



# MAIL BAG

By **DAVID HERRON**

• Many thanks to those of you who put pen to paper and sent along letters and donations to the News.

**RONALD WEBSTER**, Bass Hill NSW, via daughter P. Webster, short note with subscription and donation. Thank you and Ronald is still on our mailing list.

**GRACE FOWKES**, Pendle Hill NSW. Lovely note from Grace thanking Peg and Max Herron for their years of Pioneer Service and sorry to hear of Peg's passing. Previously she used to send their subscription with a Christmas card to Peg, now she will send it around April. She was very pleased to see the Pioneer Banners so prominent on ANZAC Day and enjoyed Ray Law's article on his Rocky Creek visit. Thanks for the kind note and thank you Grace.

**SIDNEY BOOTH**, Maroochydore QLD, via Marilyn Deas (daughter). Thank you note to advise of his new address and stating his appreciation of receiving his Pioneer News and the work involved in putting it together. Thanks Marilyn, we hope Sidney is still in good health.

**NANCY LINTON**, Kincumber NSW. Note from Nancy stating she was very sorry to read in the last Pioneer News of Peg Herron's passing, and passing on her sympathy to David and the family. Nancy was sad to see the diminishing numbers on the ANZAC March telecast but it was heartwarming to see the 2/1-2/2 Banners. She felt her Don's presence together with thoughts of Bill Lewis, Gordon Sheen, Ray Burroughs, Bill Holmes and others.

Thank you Nancy for your kind thoughts and your enclosed subscription.

**MARGARET MUNRIGHT**, Tea Gardens NSW (Daughter of **JACK CLAYPOLE**). Thanking you for your kind thoughts Margaret and it was great to hear you and your husband met up with RAY LAW at the Rocky Creek dedication in 2012. I'm sure the last article by Ray has brought back memories. Thanks again for your well wishes and subscription. P.S. the very slack secretary has sent you Marj Kerslake's address finally.

**MOLLIE HUNT**, New Farm QLD (widow of **JOHN**). Great to hear news from you and you can still look for familiar names in the Pioneer News. Best wishes Mollie and thanks for the subscription.

**JOY TAYLOR**, Allawah NSW (Daughter of **JACK HARVEY** 2/1st D. Company). Very newsy letter, thanks Joy, sorry to hear of your eyesight issues due to glaucoma. Hope all has improved and you will have a clear view of this year's ANZAC Day March. Thank you for your best wishes to us and all the Pioneer Family and for your contribution to funds.

**ANN HEALEY**, Semaphore SA (Daughter of **JIM HALL** 2/1st). Thank you Ann for the lovely card with thoughts to our family on the passing of Peggy. Please keep in touch with more news and thanks for the funds contribution.

**BOB COLE**, Toronto NSW (son-in-law of **MAJOR JACK TOOKER** 2/1st). Thank you Bob for your earlier thank you note and your subscription. We are sorry to hear of the passing

of Kathleen (wife of Jack) in August 2015. You are right in stating she had a good life to reach 98. Really good to see your photos from Trinity Beach and Rocky Creek War Memorial. You may have noticed Ray Law's letters on his pilgrimage to there in past Pioneer News. You could have a conversation with him on ANZAC Day.

**JACK ALLISON**, Eastwood NSW. It was great to hear from Jack and Allison and their enjoyment watching the Anzac March on TV. Thanks for your contributions to funds. Best of health.

**JOHN O'DEA**, Woronora NSW (on behalf of **HARRY WEST**). Thank you for the news with regards to Harry's health. To have reached 93 and still be remarkable in the mind is something for all of us to strive for. I have altered the address for Harry to be via you in future.

**LENORE ROBSON**, Bolton Point NSW (daughter of **JACK KEMPNI**). Thank you for your Sympathy Card on behalf of your mother (Maisie) on Peggy's passing. It is difficult news to hear of your mother's dementia, especially when some of us "young ones" are heading in the same direction.

**PERRY WELLS**, Lennox Head NSW (son of **BILL WELLS** NX92856 2/2nd). Good to hear news of yourself and your mother, especially at her age of 98. You mentioned Bill's great grandsons have attended Anzac Day marches in Sawtell and Brisbane, they would always be welcome to march in Sydney as well. Your request for details of your father's service in New Guinea could be forwarded to our Treasurer Don Crawford, 2/2nd veteran, or there is a large 2/2nd Pioneer Battalions Association in Melbourne. Secretary is Jenny Davidson (jada1952@bigpond.net.au).

**ERIKA PEILE**, Caringbah NSW (wife of **PETER PEILE** 2/2nd). Thank you for your card and the cheque, it was good to hear you used to have chats with Mum in the past. Hope you are still in good health.

**PAM WEBSTER**, Bass Hill NSW (daughter of **RONALD HAROLD WEBSTER**). Pam so sorry to hear of your father's passing in August 2015 at Weeroona Village nursing home, Bass Hill at the age of 94. It is a difficult time for all your family, however it was good to hear the Bass Hill sub branch attended and paid tribute to Ronald. Our thoughts are with you from all the Pioneer family.

**EULALIE M. SAUER**, Elanora QLD (widow of **GEORGE** 2/1st). Thanking you for your Christmas card and update on the family news. The contribution to funds was most appreciated. Good to hear you are recovering from your bout of pneumonia and that family are back from France safely.

**EUNICE CHRYSSTALL**, Larras Lee NSW. So sorry to hear of the passing of **GORDON** on 31st December 2015 at the age of 90 and on your 59th Wedding Anniversary. Our feelings are with you at this time, however there is some comfort in the knowledge that Gordon has now been relieved of his pain. You can take great comfort in your youngest grandchildren at this time. Thank you for your kind thoughts re Peg's passing and we are trying to walk in her huge shoes. Wishing you all the best.

**ROBYN BELL**, Balwyn VIC, daughter of late **LEO MORRIS** 2/1st. Thanking you again for your thank you note sent after last Anzac Day,

especially your comments on the wonderful response from the people of Sydney lining the streets. It was with appreciation that the organising committee of the 2/1-2/2 Reunion were commended for their efforts on the day by you. Yes it is a shame **GAVIN TODD** was not able to attend due to his difficulty getting around after all those past attendances. Looking forward to catching up again this year, see you soon.

**JIM GELTCH**, Moama NSW son of **ALF GELTCH** 2/1st. Very pleasing to hear of your opportunity to address the pre Anzac Day dinner at Leeton RSL in 2015 and for being able to make some remarks at the cenotaph at the conclusion of the March. You are correct that it would have been special to be doing this at Leeton on the 100th Anniversary when this was where you were born and where your father enlisted in June 1940, and later to be sent after training to the 2/1st Pioneers in October 1941.

Good to hear your news and hope to catch up next Anzac Day.

**KEN FRASER**, St Helena, VIC, Treasurer 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion. We appreciate your thoughts for our past Secretary and the "Mail Bag" Editor. It was really interesting to hear of your cycling trips in QLD and especially when cycling past Rocky Creek Memorial and the first memorial you saw being the 2/1st-2/2nd Memorial. It is understandable why you got great enjoyment from Ray Law's past articles. Thanks for your funds contribution.

**PETER DENNY**, Golden Valley, Minnesota USA son of the late **PTE DAVID WILBERT DENNY** NX95459 2/1-2/2. Letter received tracing some news of his father's history as a member of the Lismore NSW branch. David passed away in 2001 and Peter had not received very much detail on his father's service. He is presently researching the KOKODA TRACK campaign and commented it is astounding that the Americans do not even realise Australians served in Vietnam.

We are attempting to provide Peter with more details.

• *It is important and appreciated 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



## 100 YEARS OF ANZAC DAWN SERVICE COMMEMORATION

**KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALKWAY**  
Sunday, 19th April at 5.30pm

Very moving service attended by Don & Val Crawford and David Herron. After the service all attendees were invited to walk down to Brays Bay Reserve to plant the supplied poppy in large beds set up on the foreshore and to enjoy a breakfast provided by the board of KMTW and Rotary.



### VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC 70th ANNIVERSARY

Held at Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, Concord on Saturday 15th August 2015.

This day commemorates those World War II veterans who bravely fought for their country to preserve our freedom, so we could live in peace and speak our minds without fear of reprisal.

Master of Ceremonies: Mr John Gatfield.  
Welcome by: Mr John Haines AM, Chairman of KTMW, NSW Vice President of RSL.

VP Day address was given by Lieutenant General Peter Leahy AC (Rtd), former Chief of Army.

The reflection was an End of War - WWII footage accompanied by a musical string trio.

Pioneer and families attending were Don and Val Crawford, Marj Kerslake and Margaret Stolp, Robyn Bell and Lynn and David Herron.

Service was very moving with refreshments supplied by Concord Hospital.



### WREATH LAYING CEREMONY, 2015



### ANZAC DAY MARCH, 2015





## ANNIVERSARY OF KOKODA DAY

### FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Tuesday, 3rd November 2015

This event celebrates the raising of the Australian flag at the completion of World War II on 3rd November 1945.

National Anthems of Papua New Guinea and Australia played.

Official welcome by John Haines AM, Chairman KTMW, Kokoda Day Address by the Hon David Elliott MP, NSW Minister for Veteran Affairs.

This ceremony was conducted in real New Guinea weather of drizzling rain and breezy conditions. The veterans we were commemorating would have thought we were experiencing something of what they had to cope with. It really made the ceremony much more moving under these conditions.

Attending were Don & Val Crawford and David Herron.



### LAST POST

From *Reveille* Sept-Oct 2015

**CARTER EG**, NX22958, Leut 2/1st Pnr Btn

From *Reveille* Nov-Dec 2015

**BUCHANAN EC**, NX202769, Pte 2/2nd Pnr Btn

**SHALLCROSS K**, NX171348, Sig 2/2nd Pnr Btn

**WEBSTER RH**, NX33008, Pte 2/1st Pnr Btn

From *2/2nd Pioneer Bat December 2015 Newsletter*

**JUDD EA (Ted)**, 2/2nd Pnr Btn

From *MUFTI* – Dec 2015 – Victorian RSL

**DEAN, Albert Edward**, Shepparton, 2/1st Pnr Btn

From *Reveille* Jan-Feb 2016

**HENLEY TH**, NX126637, Pte 2/1st Pnr Btn

**PAINTER JF**, NX116688, Pte 2/1st Pnr Btn

Advised by Family (son Colin)

**ROBINSON, John Arthur**, 2/1st Pnr Btn

Advised by Widow

**CHRYSTALL, Gordon Thomas**, NX164465 2/1st Pnr Btn



Portrait of Don Crawford and his wife Val, taken in 2015 as part of the Record of WWII Veterans.

The Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP) project entitled "Reflections: Honouring our World War II Veterans" will provide a compelling pictorial record of returned servicemen and women living in Australia for the Australian War Memorial archives.

Reinforcing the ANZAC tradition, "We will remember them", professional photographers across the country, accredited by the AIPP, are donating their time and talent in a unique community project. Registered Veterans received a complimentary portrait to commemorate their service given some 75 years ago.

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

31.1.16

Statement of Donations and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31/1/16

#### EXPENDITURE

Pioneer News	– Printing	607.50
	– Postage	184.80
		<u>\$792.30</u>
Wreath Anzac Eve		100.00
Bugler Anzac Eve (Darcy Henderson)		50.00
Pioneer Website Rental 2 years		34.95
Donation Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway		100.00
		<u>\$1,077.25</u>

#### DONATIONS

Donations	1,458.50
Bank Interest	36.94
	<u>\$1,495.44</u>

#### CASH BANK BALANCE

Cash at Bank 1-2-15	\$8,705.62
Add Donations	1,495.44
	<u>\$10,201.06</u>
Less Expenditure	1,077.25
	<u>\$9,123.81</u>
Cash at Bank 31-1-16	<u>\$9,123.81</u>

D. Crawford, Hon. Treasurer