

PIONEER NEWS

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

Per Annum: \$5

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Vol. 63 No. 1

APRIL 2017

ANZAC ACTIVITIES 2017

WREATH LAYING SERVICE

Monday, 24th April at 3.45pm

All members and their families are invited to the Wreath Laying Service at the Cenotaph on Monday, 24th April at 3.45pm. Last year we had a very good rollup and we hope to achieve the same this year.

Members and relatives are 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 across to the Cenotaph. Medals to be worn by veterans and can be worn by descendants on the right breast.

The Marshal will be John Hayden, son of the late Captain John Hayden 2/1st, and the bugler will be Darcy Henderson, Kay Burton's grandson, daughter of the late 2/1st member Bert Rayner.

Personal family wreaths may be laid following the official ceremony.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Tuesday, 25th April

The route of the March and assembly will be as last year. Note: There will be no Land Rover transportation for veterans. Maxi Taxi will be provided but will probably be at the front of WWII Army and will be occupied by 8.30am.

As per the March Map we are group 16 WWII AUSTRALIAN ARMY, SIXTH DIVISION forming up in Phillip Street South, facing North towards Hunter Street. There are supposed to be Marshalls showing SIXTH DIV signs (??) and we will display the banners as well. Expected start for us should be around 8.45-9.30am. We should be in place 8.15-8.30am. The best entry points would be Hunter Street from the East or West or down from Macquarie Street. Elizabeth Street will be barricaded along both sides from Martin Place to Hunter Street as this is the start zone. The March does not go near the Cenotaph so there will be an "eyes left" in remembrance along Elizabeth Street at the ANZAC Memorial in HYDE PARK. This will be better defined with clearer signing showing "eyes left" and "eyes front", than it was last year. There will be specific crossing points for spectators along Elizabeth Street, which will be manned by Police and officials.

Veterans' seating is indicated near St James Station on the Eastern side of Elizabeth Street. War Widows' seating will probably be somewhere opposite the Veterans' seating. The dispersal area is left into Liverpool Street towards OXFORD Street, access to MUSEUM Station will be back along the footpath for approximately 100 metres. However this may alter at the Marshall's discretion and some may be sent further down Elizabeth Street towards the South, the access to Museum Station will be the entrance in Castlereagh Street, north corner of Liverpool Street (under the old Mark Foys building).

ANZAC DAY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, 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.

After a meeting with Delfina, and working to retain the venue, we have agreed to a lunch cost of \$35.00 per head including main meal and a dessert for both males and females. The cost of beer jugs remains at \$17.00 as last year.

The foyer will again be manned by Geoff Finlay, Ray Law and David Herron who will collect the lunch fee for men and women and issue name tags.

Can ladies attending please advise Lynn Herron (02) 4573 1012 or email (dpherron@bigpond.com) prior to the day so she can advise the function organiser for seating purposes.

Due to the March finishing earlier than previous years we expect to be seated for lunch between 12-12.30pm. Note: Exit from Wynyard Station is into Carrington Street and then across Wynyard Park or around Carrington Street and across York Street, the other alternative is the new exit onto Clarence Street and then around into Erskine Street to the hotel.

The reunion Chairman will be Mark Neasbey, son of Bert Neasbey 2/2nd. Treasurer Don Crawford will be seated at the entry on the 1st floor for yearly subscription payments, as usual.

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



MAIL BAG

By DAVID HERRON

• Many thanks to those of you who put pen to paper or emailed and sent letters, cards and donations to subscriptions to the News.

JOHN TASKER (Bill Tasker 2/1st), Kaleen ACT, with news Billy Tasker, grandson of Bill is on road to recovery after a serious motorcycle accident on 28th November 2015. Billy suffered multiple injuries and had his left leg amputated below the knee. Billy had been a regular ANZAC Day March and Luncheon attendee. We wish Billy all the best in his recovery. Thank you for the news John, unfortunately, it arrived too late for the last Pioneer News and I hope we see Billy at future luncheons again.

DAWN LEVY (widow of Roy Levy), Revesby, received short note from Dawn attached to her subscription. Great to hear from you and thanks for the contribution.

BOB DONALD 2/1st, Glen Innes. Letter from Bob with his subscription advising he is now 96. He was from a family of five (four sons and a daughter) who all served in WWII. Bob advised he is now in a wheelchair due to a lumbar spine injury from a bullet wound in 1945 in Balikpapan, Borneo. He also mentioned his loving wife has made a wonderful carer. Great to hear from you and thanks for the news, hope you keep well.

MARIE JENSON (widow of Ted 2/1st), Doonside. Marie advised her sister, Joan, passed away on 12th September 2014 at 92 years of age. Joan was also married to a 2/1st Pioneer, Alan Jenson.

I hope you are still well Marie and look forward to more news from you in the future.

BARBARA ALLISON (widow of Jack 2/2nd), Eastwood. Barbara, thanks for the card and service details after Jack's passing on 7th May 2016. We all looked forward to meeting up with Jack on ANZAC Day and he will be missed. David's speech from Jack's funeral was most interesting, especially as Jack's first time school posting at 18 was to Walcha, where my mother grew up and went to school. Also, after the war he returned to teaching at Kyogle, NSW, where my wife Lynn grew up and went to school.

Hope you keep well and look forward to hearing from you in the future.

EULALIE SAUER (widow of George 2/1st), Elanora QLD. Firstly a Xmas card in December, then a very newsy letter in February. You have a very academic family with son Geoffrey retiring from Flinders Uni in SA, and daughter Elizabeth now Associate Dean at Bond Uni, QLD. Granddaughter Sarah, a lawyer like her mother had a baby boy (Fred), so Eulalie is now a Great-Grandmother - congratulations. I note you commented on some good and then some bad days. I hope this year holds more good days and the humid weather in QLD starts to abate. All the best for the year.

ROBYN BELL (daughter of Leo Morris 2/1st), Balwyn VIC. Robyn, thank you for your letter commenting on the organisation for the Wreath Laying, March and Luncheon. It is good to see a positive response after Don, Lynn and I meet and plan for it to all go well.

Sorry we missed you at the VP Day Memorial, but as you know we left for around Australia after ANZAC Day 2016, and did not return till mid-September and 25,000 km later.

Hopefully, you can make the Wreath Laying and ANZAC Day reunion again, see you then.

BERYL GILLIAN (widow of Frank 2/1st) Maroubra NSW. Beryl, it was good to see you enjoyed the March on TV. That is something that we have not seen for some years and only last week discussed that we should record to watch later. It is good to hear you still keep in touch with Winn Dwyer (widow of Mick 2/1st). I know Peg used to contact you both by phone on occasions, and it is wonderful you are both in your own homes with plenty of family support. Thanking you again for your subscriptions and keep well to you both.

GRACE FOWKES (widow of Dick (Snowy) Fowkes 2/1st), Pendle Hill NSW. Thanking you for your subscription and note after watching the 2016 March. Yes the numbers of veterans are fast dwindling, yet we still should have two veterans marching again this year. I guess by now you have been to the Rocky Creek Memorial with your daughter as planned. Let me know how you got on.

Lynn and I are considering a trip to Cooktown, Qld, in May and I would like to visit the site myself.

Thanking you for your support and good health in the future.

KAY BURTON, (daughter of late Jim Rayner 2/1st) Springwood, NSW, expressing sadness after reading previous Pioneer News at the thinning ranks of the Pioneer Veterans and what amazing parents we all had. On the Burton family front: Jim is still severely incapacitated but is holding up extremely well; grandson Jake is now a sapper based at Enoggera and is working with a sniffer dog which is a veteran of Afghanistan; Bugler Darcy Henderson is studying at the James Morrison Jazz Academy in Mt Gambier and it has been greatly appreciated by all that he has returned for the ANZAC Eve Wreath Laying to play for the Pioneers.

Tim (son) is still in the Army Reserve when not flying with QANTAS.

Kay is still continuing with her swimming and has competed in past Master Games.

Kay also offered to only have her Pioneer News sent as an email in the future. Due to the increasing cost of postage we will send some of this year's News in this format.

Looking forward to seeing you on ANZAC Eve and at the March and Reunion.

BARBARA DOUGLAS (daughter of late Jack Bertram 2/1st), with a lovely card on behalf of her and her sisters, Suzanne and Jeanette, to comment that it was great to still be able to read about the activities of the Pioneer Family. Barbara you are correct in the

comments that Peg thought the Pioneer News would die with her. For once it was good to prove my mother wrong. Thanks for your subscription and kind words, and good health for the rest of 2017.

VIOLET BLAINEY (widow of Thomas Clifford Blaine 2/1st) Noble Park VIC. Sorry to hear of Cliff's passing in May 2016. We offer our condolences and best wishes as you grieve for the loss of a partner of 68 years. Thanking you for advising us and wishing you the best for the rest of the year.

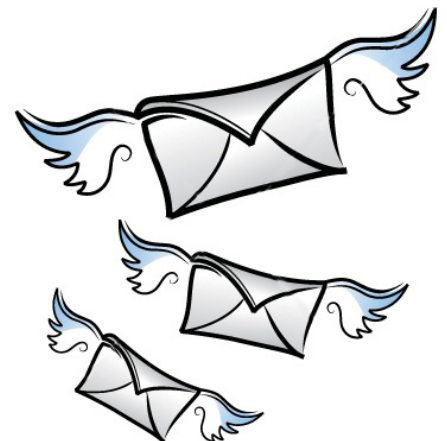
TABLELANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL - Rocky Creek War Memorial. Thanking any members for their contribution to this year's VP Day Memorial Ceremony. This event in August was well supported and the committee hope to see similar numbers at next year's event on the site of what was one of the largest military hospitals in the Southern Hemisphere.

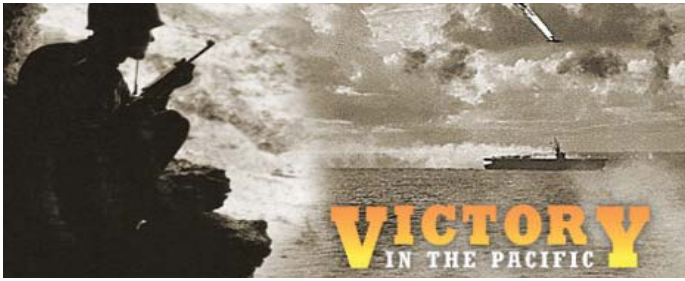
LIONEL EVANS (late grandfather Ronald Keith Reynolds 2/1st), with questions regarding whether his grandfather is classified as a Rat of Tobruk as he embarked from Sydney in 1941 for the Middle East and left Egypt in April 1942.

His war records show he was attached to the 5th Australia Advanced Reinforcement Depot. Whether he is a RAT would require more information. Also asking for any details about Chevrolet trucks used in Tobruk, Libya, as he has a 1940 Chev ex-Army truck which he intends to restore and fit out in the 2/1st Pioneer Colours. He is looking for further information about these vehicles and about the cranes installed on them as he is restoring a crane version. Maybe someone else would know 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





*Photo: Melbourne 1945 VIP Day
AWM Vic1682.*

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC

Monday 15 August 2016 at 2 pm
Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway CONCORD
VP DAY ADDRESS

by Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie
AO, DSM, CSM (Rtd)
Former Chief of Army

Certificate of Appreciation - Presented by His Excellency General,
The Hon David Hurley AC, DSC (Rtd) Governor of NSW



*Australian Infantry Battalion on Owen Stanley Ranges
near Nauroi and Menari.
AWM: 027056*

KOKODA DAY

Thursday, 3rd November, 2016
Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway Concord

KOKODA DAY ADDRESS

Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir QD, CVO

Pioneers represented by Lynn and David Herron.



*Pioneers represented by Marj Kerslake,
Don Crawford, Val Crawford, John Collins, Robyn Bell and Margaret Stolp.*

PIONEER WEBSITE NEWS

www.pioneerbattalion.com.au

JOHN TYLER, son-in-law of late Bill Jollie 2/1st

John has been having discussions with the AWM re a 2/2nd Photo album and old cinema posters from Veterans files. They have finally acknowledged their acceptance of the items. Well done John, especially after noting the length of time you have been discussing with them.

Recently, John and I have been discussing the prospect of scanning and inserting the 2/1st Pioneer Book onto the website as another reprint is unlikely. This discussion centres around the copyright issue which may expire next year.



Martin Stolp (son-in-law of Jack Kerslake) and Josh Herron (Grandson of Max Herron)

LAST POST

ALLISON, JACK 2/2nd. Passed away 7th May, 2016

SCHOMBERG, NOEL 2/1st. Passed away February 2017. Aged 98.

TODD, GAVIN 2/2nd. Passed away 27th May, 2016. Ayr Cemetery, Qld.

BLAINEY, THOMAS CLIFFORD 2/2nd - VX230977. Mufti September 2016. Passed away 9th May, 2016.

TUNKS, LESLIE 2/1st. Passed away 5th January, 2016. Aged 90. Advised by Suzanne Mildren (step daughter-in-law).

Don Crawford laying the wreath



TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR ANZAC DAY 2016

Total for lunch (male and female) was 55. Veterans present were Bert Neasbey and Don Crawford from 2/2nd Pioneers. ANZAC Day subscription takings was \$752.00 which was the best since 2012.



Darcy Henderson (Great Grandson of Albert Rayner) Bugler

TREASURER'S REPORT ON WREATH LAYING ANZAC EVE 2016

Attendance was over 30 persons.
 Marshall: John Hayden
 2/1st Banner: Joshua Herron
 2/2nd Banner: Martin Stolp
 Bugler: Darcy Henderson
 Ode: John Hayden
 Veteran: Don Crawford 2/2nd

The Wreath that was laid on the Cenotaph on 24th April, 2016 for the 2/1st and 2/2nd Battalions



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

3.3.17

Statement of Donations and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31/1/17

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>DONATIONS</u>	
Pioneer News	– Printing 739.50	Donations	1,107.00
	– Postage 270.00	Bank Interest	40.40
	<u>\$1,009.50</u>		<u>1,147.40</u>
Wreath Anzac Eve	100.00		
Bugler Anzac Eve	50.00		
Donation Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway	100.00		
	<u>\$1,259.50</u>		<u>\$1,147.40</u>
<u>CASH BANK BALANCE</u>			
	Cash at Bank 3-1-16	\$9,123.81	
	Add Donations	1,147.40	
		<u>\$10,271.21</u>	
	Less Expenditure	1,259.50	
		<u>\$9,011.71</u>	
	Cash at Bank 31-1-17	<u>\$9,011.71</u>	

D. Crawford, Hon. Treasurer