

PIONEER NEWS

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

Per Annum: \$5

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Vol. 65 No. 1

APRIL 2019

ANZAC ACTIVITIES 2019

WREATH LAYING SERVICE

Wednesday, 24th April at 3.45pm

All members, descendants and families are invited to the Wreath Laying Service at the Cenotaph, in Martin Place on Wednesday, 24th April at 3.45pm. This event has been well supported over the past years and it would be encouraging to see this tradition continue.

All veterans and relatives to assemble on the GPO side of Martin Place near the corner of Pitt Street at about 3.15 pm ready to form up at 3.40 pm for the short walk to the Cenotaph. Medals to be worn by veterans and can be worn by descendants on the RHS.

The Marshall will be John Hayden (son of late Captain John Hayden 2/1st), who has carried out this role for some years and it will be good to see John bring his experience to this role after missing last year. Bugler will again be Darcy Henderson, Kay Burton's grandson. Kay being daughter of the late Bert Rayner 2/1st. Darcy has fulfilled this role for several years and his effort to fly up from South Australia each year is really appreciated. It is wonderful to hear a bugle response compared to recorded music.

Unit wreaths to be laid by Don Crawford, veteran 2/2nd and personal wreaths will be invited after Unit wreath is laid.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Thursday, 25th April

The March route is as per attached map. The form up position for the Pioneers is in group 13 WWII Army Sixth Division in Phillip Street (South) facing north towards Hunter Street. This should be opposite the Westpac Martin Place and Deutsche Bank Place. Expected start time is approx. 9.20 am, form up time should be approx. 8.45 am.

There will be Landrover transport provided for any veterans who need assistance to take place in the March. They will be located in Hunter Street, near Phillip Street from 0800. There will be golf buggy transport provided for veterans requiring assistance up Hunter Street to their start point. These will leave from west of Pitt Street, from 0830 hrs. The RSL advises this is a limited service and therefore it could have waiting times.

Best entry point to Pioneer start point will be from Hunter Street east or west or down from Macquarie Street. Elizabeth Street will be barricaded off from Martin Place as this is the start point and the Band chute runs on the western side. Dress should reflect the occasion with veterans to wear medals on the left breast, descendants to wear veteran's medals on the RHS. The display of photos and other memorabilia is not permitted.

The Act of Remembrance will be observed by unit as it passes the Anzac Memorial on Elizabeth Street. A Marshall or signs will indicate the correct position for the eyes left, right hand over the left breast and dipping of banners and flags. Any hats to be removed.

The dispersal area will be left into Liverpool Street towards Oxford Street. Museum station will be the exit point to progress to the unit's Reunion near Wynyard Station. All bands to exit to right into Liverpool Street, then right into Castlereagh Street if proceeding back to the Band Chute. Units are requested to vacate the dispersal area ASAP to avoid congestion.

ANZAC DAY REUNION

Thursday, 25th April

The venue for the reunion is again the Occidental Hotel which is on the corner of York and Erskine Streets, Sydney, opposite Wynyard Park. Luncheon will be provided on the 1st floor, entry via steps or a lift.

The lunch cost will be \$40.00 per head which includes main meal and desert. The cost of beer jugs is again \$18.00, schooners \$6.10, midgy \$5.60 (based on Carlton New or 150 Lashes Pale Ale).

The cost of lunch will be collected in the foyer and name tags provided by Geoff Finlay, Ray Law and David Herron before entry.

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 around 12.00 noon dependent on March completion time. Exit from Wynyard Station via Exit 3 into York Street and across Erskine Street to the hotel.

The Reunion Chairman will be Mark Neasby, son of Bert 2/2nd. Treasurer Don Crawford, 2/2nd Veteran, will be seated near the 1st floor entry for collection of yearly subscriptions as usual.

Enjoy your luncheon provided by Delfina and her wonderful staff once again. Look forward to seeing you there.



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

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.

MAUREEN FLEMING (widow of Bill Fleming 2/1st)

News from Mittagong, NSW, with Maureen thanking all members for the contribution to the Mail Bag as she loves to read details of other members family news. Maureen provided news of visiting her granddaughter in Darwin before Xmas 2017.

The visit to the Tunnels and the War Museum was a real highlight. Thanking you Maureen for your news and the contribution to funds.

MOLLIE JEAN HUNT (widow of John Hunt 2/1st)

A wonderful note from Mollie advising her excitement at receiving her Pioneer News again, and she could still recognise some of the names. I hope you are still playing bridge and able to drive at 92? Thanking you for your subscription to ensure we can still keep up this contact.

LORRAINE DWYER

Advising by email of Mrs Dwyer's (widow of Ewart Horace Dwyer 2/1st NX69310) address change. Lorraine advised she handles Mrs Dwyer's affairs with her two sons. I have altered her address for this year's mail, thanks for the advice.

JENNIFER TURNER, Springwood, NSW

Jennifer sent a subscription on behalf of her father, John Edwin McINTYRE 2/2nd.

Thank you Jennifer for your consideration.

EUNICE CHRYSTALL (widow of Gordon Chrystall NX164465).

Very newsie letter from Eunice advising she is still knitting and crocheting with only a few hospital visits. It was a very good effort to type up the news on a computer and print it out, much easier for the editor to read than

deciphering handwriting. The copy from the Dubbo Photo News in regards to Archie bidding on a 3.4 metre high Rising Sun was interesting, see what happens when you leave a 7 year old on a phone auction site. Lucky to sell the statue to Gilgandra who will use it as part of the Coo-ee March celebrations.

Thanks for the funds donation.

EULALIE SAUER (widow of George Sauer 2/1st)

Thanks for the Xmas card and cheque for battalion funds. Wishing everyone well and boasting of the first great grandchild (a boy). Thanks for the wishes of good health and the same to you.

LYNETTE HEARN (daughter of late Jack Hearn 2/2nd)

Email from Lynette advising of the passing of her father, Jack, at the age of 94 on 11th April, 2018. Jack had been living in his own house in Howlong for 40 years, until he had a fall on 2nd April which caused a bleed to his brain.

Our thoughts were with you Lynette at this time of loss and grief. Thanks for your message of his passing.

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

Email from John advising he had paid the latest website hosting fee. Thanking you again for this service you provide in maintaining the website which just seems to happen for all our interested members.

Further to our previous discussions re making "The Pioneers" book available you will be pleased to see we may be close to a book reprint, as you had thought was a better presentation than just scanning and placing on the website.

Later email from John advised he had updated the Pioneer website to add a "New Contact" page and had scanned a review of a new book which includes the 2/2nd Pioneers. This book is covered in a letter from Kay Burton to follow. Thanks for your concern John that the purchase of a new computer may not run the existing program for the Pioneer website and that you may need to keep the old computer as well. As I advised you, we do not have anyone else volunteering to take on the

webmaster's role and hope you will continue with this task in the future.

Thanks again from us all.

KAY BURTON (daughter of late Bert Rayner 2/1st)

Kay advised she had seen a Herald review of a book called "The Lost Battalions", which may be of interest to Pioneer veterans and supporters. The book by Tom Gilling and published by Allen and Unwin is about the service of the 2/2nd Pioneers and the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalions in Syria and later in captivity.

Thanks for the best wishes to all members and we look forward to seeing you again on ANZAC Eve at the wreath laying.

WARREN GILLIAN (son of late F. A. GILLIAN NX69309 2/1st)

Warren was requesting information on a 2/1st-2/2nd Pioneer Association pin he had found in his father's effects, querying if it commemorated anything. I advised Warren they were purchased by the combined unit committee to be worn on occasions such as ANZAC Day and events such as VIP Day. There has been some requests for additional ones by various members and maybe a resupply to be considered?

ROBYN BELL (daughter of late Leo Morris 2/1st)

Advising she couldn't attend the Kokoda Track ceremony as she had commitments at the Point Cook base in Melbourne. Thanking all for organisation of the ANZAC Day celebrations and luncheon. Looking forward to attending again in 2019.

Robyn, thanks again for the Xmas card and sorry to hear of any health issues with Bruce or yourself. We are all reaching the age of health issues becoming part of our conversation – ain't old age great!

GRACE FOWKES (widow of Late Dick Fowkes NX31025 2/1st)

Great to hear you news of the birth of another great granddaughter on 18th May 2018. You are correct - saying Dick would have been so proud of the expanding family. Thanks for your contribution to subscriptions and again all the best for 2019.

TABLELANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL – Atherton, QLD

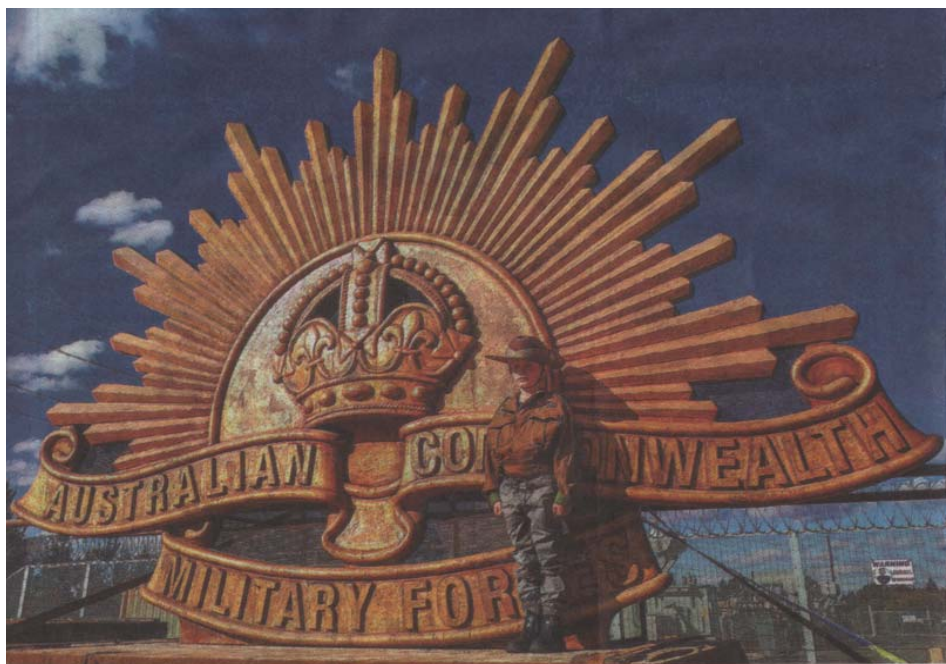
Invitation to the 74th Year of Victory in the Pacific at Rocky Creek War Memorial Park in August 2019. This invitation is sent out in July, so always misses our April Pioneer News. This celebration is held on the old hospital site and the surrounding area was the site of many camps for the 2/1st-2/2nd veterans.

Anyone wishing to attend can contact Gwyneth Hevard, Co-ordinator Tourism and Events. info@trc.qld.gov.au

EILEEN DICK (daughter of late Bobby Lake 2/1st)

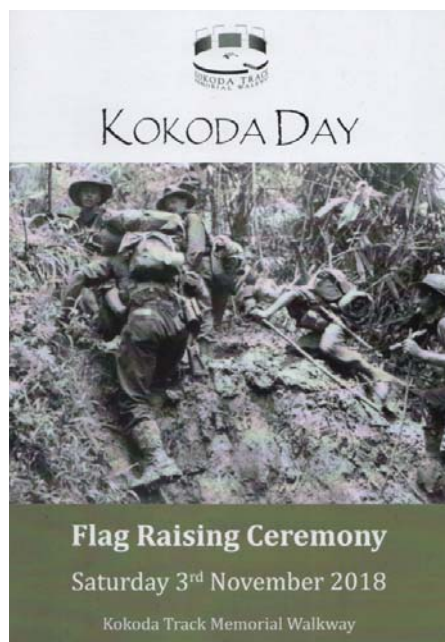
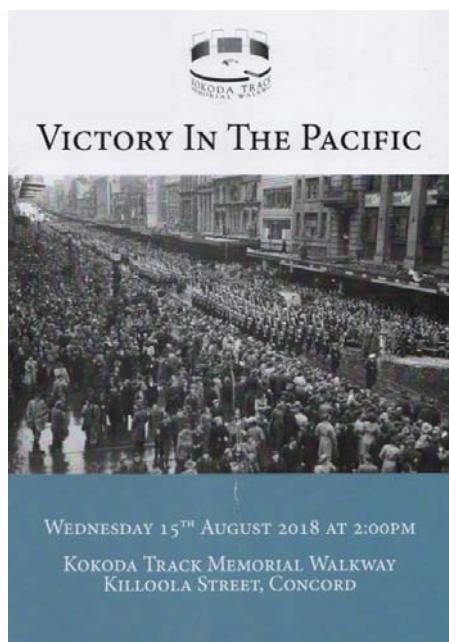
Sad news from Eileen of the passing of Joan (mother) on 20/3/2019 at 95 years old. The funeral to be held on Friday 29/3/2019 at South Chapel, Northern Suburbs Crematorium.

It was very sad news to hear of Joan's passing as we did see her a couple of years back at the ANZAC Day Wreath Laying, I guess it was Gail, your sister, that brought her in. I know Joan and Marj Kerslake were often in touch. Our thoughts will be with you at this time of sorrow and thanks for the contact.



Archie Chrystall, 7, with his accidental and magnificently successful online auction bid: a 3.4 metre-high Big Rising Sun. Photo: Andrew Foley

2018 KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALKWAY EVENTS



This event celebrates the raising of the Australian Flag again on the 3rd November, 1942, after Kokoda was recaptured on 2nd November, 1942. This flag raising symbolised the turning of the tide in the Pacific war. It also symbolises the service and sacrifice made by the Native carriers in all campaigns throughout PNG.

KOKODA DAY ADDRESS made by Brigadier Susan Coyle, CSC, DSM, Commander, 6th Combat Support Brigade.

Visual Reflection "The Unfolding Story of 1942".

FLAG RAISING – Mr Reg Chard, New Guinea Veteran 55/53rd Battalion. Mr Michael Ali, representing the Fuzzy Wuzzies. Pioneers represented by David Herron.

SERVICE included "Reflections of War at Sea"

ODE read by Brigadier Phillip McNamara, CSC, ESM, OAM

POEM - KOKODA PILGRIMAGE

Written by Major General Gordon Maitland.

Read by Mr Dick Payten, OAM, President of the 7th Division.

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

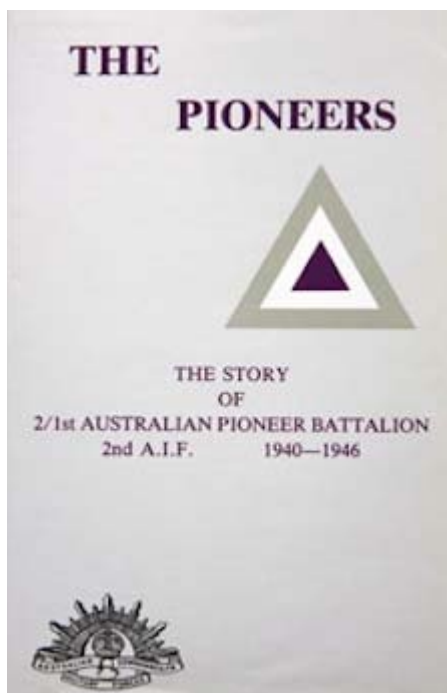
GELTCH FAMILY ASSAULT ON KOKODA TRACK

22nd July 2017-28th July 2017



I wanted to let you know, six of my father's (Al Geltch 2/1 Pioneers) family walked the Kokoda Track in eight days in July 2017. My brother Matthew, sister Melinda, two sons Paul and David and nephew Marcus Byers. A once in a lifetime experience which has an indelible impact on us all. In particular the service at Isurava, where our father's photo is etched into one of the plinths (2/1 hauling the 25 pounder), and the fact we walked into Kokoda on the 75th anniversary of the first engagement at Kokoda on July 28th, 1942. Our guide, Rob, was superb, ensuring we had a service at each battle site by reciting an appropriate verse and the names of those lost in the battle. Some extraordinarily emotional moments.

Jim Geltch



THE PIONEERS – The Story of 2/1st Australian Pioneer Battalion 2nd AIF 1940-1946

This book, authored by Lieut-General Colonel Gordon Stanley Osborn, MVO, ED, was first published in 1988 by M. D. Herron, and is a history of the unit from 1940-1946.

For some time we have discussed providing a scanned copy of this book via our 2/1st Pioneer website. After a follow up with Jenny Davidson, 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion Secretary, we are investigating the feasibility of scanning and reprinting as a soft cover book as the 2/2nd provide for purchase by their members.

Due to the substantial up front costs, to set up the scan and file output, we need to establish what interest there would be in a reprint of this book.

Expect cost for book and postage to any location in Australia would be approximately \$50 delivered to your door. To establish what interest there would be, could you complete the form below to show interest or not, and the number of books required.

A I am interested in a reprint of the Pioneer Book Yes ☐
Number of books _____

B I am NOT interested in a reprint of the Pioneer Book No ☐
Interest can be returned by post, email (dlpherron@bigpond.com) or phone (02) 4573 1012.



NOTE: 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion Story Book is available from Jenny Davidson on jada1952@bigpond.net.au or phone (03) 9584 5008.

LAST POST

MOANNE NW NX170814 Pte 2/1st, Reveille Jan 2019.

NEASBEY MAY (wife of late Bert Neasbey 2/2nd). Passed away 16th April, 2018. 90 years.

LAKE JOAN (wife of late Bobby Lake 2/1st, past Editor of The Pioneer News. Passed away 20th March, 2019. 95 years.

COMERFORD JOHN VX93111 2/1st. Passed away March 2018.

HEARN JOHN 2/2nd, Howlong, NSW. Passed away 11th April, 2018.

ELLIOTT M 2/2nd, West Wollongong.

HORE-LACY J 2/2nd, Moss Vale. Advised by Jenny Davidson 2/2 Secretary, September 2018.



THIS BOX COULD CONTAIN ARTICLES AND PHOTOS
FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

IF WE WERE TO RECEIVE MORE NEWS, INFORMATION
AND CONTINUED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE
DESCENDANTS OF OUR PIONEER VETERANS,
IT WOULD HELP US ALL TO CONTINUE TO PRODUCE
THE PIONEER NEWS AND INCLUDE ITEMS OF INTEREST
TO ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP.

DAVID HERRON, EDITOR

19.2.19

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION GENERAL WELFARE ACCOUNT 80-105-103 Statement of Donations and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31/1/19

EXPENDITURE

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Pioneer News | – Printing | 451.00 |
| | – Postage | 160.00 |
| | | <u>\$611.00</u> |
| Wreath Anzac Eve | | 100.00 |
| Bugler Anzac Eve | | 50.00 |
| Website Fee Net Registry | | 124.25 |
| Friends of Kokoda Track | | 100.00 |
| Anzac Day Luncheon Shortfall Cost | | 70.00 |
| | | <u>\$1,355.25</u> |

DONATIONS

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Donations | 1,071.38 |
| (Takings on Anzac Day) | \$540.00 |
| | <u>\$1,071.38</u> |

CASH BANK BALANCE

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Cash at Bank 29-3-18 | \$9,750.31 |
| Add Donations | 1,071.35 |
| | <u>\$10,821.69</u> |
| Less Expenditure | 1,355.25 |
| Cash at Bank 31-1-19 | <u>\$9,466.44</u> |

D. Crawford, Hon. Treasurer