

PIONEER NEWS

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

Per Annum: \$5

Typeset by Peter and Virginia Smith, 42 Milford Rd, Ellis Lane NSW 2570 Printed by ABF Printers, 3 Argyle Street, Arncliffe NSW 2205

Correspondence: DAVID HERRON, Hon. Sec., 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bn. Assoc., 61A Kurrajong Road, Kurrajong 2758

Treasurer: DON CRAWFORD

Editor: DAVID HERRON dlpherron@bigpond.com

Vol. 64 No. 1

APRIL 2018

ANZAC ACTIVITIES 2018

WREATH LAYING SERVICE

Tuesday, 24th April at 3.45pm

All members, descendants and families are invited to the Wreath Laying Service at the Cenotaph on Tuesday, 24th April at 3.45pm. Last year we had a record attendance and it would be wonderful to have similar numbers again.

All veterans and relatives to assemble on the G.P.O. side of Martin Place near the corner of Pitt Street at about 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 hand side.

The Marshal will be John Hayden, son of the late Captain John Hayden 2/1, and the bugler will be Darcy Henderson, Kay Burton's grandson, daughter of the late Bert Rayner 2/1 Both John and Darcy have provided this service for some years and should be commended.

Unit wreaths to be laid by Don Crawford, veteran 2/2nd and personal wreaths may be laid after the unit wreath is presented.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Wednesday, 25th April

The route of the March is as per the attached map. There will be no Land Rovers for veterans. However, golf buggies are being provided and will be located at the corner of Hunter and Phillip Sts. These do not need to be booked.

As per the March Map the Pioneers are in group 13 WWII Australian Army Sixth Division, forming up in Phillip St (south) facing north towards Hunter Street. There should be marshalls displaying the Sixth Division signs and the Unit banners will be displayed. Expected start time is approx 9.30am, so we should be formed up by 8.45am approx.

The best entry points will be from Hunter St East or West or down from Macquarie St. Elizabeth St will be barricaded off on both sides from Martin Place to Hunter St as this is the start zone. There will be no passing the Cenotaph, so the eyes left will be held at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park. A marshal will be positioned at roadside edge to indicate the eyes left command, hats to be removed and right hands left over the heart until the unit is clear of the Memorial, heads to be turned towards the Memorial when passing it. Banners and flags to be lowered during this period.

Veteran's seating is indicated on the map near St James Station on the eastern side of Elizabeth Street. The dispersal area is left into Liverpool Street towards Oxford Street or right or straight ahead at the discretion of the marshalls. Museum Station will be the exit point to progress to the reunion at Wynyard Station.

ANZAC DAY REUNION

Wednesday, 25th April

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

The lunch will have a cost of \$35 per head, for all attending, which includes main and dessert. The cost of beer jugs for this year is set at \$18 per jug.

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

All ladies attending are requested to advise Lynn Herron on (02) 4573 1012 or email (dlpherron@bigpond.com) prior to the day, so she can advise the seating numbers to the function organiser.

Members should be seated by approx 12.00 noon depending on the march start time being achieved. Exit from Wynyard Station via Exit 3 will bring those attending out the new escalators into York St and across Erskine St to the hotel.

The reunion Chairman will once again be Mark Neasbey, son of Bert 2/2nd. Treasurer Don Crawford 2/2nd veteran will be seated near the 1st floor entry for the collection of yearly subscription payments, as usual. Don recently commented that most of those attending were widows or descendants of 2/1st members and he is requesting that more 2/2nd Unit descendants would be most welcome.

Enjoy your day and the service provided by the Hotel Function Organiser, Defina, as usual.

SUNSET SERVICE CEREMONY

Wednesday, 25th April

This ceremony will start at the Cenotaph at Martin Place at 5.30pm. It will include a short service accompanied by the NSW Ambulance Service Band and lowering of the flags. This will conclude the ANZAC Day commemorations in Sydney.



SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE: \$5.00 per year. With subscriptions please send news of family happenings.

Direct debits to Commonwealth Bank - Riverwood Branch. BSB 062 234 Acc: 280 18939. Please include your surname for allocation by the Treasurer.

All correspondence to Hon. Secretary, 61A Kurrajong Road, Kurrajong NSW 2758.

MAIL BAG

By DAVID HERRON

• Thanks to all that wrote or emailed and sent subscriptions for the coming year. Some with family news or news of other pioneer associations.

ELIZABETH MATHY-BAILEY (daughter of late Phil Mathy NX125893 2/1st) with news from Leeton, NSW, where her and husband Chris had moved and had not paid the last year's subs on behalf of her father. Elizabeth commented on the enormous respect her father had for his 2/1st mates and she would be pleased to keep receiving the News.

JIM GLETSCH – Moama, NSW. Jim advising he will be in Capetown for ANZAC Day 2017 and sends his apologies for missing the year's reunion.

Also advised that he was trekking the Kokoda in July 2017 with his brother Matthew, sister Melinda, sons Paul and David and nephew Marcus plus some mates. Jim please send a report and some photos as they would be of interest to all. Jim also advised the famous photo of the 2/1st manhandling the 14 Field Regiment's 25 pounder up the ridge has his father at front looking into the camera.

BEVERLY BOYD (daughter-in-law of Stanley Boyd 2/1st) advising of the death of her husband John, who had been receiving his father's Pioneer News. Sorry to hear of your loss and thanking you for advising us.

SUE DAWSON (widow of Ross Dawson 2/2nd). Very newsy letter with news of John, Phillip and Greig. Sorry to hear your news of Greig having alzheimers and unable to now participate in ANZAC Day Memorials. Hope we see John and Phillip this year.

It is amazing to hear you are still swimming at Collaroy Rock Pool and competing on Sundays, yes, I'm sure you would be the club's matriarch.

Thanking you for the subscription to funds.

JULIE McWILLIAM. With news from Griffith and finding it hard to believe it was ANZAC Eve 2016 when Doug and her attended in Sydney. Julie had big news of another grandchild, Catelyn Olive, in January 2017. Wishing all the Pioneer family the best for this year's reunion.

KEN FRASER, St Helena, Vic., treasurer of the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion Association (son of S. W. Fraser VX 18403).

Ken sent a small note thanking for his Pioneer News and a subscription plus donation to funds.

Thank you Ken for your kind words.

MOLLIE JEAN HUNT (widow of John 2/1st). Mollie sent a card stating she still enjoyed reading the Pioneer News and at 91 she had a "few bits of rust" that had slowed her down. She was still driving and winning at Bridge occasionally.

Thanks for the news and hoping all I have at 91 is a "few bits of rust".

BETTY THIELE - Pt Hughes, SA (widow of Bill Thiele 2/1st). Betty sent a card thanking the Assoc. for our best wishes to her on the passing of Bill after being together for 68 years.

Betty, I have altered the address for the News to come to you in future. All the best for the coming year.

TIM LLOYD, son of 2/1st veteran Jack Lloyd. Email from Tim in April 2017 advising he had just returned from France and Stockholm to see son Nick, Anki and new granddaughter Mary, and he would be carrying out normal ANZAC Day activities.

Recent email, April 2018, advising he would not be available for this year's banner duties. You will be missed Tim, but to only miss two since 1980 is a pretty good record. We look forward to your brother Anthony and grandson Darcy attending this year.

JULIE JARDINE. Email April 2017 with apology for missing reunion in 2016 due to moving to Avoca Beach and breaking her foot the day she moved. Hope you can make this year again to help us celebrate.

GRACE FOWKES, widow of Dick Fowkes. Grace sent a very newsy letter re her visit to the Rocky Creek Memorial, arranged by her family for her 90th birthday. Grace had read articles about the hospital memorial in the Pioneer News and enjoyed her visit with her daughter doing all the driving.

Lynn and I visited Rocky Creek last August and unfortunately, could not coordinate a time to suit the ceremony service they hold to celebrate VIP Day. The contact for anyone wishing to attend in 2018 is Jodie Cocco, TRC Events Officer at info@trc.gov.au.

Thanking you Grace for your info and subscription and wishing you good health.

NANCY LINTON, widow of Don Linton. Nancy watched the 2017 March but her memories of the likes of Don, Bill Holmes, Bill Lewis, Gordon Shier and Ray Burroughs took over as the group passed by behind the two banners.

It is good you two sons Ian and Warwick attend the dawn service each year. To have both sons follow in Don's love of sailing must bring back great memories, for Warwick to have crewed in a Sydney to Hobart race is something for mum to boast about.

Thanks for the news and subs Nancy and good health.

FRANCES RHODES, daughter of Jim Rhodes 2/1. Thanks for the email and the bank transfer of subscription fees. Your offer to receive the News via email is most helpful as the postage cost has become a real issue and unfortunately we do not produce enough to receive a discount on the postage cost.

BETTY O'CONNOR, widow of Neville O'Connor 2/2nd. Betty thanks for the news from Ballina, NSW, and sorry to hear of the passing of Oscar Carter 2/2nd and our thoughts are with Betty and family at their loss.

It is good to hear that the four widows, Betty O'Connor, Betty Carter, Dot Priest and Clare McGuire still meet up. It is a great accomplishment to be still playing golf twice a

week and wonderful you can still fly to Townsville each year to your daughter Carol. The donation to subs is most appreciated also, and thanks for sending Betty Carter's address which I will add to the postal list.

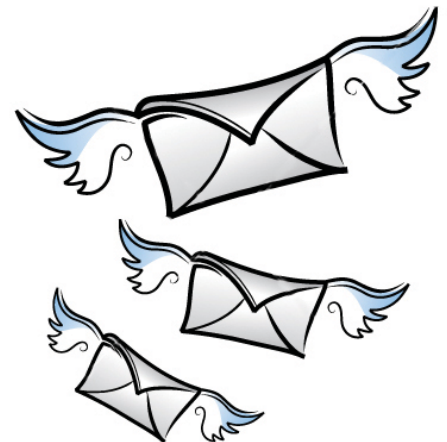
BERYL GILLIAN, widow of Frank Gillian 2/1st. Beryl with news that it is nine years since Frank passed away and he is missed very much. She visits Winn Dwyer (widow of Mick Dwyer 2/1) at Charing Field nursing home in Waverley, to keep in touch. Good to hear from you and you could pass on the new address for Winn when you get a chance. The contribution to funds is great help.

RICHARD HOBLEY, 2/1st B. Coy. Richard with news of his move into Albany, W.A. and he was excited to hear Bob Donald 2/1st (Bren Gunner for B. Coy) had contacted the News last year. Dick visited Bob and his brother Vic in their home town many years ago on a tour around Australia. Also mentioned he had kept in contact with Marie Jensen until recently when he thought she had passed away. Marie had been a regular at our ANZAC Day lunches until last year, so you could be correct, we had not heard. You are correct in that you suspected age is the issue. To reach over 95 is pretty special.

EULALIE SAUER (widow of George Sauer 2/1st). Thanking Eulalie for a lovely Xmas card and contribution to subs. Hope your year has been wonderful and with good health.

• *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



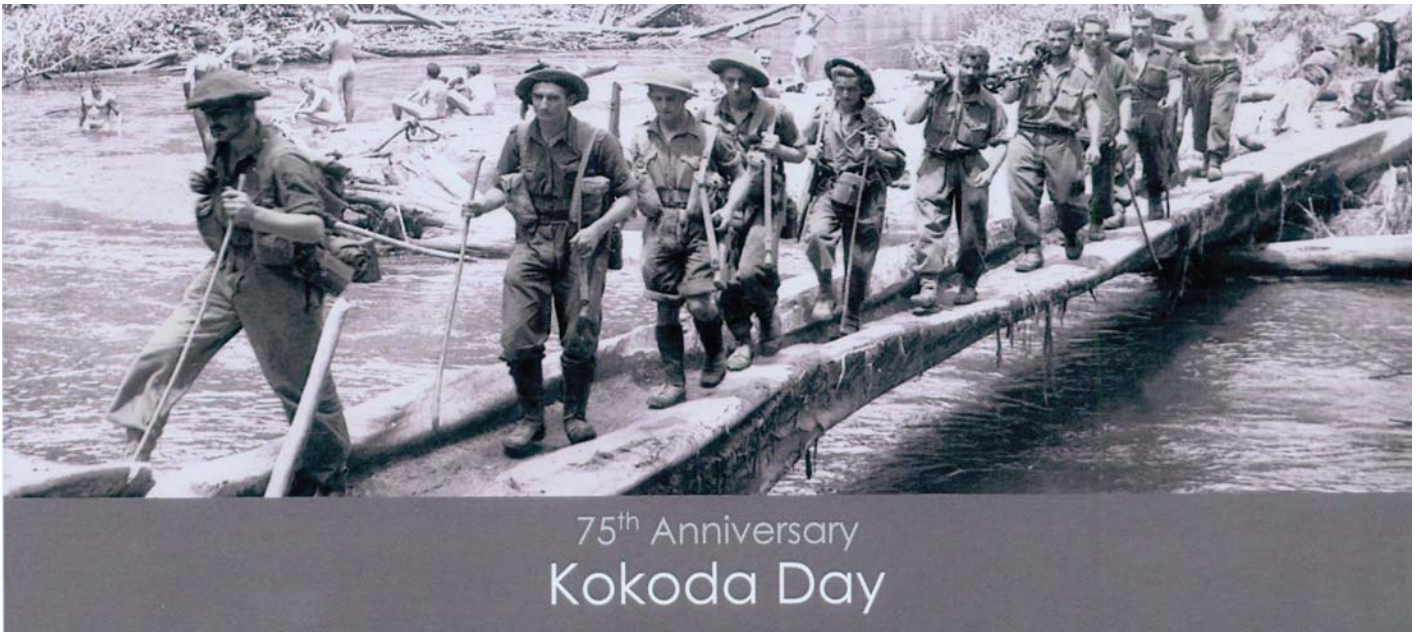


ANZAC DAY BAND AT NATIONAL & STATE EVENTS

Castle Hill RSL Youth Wind Orchestra has supported the 2/1st-2/2nd Pioneers on ANZAC Day for many years and the Pioneers have rewarded them with monetary donations towards equipment as a means of thanking them. Recently this arrangement has had issues with the RSL now insisting bands progress out of a band chute and we have had difficulty co-ordinating this. We are attempting to rectify this situation this year.

Established in 1996 as the City of Sydney Youth Band they have progressed to win twenty Australian Nationals and State Titles since 2003. Currently holding the NSW Open B Grade and Junior A Grade Concert Band titles.

YWO participates annually in the Sydney ANZAC Day March, receiving praise for their precision drill and outstanding musical performance. We thank them for the pleasure they provided our veterans and descendants over many previous years.



75th Anniversary
Kokoda Day

75th ANNIVERSARY KOKODA DAY

Held on Friday 3rd November 2017

at Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway - Concord

Photo from Papua New Guinea 1942 - shows a patrol of 2/25th and 2/33rd AIF crossing the brown river on their way to Menari.

AWM: 027060

Service held at 2pm with Official Welcome by

Mr John Haines AM, Chairman KTMW.

Kokoda Day address by Lt Col Kimberlea Juchniewicz, Commanding

Officer 39th Operational Support Battalion Randwick Barracks.

Pioneers represented by Marj Kerslake, daughter Margaret Stolp, Lynn and David Herron.



BATTALION HISTORY BOOKS

“The story of the 2nd/2nd Pioneer Battalion” new soft cover version is available and selling well. Contact Jenny Davidson on jada1952@bigpond.net.au or call (03) 9584 5008.

2/1st Pioneer Battalion book is off copyright this year and endeavours are being made to make it available on the website later in the year. Tom Osborn son of Gordon Osborn 2/1 the original author (then completed by Max and Peg Herron) has advised he sees no objection to copies being made available on the website..



ANZAC Day March 2017
Two veterans marching - Bert Neasbey 2/2nd, Don Crawford 2/2nd

LAST POST

- CARTER, OSCAR HENRY** 2/2nd passed away 14th April, 2017.
- KELLY, LAURIE** 2/1st passed away 10th May, 2017.
- NEASBEY, HERBERT** 2/2nd NX79545 passed away 19th February 2018.
- FINLAY, OLIVE** (widow of Gordon Finlay 2/1st) passed away 2nd November, 2017.
- THIELE, WILLIAM** 2/1st SX33230 passed away 4th March, 2017.

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway Board of Directors cordially invites you to a dawn service to commemorate

The End of the Centenary of ANZAC

In the presence of

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)
Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Linda Hurley

Sunday 22 April 2018 at 5.30am

Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway
Killoola St, Concord

Please RSVP by Monday 16 April 2018
Phone: 02 9767 5256
Email: melva.lindley@health.nsw.gov.au

Dress: Lounge Suit/Medals
Wreaths only for Official Party

ANZAC Service

The End of the Centenary of ANZAC 2018

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

26.3.18

Statement of Donations and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31/1/18

EXPENDITURE		DONATIONS	
Pioneer News	– Printing 522.50	Donations	2052.00
	– Postage 165.00	Bank Interest	42.75
	\$687.50		2094.75
Wreath Anzac Eve	100.00		
Bugler Anzac Eve	50.00		
Website Fee Net Registry	95.40		
	\$932.90		
CASH BANK BALANCE			
Cash at Bank 3-3-17		\$9011.71	
Add Donations		2094.75	
		\$11,106.46	
Less Expenditure		932.90	
Cash at Bank 26-3-18		\$10,173.56	

D. Crawford, Hon. Treasurer