

PIONEER NEWS

Phone 9759 5491

Official Organ of 2/1 and 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

Per Annum: \$5

Typeset by Typesmith Pty Ltd, PO Box 1264, Camden NSW 2570 Printed by ABF Printers, 3 Argyle Street, Arncliffe NSW 2205

Correspondence: PEG HERRON, Hon. Sec., 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bn. Assoc., 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills 2209

Treasurer: DON CRAWFORD

Editor: PEG HERRON O.A.M. Assistant Editor: DAVID HERRON

Vol. 60 No. 1

APRIL 2014

ANZAC ACTIVITIES 2014

WREATH LAYING SERVICE

Thursday, 24th April at 3.45pm

All members and their families are invited to the Wreath Laying Service at the Cenotaph on Thursday, 24th April at 3.45pm. The Association consider this event to be the most important event of the year and are hoping for a good attendance.

Members and relatives to assemble on the G.P.O. side near the corner of Pitt Street and Martin Place at around 3.15pm ready to form up at 3.40pm for the short walk to the Cenotaph. Medals are requested to be worn. The Marshal will be John Hayden, son of the late Captain John Hayden 2/1, and a bugler has been arranged by Kay Burton, daughter of our late 2/1 member Bert Rayner.

Personal family wreaths may be laid following the official part of the ceremony.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Friday, 25th April

There will be significant changes to the March compared to our experiences in past years. The 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions will not be marching under their own unit banners, instead these veterans marching will do so as one group covering 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Divisions, who served in the 2nd World War. A single carer may accompany a veteran marcher. Veterans unable to march may find seating in a Land Rover that will precede the general march. Bookings are necessary.

VETERANS to form up in Hunter Street, facing Pitt Street, and likely commencement will be 9.15am. Required assembly approximately 8.45am.

DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS to form up in Castlereagh Street facing south towards King Street, but may not be expected to move off for possibly an hour to an hour and a half after the veterans.

They need to assemble for marshalling by 9.30am. Descendants to march under their own 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer banners which will be carried by Tim Lloyd for the 2/1st and Gordon Collins for the 2/2nd. There will be no band to precede the Pioneer Battalions as has been the case for the past 20 years or so. They will be sadly missed.

ANZAC DAY REUNION

Friday, 25th April

The Occidental Hotel is once again the venue for the ANZAC reunion, which is situated on the corner of York and Erskine Streets, Sydney, opposite Wynyard Park.

In the hotel foyer you will be greeted by sons Geoff Finlay, David Herron and Ray Law who will collect the lunch fee of \$25 and issue name tags.

The Ladies Auxiliary will proceed upstairs and have their lunch fee of \$30 collected by Lynn Herron who will supply their name tags.

Members to be seated by 12.00pm and lunch will be served at 12.30pm will consist of sliced roast sirloin with vegetables and buttered roll. Ladies will have same menu as above, with dessert.

The reunion Chairman will be Mark Neasbey, son of Bert 2/2.

Enjoy your day and the service organised by the Functions Organiser and her team of helpers.

VP DAY –

KOKODA TRACK WALKWAY

A service was held at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway on Thursday, 15th August, 2013 to commemorate the 68th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific, and 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bismark Sea, in the presence of General Peter Cosgrove A.C. M.C (retired), also Chair, N.S.W. Centenary of ANZAC Advisory Council.

The service was conducted by Father Graeme Malone SSS, Hon. Chaplain of Concord Hospital and Rev. Paul Weaver, Anglican Chaplain of Concord Hospital. Mr. John Gatfield was Master of Ceremonies.

After the arrival of the Official Party and the Mounting of the Catalfalque Party by the 38th Support Group, the Prologue was given by Angelo Tsirekas, Mayor of Canada Bay.

Following the welcome to guests by Mr. John Haines AM, who is Chairman of the Kokoda Track Walkway, and a Bible Reading by Jennifer Collins, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Veteran Affairs, he then called on General Cosgrove to give the V.P. Day Address.

V.P. Day ended six years of hardship and sacrifice and signalled the start of a new era of peace. The war had taken an enormous toll on the physical and emotional health of our veterans and many never fully recovered.

Our thanks go to those thousands of our veterans who displayed such courage in the horrors of war, those who fought so bravely, who served faithfully. We acknowledge the debt we owe them.

To those who served along the Kokoda Track, Milne Bay and in the air or in the Battle of the Bismark Sea, we are ever grateful. Seventy years have passed since those events and we remember so the lessons of the past may not be forgotten.

Following General Cosgrove's address, the Reflection was excellent footage from the Australian War Museum of the Bismark Sea Battle and brought back lots of memories of wartime news at theatres around the country.

This was followed by the Wreath Laying Ceremony conducted by John Gatfield and, with the screen, the attending public were able

to view the Kokoda Track Walkway Centrepiece and the laying of the wreaths, with the Harp Accompaniment by Elizabeth Lowrencev.

The Ode to the Fallen was given by Mr Don Rowe OAM, followed by Last Post and Reveille.

Our sincere thanks to Alice Kang, Hon. Secretary and the Walkway Committee for the organisation of the service and the afternoon tea that followed.

Pioneers who attended were our Treasurer Don Crawford and his wife Val, Robyn Bell, Marj Kerlake and her daughter Margaret Stolp and Peg Herron.

REMEMBRANCE DAY, 2013

A special Remembrance Day Service was held at the 113th A.G.H. Memorial Chapel at Concord on Monday, 11th November, 2013, and the Association was represented by our Treasurer Don Crawford and his wife Val, Association Secretary Peg Herron and her son David Herron and his wife Lynn.

It was a wet, cold day and not quite the crowd who usually attend.

The service was led by Father Graeme Malone, Hon. Chaplain of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway and Father Andrew Kim, Catholic Chaplain of Concord Hospital.

Following the Welcome and Introduction Prayer the Scripture Reading was given by Geraldine Antonio, Operational Nurse Manager of Concord Hospital and followed by a lovely rendition of Meriden Senior Singers "In Flanders Field".

The Remembrance Day address was given by Col. Prof. Robert Lusby who is the Associate Dean and Head of Sydney Medical School at Concord Hospital, a fine address, and this was followed by the Wreath Laying Ceremony, the Ode to the Fallen and Last Post.

Members of the congregation were then invited to place a poppy on the Cross on the Altar in memory of a loved one and comrades who had died in time of war or had been serving members of our armed forces.

Following the prayers to commemorate the Fallen, the Meriden Senior Singers gave a fine rendition of "Irish Blessing" by Bob Chilcott, followed by the Benediction and our National Anthem.

Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the service in the Conference Rooms where our "Pioneer Family" were pleased to pass on our special thanks to Alice Kang and her Veterans Services staff.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

With subscriptions please send news of family happenings. All correspondence to Hon. Secretary, 3 Enoggera Road., Beverly Hills NSW 2209.

MAIL BAG

By PEG HERRON

• The first issue of the News for 2014 and we wish our readers lots of good health and happiness in the coming year. Many long-time Pioneers and their wives passed away during the year and sadly our mailing list is getting smaller. Let us hope the Younger Generation may be able to carry on.

To all those people who sent cards to the Association for Christmas, many thanks and very happy to hear from you.

CHRIS ARNOLD, Elanora Heights, daughter of the last Colonel of the 2/1sts, Adrian Buckley, with several letters over the past year with a generous donation to funds from her mother Barbara who was in a nursing home in Sydney suffering from dementia. Many thanks Chris.

Sadly Barbara passed away on 8th January, 2014, aged 94 years. Her funeral service was held at Ann Wilson Parlours at Mona Vale – a happy but very sad service – “Barbie” was certainly very well loved.

Unfortunately, we were unable to be present on the day and sent our condolences to Chris and Terry and family members.

Thank you for keeping in touch Chris, and if space permits, will print your article on your trip to Canada elsewhere in this issue.

My best wishes to Terry and yourself – keep in touch and hope the health problems improve.

GWEN BARTON, Gulgong, widow of Albert 2/1, with loving greetings to all for the Christmas Season and says it is getting difficult for her to write these days. Says her little great grand-daughter Imogen has brought much joy to all the family. She is the first child to Matt and his lovely Cassi.

Gwen goes out when she can when the Wenonah bus (where she resides at the Lodge) goes out for lunch or a shopping trip. She keeps fairly well, but can't walk too far and family members Rob and Michele take care of all her needs and only a phone call away.

Lovely to hear from you again, Gwen, and hope you continue to keep up with your activities at the Lodge.

CLIFF (TOM) BLAINEY, 2/1, Noble Park Vic., with Seasons Greetings from Vi and himself for the coming year. Says they have had their share of doctors and hospitals this past year and we hope by now things have improved. Age is fast catching up with our generation. Best wishes to you both, and a healthy 2014.

AUB BRASIER, Dee Why, our long-time bugler at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph, with Christmas wishes to all and the best of good health in the coming year.

KAY BURTON, Springwood, daughter of the late Bert Rayner 2/1, writes of a problem year, but now home from hospital with a new knee which she will be giving a “good workout” on ANZAC Day. Our best wishes also to Jim.

Many thanks for your donation to the News, Kay, and looking forward to seeing you at the Wreath Laying, together with the bugler.

TED CARTER 2/1 and 2/3, Tamworth, with a phone call just to keep in touch as he does not get down to Sydney to functions at the Rats of Tobruk meetings any more. Hope the eyes are still keeping reasonably stable, Ted, and Mary well.

Have been watching the weather pattern at Tamworth, Ted, and hope by the time this

reaches you that things have improved in your part of the country. My best wishes to Mary and yourself.

ERIC CAUSER 2/1, Hamilton Vic., with thanks for a greeting card I had sent at Christmas. Doff (Eric's wife) had a fall in late November and was only discharged from hospital on Christmas Eve. Eric and the family had been caring for her and she is now making good progress.

Glad to hear from you both and loved the peacock pictured on your card visiting your front garden. Certainly a handsome fellow.

RON COYTE 2/1, Wentworthville, with a welcome note and a cheque for the Treasurer – many thanks. Also for the information on the stretcher bearers at the mine fire in Balikpapan and have made a note that it was Harry Corby and yourself who were attending to it. Many thanks, not too many Pioneers left now to verify some of the questions we get asked – and with my dearly beloved gone I cannot always find anyone to fill in the answers.

Trust your wife is doing well in residential care, Ron, and that your health has improved. My best wishes to you both.

SUE DAWSON, Bayview, widow of Ross 2/2, with her best wishes for Christmas and a hope that I am “hanging in there”. Many thanks, Sue, but healthwise have not been the best. The fall I had while Max was in hospital has left a lot of “creaky bones” and have my good and bad days. However, am hoping things will improve with the help of lots of pills.

Trust the “boys” are able to make ANZAC Day at the Occidental to keep the Pioneer spirit alive. Fond wishes and hope you are keeping well.

BARBARA DOUGLAS, Kahibah, daughter of Jack Bertram 2/1, with several letters over the last few months and a welcome donation to funds. Many thanks.

I have already contacted you by phone in regard to the article by Tom Osborn and the Rats of Tobruk medals, Barbara, and I am sure he would be happy to fill you in on any information he has on the subject, as her Dad sadly no longer is capable of such a conversation.

Unfortunately, Jack's condition over past weeks means his needs can no longer be met at home and reluctantly the family have relinquished his care to nursing staff in the high care unit at Warabrook Nursing Home in their area where he continues to charm the staff in his new surrounds. Do hope he continues to keep reasonably well – one of Nature's gentlemen!!

In conclusion, Barbara, thank you so much for the book written by your brother-in-law, Michael Kenny, “Not Just Another Pommy Bastard” – very sad but interesting reading. So pleased to read he was able to find his English birth mother, and family, before she passed away, and that he now has a lovely family here in Australia of his own.

Shall send on the “dust jacket” for your copy of the “The Pioneers” when I have finished the Mail Bag – time seems to get away from me lately and hands not working too well. So pleased to hear you were able to find Dad's copy at the nursing home, as there are no more copies available.

Thank you for all the news of Dad and hope he continues free of pain. Fond wishes, Barbara, and keep in touch.

GRACE FOWKES, Wentworthville, widow of Dick (“Snowy”) Fowkes 2/1, with a welcome donation to the News enclosed with her Christmas card. Many thanks, Grace, and hope your grand-daughter's husband, who was in Afghanistan, has returned safely. She may be partaking as a driver again in the ANZAC Day March this year. You and I know full well what it was like waiting for servicemen to come home,

if you were married during the war years.

Hope you are keeping well, Grace, and always good to hear news of our old friends. Take care.

RONA HARRISON, widow of Russ 2/2, with a change of address from Stirling in SA, to Jerrabomberra in NSW. Her daughter has been working in Canberra and Rona has decided to move closer to family members. Hope your move went well Rona, and you are happy in your new surrounds.

We have several Pioneer family members living in the Canberra area – mostly working for Government departments.

All the best, Rona, and hope you are keeping well – and don't mind the cold weather when winter comes. Take care.

JULIE JARDINE, Meadowbank, daughter of the late Roy Jardine 2/1, Association President for many years, has written to pass on the sad news that her mother Phyllis passed away in Ashburn Aged Care Hospital in Gladesville on the 11th July, 2013, after a long illness. Unfortunately her passing wasn't known to this Association until recently and we belatedly extend our sympathy to the family on their sad loss.

Julie attended the Anzac luncheon last year at the Occidental and would like to once again share Anzac Day with members of the 2/1sts and 2/2nds, of which her father was such a long time member.

You are most welcome, Julie, and we look forward to seeing you on the day. The news will be posted to your new address.

MARIE JENSON, Doonside, widow of Ted 2/1, with her greetings for Christmas and for good health in the coming year. Hope we may see you over the ANZAC period, Marie, and that you have been keeping well.

ALICE KANG, Veteran Co-Ordinator of Concord Hospital with a letter of thanks to the Association for their continued support of the Kokoda Track Walkway at Concord and sends best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year. Many thanks, Alice, and we do try and have a few Pioneer members at most of the Track functions. All the best for the coming year.

JOAN LAKE, Brookvale, widow of Bob 2/1, with Christmas greetings to all Pioneers and their families for the coming year and a happy and healthy 2014. Good to hear from you, Joan, and hope you and the family are well. Take care.

DAWN LEVY, Revesby, widow of Roy 2/2, with her very best wishes to all for Christmas and lots of good health and happiness in the coming year. Hope you are still able to attend your meetings at Legacy and War Widows and able to enjoy their holiday trips. Fond love and take care.

NANCY LINTON, Kincumber, widow of Don 2/2, with a welcome letter and a cheque enclosed for the Treasurer. Many thanks. Nancy has made a move, due to age and health problems, from Tuncurry to Kincumber to be closer to family members. Her two sons and families live close by and she is now delighted to have one or the other family members in for a “cuppa”.

My sincere thanks to you Nancy for the kind words on Max's passing, he is sadly missed, and hopefully the younger generation may be able to carry on. The RSL are making quite a few changes to the March here in Sydney (as you will see from Page 1) and we are not sure at the moment what will eventuate. We hope to hold the Reunion Luncheon as usual at the Occidental Hotel.

Do hope you are settled in your new surrounds and happy with your new life at the Village. Take care and my best wishes.

ELIZABETH MAHY-BAILEY, Leeton, daughter of the late Phil Mahy 2/1, with greetings for Christmas and a cheque enclosed for the Treasurer. Many thanks, Elizabeth, and our very best wishes to you for a healthy and happy New Year.

MARGARET MUNRIGHT, Tea Gardens, daughter of the late Jack Claypole 2/1, with the latest on the photos of her father and members of the 2/1sts in earlier days at Greta Camp. So far have not had any luck with identification, but shall try again on ANZAC Day. Sadly, not many left to check with. Will keep in touch. Best wishes to both Terry and yourself – now over a year since your wonderful trip to the Atherton Tablelands. How time flies.

BERT NEASBEY, 2/2, Davistown, with lots of cards and good wishes to me since last paper from May, Lynda and Bert. How time flies and here it is paper time again and ANZAC Day fast approaching.

The news of the March on ANZAC Day does not seem to be very well received by those taking part, but rules are rules and have to be obeyed. Only time will tell.

Bert continues to be well and May says he has painted two timber decks and a chest of drawers since Christmas. He walks most days and busies himself in the garden and kitchen. (You're worth more money, Bert.) Both May and Lynda are well. Mark's grandson Oliver is now 7 month's old and crawling – how time flies.

Thank you so much for your cards over the last few months, very much appreciated, and hope perhaps may see you at the Wreath Laying. My very best wishes for your kind thoughts.

BETTY O'CONNOR, West Ballina, widow of Neville 2/2, with greetings for Christmas and the promise of a following letter – which has just arrived. Says not much news from her part of the North, but she sends her best wishes to all 2/1-2/2 Pioneers for a safe and healthy New Year.

They held their Christmas lunch get-together in November, only six able to be present, and said it was good to see Ossie and Betty Carter able to attend. How our numbers are falling each year.

Betty spent Christmas with family at Murwillumbah, a change from Ballina where they usually gather. My daughter, Lynne, lives in Murwillumbah and her family also. They have a gardening business which they established last year. Betty also has a granddaughter living in Uganda who has just accepted an internship in pharmacy for a few years. The young ones seem to like spreading their wings these days. Her parents are going over to see her in April.

In closing, Betty asked me to send her best wishes to Evelyn Booth of Wagga Wagga (partner of late Jack Morgan 2/2) and says her trip away this year with her golfing friends is to Newcastle and Sydney in June. Hope you enjoy your trip Betty and always happy to hear from you.

JANET O'NEILL, Clovelly, daughter of the late Bill Robertson 2/2, with Christmas greetings to me and my family on our first year without Max. Thank you for your kind message, Janet, and I hope we may meet at the Wreath Laying, seeing school will be in recess, and on ANZAC Day.

Looking forward to catching up and hope you can make it for ANZAC Day. Love and best wishes.

TOM OSBORN, son of late Col. Gordon Osborn 2/1, with ongoing information on the Pioneers' Tobruk medals. My daughter, Lynne, who is doing the online side of the research for me, is in India at the moment and not expected back until the beginning of

March. I'm sure she will be in touch with you on her return. Shall make sure she contacts you. My best wishes.

DOT PRIEST, Ballina, widow of Peter 2/1, with a lengthy letter for Christmas and hopes all Pioneers have a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

News from her part of the country was not the best. Daughter Pam and her husband, Kev, came to stay (with their caravan) when he had to go to Brisbane to the heart specialist and to have another stent in his heart. He had a heart attack a few weeks later and was rushed to the Gold Coast Hospital, more stents and then another trip by the Flying Doctor to Brisbane for a triple bypass before returning to the dam outside Murgon in Queensland on a planned fishing trip.

This did not eventuate until later as a big dog belonging to a neighbour ran at Dot and knocked her over – she fell and broke her right hand and fractured her pelvis. More trips to hospital at Lismore and Ballina and her arm in plaster for another six weeks.

Pam and Kevin had to stay another two months and Dot most grateful for the caring. Margaret was very good as well, bringing her nice home cooked cakes for afternoon tea.

Trust by now everything has nearly returned to normal, Dot, and Pam and Kevin back to Murgon and catching lots of fish.

Take care and my fond wishes to all for the coming year.

FRANCES RHODES, Page ACT, daughter of the late Jim Rhodes 2/1, with a lovely long letter for Christmas with her "doings" of the year and news of daughter Meg and her Vet nursing career. Meg bought her own horse, Guinness, in January and has done loads of work developing him.

Fran was going to Austria and Italy in February for three weeks' skiing, and will be home by the time she receives the News. Hope you had a wonderful trip, Fran, and lots of snow.

After several trips to various Government departments and work areas, she has landed a permanent spot in the food industry policy area. The team and the manager are great and the work interesting. It took almost 12 months to land a good work area, so feels very lucky. Makes a big difference if you like what you are doing. Some weren't so lucky.

My very best wishes to you both, Fran, and always very happy to hear your latest news. Also news of Pat and Tina – how the years have flown since we saw them both at Christmas.

EULALIE SAUER, Elanora Qld., widow of George 2/1, with a welcome card for Christmas and a cheque enclosed for the News. Many thanks. Eulalie had promised to write later, when time permitted, so look forward to hearing news from her in due course. Hope you are keeping well, Eulalie, our best wishes for the year ahead.

NOELA SHEEN, Lyons ACT, widow of Gordon 2/2, with two letters since her move to Lyons, firstly to say how sorry she was to read of Max's passing earlier in the year and then to send Christmas greetings to "all at the Office" and her new address. Many thanks also for your donation to the News, Noela – much appreciated.

It is now 21 years since Gordon passed away and she says a lot of water has gone under the bridge since then. He played golf for Legacy the day before he died. How the years have flown.

She has settled into her new apartment at Lyons – lovely, bright and sunny and she is very happy. After the move she got the

shingles, which was very painful, so has been out of action and only started back to golf in October. Hope the weather has been kinder to you.

Noela was glad to hear our Treasurer, Don Crawford, is "back on deck" after the terrible experience with the aspirator while in hospital, her sister had the same problem. He is back to swimming and his bowls and keeps busy – and a great help to me in my new duties.

Hope you are keeping well and enjoying your golf. Take care and best wishes.

BILL THIELE 2/1, Port Hughes SA, with Christmas greetings to all Pioneers from he and his good wife Betty, with Betty putting pen to paper. Betty knew we would be sad without our dear Max for Christmas, but with family around try to enjoy Xmas Day. Thank you very much for your kind thoughts. My son, David and his wife Lynn took me to their home in Kurrajong for a few days and Christmas lunch with their family.

Bill has not played golf for some time now, but is playing "Night Owl Bowls" at present and gets annoyed at times because he cannot do all the things he "used to do". Know the feeling, Betty, but time has a habit of marching on.

Thank you for your kind thoughts to me for Christmas and for the donation to the News enclosed with your letter. Take care.

JOHN TYLER, Castle Hill, son-in-law of the late Bill Jollie 2/1, with a welcome card from he and his wife Sharon, for Christmas and enclosing a cutting of a memorial at Bruce Rock District in Western Australia which they visited on a recent business trip to Perth. I shall endeavour to write a short article elsewhere in the News of the significance of the Rock and thank John and Sharon for sending it on for inclusion in the News. Many thanks.

NEIL WHITELEY, Terara, son of the late Vic Whiteley 2/1, long-time Treasurer of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bn. Association, with Christmas greetings from he and wife Joanna to members of the Association and myself. Do hope that work permits you to be able to attend on ANZAC Day, Neil, and many thanks for your kind message at Christmas.

ROBIN LARDIE, Cottlesloe WA, with a welcome phone call from the daughter of one of our WA 2/1 members – Frank Pratt WX19218 of Dalwallinu – to say her father was not very well at the present time, but she often recites some of the Pioneer poems that were quoted in days gone by to him. (Age shall not weary them.) I have promised to find some copies of some of them and send them on to her. He often sings along with her when she is reading.

Her dad had kept in touch with Bert Woodhouse WX12790, who lives in the Karridale district of WA, until his illness.

Shall go through some back copies of "Pioneer News", Robin, when the paper goes to the printer and I have more time, and shall post them to the address you gave me in Cottlesloe.

She also mentioned a trip to Bruce Rock, 50 km south of Murreridin in WA, where John and Sharon Tyler also visited on their trip to Perth. It was a tribute to the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels of Papua New Guinea, and they sent me some leaflets covering the event.

PETER and VIRGINIA SMITH, Camden, our "Pioneer News" typesetters over many years, with Christmas greetings, and a restful and happy holiday to all our readers. Many thanks to you both and I will be grateful to

you for your help in the year ahead.

ABF PRINTERS, Arncliffe, with their Christmas card of love and goodwill to me on the loss of my dearest Max – Love Lynda, Peter, Jim, Andrew, Chris, Shelly and staff. Many thanks for your kind words and hope Jim enjoys his year of semi-retirement if it eventuates.

• That's all the Mail Bag for this issue and many thanks to all those who sent messages on Max's passing and Christmas greetings. All were very much appreciated and I send God's Blessings for your kind thoughts.

THANKS TO DON CRAWFORD

My thanks to our Treasurer, Don Crawford, for quite a lot of the extra tasks he has undertaken during the past difficult year for me.

His visits to the RSL re the ANZAC Day March, to the Occidental Hotel to obtain details of the ANZAC Day luncheon and trips to Beverly Hills in connection with the "Pioneer News". Your efforts very much appreciated, Don, and I am very grateful for your help. *Peg Herron*.

LAST POST

JOHN (JACK) PAUL, 2/1 of Camira Qld., passed away on the 30th August, 2013, after a short illness, aged 88 years. His funeral service was held at Heritage Park Crematorium at Goodna Qld., on 6th September, 2013.

Known to army friends as Jack, he was a later member of the 2/1 Pioneers, after spending time in the CMF and enlisting in the AIF in February 1943. He was in Balikpapan in Borneo when the war finished. He moved to Queensland in 1992 and joined the Goodna RSL Club.

Les Tunks, 2/1 of Mareeba, North Queensland, had seen an enquiry in the Qld. RSL Paper for anyone knowing of a 2/1 Pioneer Battalion and he made contact with Jack, who then wrote to the Association. He has been on our role ever since, and kept in touch with Les.

The Poppy Service was held at the funeral by the Goodna RSL members and daughter Lyn Bull says it was a memory she would treasure forever.

Our sincere sympathy is passed on to Lyn, Warren and families in their sad loss and copies of the Pioneer News will be posted to the family in due course.

CECIL SLOGGETT 2/2, Gunnedah NSW, passed away on 28th July, 2012, and we were notified by his son Terry with the sad news. Terry apologised for the time delay. In reply to my letter of sympathy he also advised me of the passing of his mother, Maisie, on 5th October, 2013, 15 months after his father.

Cec and Maisie enjoyed the reunions and tried to attend most of the country ones where they loved to meet up with old comrades.

There is a memorial plaque in the Rookwood Commonwealth War Graves section for Cecil, a row below one for my dear Max and I have promised Terry I shall try and get a snapshot of it to send him. He thought it would be nice to have his Dad's name plate in the Memorial Garden for his mates to see.

Our sincere sympathy passed on to the family of Cec and Maisie in their sad loss.

DOT PRIEST, Ballina, has informed us of the passing of Robert Brown, son of the late

Bernard John Brown NX48493, 2/1 Pioneers. Dot lives in the same Waterfront Village in Ballina where Robert was also living. Thank you, Dot, for passing on the sad news, and I shall remove his name from our mailing list.

The following Pioneers were reported in the Jan.-Feb. issue of "Reveille" as having passed away recently: NX21074 – Lieut. P. C. Barnett 2/2, NX145475 – Pte W.A. Fisher 2/1, NX119444 – Pte L. Mansell 2/1, and NX25811 – Pte F. C. Tassell 2/1.

TRIP TO CANADA

Following on their Captain's Choice holiday to South America in 2011, Chris Arnold of Elanora Heights, daughter of the late Colonel Adrian Buckley 2/1, and her husband, Terry, would have loved to have gone on a trip to Jordan in the Middle East, where her father had spoken in glowing terms of the country when he was in the Middle East during the war years.

However, times have changed and for health reasons they decided on a trip to Canada instead and loved every minute of their Canadian adventure.

They landed at Los Angeles and transferred to Vancouver to commence their journey on the Rocky Mountaineer, with its clear dome top, through the Rockies for two days (a real spectacle) and then by bus to enjoy the varied scenery, amazing mountains, valleys, rivers and little towns. They stayed in the romantic Fairmont Hotels. A highlight of traversing the Rockies was a walk on the Athabasca Glacier. Another highlight was walking over the 100 year old Capilano Suspension Bridge while in Vancouver.

They then went by float plane from Whistler to Vancouver Island and were mesmerised by the beautiful Butchart Gardens which they visited as soon as they arrived. Their beauty only just surpassed by the vivid blue lakes they passed below them in the float plane. It was then time to board the ship for a cruise up the inside passage to Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan.

It was a real thrill hearing the ice break off the huge glacier and fall in the water causing a tidal wave. The whales, along with the

dolphins, were often present during the cruise. The chill factor was invigorating as they stood on their balcony and took in the view of the thousands of little icebergs floating by. One with a huge boulder sitting on it which may have been in the ice for hundreds of years.

Since they have been home they have been able to reflect on all the places they have seen to date. England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, most of Europe, including Budapest during a cruise down the Rhine. Also South America, Panama, Cuba, Peru and much of China including one of Terry's ambitions to walk on the Great Wall, Vanuatu, Noumea, Fiji, Singapore, New Zealand, Thailand and Bali - there is no place like home.

They are forever grateful to all those brave men and women who fought so hard so that we all today can enjoy and be proud of our beautiful country - Australia.

PIONEER WEBSITE NEWS

From WEBSITE SECRETARY

Our website is www.pioneerbattalion.com.au

Thank you to everyone who has written in with enquiries, we will try to help as best we can.

ROBYN ABRAHALL enquired if it's still possible to purchase a copy of "The Pioneers". No, unfortunately there are none left, but we are looking into a reprint. We will keep you all posted.

MAUREEN UPSTON, daughter of HUGHIE MORRISON, of 2/5th Battalion, wrote asking if anyone has information about LESLIE ALFRED WHITE, 2/2nd.

DAVID HEALEY, son of ARTHUR LESLIE HEALEY, 2/2nd wrote asking if anyone has information on his father's campaigns.

GEOFF FOX wrote to tell us he is designing a memorial for Morotai where his father served.

ROB GRAHAM wrote that he has restored and reframed his father's "Rats" medal. The medal and paperwork were stored for many years in a cigarette tin in his father's desk after receiving it from his uncle Lt Col. GEORGE GRAHAM. It will now be proudly displayed in various Graham households.

You can write to us at our email address: info@pioneerbattalion.com.au

21.2.14

**2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL WELFARE ACCOUNT 80-105-103**

Statement of Donations and Expenditure
for the Year Ended 21/2/14

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>DONATIONS</u>	
Pioneer News	– Printing 1,204.00	Donations	1,700.00
	– Postage 336.60	Bank Interest	35.25
	<u>\$1,540.60</u>		
P. Herron – Petty Cash	200.00		
Darcy Henderson Bugler Anzac Day	50.00		
Red Fragrance Wreath Anzac Day	75.00		
Ray Law Wreath for Rocky Creek Park	80.00		
Donation Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway	100.00		
John Tyler Internet till 4/6/15	34.95		
	<u>\$2,080.55</u>		<u>\$1,735.25</u>

CASH BANK BALANCE

Cash at Bank 20-2-13	\$7,948.43
Add Donations	1,735.25
	<u>\$9,683.68</u>
Less Expenditure	2,080.55
Cash at Bank 20-2-13	<u>\$7,603.13</u>
EXCESS EXPENDITURE over Income	\$345.30

Our donations are down by \$1,117.56 on last year. A lot of veterans and widows have passed away since last year.

*D. Crawford
Hon. Treasurer*