

PIONEER NEWS

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

Per Annum: \$5

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APRIL 2015

ANZAC ACTIVITIES 2015

WREATH LAYING SERVICE

Friday, 24th April at 3.45pm

All members and their families are invited to the Wreath Laying Service at the Cenotaph on Friday, 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

Saturday, 25th April

There are again changes to the format of the assembly for the March this year.

The 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions will form up in Hunter St under the SIXTH DIVISION as part of the WWII ARMY contingent facing west down Hunter St towards Pitt St (facing west). Banner bearers will lead with veterans and carers next and then descendants as one group. Expected assembly time is around 8.45 am. SES volunteers will display divisional signs as indicators where to assemble. Dress should suit the occasion and the display of photos is not permitted. Marshall shall be Mark Neasbey. Limited Land Rover support is available and will be allocated to the contingents not the units. SES volunteers will assist with entry and exit via step ladders.

ANZAC DAY REUNION

Saturday, 25th April

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

The hotel foyer will again be manned by Geoff Finlay, Ray Law and David Herron who will collect the lunch fee for men of \$26.00 each and issue name tags.

All lady visitors will proceed to the first floor and have their lunch fee of \$31.00 each collected by Lynn Herron, who will supply their name tags. Can ladies intending to celebrate lunch please contact Lynn on (02) 4573 1012 so she can advise the function organiser for catering purposes.

Members should be seated by 12.00 noon so lunch can be served at 12.30 pm. Ladies will receive the same luncheon plus dessert.

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

Enjoy your day and the service organised by the Function Organiser and her wonderful team.

VP DAY 2014 – ROCKY CREEK

By Ray Law, son of the late Jim Law 2/1

A dazzling warm sunny day greeted me at the airport on Saturday morning. It was the day after VP Day and the commemorative service at Rocky Creek was to be held the next day. My jacket, so necessary in the early morning (3 am!) chill of home in the Southern Highlands was dispensed with, not to be seen again until my arrival back in Sydney on the Monday following the service.

I had already decided that this year I would visit Trinity Beach which was such a significant place of training for our Pioneers. It was from here that they prepared for the amphibious landings at Balikpapan, their last campaign of the war. What was once a relatively remote stretch of the coastline according to the locals, now supports a modern marina and significant residential development. However, the beach itself has been kept isolated from this encroachment.

It was disappointing to find that none of the local residents that I encountered knew anything of the wartime activities there. They seemed genuinely surprised to hear the limited information which I could offer and none of them could offer me anything in return. Surely, someone in the appropriate Government Department could ensure that this history is not lost. It would be relatively inexpensive to install informative plaques at such important sites so that the memory of what occurred there is preserved.

In the absence of any further information, I spent some time wandering around the foreshore and sitting in silence in this place where the Pioneer's war was to take another turn. I could not help but wonder what it would have been like for them, already proven to be amongst the best and toughest desert and jungle fighters in the world to be faced with the new challenge of a hostile beach landing. Irrespective of their own misgivings they proved, as history testifies, that this was just one more form of warfare that they would conquer and bring to a successful and victorious conclusion. As usual in such circumstances the atmosphere brought a sombre and emotional experience. The day, however was fast drawing to an end so it was time to check in to the motel for a good night's sleep before the drive to Rocky Creek the next day.

Sunday was again bright and sunny and the greeting from some of the organising committee whom I have been fortunate to get to know was as warm as the day itself. I can understand why Dad loved this place so much and spoke so fondly of the people and their hospitality. I received so many offers of accommodation from the locals that I'm sure he would be saying, "I told you so".

Before the service commenced I took some time to visit the Memorial Wall and spent a few moments contemplating at the plaques for Dad, Jack Claypole and Bill Gamble. The Committee had ensured that each name was adorned with a red poppy for the occasion, a gesture which is deeply appreciated. It seems a shame that only three of our Pioneers are remembered in this way and I would encourage others to organise a plaque for their loved ones at this wonderful place of remembrance. The cost is \$160 and I can supply application form to anyone who would like one. Just call me on 0427 901 275 and I'll mail one out.

The service commenced at 1 pm with the usual sounding of the air raid siren and a fly over by two WWII fighter places from the nearby Mareeba Airport. It really sets the scene for the formalities. The key speaker this year was RAN Lieutenant Peter Gaden who is the OC Health Central HMAS Cairns. He highlighted the important role the hospital had played during the War. At it's peak it had nearly 4,000 beds, all under canvas and no doubt was responsible for saving the lives of so many of our servicemen. The site where the Memorial Park is now situated is where the hospital was located and it is hard to realise what a huge undertaking it must have been. He also spoke of the critical role in anti-malarial research which was carried out here and pointed out the huge cost that was extracted from the troops from disease as well as injury. In fact, the Vietnam conflict was the first time that combat casualties exceeded the toll from disease.

It was now time for the wreath laying service and as always it was a humbling but proud moment to be allowed to place a wreath on behalf of 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers. It is a privilege that I never take for granted and always leaves a lump in my throat.

With the service concluded it was time to say farewells to the dedicated and hard working committee who make this day so special. I then spent a few quite moments at the Plinth dedicated to our Pioneers. As usual I seemed to be transported back to a bygone era where the breeze in the gum trees echoed the voices of brave young men who had already given so much but would still find even more to give in the coming months. With a genuine reluctance it was time to go. Until next year.

MAIL BAG

By PEG HERRON

Typesetter's Note: The Mail Bag that you are about to read was written by Peg Herron just prior to her passing in late September 2014. Regrettably, it has been a long time since your last Pioneer News and I hope, for the sake of all that Max and Peg held dear to them, that the Pioneer News will continue - to hold that single thread that binds so many people from all parts of this country (and overseas) together, long after their passing and the eventual passing of the remaining Pioneers who are in their twilight years. It has been a great joy to sit at their table in Beverly Hills enjoying a quick cuppa and bikkie whilst discussing our families and the Pioneers - so many people Virginia and I have come to know, so well, by name in this newsletter. It is with a heavy heart that I look upon Peg's handwriting for the final time as I type this newsletter and ask that you remember the words you are about to read as they were set out in September 2014. Kind regards to you all, *Peter and Virginia Smith*.

- Another ANZAC Day has been and gone and although the weather was cold and raining there were still the usual crowds lining the streets of Sydney. Early marchers were lucky to have only light showers, but the rain became heavier as the morning progressed. Age and mobility is now taking its toll on the veterans, but their ranks were boosted by quite a few of their family members.

However, we thank those of our friends who put pen to paper and sent along letters and donations to the News.

CHRIS ARNOLD, Elanora Heights, daughter of the late Adrian Buckley (last Colonel of the 2/1sts), with a welcome letter and cheque towards the running costs of the Pioneer News. Many thanks, Chris, and glad you enjoyed reading of your Canadian holiday. Quite a few of our readers have taken trips to Canada and have really enjoyed the experience.

Pleasing to see both Terry and yourself have been enjoying life, loving your grandchildren and finding time for enjoyment with friends at polo matches - even if Australia lost - and making the best of the good weather in the winter.

Have not heard from Ted Carter of Tamworth lately, but he was reasonably well when he phoned some months back. He does not come to Sydney very often.

My best wishes to you both and hope to have a chat to you shortly. Take care.

JOYCE ACHURCH, Croydon, widow of Kevin 2/2, with a welcome note and cheques enclosed for the News - many thanks Joyce.

Last year was not a good year for Joyce. She had major surgery and has taken eight months to get back to normal. Let's hope the warmer weather does wonders for you.

At the time of writing, she was attending ANZAC Day services in her home area and even planting a Cross at one of them for the Army.

Our best wishes, Joyce, and hope your problems are all in the past. Good to hear from you.

ALISON HAIDLE, Mudgee, daughter of the late Wally Roberts 2/1, with a welcome donation to the News, many thanks, and she was hoping

that we were in the future, going to do a reprint of the 2/1st history "The Pioneers". She is hoping to order four copies for her children.

There are no plans at the moment, Alison, but I have put your name on our list if, and when reprints of the book become available.

I am the only member of the Committee that was formed for the book still living, and cannot see my way clear, without a lot of assistance, to tackle a reprint, especially with only my own copy of the book available. Only time will tell.

HARRY WEST, O.A.M., 2/2 Lane Cove, with a welcome donation for the News and to say he was saddened to read of Cecil Sloggett's passing in last issue. Cec was one of the first mates Harry made when he joined the 2/2 Pioneers at Dubbo in March 1942, and they became firm friends. Harry left the Pioneers in 1944 and went to ANGAU. He was discharged in 1946 and remained in New Guinea for 30 years until Independence.

He now lives in the Lane Cove Gardens Retirement Village, nearly 92 and in fair health. Nowadays spends ANZAC Day with the ANGAU/Papua New Guinea group at the Roseville RSL but always has a thought for the boys he was with for two years, from 1942-1944, in the 2/2 Pioneers.

Thanks for your donation to the News, Harry, and I'm sure some of the 2/2 boys will be pleased to have news of you.

DAVID CLARK, Lesmurdie WA, son of late Arthur Clark 2/1, with a welcome donation to funds. Many thanks and best wishes.

David's father was an original member of the 2/1sts, going overseas on the Johann De Witt on 30th September, 1940, and served with the Battalion until his discharge in 1945. Sadly very few of the WA members are still living, but we have had one or two in touch for this Mail Bag.

DAWN LEVY, Revesby, widow of Roy 2/2, with a welcome donation to funds and lots of news of her "doings" since she wrote last. Says she is well, but big problems with arthritis in knees and hands. She keeps busy with Legacy and War Widows and has lots of day trips. The long trips are not so frequent as most of the ladies' health has deteriorated, some passed away, some now in care whilst others with canes and walkers find it too hard to board the coaches. Time marches on!!

Dawn says she is still driving but does not go far from home anymore. I have recently had to give up driving, Dawn, after 50 odd years and find it hard to get about. Have to depend on family for shopping which makes it hard, as both David and Lynne do not live close by, one in Murwillumbah and one at Kurrajong.

So pleased to hear from you. I see Don and Val Crawford at Kokoda Track on occasions and Don has been a lot of help with Pioneer duties. Fond wishes and keep well.

BERYL GILLIAN, Maroubra, widow of Frank 2/1, with some kind words on my efforts for the Pioneer News, many thanks. After so many years helping Max, I am happy to still keep my hand in with the News, especially knowing most of the writers for over fifty years. Sadly, not so many left now - time marches on.

I spoke to Wynn Dwyer recently and asked her if she had recently been in touch with you. Also mentioned to her that Joyce Law was now in care at Miranda - I keep in touch with her sister who lives not far from me in Beverly Hills.

Many thanks for your donation to the News, Beryl, and hope this finds you well. Fond wishes.

GLORIA HUTCHINSON, Caringbah, widow

of Bill 2/1, had a bad fall in March and broke her hip. She spent several weeks in Kareena Hospital in Caringbah after the operation and came home in May on a walking frame. Latest news is that she is gradually regaining her health with the help of family and a kind friend who attends to any outdoors jobs that need doing.

Bill was in the Sig. Platoon of the 2/1sts with Max and Doug Shearston in Borneo and they became good friends. All three have now passed away. Fond wishes, Gloria, hurry up and get well.

DICK HOBLEY, 2/1, Bremer Bay WA, with his apology for belated condolences to me and my family on the loss of Max last year (a man amongst men). Although he did not know Max during the time they were both in the Pioneers, Dick was impressed with Max's welcome to him on the only ANZAC Day and reunion Dick attended in Sydney in 1990.

He and his wife Sheila are still living at home at Bremer Bay, but only just. Sheila suffers from memory loss, Dick unofficial carer, at 93. Still, no time to get into mischief - and I am sure it is a labour of love.

Dick still keeps in touch with Marie Jensen, widow of Ted 2/1, and says he and Ted were in B Coy whilst in Borneo. Does not think that there are too many of the "boys" left as he sees no mention of them in the News. (It is nearly 70 years ago, Dick, how time flies, most would be, if alive, in their 90's.)

Take care and kindest regards to you both.

BOB COLE, Toronto, son-in-law of the late Jack Tooker 2/1, with a welcome letter from he and his wife Ainsley enclosing a cheque for the News. Many Thanks.

Bob attended the March and luncheon on ANZAC Day and said it was a privilege to do so and assist where needed. Will certainly let you know if, at some future date, you can be of assistance.

Please pass on our love and best wishes to Kathleen and hope she is still keeping reasonably well. My thanks to both Ainsley and yourself for keeping in touch.

RON WEBSTER 2/1, Bass Hill, with a welcome letter some months ago and he had just celebrated his 93rd birthday. He resides in Salvation Army Village at Bass Hill and is very well looked after. He lost his wife over two years ago after 64 years of marriage.

Thank you, Ron, for your message of sympathy on the loss of my dear husband, Max, he is sadly missed. Not too many left now of the old Battalion, age and sickness taking their toll after so many years. My best wishes and take care.

JULIE McWILLIAM, Griffith, daughter of the late Steve Clark 2/1, with apologies for not writing at Christmas time, but said our family were in her thoughts - and it would have been rather sad the first year without Max.

Her family had a busy lead up to Christmas, with her daughter Karen (Steve's granddaughter) marrying Nick Miller, whom Max and I met over at the Kokoda Track at Concord just after they had both walked the Track in New Guinea. The wedding was held in the Hunter Valley, with Karen arriving in a helicopter piloted by Doug's brother, Greg. Julie and Doug then helped them move into their new home at Hunters Hill before the newlyweds headed off to the Maldives and WA for their honeymoon.

Julie and Doug have welcomed a second granddaughter, as Scott and his wife Nora are the proud parents of a new baby daughter,

now seven months. Their mother took five year old Saffron and the new babe to Germany for Christmas.

Unfortunately, Julie and Doug were unable to be in Sydney for ANZAC Day, but would try to be here for the Centenary next April – it should be an historic March.

Many thanks for your kind wishes for ANZAC Day and your donation to the News, much appreciated. – Enjoy your golf!!

KAREN MILLER, Hunters Hill, granddaughter of late Steve Clark 2/1, with a card of greetings from Nick and herself following their wedding in December. I have written to you, Karen, and sent the best wishes of the Pioneers for a long and happy life together and hoping that we may see you later on at some of our Pioneer functions for ANZAC Day.

My thanks, too, for your kind thoughts on Max's passing - he was much loved by myself and family.

ROBERT STUBBS, Dongara WA, nephew of Noel Schomberg 2/1, with his apology for non-attendance on ANZAC Day due to medical reasons. Hope all is well, Robert, and many thanks for your donation to the News.

I see and hear from Noel occasionally at Rats of Tobruk functions and phone calls.

Do hope you are feeling better and kindest regards.

JOHN HORE-LACEY 2/2, Moss Vale, was in touch by phone just before ANZAC DAY with best wishes to all his old mates for the big day. Even their numbers are dwindling as the years roll on. Take care and keep well.

ELAINE HENDERSON, Narellan, niece of late Ron Clark 2/1, with a welcome letter after some time and a donation to the News. Sorry to hear of your fracture, Elaine, and do hope you are much better since you wrote in March. Also that your daughter's cancer treatment has been successful - a very worrying time for you.

Many thanks for your kind words for the loss of my beloved Max – very hard after over seventy years together - particularly around ANZAC Day.

Sadly, only four or five veterans at the ANZAC luncheon as time marches on. Take care and happy to hear from you.

SUE DAWSON, Bayview, widow of Ross 2/2, with a welcome letter with lots of family news and a cheque for the Treasurer. Many Thanks.

Pleased to see the boys were able to join in the march, even though the RSL made a change after the News came out. Only a couple of 2/2 Pioneers were able to take part, but there were quite a few 2/2 family members. The Maddrell sons were also present at the reunion, but I'm not sure if there were at the march.

Sue took family members John and Bronnie, Greig, Phillip and Gabbie on a coach tour to Jenolan Caves for the "Carols in the Caves" late last year and it was a great bonding experience. Trust Greig is doing well after his operation, it does make it hard when family members live interstate.

My own daughter lives in Murwillumbah and, even though she flies down every month, it is not the same as being close by.

Good to hear from you, Sue, with news of the family, take care.

JOAN LAKE, Brookvale, widow of Bob 2/1, has not been keeping the best of health lately, but managing to stay in her own home with help from daughter Gail and son, Bill, who live locally. Gail takes her shopping and Bill keeps an eye on jobs around the home. Hope you had a

Happy Birthday in September, Joan, and your health improves with the warmer weather. Take care.

MOLLIE-JEAN HUNT, New Farm Qld, widow of John 2/1, says it was good to see the News still functioning and sent along a welcome donation to funds. Says a few names in the News were still familiar after so many years, but sadly time is taking its toll on the writers.

Some purple statice in a pot that a friend gave her reminds Mollie of our October reunions years ago when she tidies them up. Life changes, Mollie, those were the days. Certainly had some wonderful gatherings over the years - and lovely memories.

Many thanks for your letter Mollie, and for your welcome donation. Keep well.

ERIKA PEILE, Caringbah, widow of Peter 2/1, with her thanks for the News and a donation enclosed for the Association. Says she will ring me later when things settle down for a chat. Hope you are keeping well, Erika, and look forward to hearing from you. Take care.

JULIE JARDINE, Meadowbank, daughter of our late President Roy Jardine 2/1, with a letter of thanks to Marj Kerslake and myself for making her so welcome on ANZAC Day 2013, her first with the Pioneer ladies and was looking forward to joining us again this year. The Pioneers were such a big part of her late father's life.

Sorry Marj was not able to attend this year Julie as she was just out of hospital, but hopes to meet up with you again this year.

Hope you are enjoying your new surrounds at Meadowbank and looking forward to seeing you again in the near future.

GAVIN TODD 2/2, Beverly Hills, spoke to me recently and regretted not being able to be in Sydney for the ANZAC Day march. He is in fair health, but leg problems restrict walking any distance. Sends his best wishes to all and we hope the warmer weather may make a lot of difference to your legs. Take care and best wishes.

JOY JORGENSEN, Kenthurst, daughter of Ern Walker 2/1, with a welcome donation to the News and her best wishes. Many thanks Joy, and nice to catch up now and again at Rats of Tobruk functions.

Hope your dad is keeping well as I have not been able to get to Five Dock to Rats meetings recently. Looking forward to some warm weather for old bones. All the best, hope to see you soon.

PAM HERRICK, Sutherland, daughter of the late George Bates 2/1, with a note to say she and Edward would be overseas from 24th May to 3rd August this year touring the UK, Spain, Italy, Germany, Netherlands and Ireland (long service and annual leave) and would be in touch on their return. Should have been a wonderful trip, Pam, and look forward to some notes on your return.

Many thanks for the donation to the News enclosed in your letter and I sent a receipt to your home address.

WIN DWYER, Bronte, widow of Mick 2/1, with a welcome note enclosing a cheque for the News and her best wishes for a great ANZAC Day. Many thanks, Win, and I also heard from your good friend Beryl Gillian. Trust you are keeping well. Take care.

GEOFF RAY, Mundaring WA, son of the late Frank Ray 2/2, who passed away in Melbourne in March 2010, sent along a donation to the News in memory of his father. Frank was a Lieutenant in the 2/2 Pioneers and saw

service in New Guinea and Borneo. Many thanks, Geoff, for your very generous donation and best wishes.

TOM OSBORN, son of the late Col. Gordon Osborn 2/1, with the latest news of his research into the Rats of Tobruk medals made by "Lofty" Barlow's platoon. Has still no information on what has happened to the two that were at Victoria Barracks when his father Gordon was a volunteer guide.

Many thanks for your donation to the News, Tom, and hope you will eventually get some news from the Barracks on the missing "Rats" medals. My kindest regards.

EULALIE SAUER, Elanora Qld, widow of George 2/1, with an interesting family letter. Her daughter Elizabeth flew to the States for a legal conference and arrived back in time for last Christmas with her mother, as the rest of the family were going to Adelaide. Eulalie lived in SA before moving to Queensland.

She had a trip to hospital early in the year - tripped on the terracotta paving by her front gate and finished up in hospital. No broken bones, plenty of pain, but OK after a few days.

Two grandchildren are lawyers like their mother, so plenty of happy days and celebrations and Eulalie was going to Adelaide in May for a week to catch up with family and friends. Certainly not letting the grass grow under your feet!!

Good to catch up with all your family news, and your certainly don't need to go too far for plenty of legal advice.

Take care and always pleased to hear from your latest doings and thank you for your donation and kind remarks on the News. Sadly, so many of our regular writers are no longer with us.

ROBYN BELL, Balwyn Vic., daughter of late Leo Morris 2/1, with a thank you note after ANZAC Day, in spite of the rain and the altered arrangements by the RSL Committee.

She looks forward to her trip to Sydney each year to the Wreath Laying and the March and catching up with old friends at the Reunion. Also a special thank you to Mark Neasbey for his efforts in getting the information to members through the internet.

Robyn was able to attend VP Day in August at Kokoda Track, Concord, and joined with other Pioneer family members for the service. Love and best wishes, take care.

BARBARA DOUGLAS, Kahibah, daughter of the late Jack Bertram 2/1, with several cards and letters before her beloved father passed way, keeping me in touch with his health problems and sending me a snap of her dad taken with his 98th Birthday cake. So pleased he was able to enjoy the day. Barbara, and I shall file it away in one of the Pioneer photo albums.

Thank you for all the notes on his health problems and am sure he will be sorely missed. One of Nature's Gentlemen. Fond Love.

BRUCE MONTAGUE, Homebush, son of late Henry Montague 2/1, with a phone call re the Wreath Laying and hoping he may be able to attend. Sorry you could not make it, Bruce, and please pass on our warm regards to your mother. Jean is now 85 and living in Penrith. Best wishes to you both.

KAY SCHULZ, Georges Hall, daughter of the late Bill Tasker 2/1, also rang hoping she may have been able to attend the Wreath Laying. Kay has not been in the best of health. Sorry you couldn't make it, Kay, but send you our best wishes for a speedy get-well.

ANN HEALEY, Semaphore SA, daughter of the late Jim Hall 2/1 of Kyogle, with a welcome letter arriving just as I was finishing the Mail Bag. Ann was a nurse during the Vietnam War and made many friends. Since her move to South Australia spends some time travelling, trips to see family members in Kyogle, to Camden for a 50th wedding anniversary of her cousin Barry Hall, who did two tours of Vietnam with infantry and signals, and had a great time with her cousins. She was off to Brisbane this week for a 70th birthday, so really enjoying life.

Good to hear Marg has finished her treatment and all is well. I'm sure they love life on the farm.

At the moment of writing, Ann, was reading the 2/1st history "The Pioneers" and really enjoying it – says how proud she was to have known so many of those brave men, so many of them from the home town of Kyogle and surrounding districts.

Many thanks for your letter, Ann, and lovely to hear from you. Take care.

GEOFF FINLAY, son of Olive and Gordon Finlay 2/1. Many thanks for your help on ANZAC Day on the reception desk at the hotel foyer, greatly appreciated.

Geoff and wife Lynn have just returned from a two month trip by van to Cooktown Qld, and then a long stay at Crescent Head on NSW North Coast.

Both are well and keeping and eye on Geoff's mother, Olive Finlay, widow of Gordon. At the time Olive was suffering from rheumatics and praying for some warm weather in the near future. Her going out days have been curtailed lately with leg problems, hope things improve Olive. Kind wishes. Peg.

JOYCE LAW, widow of Max 2/1, has recently entered Hammond Care Nursing Home at Miranda NSW. I have spoken to her sister Eileen, who also lives in Beverly Hills, and frequently visits Joyce. Good to have news of you Joyce and our very good wishes from your Pioneer family.

MARJ KERSLAKE, widow of Jack 2/1, apologies received for not being able to attend ANZAC activities, as she was just out of hospital, and sending best wishes to all, along with those of her daughter, Margaret Stolp. Good to hear from you and to see you are on the mend Marj, and our love and best wishes.

KAY TASKER, daughter of Bill, was also in touch and sent her best wishes. She has not been in the best of health and hoping warmer weather will improve her health. Good to hear from you Kay and best wishes.

WIN DWYER, Bronte, widow of Mick 2/1, has been in touch and sends her best wishes to all – she keeps reasonably well and attends Legacy meetings on a regular basis. She keeps in touch with Beryl Gillian and enquired after Rita Trifoni and other Pioneer friends from the past. She has not heard from them in a long time.

ROBERT STUBBS, Dongara WA, nephew of Noel Schomberg 2/1, with further news that he has seen Noel recently and advising he is not in great health but in good spirits. Thank you for your donation and advising of your address change to NSW after ANZAC Day 2015, we will look for you in 2016.

• Due to the passing of our Editor, Peg, it is important that we still receive your news so we can continue to keep a flow of conversation between all our Pioneer friends and families.

David Herron.

HOSPITAL SHIP CENTAUR COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The commemoration service was held on Monday 12th May 2014 at 10.30 am at 113th AGH MEMORIAL CHAPEL at Concord Repatriation General Hospital, attended by Don and Val Crawford 2/2nds.

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC CELEBRATION

The celebration was marked on Friday 15th August 2014 at 2 pm at Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway Concord. The service conducted by Father Graeme Malone SSS, Honorary Chaplain of KTMW and Reverend Paul Weaver, Anglican Chaplain Concord Hospital.

The theme for the day was "Australian Women of War" including staff from Concord Hospital dressing in varying women's uniforms from the period.

VP Day Address was by the Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, with a most entertaining presentation with details of the changes to the AWM for the 100yr ANZAC celebrations.

The Ode was taken by Don Rowe NSW State President of the RSL.

The Pioneers were represented by Don and Val Crawford, Robyn Bell, Marj Kerslake, Margaret Stolp, Peg, Lynn and David Herron and all enjoyed the presentation and service to celebrate this event.

LAST POST

From *Reveille* May/June 2014:

ANLEZARK JW, NX179420, 2/2 Pnr Btn

JONES Walter, 2/2nd Pnr Btn

KILLEN FE, NX9450, Cpl, 2/1 Pnr Btn

LONGMORE, Vince, NX88796, 2/2nd Pnr Btn

WALLACE, Thomas Henry, NX25684,

2/1 Pnr Btn

From *Reveille* Sept/Oct 2014

HODGSON RL, VX133923, Pte, 2/2 Pnr Btn

SCOTT JA, NX119452, Cpl 2/1st Pnr Btn

WILKINSON FC, NX191879, Pte,

2/2nd Pnr Btn

From *MUFTI* – SEPT 2014

MAAS, Allan Roy, Keilor East, 2/2nd Pnr Btn

From *Reveille* Nov/Dec 2014

BALDOCK FS, NX126629, Pte, 2/1st Pnr Btn

BERTRAM J, NX29374, Sgt 2/1st Pnr Btn

PEPPER IJ, NX94675, Cpl, 2/1st Pnr Btn

TAYLOR JB, Bairnsdale, 2/1st Pnr Btn

From *ROTA* – Oct/Dec 2014
BUDDERY, Will, 2/1st Pnr Btn

ROMA MERLE SHEARSTON, wife of Doug Shearston 2/1, advised by Kerrie Fitzgerald (daughter) that Roma passed away on 15th December 2014, aged 94 years. Her funeral was held at Westcott Chapel, Stockton. Kerrie advised that Roma passed away peacefully and they had a lovely celebration of her life at the Chapel. The Shearstons had been family friends for years and their children and the Herron children had attended school together as both families lived in Beverly Hills. Kerrie had attended Peggy's funeral and we know what she would be feeling at this time of loss.

David Herron.

PIONEER WEBSITE

By John Tyler (son-in-law of Bill Jollie)

Website is www.pioneerbattalion.com.au

John has recently uploaded a group of photos from the early days of the Pioneers which have received several comments from interested parties interstate. We should all thank John for his efforts and I'm sure his reward is receiving emails and feedback on his input.

You can contact him via email address: info@pioneerbattalion.com.au

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION

ROTA advised they will be holding their last meeting on May 13th 2015, due to lack of members and older members not able to attend the meetings. They will still be holding their Tobruk Sunday Remembrance Service on 12th April 2015 at 11 am on corner of Great North Road and Lyons Road, Five Dock RSL at their memorial. There will be a special march from Five Dock RSL down to the memorial, for those that are able they need to be at the RSL at 10.00 am. Interesting was an article on the forming of the Rats Association that it is credited to a Harold (Nick) Woodward who floated the idea with two of his mates, all three served in the besieged Libyan port with the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion. An association was formed and was greeted with enthusiasm around Australia and the UK.

The NSW Branch of the Association was formed in October 1944. Information was provided by Joe Madeley, President of NSW Association.

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

20.2.15

Statement of Donations and Expenditure for the Year Ended 20/2/15

EXPENDITURE

Pioneer News	– Printing	569.00
	– Postage	165.60
		<u>\$734.60</u>
P. Herron – Petty Cash		200.00
D. Herron – Petty Cash		100.00
Bugler Anzac Day (Lachlan Penninkilam)		50.00
Wreath Anzac Day		90.00
Ray Law Wreath for Rocky Creek Park		100.00
Donation Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway		100.00
		<u>\$1374.60</u>

DONATIONS

Donations	2,440.00
Bank Interest	37.09

\$2,477.09

CASH BANK BALANCE

Cash at Bank 20-2-14	\$7,603.13
Add Donations	2,477.09
	<u>\$10,080.22</u>
Less Expenditure	1,374.60
	<u>\$8,705.62</u>
Cash at Bank 20-2-15	\$8,800.78

D. Crawford, Hon. Treasurer

PASSING OF OUR EDITOR AND HONORARY SECRETARY



ESME PEGGY HERRON O.A.M
18th December, 1921 –
29th September, 2014 – 92 years

Peggy Herron passed away very peacefully, at home, on Monday, 29th September, 2014. Her funeral service was held at Rookwood Crematorium, on Tuesday, 7th October, 2014, conducted by Salvation Officer, Major Bruce Domrow. Afterwards, a celebration of her life was held at the Penshurst RSL Club. The family was very pleased to see the support of many Relations, Friends, Pioneers, The Scout Association and Neighbours who attended.

Peggy was born in Tamworth, NSW, to William and Lilian Roper, together with her only sibling, Ken. Both parents had lost siblings in WW1 and Lilian's brother, Kenneth Mansfield

was in the famous Lighthorse Charge at Bethsheba, and returned. William, proudly, was also an original ANZAC in 1915.

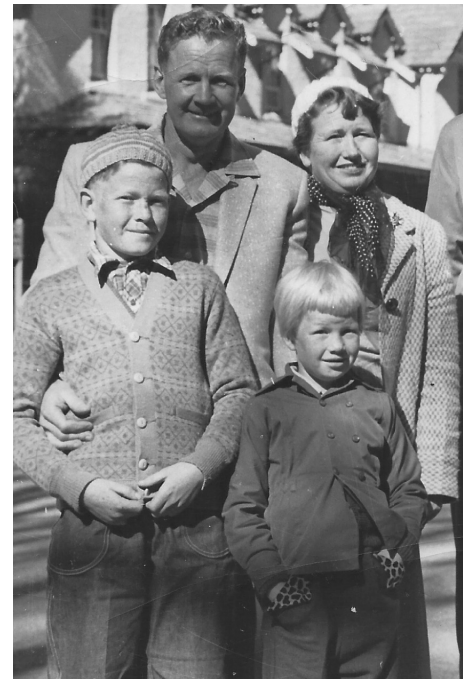
Her early childhood was spent at Brackendale, near Walcha, where her grandmother lived on a property. During the 1930's, the family moved to Sydney, where her father followed work during the depression. Her best school day memories were at Toongabbie School where she spent two years. She attended Business College in Parramatta and then worked for a Timber Development Company before employment at Publicity Press.

It was there that she met Max Herron. They were engaged while Max was serving with the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion, WW2. When Max was sent back from Kokoda, New Guinea to Queensland with Malaria, he went AWOL and married Peggy on 3rd March, 1943. He then returned to his unit, until his discharge after the war.

After living in Arncliffe, Coogee and Strathfield, they built and moved into their home at Beverly Hills.

With David & Lynnette at Primary School, Peggy became an active member of the P&C and was recognized for her fabulous sponge cakes at fetes. She played tennis for over 40 years and then took up golf, where she won the 2CH medal. David's involvement in the Scouts meant Peggy became very involved with secretarial backup to Max, due to his being on the St. George Area Training Team.

After Max was appointed secretary of the 21st/22nd Pioneer Battalions in 1958, Peggy typed up minutes and organized accommodation for their 14 reunions, held up to 1993. She became Editor of the Pioneer News in 1996, when she succeeded Bobby Lake. In 2000, Peggy was made a



Life member of the Pioneer Battalion Association and in 2007 received the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the Pioneers.

Peggy took great pride as the family extended and would not miss a birthday without a card and some cash! Her garden was a source of great pride and later in life it had replaced trips around the countryside that Peggy and Max both had enjoyed earlier with their Pioneer friends.

Peggy leaves behind David and wife Lynn, daughter Lynnette, five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren who were all very special in her life.

Sadly, Peggy had struggled since Max's passing in 2013 and she would have been pleased to finally join her beloved partner in rest.

She has left us with impossible shoes to fill.

David Herron.

