TryBooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/CZXVM>
Bookings close 3 May. BYO Alcohol



AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Australian ROCK

PERFORMED BY THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND PERTH

23RD MARCH 2025
4.30pm - 7pm

Artillery Barracks, 6 Burt Street Fremantle

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

www.trybooking.com/CXKWO



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refreshments available

www.armymuseumwa.com.au





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

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EMAIL			
DATE OF BIRTH			

CHANGE OF DETAILS ☐ Yes

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

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

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

APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP

PROPOSER _____ SECONDER _____

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

VETERAN WIDOW LIFE MEMBER FREE

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

PIGEON POST required ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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

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

c/- The Treasurer PO Box 434 COTTESLOE WA 6911

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

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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

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 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
14 Neil Macpherson
19 Nan Harper
29 Frank Gosatti

JUNE

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

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

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY & MANY HAPPY RETURNS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

Dates subject to change and venues to be confirmed

APRIL	
13	ANZAC Service Kings Park 11am
23	ANZAC Service VIC Kokoda Memorials Dandenong Ranges 11am
25	ANZAC Day March & Service Perth - Lunch at 16RWAR
25	ANZAC Day March Melbourne - Lunch Rising Sun Hotel
25	ANZAC Day Parade Brisbane - Lunch Coffee Club
MAY	
24	May Lunch Bedford-Morley RSL 11am
JULY	
6	RWAR Association Church Service St Georges Cathedral
13	Army Museum Visit Fremantle
25	2025 Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration ANZAC House 6.30pm
AUGUST	
TBC	Memorial Service & Country Lunch Northam
SEPTEMBER	
21	Kokoda Memorial Service Kings Park 11am
OCTOBER	
5	Association AGM Karrakatta
TBC	Memorial Service & Country Lunch Bunbury 11am
NOVEMBER	
23	Association Christmas Wind Up Karrakatta 11am
All committee meetings First Sunday of each month 10.30am 16RWAR Karrakatta (Feb – Dec) All members are invited to attend – please contact the Secretary, Peter Norrish, for confirmed details Email: peterchucknorrish@gmail.com Phone: 0417 985 400	

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