

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

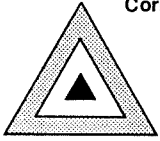
Official Organ of 2/1 and 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

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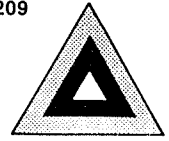
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J. (Mick) DODSON

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MARCH 1979

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ANZAC FUNCTIONS 1979

With April 25th coming up on us once again, your social secretaries and committee have been busy organizing the various functions for us.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Tuesday Evening 24th April, 7 p.m.

Members of the 2/1 & 2/2 are asked to be at 19 Hunter St., at 7 p.m. Form up at 7.20, move off at 7.25 p.m. for wreath laying ceremony at Cenotaph in Martin Plaza at 7.30 p.m. Members of our Ladies auxiliary will join us for the ceremony at the cenotaph.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 24th April at 8 p.m.

As it was in 1977 & 1978 the venue for our 1979 Annual General Meeting will be the City of Sydney R.S.L. Club at 569 George Street, in the board room. Bring along any ideas you may have and join the committee.

ANZAC DAY

Wednesday 25th April, 1979

No change in Assembly points for either the 2/1 & 2/2. 2/1 in Phillip Street near King Street at rear of 6 Div.

2/2 in Macquarie Street near King Street at rear of 7 Div.

Btn banners will be prominently displayed at assembly points, but check with the daily newspapers in case of a late change in location.

ANZAC DAY LUNCH and REUNION REDFERN TOWN HALL

Wednesday 25th April, 1979

At the completion of the march in Hyde Park, members of both Battalions are to make their way to Museum Stn for a train to Redfern for our Annual Anzac Day lunch and reunion.

The address is the same as the past few years. Redfern Town Hall, Cnr Pitt & Wells Streets, Redfern and just 5 mins from Redfern Station.

Doors will be open at 11.15 a.m. and draught beer to be on tap at this time.

Lunch will be served at 12.30 p.m. and snacks brought in during the afternoon.

The same format as for previous years. Food free but pay for your beer.

— GORDON FINLAY, Publicity Officer

GATHERING FOR SECRETARY

A gathering of Pioneers February 24, saw a get together of some 20 relatives and friends of our Hon Sec. Max Herron at his son's residence at Castle Hill to celebrate Max reaching the mature age of 60 years, and also to mark the occasion of his retiring from the work force.

Among the gathering were several members of the 2/1 Pioneers and wives, also 5 of his scouting fraternity and wives. Among these were a number of 2/3 Pioneers and a 2/4 Pioneer. Appropriate words and presents were exchanged, and I'm sure all members of the Association wish Max and Peg the very best in their years of retirement.

Gordon Finlay

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOC.
will hold a

COUNTRY REUNION

for all Pioneers and their Ladies

at KYOGLE

on Saturday 22nd Sept. and
Sunday 23rd Sept., 1979

ACCOMMODATION at Kyogle.

Exchange Hotel — \$10 per person
Bed & Breakfast
Commercial Hotel — \$11.50 for single person
\$21 for double
Bed & Breakfast
Motel Kyogle — single \$13.50 to \$15.50
double \$19 to \$22.00
Three \$23 to \$26.00
Light Breakfast \$1.50;
Full Breakfast \$3.00

KYOGLE CARAVAN PARK. Powered site 2 persons per day — \$3.00

REUNION DINNER at the Kyogle Golf Club on Saturday 22nd Sept. at 5.30 p.m.

— 3 course meal \$5.00

TOUR and BARBECUE LUNCH on Sunday 23rd Sept. departing 8.30 a.m. and returning at 5 p.m.

10.15 Morning Tea Lions Lookout
12.30 BBQ Lunch with all the trimmings, 2 courses at Brindle Creek, 15 min walk to Large Cedar Tree centre of Rain Forest.

1.30 Departs for sight of Antarctic Tree which dates back to Ice Age — spotting at 3 view lookout, named as Captain Cook's Lookout — Pinnacle and Black Butts. Cameras needed.
TOTAL COST — Tour and meals \$8 per person (Black billy tea and damper provided).

KYOGLE GOLF CLUB and the KYOGLE BOWLING CLUB invite all Pioneers to attend their Club to play.

—George Walker Soc. Sec.

LETTER TO EDITOR From MAX LAW

Dear Editor,

The following jottings may be of assistance in keeping track of some of the boys around the country areas:

Towards the end of last year I was in Gundagai on two occasions and enquired of Des (Tiny) Fields, who works on the local Council. Of course he was well known, and I left a business card at the local hotel but have not been able to contact him personally — will try again on my next trip. I believe he is as big and as fit as ever.

Later, I was in Leeton and had the pleasure of staying the night as the guest of Vi and Mick Roberts. We had a pleasant evening at the Memorial Club.

The following morning, before departure, I called around to see Phil Mahy who has been very ill and had just returned from eight weeks in Concord Hospital. He is due to return for a check-up first week in March.

On recent visits to Canberra I have been enquiring for Bill Morrow, and although I have not been able to contact him direct, I have been told that he has been retired from the Army, following an illness, with the rank of Brigadier.

Last trip to Canberra I finally caught up with Andy Collins and spent a pleasant evening with

Andy and his wife, Beth. I no doubt will see them on future trips to Canberra.

Forgot to mention that during my last visit, I phoned John Douglas at West Wyalong and he sounds as bright and cheerful as ever.

During the Christmas holidays I happened to call in to the small hotel at the top of Redfern Station and there met with Meggsie Skeen and had a few words with him.

Apparently, Roger Tuxford calls in from the country to see Meggsie occasionally. I did not think to get his address, but will make a point of calling into the particular pub again one day as he seems to be well known there.

February 28 — today I called over to the Whitehall Nursing Home at Lindfield where I spent an hour with Hector Page. This follows reference in the last issue of the "News" where it was published that Hec was very ill.

Hec would very much like to see any of his old friends and mentioned quite a few names, particularly among the Officers — John Trevelthick was one — as he is very lonely and, as stated, has been a very sick man, having had two strokes recently.

I will call again and see him in the near future.
That's all I have to offer this time.

WAR-TIME STORY TELLS OF KYOGLE MEN'S BRAVERY

During World War II the exploits of "local lads" led to Australia becoming one of the most respected of the allies.

In these hard years, the Kyogle Examiner carried news of "the boys at the front", providing a link for those left at home, wives, children and mothers.

This excerpt is from the files of the Kyogle Examiner, July 9, 1943. It has been reproduced as it appeared.

This is a story of 18 boys from Kyogle.

The story of boys who, torn by war from peaceful homes, became such soldiers that not only Kyogle, but the world can be proud of them.

Inextricably woven with their story is the epic story of their battalion, now an integral part of the history of the AIF.

The Kyogle boys' battalion is the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion.

To the layman this doesn't mean much.

"Pioneer battalion" he says to himself and imagines a lot of men digging.

Yes, the Pioneer is a digger all right, but he is definitely much more.

He is the jack-of-all-trades of the Army.

Must you move a cargo in the middle of a bombing raid?

The Pioneer will do it.

Is there a road to be made where all others have failed?

The Pioneer will do it.

Do you want a house built — a house demolished, a bridge built — a bridge destroyed — trenches dug, barbed wire entanglements?

The Pioneers can do all these and many others.

Among the many Kyogle boys who sailed with the battalion was a group who had already brought soldierly fame to the district.

Between them they had formed the crack troop of the 15th Light Horse, which trained in the district during times of peace.

But their fame went further than that, for as well as being the crack troops of the regiment, they were also the crack Vickers machine gun team of all Australia.

And as such won the most coveted trophy of the time, the Lord Forster Cup, for inter-unit competition.

This meant that nowhere in Australia was there a better drilled Vickers troop, that there were none to beat them as marksmen, or in stripping their guns or any of the other duties of the machine gunner. They also won the Beaver Cup for five years in succession.

The men in that team now in the battalion are: Lieut. Ray Smith, Lieut. Leo Ferris, Sgt. Albert Brown, Privates Brian Gray, Jack Boyd, Bruce McNaughton, Marshall ("Scotch") Aitken, Tom Welch, Ray Blanch and Jack McMahon.

(Captain Dave Thompson, who was sergeant of the troop which won the competitions, is at present a prisoner in Malaya.)

SEVEN MONTHS AT TOBRUK

Their first taste of fighting was fighting the roads in the Western Desert as the British and the Australians tore up the coast of North Africa for the first time. Sometimes they did the work themselves; sometimes they supervised the Italian prisoners and the Arabs. Mostly they did it themselves.

Then one day in the desert they found the confusion of retreat about them. They held together and fought shoulder to shoulder against the enemy which harassed their rear.

When they stopped they were in Tobruk. And there they remained for seven long bitter months.

No pick and shovel now, now they took the

rifle, the bayonet, the hand grenade, and hit back hard at the best equipped army in the world as it hammered on the perimeter.

Then they stopped hammering on the ground, the German started to hammer from the air.

The enemy pleased himself when and where he attacked from the air.

So the men of Tobruk went underground.

By night the boys from Kyogle and other Pioneers had their revenge on "Jerry".

The pilot came so low by day they could be seen laughing at the "Australian Rats" burrowing into the ground; but by the night the Germans on the perimeter did not smile.

They listened and listened for the Australian patrols.

But it didn't matter how much you listened; you never knew when out of the pitch-black dark came the swinging sandbag which can break a neck without noise, the simple bayonet stabbing from nowhere, the noisy life shattering grenade.

The boys from Kyogle got their own back.

Not only by night. Famous throughout the battalion are two stories which show that the winning of the Forster Cup was no fluke.

LEO FERRIS AND ALBERT BROWN ON ELEPHANT GUN

Idly one day, when they didn't have much to do, Leo Ferris and Albert Brown and others rigged up a mounting for their anti-tank gun known among all infantrymen as the "elephant gun". Made to be fired from the lying position, it had never been considered as an ack-ack gun. However, this didn't deter Ferris and Brown, and by the end of the day there is was, pointing into the air ready for anything.

They didn't have to wait long. Droning in at the usual 2000 feet came a flight of nine Junkers twin-engined bombers. Without much interest the Pioneers watched them pass on and drop their bombs. But a German pilot had seen their position, and he peeled off on his way out to do a little strafing for good measure.

Ferris went to the anti-tank-cum-ack-ack gun.

Brown went to the old Bren on its ack-ack stand.

The old drill with the Light Horse in Kyogle steadied them against the Nazi.

Down, down came the great Junker 1000, 800, 600, 300, 150.

Ferris let him have it with the hardhitting 55 slugs.

Brown let go with the Bren, giving him magazine after magazine.

Ferris got the port engine, Brown got the starboard and the instrument panel.

The Nazi crashed hundreds of yards away.

That was one Nazi that didn't get away.

It wasn't the first the Kyogle troop had got that way. A few weeks before, when things had started to go, they had been posted with Brens on the roofs of Derna to fight off the strafers. This time a Messerschmitt dived from right to left across their zone.

The troops reacted as a troop, the fire from the Brens converging on the hurtling Nazi.

He flew lamely out to sea, smoke pouring from under his cowl.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Having heard so much of the

GENERAL NEWS

Recently whilst up in the Tweed Heads area was welcomed by Lenny "Spino" O'Conner and his wife Alma at their residence at Tumbulgum, and they really did everything to make my short stay truly enjoyable.

During my stay they took me on sightseeing tours, and even made a call on Doug Turner, Transport Section 2/1 st and his wife who certainly entertained us. This was a most interesting session and obviously much water flowed under the bridge chatting about old times, mates and places and really it was tremendous.

They will all be at the Kyogle Reunion. After leaving we called on Wally & Lal Page's "Deserthead" new residence which is quite handy, but they both were away in Sydney. "Spino" is very keenly interested in fishing and is a great organiser for the local competitors.

Both Lenny & Alma have particularly requested that their good wishes and regards be forwarded to all and also any members of our Association call in at their residence where they would always be welcomed.

The next call was on Nell and Freddy Davenport at Scarborough, Queensland and what a tremendous time I had. It is pleasing to see my 8th Platoon mate is pretty good and is a picture of health, although his leg and arm are not of the very best. John and Molly Hunt came over so again another good gathering was held by all which was most thoroughly enjoyed. Time just flew away, and again, I was truly sorry to have to proceed on my journey and the three of us proceeded by car up to Pat & Nell Laughren's residence at Nambour. The area up there was magnificent. On arrival we all were made very welcome and Pat told us all of the virtues of C coy which was instantly opposed by Fred and I, as we were both of A Coy. Well a stay with these kind folk was great, and Pat is a great gardener and has tremendous interest in Hibiscus, Bananas, Mangrove, Paw Paw growing, which sets off his property. Of course we had many great conversations which were interesting and again both Pat & Nell wanted it known if any of the old Pioneers are in Nambour to call on them where they would be most welcomed. Both will be attending the Kyogle Reunion and are keenly interested to again meet the old friends once more.

Following personal representations made by me to the Gladesville Psychiatric Centre Authorities for permission to be granted to our Bill McCarter of the Band to attend our next Anzac Day Reunion, this request has been approved on conditions that he is picked up and returned to that Centre by one of us. As I have no private transport, would anybody driving past like to drive him to Redfern for the gathering which would make Bill happy so please ring me at 76-6657 so arrangements can be made.

Had a great old chat to Les Suloway just recently, an original 'C' Coy fellow and later the Immortal Sigs Platoon and am sorry to state his health has not been of the very best, also had leg trouble. However he sends his sincerest regards to all of his old mates and wishes a great reunion on Anzac Day.

— HARRY MONTAGUE

"Kyogle Boys" and how so many of them had joined up together, I asked at the Kyogle Committee Meeting last June for a story to put in the Pioneer News. The above was the result of my request and I do thank Nita Ferris, widow of Leo, for sending the report to me. We also thank the Kyogle Examiner for permission to print the report.



The first issue of mail bag for 1979 and I must thank all members for the wonderful response to our treasurer's appeal. While members of the association continue to think and act that way the "Pioneer News" must continue to flourish. We of the committee and the members must say 'Thank You'.

• **RAY 'JOE' BLANCH** of Beaudesert, Queensland sends a letter with a slight reprimand for **Monty** not being at **John Hunts** reunion, this cost **Joe** the writing of this letter just to keep his subs square. Apparently **Joe** pays **Monty** these subs every Oct., which is his way of knowing he is always up to date. **Joe** has been to Sydney recently, but owing to an accident with a piece of steel, was curtailed in his activities. The piece of steel caused considerable damage to the calf of the leg and the muscle, required 17 stitches and put **Joe** boy on his back for three weeks. **Joe** did contact **Noel Schomberg** while in Sydney but had to miss **Jack Bertram** of Newcastle again because of the leg. **Joe** and **Mavis** attended **John and Molly Hunts** do last October in Queensland, he was pleased to see the Newcastle contingent, but was a bit dissatisfied that none from Kyogle or Northern Rivers put in an appearance. **Joe** retired on the 20.10.78, still does a bit around the place to keep him fit and plays bowls twice a week. **Joe** closes with good wishes to all and he and **Mavis** hope to make Kyogle in Sept.

• **RON CLARK** now resident at Kingsford sends a short note with a sub for the treasurer and a request for a badge to be forwarded. I would assume that you have the badge by now **Ron**, and I can't make much news out of what's left of your letter, however it's nice to keep in touch.

• **SID 'SLUGGO' SWEENEY** per the pen of **Rosaleen Wells** of the Queen Victoria Memorial Hosp., Pictou, where our **Sid** is a resident, sends a cheque to the treasurer for renewal of subs, and not much else, however I feel sure that any Pioneer going Pictou way would be more than welcome, if only for 15 minutes if you called in and said hello. Thank you also **Ms Wells** for your note on **Sid's** behalf.

• **RON EDWARDS** 2/1 now resident of Newport Beach sends a sub to the treasurer also a request for a badge, an apology for his neglect over the past, and a letter explaining the reason why. **Ron** started off with the Pioneers at Dubbo, sailed on the "Johann De Witt" and was immediately seconded to the Galley as the crew had walked off. Did not see much of the deck between Sydney and Colombo and his next recollection was of the March through Colombo so that we could put our feet on land. At this time **Ron** made the acquaintance of **Fred Charlesworth**, trumpeter of some note, and **Fred** now at Avalon, **Max** has posted you his address, and this did make **Ron's** journey to the new land a little brighter. It was in Palestine 1940 that **Ron** was transferred from the Battalion and spent the rest of service over there apparently with transport of some kind, you do not say **Ron**. However, he certainly got around Greece, Crete, Lebanon, then Darwin, Cairns and last New Guinea, where a skin wog took charge, then made B2, until Qantas stepped in in 1945. Many thanks for your letter **Ron** and your

good wishes are extended to all who may remember you and we hope that perhaps you can make your acquaintances a bit more personal over the next couple of years.

• **FRED CHARLESWORTH** per pen of wife **Betty** sends a sub to the association plus a request for 2 badges. Both **Fred** and **Betty** enjoy the News, and **Betty** quotes, "Had the pleasure of meeting **Mick Dodson** and others while **Fred** was a patient at Concord. **Fred** cannot attend the March but watches it on T.V. and tries to pick out the faces, he keeps in constant touch with **Pat Walsh**, mainly by phone and really appreciated the regular visits by both **Pat** and **Monty** while at Concord. Many thanks for your letter **Betty**, probably the item previous, will have some interest for **Fred**.

• **TOM 'PENNY' PENFOLD** now resident of Tarro sends a cheque to the treasurer and a request for a badge. **Tom** still enjoys life, as he says, while trying to play bowls, it's either the greens are too long or that little white ball too small. When he goes fishing, there is always too much water between his bait and whatever is down there, so he has come up with a very good solution, he uses cooked prawns, and if the fish don't want to eat them, he will. That's not a bad way of doing things **Tom**, I hope that our old mate at Forster, **Doug Shearston** gets an idea or two from it.

• **JOE ROBERTSON** of Findon, S.A. sends a cheque and a request for badge, and the news that he did expect to see **John Dowd** over the Xmas period. **John** did not arrive and **Joe** eventually drank the "Coldies" himself, as the weather was a stinker and came in handy, "I'd almost say you were forgiven **John**. **Joe** looks forward to the News, and should anybody be over Findon way you would be silly not to give him a ring, he is at the end of the phone when you ring 45-5735.

• **MRS. ETHEL STARR** wife of the late **Archie** sends a letter for receipt of the News. Apparently she has not been receiving same for a few issues, however we hope to rectify this in the future. **Ethel**, by the time this paper goes to press will have sold their home at Manly Vale and will be living with her daughters at Dorrigo on the North Coast. We wish you well at your new abode and hope you have many good years with the two girls and their families. **Ethel** also has posted a donation, as you would have read in many other issues, this is not expected from the ladies and copies of paper will always be posted.

• **MICK PUNTON** of Padstow per pen of wife **Margaret** sends a donation to the association and a request for 2 badges, seems like its a new badge era, by all the requests. **Mick** has kept in touch with **Tom Legg**, who has been very ill, and is now on the invalid pension, **Tom** always enjoyed himself at the reunions but is now forced to take things very quietly. For anyone interested **Tom** now resides at 99 Belmont Street, Alexandria and anyone with a few minutes to spare around that way would be more than welcome to pass the time of day. Many thanks for your letter **Margaret** and **Mick** and keep the good work coming in.

• **REG BUTTSWORTH** now at Mt. Druitt sends a cheque to the association and his thanks for the News. **Reg** has been a T.P.I. for

many years and has enjoyed the paper which really keeps him in touch, and he hopes to enjoy the publication for many years to come. Thank you **Reg** for your good wishes, while the members respond in this fashion we will succeed.

• **CLEMM McDONALD** 2/2 now at Randwick and manager of the Com/Wealth Bank at Circular Quay sends a very generous donation to the Association and a request for a badge. **Clemm** had the misfortune to miss last Anzac Day, not well on the morning of the day and later same day, was relieved of a burst appendix. One thing **Clemm** that's a pretty good reason for being absent. **Clemm** sees quite a bit of **Bill Robertson**, both are members of Clovelly Sub Branch. **Clemm** has also met Pioneers in all sorts of places. As a relieving manager of the bank for fourteen years however, this has come to an end and he is at Circular Quay now. Claims they have tied him down a bit with this, but he still has the price of a middy or two should any Pioneers care to call. Many thanks for your letter **Clemm**, and again for the very generous donation.

• **STEVE SNOW** of Arncliffe sends a cheque to the treasurer having noted the report in December's issue. **Steve** enclosed the cheque and the information that he is sorry but no news items to report, your donation safely in treasurer's hot little hand.

• **PETER PRIEST** per pen of wife **Dorothy** writes from Proserpine, Qld, enclosing a cheque for treasurer and request for badge. Both are very keen about the Kyogle reunion and are sure to be present, as it is their old stamping ground and they have not been back for almost three years. Both **Pete** and **Dorothy** have the accommodation situation well in hand, **Dorothy's** sister still in residence. For news they forward that the big wet has started up their way and for starters have just received 31¼ inches of rain in five days, could not get to work for three days which was very nice. **Peter** is still working but is starting to count the years to retirement, so they can just "go fishing". Many thanks for the letter **Dorothy**, will see you in Sept., at Kyogle.

• **JIM FERGUSON** per pen of wife **Isobel** sends a donation in response to the appeal. **Jim** had a varied career servicewise ex/ 2/2 Pioneers ex Petrol Park, ex 105 Gen. TPT and ex Pow, **Jim** is now 87 years of age partially blind, a little deaf, not very mobile now as **Isobel** quotes, 6 stone when he came home and a gentle 16 stone now. That last figure would possibly have some bearing on his mobility do you think. Many thanks for your letter **Isobel** and we hope we hear more of you both in future.

• **JOHN HUNT** of Queensland sends a letter with the date of their next do at New Farm, the last Saturday in October 27th, same time, same place, same address. Don't quite know what **Larry** has got carried away about **John**, but would agree, it's possibly all that lemonade that he gets rid of. So pleased that the last show was so successful and as you say, each year a few different faces turn up. **John** and **Molly** have had dinner with **Fred** and **Nell Davenport** and both well. Both will be down for Anzac Week, hoping to have a week at Port Stephens, meeting up with the Newcastle crowd then the following week

MAIL BAG — continued

in Sydney (Anzac). **John** has sent some photos down from the Reunion, they will be passed around both at the Annual Meeting and on Anzac Day but are no good for publication in the Pioneer News as they are coloured, for printing purposes we need good clear black and white. Many thanks **John** looking forward to your visit in April.

• **GEORGE HUNT** per pen of wife **Ethel** and resident of Narrandera sends a sub to the association and the information that **George** is still very well, a little arthritis in the knees but still holding his own on the local Council where he has worked for the last 21 years. **George** would love to hear from any ex members of 3 Platoon, and if *anyone* should be passing through Narrandera, just call at the Charles Sturt Hotel for all the necessary directions. There you are, all you travelling people, you could not wish for a better pathfinder than that. Hope you get plenty of visitors **Ethel** and **George**, with those directions you can't miss.

• **MRS NORMA FAIRBAIRN** sends a letter to the Sec informing him of the passing away of her husband **Ron** in Jan 1979. **Ron** was a keen and proud member of the Association and we of the Association offer you our sincere sympathy through these pages.

• **LEN PREEDY** Shenton Park, West Aust., and President of the R.S.L. National Council, who played in the executive team sends this article. Just yesterday afternoon the 12th National R.S.L. bowls carnival officially ended. We and our committee still have some "winding up" to do but all our efforts can now be relaxed and we can try to come back to earth.

The results are, Victoria won the Jack Hamilton V.C. trophy; W.A. won the Dr. Syd Krantz trophy; and a W.A. team from Manning won the Sir Arthur Lee National Fours.

About 200 bowlers play in the Jack Hamilton and Syd Krantz and about 400 in the Sir Arthur Lee Fours, these, plus wives and friends and some non-playing officials comprise the group.

There was a large party from N.S.W. with many well known R.S.L. and ex-service club names moving around and meeting up with old friends from other carnivals or war time mates. Herb Manglesdorf from Cronulla R.S.L. was equal 3rd in the national fours, another team from N.S.W. also made the last eight. Ned Speering from Kingston, Narrabundah ACT was another old friend to attend.

The carnival was officially opened on the 27th December by the Premier of W.A. Sir Charles Court, who is a good speaker and it would appear a very good salesman, for he wore a tie with the Way 79 emblem on it and we were swamped with enquiries as to where they could be obtained. We also gave away pins and key rings, all to do with our 150th anniversary — I think our visitors purchased just about all the promotional lines available in Perth. There was a magnificent fire works display on the Esplanade at midnight New Year's Eve to begin our years celebrations, it could be seen all over the suburbs, there were so many people in the city — I believe it caused traffic jams everywhere.

An R.S.L. bowls party returned early in November from a tour of the Republic of South Africa. It was 28 wonderful days of bowls and meeting with ex-service people who we reaffirmed our war time friendship with. We played for a trophy which was donated for a regular event between our two countries. Australia managed to be the first winners so now the South Africans are planning a tour over here in 1980 to try and win it back. There were 34 men and women in our party, all States except

Victoria were represented, we were all overwhelmed with kindness and hospitality and would love to go again.

Great letter **Len** and many thanks for all the information.

• **DOUG SHEARSTON** our ex treasurer, and now residing at Forster writes a reply to the letter by **Fred Brookes** of Taree in our last paper. **Doug** writes, "It is true that he received super service with the installation of his telephone, so fast they almost had to build the house around it, but, there's that word again, the boot is on the other foot when it comes to promises regarding a feed of fish". **Fred** was supposed to show **Doug** all the hot spots of the Manning River, what about that **Fred Brookes**. **Doug** also states that he would never promise anybody a feed of fish because when he goes and comes back empty handed, all the locals say that you should have went yesterday, or last week, or try next week. Claims that all fish have an inbuilt instinct to avoid anything resembling a fishing line belonging to **Douglas Shearston**. **Roma** and **Doug** will not be attending Kyogle, the date clashes with the Oyster Bowls Carnival held at Forster, Tuncurry and as a committee man will be on duty at same. "Bad luck **Doug**, I was hoping to have the room next door at the motel, save me carrying hair oil". **Doug** is going to Queensland in May and will return via Kyogle where he hopes to make his apologies and a possible one night attack on the residents. More serious side, I hope I am correct in this statement, **Doug's** son **Trevor** has had a book published and should be on the bookstalls by the time this goes to press "Something in the Blood" is the title. One of his stories was featured in this month's Cleo, complete with illustrations. As **Doug** says, some magazine, he thought his education was almost up to scratch but now finds his is just so many miles behind. (Comment) Us oldies are all in the same boat **Doug**. You would have received a letter from **Max** by the time you read this so good luck to both **Roma** and yourself and looking forward to seeing you on Anzac Week.

• **NEVILLE O'CONNER** from Ballina sends a cheque to the treasurer and the comment that every issue seems to bring up new names that he had forgotten. The mention of **Jack (Hayseed) O'Neill** and **Jim Darragh** rang a bell straight away. The reference to **Bluey Hanson** makes **Nev** wonder if he and **Ted Hanson**, President of the 2/2 in Victoria, are one and the same. If so he would be known as **Punchy Hanson** last sighted by **Nev** at Tarakan tearing down a track with Jap bullets kicking up the dust behind him, with **Punchy** saying the few angry words as he broke evens for cover. That happening can have the reason for speed and angry words by all and any **Neville**. **Neville** also speaks of **Kev Raward** still at Lismore, **Brian Jackson** at Evans Head. **Ron Cross** is a Legatee at Ballina of which **Nev** is Chairman while **Phil Barnett** and **Bill Hood** also Legatees of the Lismore Branch. **Neville** will be at Kyogle in September, and he hopes some of you 2/2 blokes make an effort to attend same. Also intends to attend Brisbane in October, will drive up from Ballina and then hopefully expects his daughter, who lives in Brisbane, will act as chauffeur to him for the weekend. Good luck **Neville**, but should be OK, most daughters seem to stick to the old man in times of strife. Thanks for the news, will see you in September.

That's Mail Bag for this issue, many thanks for the great response to the treasurer's appeal and looking forward to seeing a lot of faces at Anzac Day March and Reunion.

Lakey

OUTSTANDING SERVICES TO THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT

The 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association hard working Secretary has been a Scouter for twenty years. As with the 2/1-2/2 Association, **Max Herron**, over the twenty years as a Scouter has really put his heart into the work he has done for the Scouting Movement.

In 1972 he was awarded the Medal of Merit for outstanding services to the Scout Movement. February 22nd 1979 was Founders Day, a day to observe the 122nd anniversary of the birth of Scouting's founder, Lord Baden Powell. The Governor General (Sir Zelman Cowen) on that day announced awards to people for outstanding services to the Scouting Movement. Again our Secretary **Max Herron** gained an award for his service to the scouting movement, this time a Bar to the Medal of Merit, for additional specially good service.

I am quite confident as your President of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association I have a full 100% support in congratulating **Max Herron** for once again being recognised for his work with the Scouting Movement.

— **JACK (MICK) DODSON**, President

WELFARE REPORT

In tendering this report of activities over the past 12 months it is pleasing to state the legal and social matters of our members were attended to immediately and the net result was most satisfactory.

Hospital visitations were fully maintained.

All funerals in the metropolitan area were attended and sympathy was extended to all members' families.

Legacy and the Red Cross assisted us greatly.

It was a pleasure to have been of assistance this year and my thanks go to the various Departments who gave us advice.

LAST POST —

ATHOL JOHN FLOOD ex B Coy 2/1 who was known to us as **Joey** passed away at the Repatriation Hospital, Bundoora, Victoria late last December.

After being injured in Tobruk he was a T.P.I. and spent some time in various hospitals trying to recover. We first met him at Greta after leaving his home town, Narrandera, to enlist.

Upon receiving the news of his departure I sent the Association's Card of Sympathy to his sister **Madge** who was his next of kin.

In reply we received a thank you card from **Madge**.

FRANK STOCKDALE of Lismore passed away early February this year. Sympathy was extended to his only remaining relative, brother **Richard** who is a clergyman at Cudal.

BOB BALDWIN Ex H.Q. orderly room passed away and the funeral was attended by **Arthur** and **Mavis Murphy**, **Jack Pearce** and myself. At the funeral we paid full honours to "Baldy" as he was affectionately known. His widow and family thanked us for expression of sympathy from the Association.

DICK FLOOD D Coy 2/1 passed away in Melbourne recently. His next of kin **Mrs. Jones** (Dick's sister) was sent our sympathy card. **Mrs. Jones** replied and thanked us and also included photos of **Dick** taken in Palestine. These will be passed around on Anzac Day.

ALLAN BROKEN-SMITH, RSM of 2/1 recently passed away. **Allan** was the chemist at Bundanoon.

NED CALDERWOOD 2/1 passed away recently in hospital. Unfortunately I was interstate at the time of his funeral. The Association's sympathy was extended to his next of kin. — **H. MONTAGUE**

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

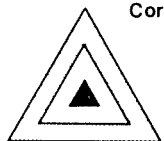
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J. (Mick) DODSON

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Gentlemen — This day, Anzac Day 1979 we gather to pay our respects throughout Australia and many parts of the World to our comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice and those who have passed on since.

It is sixty four years since Australia, New Zealand and British Troops stormed ashore at Anzac Cove in what we know now was a Military mistake. Many thousands of young manhood of those countries lost their lives, but even today so long after their courageous battle we meet to remember them. I feel sure as time progresses and many of us have passed on this day of remembrance will continue. Even our Association loses at least thirty members each year. So, when you take part in marches and services around Anzac Day, please remember all those who have passed on "Lest we Forget". Remember if it was not for our ANZACS, Australia may not have been a nation today.

After the march and services our most important event is the Reunion at the South Sydney Town Hall Redfern. Even though we are one year older and many retired and some suffering ill health and despite the thirty odd members deceased, a large crowd turn up for the day. Some are there for the first time for many years but there to pay respect to their fallen comrades and enjoy the company of fellow members of their units.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the executive and committee for the way they have made my position as President easier during the year.

SECRETARY — Max Herron our most efficient and hard working Hon. Secretary who puts a lot of time into the work for the Association. It was said two months ago when Max retired he would have it easy. He certainly looks better for his retirement however he states he cannot work out how he had time to go to work. Many thanks Max for the work you have put into the Association, ably assisted by his good wife Peg.

TREASURER. — Controller of the Association finance (MoneyBags) Vic. Whiteley has stated that the various accounts are down on last year. It is understandable when one notices how the costs of all things have risen and that now due to the P.M.G. instructions we must put out four copies of Pioneer News annually. The future of the Association and Pioneer News depends on the support of our very good members continuing with their donations. For sure all donations are greatly appreciated. Both at the march and Reunion our Treasurer will be there collecting Subs.

WELFARE — More than ever members are now entering hospital for treatment, some minor, some serious. Relations or friends notify either of the Welfare officers; Harry Montague who visits local hospitals or Jack Collis who looks after the sick on the Central Coast. Many

members are hospitalised and fail to notify any of the Association. These days it is hard to find out from the hospital staff if any members from various units are patients.

Monty is on tap when members require information regarding pensions etc., and puts a lot of time travelling back and forth obtaining answers for those members. His good work includes visiting patients not only at the R.G.H. Concord, Lady Davidson Turrumurra, Gladesville Mental Hospital but also visiting Tommy Hugo who is invalided at home in Padstow. Very good for a person who has to travel by public transport.

Talking of Tommy Hugo, another who visits him at his home is Col Jackson, as we know they were good mates in the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. Keep up the good work boys.

SOCIAL SECRETARIES — George Walker and Bob Dixon our social secretaries once again have been busy with the arrangements for our Anzac Day Reunion. Members will appreciate how smoothly they have organised the days activities. Of course they have had assistance from others, but all enjoy the work especially when they see all enjoying themselves immensely.

PIONEER NEWS — Spoken by many as to be one of the best unit or Association publications. For sure we will agree on that. Max and Bob Lake our editors in conjunction with Vaughan Douglas printers are to be congratulated on the success of our journal. Of course they have a lot of assistance, in our reporters, Gordan Finlay, Harry Montague, Bob Dixon, Reg Armstrong and Larry Robson. Where ever there is news they will ferret it out for the journal. Letters keep arriving for the mail bag and it is from these that we hear news of our mates around the country and Interstate.

PAPER WRAPPING — Another part of the Association that we must be thankful to. With four paper wrappings a year we are up for expenses, which would be much greater only for the voluntary paper wrappers. This is a gathering that the stalwarts look forward to. It is the usual thanks to Peg Herron for making her home available for the wrapping committee and for the supper provided after the wrapping.

In all my sincere thanks to all for attending our Anzac reunion.

Be seeing you.

— President Jack (Mick) Dodson.

FOUND

ACTIVE SERVICE BADGE No 379695 was found at the Redfern Town Hall on Anzac Day: would owner please ring 759 5491.

WREATH LAYING

In keeping with our ritual "We will Remember Them" a contingent of 43 members assembled in Hunter St. and marched to the Cenotaph after being formed up by Bill Jollie.

Doug Turner from South Australia laid the wreath for the 2/1, Mick Egan for the 2/2 and Mary McInnes for the Ladies Auxiliary.

The banners were carried by Jim Hall 2/1 and Jim Field 2/2.

Once again we had Aub Brazier rendering Last Post and Reveille which always brings home a little sadness in mourning our lost ones.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

After paying our respects at the Cenotaph all adjourned to the City of Sydney R.S.L. for the Annual General Meeting.

In opening the meeting President Jack (Mick) Dodson welcomed members especially those who had travelled long distances.

Following the reading of correspondence and Minutes the Treasurer tabled his Balance Sheet which has been duly audited and certified by Arthur Watson.

When all positions were declared vacant Allan McInnes was appointed Returning Officer and on carrying out the elections the following Executive positions were filled:- Jack Dodson President, Max Herron Secretary, Vic Whiteley Treasurer, George Walker Social Secretary, Bob Dixon Ass. Soc. Secretary.

The highlights of the meeting was the presentation by President Jack of honorary Life Membership to Allan McInnes. This was in the form of a framed certificate and on presenting it Jack paid a glowing tribute to the outstanding work Allan had undertaken in the many years he had been President.

He also spoke in glowing terms of the way in which Allan and Don Lawson had endeavoured to bring the two units together as one at the Anzac Reunion.

In reply Allan stated how thrilled and pleased he was on receiving his life membership and that he would treasure it for the remainder of his days. This was carried with acclamation.

During General Business President Jack invited the Ladies Auxiliary to join the meeting and closed the meeting at 10.30pm.

ANZAC REUNION

At the Reunion of both 2/1 and 2/2 we had all states represented except Tasmania.

Once again a few beers were sunk and subscriptions collected before the necessary formalities were carried out. Bob Dixon was the capable Master of Ceremonies. The Ode was said by the President Jack Dodson, toast to the Association by Vice President Allan McInnes supported by our Country Vice President Doug Shearston. Response was by Jack Dodson and later on by Gordon Osborne. A truly remarkable day for all those who attended.

— Harry MONTAGUE and Gordon FINLAY

REPORT ON ANZAC DAY BY PRESIDENT.

An Anzac Day to remember 1979. This year the numbers increased beyond our estimation bringing big grins to the faces of the Executive and committee. To see such a crowd turing up to pay respects to the Anzacs and our own members who paid the Supreme Sacrifice, plus those who have passed on since, is indeed a good sign that Anzac Day Remembrance will be going for many years to come.

The day began with fine weather and the large crowd to enjoy it:

To cap it off once again we had the pleasure of enjoying the Bankstown Police Boys and Girls Band leading the 2/1 Pioneer Batt. Thanks for this goes to Bill Jollie who after making arrangements for the band earlier had to break evens dashing after the band who had been wrongly directed. I feel sure while ever Bill is at the march we can be assured of having this fine band of boys and girls. Congratulations and our thanks go to the Sergeant and his band, for as I stated last year with such a wonderful band we marched as we never marched before. In fact there was not one marcher with two left feet.

At the South Sydney Town Hall when the crowd began pouring in, arrangements had to be made to cater for many more meals than allowed for. Judy and Jan in the kitchen from Lamaro Caterers overcame the problem and were commended on the meals. Both these ladies have been with us since we made South Sydney Town Hall our venue for Anzac Day. They now proudly wear the badge of the 2/1 — 2/2 Pioneer Association, for they have now been made honorary members of the Association.

The question was raised, why such increases in numbers after we have lost so many members. Many answers came up, such as; it was because of Anzac Day in the middle of the week, many members retired now, or maybe the influx of younger members, or perhaps it was continually having our Reunion at the South Sydney Town Hall.

I believe the latter statement to be the reason. Since the first reunion at the South Sydney Town Hall we have allowed for a decrease in numbers, but to our pleasant surprise we have been wrong, the numbers have increased. At the hall all members can move around to chat with their mates. The only reason for missing their mates is that they were not at the Reunion. The other reason is the company of old friends, to be able to sit down and yarn over days gone by. Relating stories that increase immensely towards the end of the day.

It was not until after speeches had been completed and the meal almost over that our Patron Gordon Osborn led in a band of officers. The gathering all agreed how pleasing it was to see the biggest roll up of officers joining in our reunion. After all it is their reunion too. Gordon stated it is no longer officers and other ranks but all mates together. Let us hope next year we can see more of them.

Refreshments were served by our regular volunteers, and what an excellent job those boys did. Some members may not realise but only for this band of volunteers we would not have such a successful Reunion, so remember next year when you are receiving a jug it would not hurt to say thank you boys.

Then again we had others helping with the serving in the form of Ron James, Stan Kennedy and Reg Ward who are Scout Leaders from Max Herrons District. Many thanks lads for "being prepared."

Another busy table was the money table where

2/2nds ANZAC FUNCTIONS

At the Wreath Laying Ceremony Jim Field carried the Banner while Mick Egan laid the Wreath for our Banner.

At the Annual Meeting it was most pleasing for all members of our Unit to see Allan McInnes presented with Life Membership of the Assoc. Congratulations Allan.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

This year our March had a notable change in respect to carrying the Banner. Prior to the start we were approached by a group of Air Training Corp. R.A.A.F. Cadets to see if we needed assistance or to carry Banners for "us oldies" if so desired. We desired!! So L/Cdt. Harley was assigned to us for this duty. This young fellow accomplished an excellent job. He laboured under three heavy commitments for one so young. Firstly, the physical side of the job. Secondly, it was a Banner belonging to a second to none Battalion. Lastly, but by no means least he had to match up to the ideals and the fact that he was a great-great-grandson of Billie Hughes — "the little Digger". Thank you Mrs. Harley for your donation to our fund.

Bill Robertson and Allan McInnes led the March. The fact that quite a few fellows who have not attended for some years put in an appearance made things really great and we told them so. It was great to include here Padre Steele. This man put in good work in our Battalion and many remember this.

Arthur Stafford was not feeling the best, so could not make the Reunion. John Samuells has made us an excellent offer of supplying aluminium poles for the two Banners. Thank you John.

Several of the lads have been on sick parade, and one of these is Jack Henderson. Stick to light duties Jack. The famous *Germ* was seen doing his one man march down the centre of the road before the advance and during the March who should be seen doing a flank attack — George and Bill Nicholls.

At start of March a count of heads showed just over forty on parade — not as good as other years, but still forty good fellows. Perhaps next year we will see a few more.

The bands on the March were kind to us — the weather was beaut. Who could help but be glad to be in the March and finish the course. Hope to see you all again next year.

— BOB DIXON

2/2 REUNION JOTTINGS

ARCHIE STANTON was in a group and having an enjoyable time — nice to see you again Archie. Another pleasant meeting was with George Nicholls who now lives at Ettalong. Another year

Treasurer Vic Whiteley sat most of the day collecting Subs. Of course he had our ex Treasurer Doug Shearston and others assisting him. Gordon Finlay and George Walker were kept busy with the beer tickets, until George organised the selling of Raffle tickets, and once again the one dozen was donated to the paper wrapping. Thank you, Mick Roberts of Leeton and Bob Gratton.

Bob Dixon, our M.C. who carried out his duties very efficiently, was never left without an answer. Many thanks to the speakers and all others who worked to see that our Anzac Day Reunion was a successful one.

See you all next year and bring your mate who has not attended or has not been with us for a long while.

— President Jack (Mick) Dodson

gone by and yet it seems only a few days since our last reunion.

C COMPANY were well represented, in fact we had to bring up an extra table for them. It was good to see them all having a good time.

BERT BEASLEY was once again present having a good chat with Mick Egan and Bill (Evergreen) Nicholls. Dick Kenniwell was present with his son as bodyguard. The same went for Pat Collins, as he also had his son. "Bluey" Locane, Reg Cairns, Tom Wood (long time no see Tom), George Paricos buzzing around as usual, Charlie Gatehouse and Charlie Firth all made up a very happy bunch. Why can't you other Chatswood lads from C Coy. follow Charlie.

DON COMPANY were well represented with Morrie Ballard, Bill and Charlie Henry, who left before collecting receipt for Roy Stubbs of Moruya. Rod Standen, Kev Achurch, Alby Klaus, Jim Dowd, Bruce Metcalf and Laurie Short and Nev O'Connor. Nev was seen walking out of the hall with Peg Herron but we found out later he was taking her downstairs to the car to introduce her to his wife.

JIMMY MUIR is now retired from filling sausage skins. It was noticed that the boys of D Coy. were paying very strict attention to a few words from Bill Robertson at one period. Also noted that Jim McDonald was very much in evidence. Allan McInnes was having a yarn with the boys and trying to be in several different places at the one time, as was Bob Lee.

JIM FIELD and his camera were working overtime while Bob Dixon did an excellent job as Master of Ceremonies.

Hoping to see you all next Anzac Day with an even bigger muster at the Reunion.

— REG ARMSTRONG

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOC.

will hold a

COUNTRY REUNION

for all Pioneers and their Ladies

at KYOGLE

Saturday 22nd September 1979

MARCH and WREATH LAYING CEREMONY
4.30pm Kyogle Soldiers Memorial

REUNION DINNER: Kyogle Golf Club
5.30pm Refreshments — 6.30pm Dinner.
Sunday 23rd September 1979
TOUR and BARBECUE LUNCH
8.30am Depart — 5pm Return.

ACCOMMODATION: at the Commercial and Exchange Hotels Kyogle and Kyogle motel. Also at Kyogle Caravan Park.

A duplicated sheet containing all the necessary information and costs has been inserted in this issue of Pioneer News, so as to make it easy to carry around and be a reminder.

If attending please cut out the lower portion fill in all particulars in block letters and post before 1st Sept. to the Secretary.

— GEORGE WALKER Soc. Sec.

ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/1

This years march was well represented by 161 members from the 2/1st and was the best attended march to date.

Some one up there must surely love us to give us such a beautiful sunny day for the march on our 34th Anzac day since World War II.

After the usual ear bashing and recalling old times we were formed up by Bill Jollie.

It was most pleasing to have once again the services of the Bankstown Police Boys and Girls Band and what a wonderful march they gave us. It was really a pleasure to march behind them and listen to their delightful music. We are really in debt to them for their services.

Gordon Osborn was the leader of our Unit and our banner bearer was Roy Jardine. Both these gentlemen did a marvellous job.

This year Gordon Osborn had plenty of support from the officers in the form of: John Gilchrist, Geoff Williams, Fred Ness (first time up) Ken Stuart, Kev Morahan, Ossie McCurtayne, Bill Jollie and Gordon Finlay.

One day we will get Cyril & John Morahan to march with us, as they are always at Phillip St, but then go and march with their Korean unit.

— GORDON FINLAY

2/1 REUNION JOTTINGS

Last year I mentioned more members are attending our Reunion as the years roll on and this year was no exception. From far and near they arrived at the Redfern Town Hall with 156 sitting down to a hot meal and finding out what has happened since last year.

One late arrival said he could hear the noise from two blocks away and just came in on the beam. Let us hope it is a bigger noise next year.

D. Coy and TRANSPORT boys were a mixture at the door on entering the hall in the form of Dora Black, Bert Herne, Bob Lake (first time I have seen him sitting down), Roy (Snowy) Jardine, Bert Price, Ray Hill, George Brooks, Jack Pearce Bert Moore (never seems to get any older). Jim Gray (still has not realized razors are available). Jack Lammerton, Peter Craig and Bob Morrow — what happened to the usual Whisky bottle. C. Coy was at the next table and consisted of Bill Wright, Bill Doney, Ted Stratford, who had his son along (nice to have you with us Dick, even if its only to keep the old fellow from playing up) Kevin Morahan said one of the Morahans had to be there, as the twins have commitments with the younger boys from Vietnam. Dick Chalmers, Sam Lewis, Tom Evans and Jack Claypole were also at this table. Sam Lewis conveyed an apology from Leo Morris of Wollongong, who was tied up with the R.S.L. march down there, and also that Leo has been made a Life member of the R.S.L. for services rendered — well done.

A. Coy this year seemed to have rolled up in force as they were spread over three tables. Don Slater unable to attend the march but came to the Reunion, Bill Arthur, Arthur Luddington — these two fellows never seem to change — Lance Gaydon and a young chap I've been trying to find for the last 30 years, Henry (Jimmy) Hamilton — still with that cheeky grin. Sorry I didn't get much time to spend with you Jim, but will catch up next year, if not sooner as I have your address. By the way Jim is another who works for the navy. Must be a ship called H.M.A.S. Pioneer, with the number of ex Pioneers who have been employed by them over the past years. Jack Harvey was seated with this group even though he is B. Coy. Jack said he's got a tin leg — must be a result from stamping on the pitchers plate throwing those curved ones to

Vic Whiteley in the old baseball team. The only curved ones Vic catches now are the straight dollars to keep our Assoc. going and doing a good job too.

After his absence last year that quiet young fellow Frank Gillian had 2 years to catch up with. Alec, George, Lismore, John Hunt Qld, George Bates, Joe Brisbane, Tom Crossman left early, because the noise was too much for him — that's the worst of working in silent air-conditioned offices too long. Bill Tasker, Brian Kybert, Mick Dwyer — you will have to learn to speak louder Mick to be heard in this company. The Vaughan brothers, Sid and Ted — Darcy not the best — hence his absence. Perc "the Punter" Penrose, Casey Brown, Jack Clarke, Sid Kent, Arthur Murray, Harry Montague, Jack Robinson and amidst all this, two young R.A.N. ratings Paul Walsh and Chris Coghlan of the H.M.A.S. Australia. They were having a ball and enjoyed their day with us.

Jack Stewart over from West Australia and Doug Waters from South Australia. Doug's first time and had company with Max Law, Steve Clarke, Alby Brown, Jock Russell, Clem Cooke, Beau Hannaford, Scotty Burns, Jock (Doe) Brown and Arthur White. Doug asked about two Newcastle members, Ivan Pepper and Don Crookes.

A quiet table who just wanted to sit and talk were, Bluey Kerslake, Jack Green, Ossie McCurtayne, Ted Jensen and Mick Roberts (Leeton). Laurie (3 course) Kelly, as ever, seemed to be at everyone's table but finally finished up with Cec Peak, Eric Hawkins. "Punchy" Bannister was with this group and Kevin Buckley of the R.A.A.F.

A bottle of rum passed around early in the morning at the march was donated by the publican at St. Marys and the boys did appreciate a "tot". Noel Trefoni was saying he missed Pepper and Crooks this year.

Bill McCarter our trumpeter was in attendance at the Reunion and it was good to see him. Bill is barred from playing these days.

One group who seemed to like the sun as they usually have the same table each year were Noel Schomberg, Dick Seddon, Jack (Gildo) Griffiths, Jack Bertram, Vince Petrich, Jack Coates (nearly too late for dinner.) and Jim Hall from Kyogle and chasing up things for the Kyogle reunion. Your biggest problem Jim will be accommodation but then you could always fall back on cow bails by putting in a few stretchers.

The next group were Bluey Miller, Bob Gratton, Bill Jollie, Geoff Williams, Jack Gillespie, Bill Howe and Bill Howison (they said it is 10 and 15 years respectively since these two showed their faces, so make up for it by coming next year.) Also a first up was Fred Ness. Certainly good to see you Fred, and hope it is the first of many more. Other first timers were Morrie McEvoy and Keith Nedaris. Jack Stone was in this group for a while.

At their usual table near the door was Mick Dodson, Max Herron, Doug Shearston, (pooled in again) Jack Collis, Vic (moneybags) Whiteley, George Walker, Gordon Finlay, Bob Dixon, all members of our hard working committee. Ray Horne was in this group talking to Max & Peg Herron — nice to see you again Ray.

During the afternoon we received a visit from two members of Rats of Tobruk Committee in Matt Hession and Ken Campbell whom we welcomed.

We also had a visit from some of the Ladies Auxiliary in the form of Peg Herron, Kathleen Field, Barbara James, Joyce Walker, Jean Dixon, "Brig" Cambridge and Mary Lloyd. Nice to see you come along ladies.

Finally we say thank you to Judy and Jan of Lamaro's who worked so hard in preparing our lunch, particularly as more members turned up than expected, still they made sure no one missed out. Also many thanks to Terry Peter and Keith who did such a great job making sure everyone was kept supplied with the amber liquid.

That winds it up for Anzac Day 1979. In all a great day. Don't forget Kyogle in September and Brisbane in October.

Best wishes for remainder of 1979 and I hope I haven't forgotten too many or left out too many who were there — if so — make sure you contact me next year — until then — regards.

— LARRY ROBSON

NEWS ITEMS

VERA HAMILTON, one of the nursing sisters who went away with the 2/1sts on the Johann. De Witt honoured us with her company at the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

This was the first occasion one of the nurses had attended.

Peg Herron introduced her to other ladies of the Auxiliary.

APOLOGIES for non attendance at the Anzac functions were received from Pat & Nell Laughren, Fred & Nell Davenport, Tom Hugo, Bill Hoffman, Bill Hood, Betty Creasy and Bill Simpson.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES are to be left in abeyance over the period of the Kyogle and Brisbane Reunion — the Public Transport union has been notified following the chaos which affected John Hunt's last Brisbane Reunion.

LEN HUMPHRIES 2/1 has been President of the Blacktown R.S.L. for 17 years but is not seeking re-election this year. Congratulations Len on your many years of service, and we wish you well in your move to Jervis Bay.

CON BUSH of 8 Platoon 2/1 was visited at Concord Hospital and was delighted with all the news regarding the Anzac functions. Con sent his regards to all his mates.

TOM HUGO 2/1 of C coy was visited and would have like to be present with all his mates on Anzac Day. Permission was given for him to attend but his doctor decided it was best for him not to go. He sends best wishes to all Pioneers.

— HARRY MONTAGUE

QUEENS JUBILEE MEDAL

It has come to our notice (rather belatedly) that the Queens Jubilee Medal was awarded to another of our members.

The recipient was Fred Callaway who at one time was the Association Secretary and President.

At the opening of the Opera House Fred was Services Engineer.

Congratulations from all Pioneers, Fred, and sorry we are late with the news.

THE BRISBANE REUNION

Saturday 27th October 1979 at 4pm. John and Mollie HUNT'S Residence. 4/25 Mountford Rd, New Farm. Qld. 4005. Replies by 15th October 1979.



For the month of June and the aftermath of Anzac Day where so many enjoyed the day and the company of their fellow members. There was as usual much noise much talk and quite a drop of the amber fluid passed over many lips, however the main thing to report to all. A Great Success.

JACK ALLISON 2/2 Apologises for his absence over the past couple of years both to the association and the paper, however Jack was away at the U.K. spent part of 76/77 over there, and claims he sort of lost the trend. However he sends a cheque to the treasurer and good wishes to all.

FRED BELLINGHAM 2/2 now resident of Belmore sends a short note wishing to be remembered to all. With special mention to all the boys of 16 Platoon 2/2. Fred also enclosed a cheque for the treasurer.

BOB AUSTIN 2/2 now of St. Kilda Road Melbourne sends a brief note saying that he had a great laugh at **NORMA DARRAGH'S** letter. **Bob** quotes that some four or five years ago **Norma** was a pretty sick girl, but is happy to report that she is back to her normal self again. Her husband and our member **JIM DARRAGH** is now on the retired list, and really lapping up the life of leisure. Many thanks for the letter **Bob** and treasurer has your cheque doing what is best for it.

ERIC LINDSAY 2/2 now of **COONABARABRAN** sends a cheque to the treasurer and the request for both **Bob Austin** and **Jim Darragh's** address, these addresses were answered by the secretary to you personally, and dont forget, we want a written report on the meeting when you call on them both down South.

DOUGLAS HARRIS Ex 2/3 Res. M.T. Coy. has sent the secretary a book published in Sydney and written by Doug. The book is of interest to all, but more so to those members of the 2/2 that were landed in Java, where in turn they became P.O.Ws first in Java and later over to the **BURMA SIAM** Railway. Doug claims that there would be much interest to these men of the period between there landing in Java and the time of their release. The title of the book,

G STRINGS and BANGKOK BOWLERS By DOUGLAS HARRIS.

Hope this small plug does some good Doug, come on all you 2/2 guys improve your literary grace.

REG ARMSTRONG 2/2 Answers **NEVILLE O'CONNOR'S** question re **Bluey Hanson**. Pioneer News March 1979 with the following, **TED HANSON** President of the 2/2 Pioneers in Victoria was an original 2/2, **Bluey Hanson**, later dubbed **PUNCHY** was with **Reg** in the Fifth Pioneers and came over to the 2/2 with a lot of others. To the best of **Regs** memory, "**Bluey or Punchy**" whichever you prefer was a member of the **MORTAR PLAT.** 2/2. Thank you **Reg** and I hope that does the trick for **Neville O'Connor**, but I suppose you told him that personally on Anzac Day.

PAT LAUGHREN 2/1 now resident of **NAMBOUR** Queensland of which he forever pushes praises writes a short note that he will not be in attendance on Anzac Day, owing to a bout of poor health, however **Pat** sends his best

wishes to all the boys. Hopes they have a very happy day (We did) and tons of fun for the rest of the years. While at Anzac Day reunion **John Hunt** has some photos of the Queensland do, which you attended and one thing **Pat** we would all recognise you if we did happen to meet. Many thanks for the note and the good wishes and the treasurer knows just what to do with the cheque.

BETTY CREASY widow of the late **George** sends a letter of thanks for her invitation to attend the wreath laying, (I do not know if you made it **Betty**), however **Betty** forwards the following information that the local Golf Club at Portland have decided to award a shield to his memory which will be played for annually sometime around March April, and of course she has been invited, has been promised that she will not have to say or do anything, just be there, so until the time comes **Betty** remains in the dark. Many thanks for your letter **Betty**, and we hope that Portland always continues to be as kind to you in the future as they have been in the past.

ERIC REYNOLDS now resident of Macksville on the north coast writes more of a personal letter to **Max** and **Peg Herron** congratulating them on their retirement. **Eric** has been retired quite some time now, has been at Macksville 2½ years but still manages to keep busy. **Joyce** plays tennis and some time with the church while **Eric** now hopes to try his hands and feet at Golf. They still manage to get around a bit, went with daughter and **Joyce** over to **MOLONG** and both ways, stopped the night at Tamworth, and being **Eric** he just happened to play a few machines when all of a sudden, up popped 4 melons \$100 and he quotes 'Not a bad night.' They struck the grasshoppers at Gilgandra which caused them a bit of trouble, and a lot of cleaning down afterwards. Many thanks for the letter '**BOMBO**.' I thought I'd mention the name, as some blokes would be trying to remember **Eric Reynolds** and we hope your good fortune continues.

DARYL BELFORD 2/1 now at Wollongong renews acquaintances through the mail bag with a letter and a sub for the treasurer. For those who memories cannot place the name **Daryl** was a late member of the battalion, went to New Guinea and as he says was a little too old for very active service. Spent most of his time in the Batt H.Q. orderly room, where he has very fond memories of the sigs, plus **John Harnetty** (deceased). **Barry Taylor**, **Joe Cliffe**, **Alex Durie**, **Tom Morrow** and **Gordon Walsh**. Apart from **John**, all the other chaps are OK, most retired, but still able to take a little nourishment. **Daryl** who has reached the ripe old age of 72 can no longer march, has a bad heart, but this does not stop him from attending the service at **FAIRY MEADOW** bowling club, where he still throws down an occasional winner, if bacon and eggs and chooks are any indication. The club did the blokes well on Anzac Day. After their Service at 12.00 Noon they were served with a hot meal followed by Apple Pie and Ice Cream, then free beer; "We know its still a great country don't we mate" even though there are some doing their best to bugger it up. Bowls until late in the afternoon, then to cap it off, the inevitable game of swy to cap the night off, A Great Anzac Day. Many thanks for the very newsy letter

Daryl, and look forward to a few further exploits in the future.

BURT HUTTLEY now of Queensland sends a short note of hullo to all his mates with a special mention to the sigs of the No 1 Platoon who he was with in **BORNEO**. **Burt** has no special news to report so closes with his good wishes and a cheque to the treasurer.

In the last edition of Mail Bag **RON EDWARDS** wrote a letter and in reply I asked a few questions, to which I received an answer from **RON** explaining what I had mentioned. Without going into the full details I say thank you **Ron** and maybe later on will use some of your experiences for a travel talk for the boys.

NOEL HIBBARD 2/1 writes to say he is going to Norfolk Island in July and makes the statement "I don't suppose there are any Pioneers there." As a matter of fact there is — "**PASHA**" **Humphrey Jackson**, and we feel sure he would like to see you **Noel**.

GEORGE PATTERSON 2/1 writes in to say he was unable to be with us on Anzac Day but the doctor says may be next year.

To conclude this issue of Mail Bag I would just like to report that Anzac Day was a really great success. Some 160 odd bods sat down to lunch, the beer was good, there was always enough, and a lot of faces that we had not seen for many years did show up. Unfortunately for myself personally, as everyone knows, I follow a certain football team. One eyed as they make 'em, and they had just turned in two of their worst performances, straight defeats in all grades, after Sunday its three, needless to say I copped more than my share from the likes of **Frank GILLIAN**, **CASEY BROWN** and numerous others, however I can take it, my only wish is that in future, they save their losses till after Anzac Day. On the more serious side I would like to thank the three Boys who worked all day pulling the beer and my son **Bill** for the delivery and return of the Tenprite system.

That's all for now, See you at Kyogle.

— LAKEY

INFORMATION REQUIRED

JAMES ANTHONY HANSHAW, NX 33968 2/1, served between 14/6/40 and 12/8/42. He has since died but his eldest son is anxious to correspond with any of our members who knew him and knew the places he visited. Please contact Mr. Herron Hon. Sec. 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills: Phone: 759-5491.

LAST POST

PHIL MAHY of 2/1 of Leeton passed away on 26th March and expressions of sympathy were sent to Mrs Mahy and family from the Association. We thank Marcelle Mahy for her Return Thanks card.

PADRE SIR ARTHUR McILVEEN who passed away in May was a famous figure in the minds of all ex-servicemen and he will be sadly missed.

I attended the funeral service at the Salvation Army's Congress Hall which was packed with people from all walks of life to pay their last tribute.

"We will remember them"

— HARRY MONTAGUE

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

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VIC WHITELEY

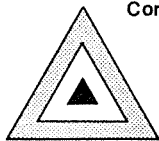
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PIONEER NEWS COST AT \$1,680 YEARLY

The most important segment of our Annual General Meeting was the presentation, discussion and adoption of the Balance Sheets.

The statements of income and expenditure and balance sheets of our three accounts, (General Fund Account, Pioneer News Account and Welfare Fund Account — audited by Mr. A.E. Watson, A.A.S.A.) were presented and brought much discussion on how to overcome our Pioneer News expenditure of \$1680.47 for printing and postage.

The cost covers four editions which we are compelled to produce to maintain our present cheap (?) rate of postage — failure to produce four copies per year increases our postage rate to 20c. per paper.

It was resolved to maintain the four copies and

if possible restrict all editions to four pages (at the discretion of Editors Max Herron and Bob Lake.) Actually it is the most economical way to function and with the Editors doing their extra "bit", it is up to the rest of us not to let them down — letters and donations most welcome — I had that wrong — **Donations** and letters most welcome.

The adoption of the three balance sheets were carried, signed by Office Bearers and returned to our Auditor for presentation to the Chief Secretary's Department.

VIC WHITELEY, Treasurer.

WIANGAREE STATE FOREST

by Allan McInnes

I consider the trip I recently made from Kyogle to Wiangaree as one containing the most beautiful and interesting scenery I have ever seen, and those people who do the tour of the Kyogle Reunion will never forget it.

On leaving Kyogle one passes through beautiful dairying country to Wiangaree then through the sub-tropical rain forests where the massive Antarctic Beech Tree dominates.

The road leads over and along the crest of The Tweed ranges almost to the Queensland border at Lamington National Park.

These rainforest areas are just as beautiful as one would see in the much publicised North Queensland Forests. Brush Turkey and many types of native birds and animals are seen as one drives through.

From the lookouts one gets spectacular views of the Upper Tweed River Valley, which is always dominated by the magnificent pinnacle — Mt. Warning and surrounded by extinct Volcano craters.

From the lookouts one obtains panoramic views over Murwillumbah and then on to the beaches and the ocean off Kingscliff.

The Forestry Commission has provided amenities at many areas and lookouts, such as tables, water and toilets to make visitors comfortable.

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOC.

will hold a

COUNTRY REUNION

for all Pioneers and their Ladies

at KYOGLE - 1979

SATURDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER

MARCH and WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

4.30 p.m. Kyogle Soldiers Memorial

REUNION DINNER: Kyogle Golf Club

5.30 p.m. Refreshments — 6.30 p.m. Dinner

SUNDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER

TOUR and BARBECUE LUNCH

8.30 a.m. Depart — 5.00 p.m. Return

(Bus driver advises the wearing of walking shoes for short walks).

Applications were required by 1st September. Most people sent in the information sheet enclosed in the June issue, but there are still some members who we have been told verbally are attending and have not sent their form along.

We must know exact numbers for Catering on the Saturday night and for the buses and Dinner on the Sunday.

— **GEORGE WALKER, Soc. Sec.**

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Editor — **PIONEER NEWS,**

Dear Sir,

A Newcastle 2/1st Pioneer Battalion member, Mr. Jack Griffith, suggested that I write to your magazine concerning a project in which I am currently involved.

The trustees of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra have invited me to undertake research into various aspects of Australia's role in the Middle East and North Africa from 1939-1945.

I am particularly interested in gathering personal recollections of daily life as experienced by Australian service personnel and civilians away from the battle front in those theatres of war. Information on recreational activities and pursuits in major leave cities (Cairo, Alexandria, Haifa, etc.), entertainment on base, tourist jaunts, relationships with local people and reactions to new cultures and lifestyles would be of value. I would also welcome stories of life aboard convoys from Australia and details of the establishment of major military base camps overseas.

I am keen to contact ex-servicemen and women of all ranks as well as civilians who may have worked as entertainers, social workers and so on or as crew on the convoys. Everyone has a story to tell about his or her time overseas or knows of a person who can tell a good yarn!

I have had splendid help from 2/1st Pioneers in Newcastle and look forward to more assistance from your Association.

MARTIN HADLOW,
Assistant Station Manager,
Radio 2NUR-FM.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have a story to tell please send it on to us and we will pass it on to Radio 2NUR-FM.

BOYD PUTS BRIBBAREE ON THE MAP

— by Allan McInnes

They breed bonny bowlers out at Briggaree.

Alec Boyd (2/1 Pioneer) proved this when he won the 1979 Group Three Leagues Bowling Clubs Singles Championship.

He beat the Manning District Champion, Vic Chapman, 31 - 26 in a final which was played out over 41 ends.

Alec hailed from Briggaree in the sheep and wheat country in South Western N.S.W. and anyone who doubted the existence of the place will have no doubts about it now.

The above article was in a newspaper article sent in by Fred Brooks of Taree.

In his accompanying letter, Fred says it's no use trying to get away from Pioneers by living in Taree anymore — an immediate transfer to the Territory or anywhere would be appreciated.

Fred went on to say that Alec hasn't stopped skiting since he replaced Arthur Spillane for the battalion full back position when the unit played — both have played full back in Jerusalem. Fred and the Good Lord have a great deal in common — both have played full back in Jerusalem. Fred thinks he has, because Alec's recent big win could be the biggest miracle since the bread and the little fishes.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you Fred for your letter and the newspaper cutting.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE
DUE NOW
BE A TRUE PIONEER
BE FINANCIAL**



September issue of Mail Bag with some 20 or so letters from the members which is always pleasing to the Editors of our Paper.

• **STUART HALDANE** 2/2 now at Preston, Melbourne sends a letter for more information regarding the book 'G STRINGS AND BANGKOK BOWLERS'. Well, Stuart the author Doug Harris is his own agent and his full address is 434 CHARLOTTE STREET, DENILIQUIN, N.S.W. 2710 and the price is \$4.95, postage included. Just send your request to the above and you will be ok.

• **DOUGLAS HARRIS** author of the above mentioned book also sends a thank you note for the plug he received for his book in our last issue.

• **MRS. L. COLE** widow of the late D.C. Cole writes to ask if we would put a piece in our paper requesting that anyone who may have been a prisoner of war in Germany with the late **Dallas** would like to contact her at 6 JINDABEYNE STREET, HECKENBERG. I do not know of very many Pioneers that were taken P.O.W. and sent to Germany but there may have been a few. I hope this is what you wished Mrs. Cole, as I was at a bit of a loss as to how to phrase your request.

• **BRUCE RICH** sends a cheque to the Treasurer, an apology for being a bit overdue and nought else, so we can only assume that things are all okay down Narrandera way. Many thanks **Bruce**, Treasurer has your cheque in his hot little hand.

• **JOHN HUNT** writes informing the Association of the death of **Neville Lansberg**. Not sure, but think he was a 1 Section chap. **John** and **Phil Cramsie** both attended the service for **Nev.** and expressed condolences to the family on behalf of the Association. On the lighter side from **John** he expressed his good feelings over the great day that was Anzac Day and to see so many faces again. **John** has decided to let the Queensland Reunion at his home stand for the 27th October and if his photos are successful of the Anzac Day Dinner, he will project them on that night. **John** and **Mollie** made a short holiday on the Anzac Period and had a wonderful day with the **Seddons**, **Bertrams**, and **Larry Robson** at Nelsons Bay. Would guess that **Pearl**, **Jean** and **Mollie** had quite a good yarn. Many thanks for the letter **John**. Will see you both at Kyogle.

• **TAFFY LAWRENCE** per pen of son **Des** sends the information that he is now a resident of Lyndhurst Nursing Home at Hunters Hill. **Taffy** will be 82 in October and while still quite mentally alert, blood pressure, kidney trouble and arthritis help to keep him pretty much bed-ridden. Would love to see any of the boys should they be down Gladesville way. **Des** also comments on the death of **Bob Baldwin**. They had tried quite often over the past few months to contact **Baldy** by the phone but were unsuccessful, not knowing of the death, and that wife **Doreen** was not living at home for some period after same. **Des** sends his regards to all the blokes, says he feels almost like one of us, attending the Reunions with **Taffy** for so many years.

• **JOHN DOWD** of Sylvania sends a cheque to the Treasurer and the information that he has retired from work and receives the Service Pension. It seems that the more letters I receive, the more I read of blokes retiring. Gives me the impression that **Lakey** is one of the very few silly bastards that is still working. Many thanks **John** and good luck with that life of leisure.

• **KEN BARRETT** of Victoria sends a cheque to the Treasurer, good wishes, and nothing more so we can suppose that Victoria is still hanging on the bottom of N.S.W. How about a bit of news sometime **Ken** just to keep your mates in touch.

• **STAN PYE** sends a note with a change of address and nothing else, so we can't tell you any more of his doings.

• **DICK BLAKENEY**, Lane Cove sends a cheque to the Treasurer and apologises for his not answering invitations to the Committee Meetings, however **Dick** has the problem of frequent absences from Sydney, especially so toward the weekends, which rules him out of these duties. No worries **Dick**, must keep the wheels turning. Good luck and your best wishes accepted.

• **BOB LONG** our old mate from Sutherland sends his usual Sub to the Treasurer and, as previous, his bouts in hospital with eyes and legs more or less keep him immobilised most of the time. While in Sutherland Hospital some time ago, heard a little of **Charlie Wright** and believes he has migrated to the North Coast but does not know just where. **Bob** sends his best wishes to all and we wish him a better year this time around.

• **EDDIE MOREY** of Redcliffs, Mildura way, sends a cheque to the Treasurer and the news that he has passed over a lot of the work, grape growing, dried fruits, etc., to his son and has decided to take things a little easier. With so much more time to do things, **Eddie** and wife **Daisy** have been tripping around our big country. To the Queensland sunshine coast NOOSA for the winter, where they had a wonderful time. Some time ago, with two other couples, they did a seven month trip around Australia and they would recommend same to anyone. **Eddie** goes on to say that while not engaged in these activities, or playing Bowls or fishing, he still enjoys helping out on the property when home. Sounds like your really doing it tough **Eddie** and we wish you good luck with all of it.

• **DICK SEDDON** our grand old man of Newcastle sends a short note enclosing Subs for **Stan Hodgetts** and **Herb Wilson** and quotes that the Newcastle contingent enjoyed Anzac Day with the old crowd. They arrived home safely in one piece with no problems. In answer to your query, I cannot remember **George Stafford** being in touch for quite a long while. **Dick** closes with best wishes and will see all the gang at Kyogle.

• **BOB BURNSIDE**, Committeeman, sends cheque and apology for his non-appearance on Anzac Day. **Bob** does not say whether he was ill or whether he just got tangled up with his other mob, however, he does enquire how **Peg Herron** is getting on with her job as billeting officer for

the Kyogle Show. Well I can tell you, she has had some hassles but like a true Pioneer wife she is making out.

• **MACK McKIBBIN** from Burleigh Heads sends a cheque to the Treasurer, an apology for not being able to make it Anzac Day, but with his wife are attending the Kyogle Show. Your accommodation has been taken care of by **Peg Herron**. **Mack** also quotes that they have an empty car, apart from themselves, so should any of the troops from that area be seeking transport, just give him a call on 075 352198 and he will oblige. Claims also that there is always a beer or a cup of tea to any of the mob passing through.

• **MRS. A.M. HILL** of Londonderry writes of the death of her husband quite some time ago, **George Hill** of 2/1, and has been going to write this letter for so long. She still receives the News and being an ex-Servicewoman herself finds quite a lot of interest in the Units doings. **Mrs. Hill** enclosed a cheque to the Association, and we can assure you, that while you continue to enjoy, we will continue to send.

• **BRICKY WALL** of Point Clare sends a letter with Sub and tells of trip to Coffs Harbour, Grafton at Easter time. Spent 3 nights at Coffs, visited the Club but no success regards meeting any of the chaps. Off hand about the only ones I know of at Coffs would be **Wheaton** who actually lives at Sawtell, but occasionally works with his brother at the shop at Coffs. **Bricky** has been retired since 1972, and quotes that it will be 40 years in April, 1980 since he marched into Silver City from Greta Railway Station. He still remembers the bloody cold, and the straw beds and aching back of those first few weeks, plus the five mile hike each way to the Pub at Branxton. Good letter **Bricky** - just keep that garden growing.

• **GORDON WALSH** with his usual Subs for self, **Nev Schaefer** and **Vic Christenson** and a congratulatory remark to **Max Herron** on his retirement. As usual **Gordon** spent Anzac Day at Evans Head, had a great day, which was made so much better by the presence of **Jack 'Banjo' Martin**, also **Brian Jackson**, who is still not a very well man. Also met the Headmaster of Richmond High School at Lismore who was also one of the I Section 2/1, none other than **Ian Hodge**.

Spent a couple of good hours with **JOE LEIS** who also has not enjoyed the best of health of late. **Gordon** hopes to be at Kyogle, 22nd September - happens to be his birthday, 66 years. (We must try to remember that on the Saturday night). Closes with best wishes to all with mention for **Gordon Finlay**, **Mick Dodson**, **Max** and **Peg Lakey**.

• **MICK BYE** now at Dubbo, retired, sends a cheque and the news that he had a surprise visit from **Tom Reynolds**. They had a great yarn, both filling one another in with the doings of chaps neither had seen for years, even so **Tom** is the only Pioneer he has seen for ages. **Mick** is Chairman of Dubbo Legacy this year, and there are three widows of Pioneers at Dubbo: **Mrs. Tomlinson**, **Sullivan** and **Collins**. **Donald**

MAIL BAG — Continued

Tomlinson is one of the youngest Jnr. Legatees at Dubbo, so was a great pleasure to **Mick** to take the young chap forward to lay the wreath at the ceremony. **Mick** and wife spent a month away in March/April, visited Hong Kong, China and Manila. Found the Chinese people most interesting, their pride of country and achievements over the years has been amazing. As **Mick** says, they work six days a week, shops are open six days a week, the children go to school six days a week, everyone seems happy, well fed and well clothed. **Mick** claims it would not be too bad if some were to rub off on a few Australians that are rocking the boat so often. Good letter, **Mick**. Have a happy retirement.

• **BOB LEE** now of Strathfield sends a letter of appreciation on behalf of himself and mates for the great day they enjoyed at Redfern. The next part of this letter is of special interest to 2/2 blokes and quote, following the lunch at Redfern, **Bob** and **Wally Coe** proceeded out to Bankstown RSL to see **Keigh "Clacker" Clark** in response to a message from **Jim Muir**. 'Clackers' would be remembered by H.Q. Coy and especially 5 Pltn. Like us all he is getting a little older and was unable to go to town for the day. He did appreciate the visit and hearing news of those who were at the March. He still has a good sense of humour, his only failing (He Hails from Victoria!!) Was also pleased on Anzac Day to see his wife's cousin, **Jack Collis** who looks well (as we know). **Bob** reckons it must be a good drop of Ale up at Umina. Has also had a phone call from **Vic Norman** who lives at Proserpine, Q'ld. to advise that his son **CHRIS** is working in Sydney. **Chris** has since visited **Bob** and is looking forward to meeting as many of his father's old mates as possible. To continue **Bob** and wife travelled down to Cootamundra where they were entertained by the **Daldy** family. **Arthur Daldy** was Sgt. 5 Plat. and on the same weekend, **Arthur's** daughter and husband arrived, so was quite a reunion. Still quoting, **Arthur's** wife, **Nancy**, deserves a medal for putting up with him, but still can't convince him to make the trip to Sydney for Anzac Day — it's not for the want of her trying, I'm sure she would be glad of the break. I strongly suspect his main reason for not coming is that deep down he realises that he probably couldn't keep in step or even march half way. Something important, **Arthur Daldy**, A.I.F., sends a donation to the Association with his best wishes and Ten Dollars for the ladies who wrap the Pioneer News, for, in his words, they 'Deserve to be shouted a drink'.

Well **Bob Lee** that is your letter, I've written it as you did, now all I hope is that you don't come up for slaughter either from 'Clackers' or **Arthur**.

• **BILL BURGER** per medium of a letter to **Jim Hall**, and this I would think our first communication with **Bill** since the war years, writes to say that he will not be able to attend the reunion in September, health being a problem — arthritis and a stomach that plays up if he gets a bit tensed up. To fill in, I think **Bill** was a Kyogle boy originally (not sure), however, since 1946 he spent 18 years growing Pineapples at Gympie then sold out and moved to Emerald, two years with a building contractor, then 10 years with Radio Station 4QD, retired in 1975. Family all grown up, 2 boys and a girl. **Bill** claims Emerald to be an exciting town now, coal mining, grain and cattle. The Fairbairn Dam has made great differences to the area with the irrigation farms growing cotton, sorghum, soybean and sunflower and the gem fields are only 35 miles west of the town, where thousands of visitors

gather and call every year. Well, **Bill** you will probably receive a copy of this paper now that Secretary has your name and address, possibly a few of the names will bring back others. Anyway, if you have any complaints, fight them out with **Jim Hall**, he gave us the letter.

• **A.S. "BILLY" HANSON** writes in order to put the records straight. He enlisted as VX71785 A.S. "Billy" Hanson (not as "Bluey" in June issue Pioneer News). He always went under the name of Billy when he fought at the Stadium.

When in the Army he always got headaches and when he told the officer what caused them, Lieut. Bruce Stevenson said, "you are Punchy" and from then on he was "Punchy" Hanson.

He sends regards to Reg Armstrong and Neville O'Connor and all his other mates. He asked does anyone ever see "Dusty" Fenson or "Mocker" Pitman? "Billy" says he can still see Bill Hood, who was their officer of 3 Platoon, telling Sgt. Joe Bolding that the duty for the day was "Recapitulation on Mortars". We could have screamed every time he said this. But they say it is the early training "what counts". At a later date "Billy" did prove that their training was good because he used the mortar to eradicate a few Mutton Flap Japs and so saved the lives of a few of our boys.

When he was on loan to the 2/4 Commando unit, he put down a smoke screen to go in and bring them and the dead out — that is what Neville O'Connor was talking about — Billy wrote — "would you like to know what I said to them on that particular day — I often laugh over it, Neville, the statement was — missed again, you Dirty B....., I really don't think they had any parents".

"Billy" said he can still see the look in Reg Armstrong's eye as he took them for unarmed combat — he used to tell them to stab him with a bayonet — "it was a look of evil delight as he saw us pick ourselves up out of the dust. I often thought if this was fair dinkum it would be a straight left and right cross he would have got."

Billy really looks forward to receiving the Pioneer News and seeing the names he remembers and remembering the funny times and the serious times they had.

Billy states he is still fit and has retired as a butcher. He now farms and produces fat lambs.

• **JACK COLLIS** sends a report from the Central Coast. He had a great day Anzac Day, one of the best yet. **Jack** and **Gwen**, his wife, were invited to **Harry Hutchinson's** 80th birthday the other afternoon. **Harry** has his ups and downs but does not know what it is to be beaten. A really good afternoon and the old bloke really enjoyed himself. **Jack Coates** has just had another few days in hospital but is okay again now. Has not seen 'Bluey' Miller since Anzac Day. All these chaps will have to be called on now as they are starting a Central Coast Branch of the Rats of Tobruk up there.

• **DOUG WATSON** per pen of daughter **Barbara** sends a cheque and the news that **Doug** attended the Dawn Service at Corrimal as usual then onto the March and Service at Wollongong, by car this time as the legs just won't function that well. Still keeps his spirits up and sends a big Hi There to all the old Pioneers. Many thanks **Barbara**, a job well done.

At the last Smoko he attended there were four 2/2nds — Robey Miller (Nugget) of B. Coy., Sgt. Peter Peterson of D. Coy., Ken Toogood of HQ Coy. and Billy.

Billy and his wife are still waiting on Bob Dixon to visit them. He also extends a cordial invitation to all his friends to visit them. He has plenty of beds to spare. Thank you for your letter and

donation Billy — it was really nice to hear from you.

That's Mail Bag for this issue, I shall be on holidays when the show is on at Kyogle, so **Joan** and I are looking forward to seeing quite a few. My wife hasn't seen Kyogle, she wouldn't go there before, reckons too many Pioneers for her to cope with, but with ladies support she is in business.

Keep Smiling, Keep Sober, Keep Writing.
— LAKEY.

HOSPITAL AND FUNERAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

JACK (MICK) DODSON, 194 Hamilton St., Fairfield. Ph. 72-4091

NORTHERN SUBURBS

ALLAN McINNES, 11/47 Milson Rd., Cremorne Pt. Ph. 90-2069

JACK PEARCE, 22 Surfers Pde., Harbord. Ph. 939-1974

EASTERN SUBURBS

HARRY ELLIS, 3/6 Notts Ave., Bondi.

BILL ROBERTSON, 5 Barry St., Randwick. Ph. 665-2586

JIM GRAY, 63 Fletcher St., Bondi

ILLAWARRA SUBURBS

GEORGE WOOD, 97 Russell Ave., Dolls Pt. Ph. 529-6441

BOB BURNSIDE, 29 Woronora Cres., Como West. Ph. 528-7134

WESTERN SUBURBS

BOB DIXON, 26 Holdsworth St., Merrylands. Ph. 637-4619

REG ARMSTRONG, 97 Hanbury St., Wentworthville

Ph. 631-5403

GORDON FINLAY, 5 Nth Liverpool Rd., Mt. Pritchard

Ph. 602-8483

BOB LEE, 103 Links Ave., Concord. Ph. 73-1965

PAT WALSH, 136 Rawson Rd., Greenacre. Ph. 709-8985.

Note: Would next of kin please contact above member nearest to persons domicile — otherwise contact the Chairman

WELFARE OFFICER:

HARRY MONTAGUE, 46 Pomeroy St., Homebush. Ph. 76-6657

VALE — VINCE FLANNERY

Vince, who was a very well-known and life long resident of Parkes, died very suddenly at his home on 16th May last. He was 62 years of age. Vince will be best remembered in the Battalion as the R.Q.M.S. for the last 14 months of the Battalion's life. He was a member of that large contingent of reinforcements who were badly needed to bring up the strength of the Bn. to normal at the time of the "quarry" operations.

He soon made his mark when he was appointed C.Q.M.S. of Headquarter Company and following the unfortunate accident to that outstanding soldier, Charlie Gilbert at Kairi, Q'ld. on Boxing Day 1944, his choice as the R.Q.M.S. was a very wise one. In this capacity he was firm in decisions but displayed an ability to always satisfy the supply needs of the unit and was very popular with all ranks. Proof of his efficiency and hardworking character was never better demonstrated than in the preparation for and the eventual operations in the Battalion's Borneo expedition.

Since 1946, Vince had operated a successful general store at Parkes, where with his lovely wife, Frances, he has brought up a very fine family of seven boys, who all survive him. Over the years he keenly assisted in the town's community affairs, particularly being an active member of the Parkes R.S.L. whose members formed a guard of honour following the funeral service and Requiem Mass at the Holy Family Catholic Church.

In the telephone communication I had with Frances she told me that his death was most unexpected as he was in good health and his ever happy self. A very good bloke, Vince.

A sympathy card was sent to Frances from the Association and in return we received a note.

Reported by **STEVE CLARKE**.

NEWS ITEMS

VIC LE MESURIER, ex C Coy 2/1 who was a patient at Katoomba City Hospital sends his regards and best wishes to all his friends.

Unfortunately, I could not visit him because of distance but we sent him regards and trust soon he would be back on his feet again.

PEG WHITELEY, wife of Vic, was sent an Association sympathy card when her mother Mrs. Vera Taylor passed away on 12th April aged 82 years. We thank you Peg for the return thanks card, and sincerely hope you have recovered from your sad loss.

Vic and Peg are at the moment doing a trip overseas, touring England and the Continent for three months — we all wish you both a happy holiday.

ANZAC DAY REUNION at the Redfern Town Hall has brought nothing but praise from people wherever I visit which is a great tribute to the Social Secretary and his Committee.

Everyone has said in particular they were impressed with the following points:- attendance at 200 was beyond expectations; programme strictly carried out making the function a qualified success; catering arrangements superbly handled by those two lovely girls; a representative from every State except Tasmania; the comradeship resulting because of the fact people could easily move around was tremendous.

To all those Committee men who worked so hard from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. we say thank you for a wonderful day.

BOB SCOTT 2/1, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for his outstanding service to the "Rats of Tobruk Association" over many years of which he was Secretary.

He has also been curator of the Victoria Barracks, Military Museum Sydney. After being discharged from the Army in 1946, Bob has been a tireless worker for the Diggers and the display he has arranged at the Barracks is well worth seeing.

He has been made a Life Member of the Sergeants Mess in recognition of his great work.

To you Bob we all say thank you for a job well done and please accept our best wishes and sincere respect for the tremendous job you are doing.

LAST POST —

CEC. SALOWAY 2/1 passed away in June and our deepest sympathy was extended to his wife. During my calls on him Cec. always keenly interested in tidings of his mates in the 2/1.

In return we have received a letter of thanks from Mrs. Saloway. Thank you for the donation and your letter Mrs. Saloway, and we will certainly keep posting you the Pioneer News.

JOHN DONALD JOHNSTONE B Coy 2/1 passed away in July and deepest sympathy was extended to his wife. John had been a sick man for some time.

— HARRY MONTAGUE.

BRISBANE REUNION

SATURDAY, 27th OCTOBER, 1979

at 4.00 p.m. at the residence of
JOHN and MOLLIE HUNT
4/25 Mountford Road,
New Farm, Queensland, 4005.
Telephone: 358-4349

REPLIES: If possible by about 15th October but not absolutely necessary.

— MOLLIE and JOHN HUNT

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.....

Beverly Hills. N.S.W.
20th July, 1979.

Dear Max,

After being a friend and neighbour of yours for over 30 years, I have suddenly decided to pass on a snippet of news to you in your capacity as Editor of Pioneer News.

It is good to see that after fostering in the 2/3 Anti Tank in Julis in 1940, old habits die hard, for recently I was again fostered in by Pioneer personnel.

In June, I underwent heart surgery at St. Vincents Private Hospital, and after a couple of days when I was able to reasonably converse again, I was talking to one of those wonderful dedicated nurses who were looking after me in Intensive Care.

One thing led to another, and I found I was talking to Sister Anne Hall whose father is your Jim Hall from Kyogle. She was doing a fantastic job but unfortunately the day I came out of Intensive Care, she went on holidays and I did not see her again.

Let me congratulate you and Bob Lake on the job you are doing. I read each issue of Pioneer News and consider it one of the best of unit publications I have seen.

Cheerio and all the best,

CHRIS HANSEN,
Editor - 2/3 Anti Tank Regt.
News Bulletin.

FUNERAL COMMITTEE

This year unfortunately the number of members deceased have increased to 31 - 2/1st, 11 - 2/2nds and one honorary member. The Honorary member may confuse some but to all who attend the Reunions they would remember Ron Sandquest, from the Royal Navy a friend of Max Herron. He was one who was always working on Anzac Day Reunion.

On checking through the list, some names are well known and were represented by some of the funeral committee.

If the next of kin happens to read this report please accept at this late stage condolence from the committee and members from Anzac Day 1978 till Anzac day 1979.

2/1st members:—

N. (Nobby) Cooper, Rex O'Corner, Charles (Nobby) Smith, A.S. (Bluey) Jones, George Creasy, M.H. Biaggini, C. Cattell, N. Harvey, A.S. Smith, W. Stewart, D. Ward, J.J. Wood, G.T. Cook, Ian Kirkwood, William F. (Speed) Jeffries, T.H. Hodge, O. Bartholomew, C. Johnson, A.J. Flood (Joey), C.F. Porter, A.E. Brocken-Smith M.M., A.M. Smith, Ned Calderwood, Bob (Baldy) Baldwin, Wally Ashton, F.W. Stockdale, H. Stafford, R. (Bob) Nixon, J.G. Biggs, J.J. Evans, F.W. George, Don Mc Gill, Phil Mahey, Vince Flannery.

2/2nd Members:—

A.F. Lowe, A.J. Chivers, G.W. Richards, L.L. Haines, A.C. Foot, A.H. Leahy, D.G.C. Robertson, J.H. Jackman, R.T. McCoy, A.A. Marsh, M.M. Murphy.

President JACK (MICK) DODSON.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS
ARE DUE NOW
Be a True Pioneer
— BE FINANCIAL**

2/1st PIONEER BN 39th BIRTHDAY

39th BIRTHDAY of the 2/1st Pioneer Bn. was held on 11th June as the Unit was officially commissioned on Tuesday, 11th June, 1940 at Greta by Colonel MacGillicuddy.

Previous to this date several small drafts of personnel had arrived at Greta from various Country recruiting camps.

On Monday, 10th June the final intake of recruits arrived from the Sydney Showground under the command of Lt. Gordon Osborn.

Next day our new way of life commenced when we were addressed by the Colonel, surrounded by the Adjutant, Capt. Tom Ledgerwood, Major Arnold Brown, RSM John Sellick and the O/C's of each Company.

So with another anniversary gone, we are most emphatic to continue cementing this comradeship which originated on joining this Unit, then later on when the amalgamation of the 2/1 and 2/2's took place we not only grew in strength but in a strong bond of friendship. This has resulted in one of the strongest and greatest associations in Australia. We are therefore justly proud to be a member.

With the 40th Anniversary coming up, perhaps a country centre out West of New South Wales around Wagga may like to take up the challenge and start the ball rolling for a Country Reunion for 1980.

— HARRY MONTAGUE - Reporter.

NEWS ITEM

PHIL BAWDEN 2/2 now living at Leongatha North, Vic. writes with news that Sgt. Tom Indian 2/2 had passed away. The Association extends sympathy to Tom's family. Tom was one of the original "Mangalore Mob" and at the time of his death was Branch Manager of the Commercial Bank. He had held this position since shortly after the War.

Phil missed the "Java Debacle" as he was on the hospital ship. He caught up with us at Kapooka and was in "C" Coy. with another original, Jack Walford (orderly room Sgt.). Last time I saw Jack he was a side drummer in 3rd Military District Band in 1951.

Phil sends regards to all Pioneers with special mention of Pat Collins and Charlie Gatehouse.

— REG. ARMSTRONG.

ERIC CAUSER 2/1 Sig. Pln of Macarthur, Victoria rang the Secretary recently while on a visit to Sydney. Eric's wife is a music teacher and she had pupils in a concert at the Opera House, so Eric was tagging along keeping an eye on things. He had paid a visit to Mudjee some years ago and caught up with Jack Caughey and Athol Roberts (both Sigs). He asked after Allan Crute, Eric Reynolds, Wal Parsons, Fred Brooks, Les Reynolds, "Strawb" Dale, Bernie Reiners, Doug Shearston — what an array of the Signal Platoon.

Eric also sent regards to Denis George whom he was in contact with after the war. Thank Eric for ringing, it was pleasant to hear from you after all these years.

SECRETARY'S REQUEST

Please address mail to Secretary as follows:

M. HERRON Hon Sec
2/1-2/2 PIONEER BN ASSOC
3 ENOGGERA ROAD
BEVERLY HILLS, NSW 2209

This will assist in separating Pioneer mail from his personal mail.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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VIC WHITELEY

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R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:
J. (Mick) DODSON

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DECEMBER, 1979

\$2 Per Annum

THE "SCRUB TURKEY" REUNION

They came from all directions to join, once again in comradeship, approximately 160 members and wives of the Association for what was to prove a tremendous weekend at the 1979 Kyogle Reunion.

Firstly, Jack Bertram and myself, as reporters on behalf of all Pioneers present express our sincere thanks to the KYOGLE boys — Jim (Jumma) Hall, Jack Sherman, Fred Blanch, Cecil Blanch, Alex George, Bill Hoffman, Toby Hale and their good ladies for the work they did in arranging our first KYOGLE REUNION, and also to the Executive committee of our association for the wonderful support to these fellows.

One person we must not forget is Peg Herron who organised the accommodation arrangements which as all will agree, is no mean feat considering the Herrons are in Sydney.

Members started arriving Friday and some earlier and once settled in seemed to head for the Bowling Club. Friday night it was tea at the Club and afterwards adjourning to the lounge either to talk, renew old acquaintances or put in a donation on the "pokies".

TOUR OF KYOGLE TOWN

Saturday morning after breakfast a look around Kyogle town, whilst waiting for other arrivals, also to save the boys sampling the amber medicine. In all 5 car loads spent the next couple of hours seeing the area which included The Ray & Marie Smith Lions Lookout, in memory of the Smiths who did so much for the District, then visiting the outlying farm areas. Back to the Exchange Hotel for lunch and a rest at our respective billets prior to the march. By this time Kyogle looked as if the Pioneers had taken over the town.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

As time for the march drew near there were 102 Pioneers assembled outside the Exchange Hotel. After much persuasion, marshals Bob Lake and Bill Jollie had them in order.

Jack Griffiths called the members to order and introduced the two nursing sisters, Vera Hamilton and Sue Malcolm who travelled with the 2/1 on the Johann De Witt.

The march started off on time at 4.30 pm with the Kyogle Band leading. President Jack was march leader; banner bearers were 2/1 Jack Sherman, 2/2 Kevin Raward; wreath bearers were 2/1 Cec Blanch, 2/2 Jim Field; Volume bearer was Jim Hall. Included in the parade we were pleased to have Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts.

On reaching the memorial a large number of Pioneer wives, friends and townsfolk were in attendance. Even young people who were swimming in the baths adjacent, lined the fence.

The proceedings were then supervised by Secretary Max Herron. He called on Jack

Griffiths who gave an explanation of the proceedings and the history of the unit and why it was so important for us never to forget the sacrifice our comrades made for Australia.

The wreaths were then laid, books placed on the Cenotaph, while President Jack Dodson recited the Ode, with bugler sounding Last Post and Reveille.

Presentation of books were then made to school captains — Peter Beaumont by Mrs Smith mother of the late Ray Smith and to Erica Morrison by Mrs Ferris, wife of the late Leo Ferris. Then the band played the National Anthem.

This completed the ceremony with the Troops marching off giving eyes left at the memorial in solemn tribute.

To all those Kyogle people who attended, we say thank you and also many thanks to those who assisted — the Scout Leaders and Scouts who did a mighty job at the flag poles and acted as escorts — the Band Leader and his band — Joan Powell, florist, who supplied two excellent wreaths in the form of our two colour patches — the Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts who joined in the march.

We are most grateful to all these people who joined us in saying

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

REUNION DINNER AT GOLF CLUB

One hundred and sixty members and their wives and friends sat down to an enjoyable meal at the Golf Club where the Master of Ceremonies Bob Dixon 2/2 Pnrs. made sure everyone was seated and ready to enjoy themselves and join in the spirit of the occasion (and I don't only mean the amber kind). He certainly kept things moving — thanks Bob, a job well done.

Once seated, a toast to the Queen by Jim Hall, welcome to members and guests by Pres. Jack (Mick) Dodson, response by Stuart Gardiner, Golf Club Pres. Toast to the Assoc. by Alex George and Bill Hoffman, response by Jack (Glido) Griffiths, who spoke of the exploits of our adopted two nursing sisters, Vera Hamilton and Sue Malcolm. Jack was supported by Alan McInnes who thanked all those who assisted in arrangements for the Reunion.

Once all this, plus the eating part concluded it was either down to dancing or just talk of yesterday and I think renewing acquaintances or trying to name faces we knew some thirty odd years ago, and weren't there some flying guesses.

JOTTINGS OF REUNION DINNER

PETER and DOT PRIEST were really enjoying themselves. I think this would have been about the fourth occasion we've seen Peter since '45 and like many others a slight change of hair colour plus a few extra inches around the waist.

PAT & NELL LAUGHREN came from Qld. Pat spent most of his time quietly sitting and keeping his old Scotch mate Jock Russell in line or vice versa and really catching up on the past with some of the N.S.W. mob.

JOHN & MOLLIE HUNT also from the Sunshine State enjoying a break as they are kept busy when they run the Qld. show.

PHIL & MARY CRAMSIE also from the same area, like Pat renewing many old acquaintances as he doesn't frequent the Southern State.

ROY LEADBEATER down from Rockhampton. Roy has a pub up that way and anyone going in that direction, Roy would be pleased to see you.

RAY "NOISY" BLANCH, that very quiet mate of ours (when he is asleep) also there. One of the locals said they heard him before they saw him, thank goodness Mavis was on hand to steady him down. Good to see you Ray and keeping so fit.

SUE MALCOLM and VERA HAMILTON our two nursing sisters really enjoyed themselves and I have an idea we will be seeing them at the 1980 Dubbo Reunion.

CLAUDE and DOT CAMPBELL were there catching up on things and people they contacted last year in Newcastle, Sid & Myrtle Jopson from Pt. Macquarie, Sid still has to take things steady, Fred & Jean Wheaton of Sawtell, the rumour about them taking a pub at Armidale a little out, no way said Jeannie. The Skoyles all the way from Mittagong and now I understand are to move into a unit at the Narrabeen Service Homes. Young Ted hasn't been the best these days, so anyone travelling through the Narrabeen area I know he'll be happy to see you. Bluey and Marj Kerslake catching up on a few beers with old mates Scotty Burns and wife Ann from the Central Coast who are on their way further north. Someone we haven't seen for a number of years Knobby Felton and wife Jean. Think like a lot of others Knobby on the retired list and catching up on a few delayed outings. Alex & Jean George who brought along Athol & Rita McLaughan (2/3 Inf. Bn.). Speaking to Athol later he said, "No wonder your mob have a great Assoc. with a do every year like this." Let's keep it up while we can.

BOB MCGREGOR and wife JOYCE came along and it was good to see our ex Social Secretary really enjoying himself, Bob still has to take things easy.

PADDY and GLORIA GRAY, all the way from Barmedman were staying at the residence of Jack & Flo Sherman. Also staying there were Albert and Eileen Brown, so you can imagine the talk going on. (Max and Peg Herron called on them Monday morning with Mary Lloyd and it

SCRUB TURKEY Cont.

seems the three girls had a big secret between them. Max said he thinks one of them might have had an "offer" over the weekend. By the way, Flo, it seems Peg owes you a cabbage.)

MARY and ALLAN FLEMING, Bill Hoffman, Ces Blanch, Fred Blanch, Maurice and Joan Powell and Emily Downes all resided in Kyogle and were enjoying the Reunion and the friendliness extended by all present.

ALAN and BEULAH CRUTE came from Woolgoolga and were seen having a chat with Nev and Mary O'Connor.

TED STRATFORD of Lismore accommodated Eric Guthrie and Jack Copland of Sydney. Also from Lismore came Alec and Jean George & Bill Hood. In another bunch we saw Dennis George, Alwyn (Dora) Black and his wife Val, Kevin Raward, Bert and Margaret Rayner, Geoff and Enid Robinson, Joe and Billy Leis and George Scholes — don't know what happened to Clancy — must have been his day at the saleyards.

TOM CULKIN came all the way from Dubbo and when it was mentioned that the next Country Reunion would be Dubbo 1980, he offered his services. We thank you Tom and we know the Dubbo people will do their utmost to turn it on for us just as they did in Sept. 1940.

BARRY WATTS over from Maclean, now retired doesn't know what happened to Alex Cameron. Heard that Jack (Banjo) Martin is still in hospital (not for long I hope Banjo), with Brian Jackson & Bill Dalby in Ballina Rest Home and send their apologies. Ivor Garner with wife Ena, catching up with some old mates. Quietly sitting at one table were Alison & Dick Walker, Jack Richards, Noel Schomberg, Jack Boyd who doesn't look any different. A foursome quietly surveying things Jack & Aileen Bryant and Ron & Joyce Cross, think Jimmy McDonald reflecting on old times. Tom Mutton with his wife Pat, must have carried out his fine weather dance earlier in the week as the weather couldn't have been better had we ordered it.

LATE MEMBERS WIVES in attendance were Mary Lloyd, Nita Ferris, Flo Platt (wife of "Scotch" Aitken) and also Ray Smith's mum. We welcome you any time you can see your way clear to attend.

During the weekend, one young fellow I noticed was unobtrusively surveying the proceedings, one Mick Reilly. Righto Mick, just what were your thoughts. Did you see us as the young boys of 34 years ago who kept you busy, how about sending us a few lines on these thoughts.

The Newcastle contingent of Dick & Pearl Seddon, Jack & Jean Bertram, Jack & Esme Griffith, Jock Russell, Herb & Anne Wilson and yours truly. Perhaps we can round up more next time, I hope.

PRESIDENT JACK DODSON led the Sydney contingent in the persons of Peg/Max Herron, Jean/Bob Dixon, Joan/Bob Lake, Joyce/George Walker, Daphne/Laurie Kelly, Evelyn/Bert Herne, Peg/Vic Whitely, Kath/Jim Field, Olive/Gordon Finlay, Joyce/Bob McGregor, Noel Schomberg, Alan McInnes, Roy Jardine, Dorothy/Gordon Walsh, Jack Clarke, Harry Montague, Arthur Ludington, Jack Pearce, Bob Burnside, Jack Stone, Eric Guthrie and Jack Copland — that is quite a good roll up.

WAL (Desert Head) PAGE was escorted by his wife Lall and reason we haven't seen them for some time is they are now residents of the North Coast. Don't know how anyone else got on, but young Wally on the side, helped himself to a few Jackpots during the night.

This group seemed to be more intent on watching and catching up on the past, Eric Guthrie, Bruce McNaughton, Gordon Walsh,

Gordon Finlay and "Mac" McKibbin together with his old R.A.P. mate Peter Bell of Kyogle. "Mac" still asks about Bluey Reed and Ron Irwin. Found out Bluey was working, keeping an eye on B.H.P., Newcastle.

BOB DIXON our popular Master of Ceremonies, was aptly termed the "Kyogle Flasher" (he went right through the march with his "you know what" undone. This endearing term he lived with wherever he went all weekend.

On the Monday he went to Nimbin to the Hippee camp with Jim Hall, Vera Hamilton and Jim & Kath Field and came across a young lady sitting on a high seat, legs apart and no nickers.

Having been honoured to receive the title of the "Kyogle Flasher" and basking somewhat in the glory of same, it came as a mighty shock to Bob to be dethroned — in one blow — by the "Nimbin Nymph" — a hippy female minus pants. Ah well Bob, you can't win em all.

However as Jim Hall would say "She'll be right" smooths things over to the somewhat disgruntled and pop eyed "Kyogle Flasher" alias Bob Dixon.

Waking up Lakey by singing Reveille under his caravan window at the Kyogle caravan park sure brought results.

"Who in the bloody — !??? is that? came the sweet melodious voice of Lakey. The sweet voice of Joan soothed things a little by saying "Thanks for waking us".

But it just shows — you can't please everyone.

TOBY HALE was in hospital on the weekend of the Reunion and was visited on the Monday by Jack Dodson. Vera, his wife and Wendy, daughter, attended the Reunion, and we were thrilled to have you along Vera and Wendy. Hope you are well again Toby.

Have had passed on to me two poems, which as far as we know were written by Mark Bernard, which I have now passed on to the editor. These were given in by Jock Russell who was in the same section, and will be published at a later date.

We tried to get around everyone but like most shows of this kind people start to move about hence a number of folk have missed out being mentioned. Slowly about midnight the gathering and Pioneers returned to their sleeping quarters in readiness for the Sunday outing. A great day was had by all present.

TOUR and BARBECUE — WIANGAREE

In two buses about 70 members and wives left for Sunday's day trip of the surrounding district. Firstly along the road built by the Kyogle-Beaudesert Lions Club to a magnificent view of the Railway Loop which enables the interstate trains to ascend and descend a very steep gradient (must have been built under Pioneer supervision I think) and where the train turns round in a complete circle through a number of tunnels. Here we were served morning tea and scones before moving on for a trip through the Wiangaree State Forest. Up and up we travelled through magnificent tall pines littered with Stag horns, Elcorns and many types of scrub ferns with many an envious eye, particularly from none other than "Three Course" Kelly, Horticulturist, who was heard to say, \$1,000.00 every where you looked. Then we came to Brindle Creek where we were greeted by the smell of BAR-B-QUE steaks. Everything being prepared by the Kyogle Rotary people. Thanks to two little six footers by the names of John and Jim Ferris, Leo's two sons, planks of cabinet timber were laid out for seats, which helped to make eating a comfort. And last but not least Dulcie Simes, and family and members of Apex and "Jumma" Hall's mates who cooked and the

Ladies who assisted. Yes it's the ladies who put in their time and effort which makes for a good show.

I haven't forgotten, but one person who helped make the days outing seeing the Rain Forest was the ranger Col who gave us a talk on the ecology of the area, and to our 2 bus drivers who explained along the trip.

Well, like all good things, it had to end sometime. The bus company made available a smaller bus to transport those back to Kyogle who were catching the afternoon train home while the remainder were able to see yet more of the tremendous views available, on the return trip to Kyogle.

As the weekend drew to a close on Sunday evening some 40 gathered in Apex Park for a final get-together and a Bar-B-Que tea, and the finish to a wonderful weekend.

To Jim and Lil Hall and his Kyogle committee, as well as to the citizens of KYOGLE whose co-operation helped to make this a memorable and happy reunion we truly say THANK YOU.

Reporters: JACK BERTRAM and LARRY ROBSON.

Editor's Note: We thank Jack and Larry for this very fine report on the Kyogle Reunion. We also thank Harry Montague for the report herein of the march and memorial service.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Mrs PHYL JOLLIE

It was the day after Bill's send off from the Bank, following his retirement that we set off for the Kyogle Reunion.

Bill had been looking forward to the occasion for months, but I must admit I was very dubious about attending.

We had never been to a Reunion before and as I didn't really know any of the wives, only having met a few of them fleetingly at a function several years ago, I pictured myself spending most of the weekend like the old shag on a rock while Bill got totally involved with his old friends.

My prime reason for writing this letter is to tell any other reticent wives, who are perhaps talking their husbands out of attending such reunions, that all my fears were groundless.

We arrived at our motel in Kyogle on the Saturday morning and had no sooner settled into our room when Peg Herron called to bid me welcome, introduced me to all the ladies present and asked if we would like to join in a sandwich lunch on the motel patio.

After that happy get-together it was time to get ready for the march and as I watched our "boys" march to the Kyogle memorial I could not help but recall Dubbo days in 1940 when I used to watch the Pioneers marching through the main street, returning to camp after a day at the rifle range.

The steps at Kyogle were not quite as springy but the pride and the comradeship was still manifest.

I think I realised at this Reunion more than ever before how much it means to our men to get together like this.

The happy, friendly atmosphere continued throughout the dinner at night and also at the never-to-be-forgotten tour through the rain forests at Wiangaree on the Sunday.

Maybe there were some traumas or cross words somewhere behind the scenes but I saw not one sign of unpleasantness the whole weekend.

My congratulations to the Committee in Sydney and Kyogle and to all those who had any part in the organising of this very successful and happy occasion.

EDITORIAL -- By Editors, Max Herron and Bob Lake

In 1975 the cost of printing Pioneer News per year was \$569 with \$90 for postage, a total of \$650. In 1979 it is \$1680 plus \$280 postage, a total of \$1960. As you can see the Pioneer News has trebled, postage has doubled. At the 1975 Annual Meeting the bank balance was \$2009, at the 1979 meeting it was \$1063 - down by half. At the 1980 meeting it will be down to \$500 after Pioneer News printing and postage for two issues at \$563.

This was the picture as presented to the October Committee Meeting and after hearing quotations from five printers it was resolved that we accept the quote from our present printer of \$250 who stated he would lower the price from \$374 to \$250 for the next four issues.

The other form of printing submitted to the meeting was set on an IBM typewriter, printed on an offset machine, and the end result would be superior to this insert sheet, which has been produced by cutting a type-written stencil and duplicated on a Gestetner.

After much discussion the meeting resolved to accept the quotation of our present printer with the proviso that if he increased the cost we would change to the typewritten, offset printed format at a cost of \$200.

Because our costs have trebled and our subscriptions have gone down by half, we now appeal to those members who have not subscribed at all or have not subscribed for the past three years. On numerous occasions we have appealed to the member who has never subscribed and that figure, according to our records, still stands at 250 out of 960 members.

On Anzac Day at the Sydney March we are more than pleased at the manner in which the members subscribe generously, and we are also pleased with the suburban, country and interstate members who send their subs by mail and tell us of their doings. Most times their amount is well over the subscription fee and we accept it with grateful thanks.

BUT there are still those 250 members who are behind with their subs. and that is the member to whom we NOW appeal. Perhaps this member does not want the Pioneer News sent to him, if so, we would appreciate if he would let us know, therefore saving time and expense.

We consider the Pioneer News the life blood of the Association and even though we may only have a life expectancy of another ten years, let us make the most of those years by keeping our great paper really alive.

LAST POST ---- By Harry Montague and Reg. Armstrong

CHARLIE GATEHOUSE, H.Q. Coy. 2/2 passed away recently and the funeral was attended by Bob Dixon, Jim Field, Reg Armstrong and Monty. Jim Field read the 23rd Psalm, Harry Montague recited the Ode and the service was conducted by Rev. Griffiths of Punchbowl. Members present extended sympathy to Mrs. Flo Gatehouse, who in turn has sent a Return Thanks card to us.

TOM HUGO, D Coy. 2/1, passed away after a long illness. The funeral was attended by Col. Jackson, Bluey Walsh and Monty. Our sympathy to his sister.

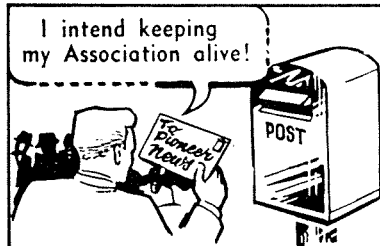
ROGER TUXFORD, C Coy. 2/1, passed away in October, and sympathy was extended to his next of kin.

NEWS ITEMS - by H. Montague

BILL NICHOLS, C Coy. 2/2, has been in Concord Hospital and was visited by Bob Lee, Reg Armstrong and Harry Montague.

ROY "KANGA" ROBINSON, B Coy. 2/1, was in hospital and said after leaving the army in 1948 won a soldier settlement block at Collarenebri.

QUEENSLAND REUNION AT JOHN AND MOLLIE HUNTS on 27th October will be reported in March Issue, owing to lack of space in this issue.



from the MAIL BAG

Editor: **BOB LAKE**
43 Amourin St., Brookvale, 2100 - Tel 93-4696



The last issue of Pioneer News to go to press for 1979 and we the Editors have been more than grateful for the news that has come forward over the year. The donations that we have received via Mail Bag have also been highly appreciated, as with all rising prices, so have our costs gone skyward in the production of same.

• **ROY LEADBEATER** sends a short note from Bajool via Rockhampton, Queensland wishing us good luck for the New Year and sending a cheque to swell the funds. Many thanks **Roy**, not a great deal of news but glad to get the letter and Treasurer knows what to do with the cheque.

• **FRED CALLAWAY** sends a cheque to the Treasurer and would like to know as a rough guess just how many of the boys have still got to keep on working. **Fred** was 19 when he joined up and still has 2 years to go. Well **Fred**, I don't know how many others there are, but on the Committee of our Association, there are only three not retired. **Fred** also agrees with **Mick Bye**, with regard to overseas countries, the way they work and the pride they show in their countries, instead of the countless 'knockers' that we have here in 'Aussie.' **Fred** also sends a few excerpts for Radio 2NR-FM Newcastle for their perusal. He doesn't know how they will tell them or whether they will be allowed to broadcast them but he has sent them in. —

(1) Tells the story of the Palestine Camps, toilets so far away and the usual chap that got out of bed in the middle of the night, walked around the tent and piddled in the other end — had a lovely black eye next day.

(2) Building the hospital in New Guinea and preparing for the first contingent of Nurses. As usual the toilets were last to be constructed and consisted of the usual big hole in the ground with a hessian surround. Before completion the Nurses started to arrive and one chap placed a rubber hose under the hessian and into the hole. After waiting until some three or four of the ladies had entered the hessian after the long drive from Port Moresby, he shouted down the pipe, "Can't you wait till we have finished digging the bloody hole." You can imagine the exodus of women adjusting their clothing as they fled.

Great letter **Fred**, I hope Radio 2NR can use same, as I don't doubt you will get a few smiles as these quips are read.

• **JACK COATES** Umina sends a cheque to keep Whiteley happy and his apologies for not being able to attend Kyogle owing to late arrival of No. 6 Grandchild. **Jack** fully expected No. 6 to arrive on time, however, was not to be, so they had to become baby sitter for No. 6's little brother. Glad to hear you are doing so well in the grandchild race **Jack**, but terribly sorry you missed Kyogle. It was terrific. **Jack** sees a fair bit of **Jack Collis**, **Les Rose** and **Fred Makin**, and thinks he saw a notice re the death of **Roger Tuxford** aged 58, which would put him in the right bracket. **Jack** continues to go very quietly, as he has had six trips to hospital this year — 2 local private, 3 Concord and once Gosford. Last time at Concord, attended as an outpatient and stayed 2 weeks. Never any room in Ward 110, Urology Ward. Been in that Ward four times in the last 18 months and the bed alongside him changed hands or bodies three times in one day. **Jack** speaks highly of the Doctors and Nurses

both at Concord and St. Vincents, as he says, it's only through them that he is still around today watching the grandchildren grow up. Counting girls, he has half a football team. You still can't pick football winners **Coatsey**, although I will go along with your choice of stars. Many thanks for a good letter **Jack** and keep smiling.

• **BOB TAYLOR** Jamberoo writes a short note with an apology for Anzac Day. However, we all know **Bob** has suffered from ill health for quite some time now and we realise he just can't make the March. **Bob** sends his usual Sub for the News and tells us that he really looks forward to receiving same and that it is one paper that not one article is bypassed. Many thanks **Bob** and we hope that the health improves in the future.

• **KEITH REYNOLDS (Ghandi)** writes one line, quote — "Keep up the good work" and a cheque for Treasurer. The postage from Coonabarabran warrants more than that **Keith**. Many thanks, our regards to you and yours.

• **MRS. SALOWAY** wife of the late **Cec** writes a letter of thanks to the Association for the thoughts, advice and help offered her with the death of **Cec**. Also requests that the Pioneer News continues to be mailed and this of course shall be as you wish for as long as you wish.

• **DOUG HARRIS** writes a thank you for our plug through the paper of his book "G Strings and Bangkok Bowlers". **Doug** was not a Pioneer and does not know how he arrived on our mailing list, however, he did know Lieut. **Gordon Richards** 2/2 and he sends us a cheque to help keep our paper rolling.

• **BERNIE DALY** 2/2 writes from Taree sending a Sub and informing us that **Roy Robinson** of Collarenebri is a patient at St. Colvins Hospital, Darling Point and goes to Prince of Wales daily for treatment. Travels with **Bernie's** wife on the same bus. **Roy** also manages to get his compulsory liquid intake down at the corner daily. (Doc's orders). Publishing this next little item for **Alan Stone's** benefit — **Bernie** has a little grandson of the same name living at Taree. **Don Murray** of Tinonee still calls on **Bernie** regularly and is keeping okay. Many thanks for the letter **Bernie**, keep sober and fit.

• **SID JOPSON** and wife **Myrtle** of Port Macquarie writes the news that they hoped to get to Kyogle (They did) and sends a cheque for the News at the same time. Still sees the odd few of the mob, **Gordon** and **Olive Finlay** quite regularly. **Gordon** has a daughter and family at Port Macquarie, while the **Lakes** try to stir things up about September/October each year. **Dick Seddon** and **Jack Bertram** called on **Sid** on their way up to the Rats of Tobruk Bowling Titles at Coffs Harbour, and **Sid**, having one of his better days, was able to have a couple of beers with them. I'd like to bet that there was at least one "Red Mill" in the shout **Sid**. **Sid** writes that he has not seen **Dolly Latham** lately, **Dolly** being a cousin of the late **Les "Joss's" Denham**, but **Sid** has ordered seige medal for her. Many thanks for the news **Sid** and **Myrtle** and keep smiling, while investing in those pokies at the Bowling Club.

• **JOHN SPENCE** of Wingham sends a Sub to the Treasurer, and the information that he and wife are still able to enjoy the news, though they do miss the road runner **Larry Robson** for his frequent flash visits with all the latest gossip up

and down the coast. **Jack** still has his garden, grows tomatoes as big as pumpkins and on Anzac Day last had a day with the locals, really great too. Many thanks for the letter **Jack** and keep on growing things.

• **DOUG SHEARSTON** now resident of Forster writes that daughter **Kerry** was married in August, so would be in Sydney for that period and hoped to look in on the Herrons. **Doug** has played bowls at Taree on a few Sundays, and has run into **Fred Brooks** on each occasion, trying to make a fortune from the pokies, unsuccessfully, unfortunately. **Doug** and wife **Roma** were at Taree airport recently, when the last call came over for **Mr. & Mrs. Crossman**, it was our **Tom** alright and **Doug** had a few words with him prior to their take off. If you don't mind my saying so **Doug**, you are a bit old to take on pushbike riding, especially when you fall off, so would advise that a little less of the amber and take a taxi, not a bike. (Lakev)

• **BILL MACE** now of Gosford sends a Sub to the Treasurer, and the advice that they have sold their old home at Green Point and have moved to another house at East Gosford where they are both busily renovating an older type home. **Bill** still works on the Berowra Toll Gates (I don't know when), he is never on when we go through, but he sends his best regards to all the mob, and your new address has been noted.

• **OSSIE McCURTAYNE** writes from Yeppoon, Queensland with a Sub for the Treasurer and how good it is to read of names long forgotten when you read the Paper. **Ossie**, after the last Anzac Day Reunion, visited his brother at the War Vets. Home and while there, he bumped into **Don Jurie**, who has recently lost a leg and it looks like the War Vets. being his permanent home. He is in good spirits and they had a great yarn of the old days. On his way home to Queensland, **Ossie** called in on **Pat Loughran** at Nambour, had a good yarn and perused a lot of old photos over a cuppa. Still the same old **Pat**, age does not seem to weary him. On the demise of **Joe Hickey**, **Ossie** quotes, "He will never forget the look of amazement on **Joe's** face when he told him that the wire he had been stepping over for three days in his cookhouse was a live wire to a booby trap set up nearby." While on humour, **Ossie** sends this one along — Early morning parade and **Sgt. Len Rodda** reading out the dress for the day to his platoon, still half stung from the night before. His orders were, TIN HATS TURNED UP AT THE SIDE, palliasses to be worn, bandolier fashion, and bed boards slung between the legs. (Top of the class for that one.) **Ossie** has just returned from a caravan trip to Cape Tribulation, Mossman and Port Douglas, and would recommend it as one of the most beautiful parts of our country, and if any of the boys decide to make it, and happen to care for a game of golf or snooker, look him up at Yeppoon on the way through. Good letter **Ossie** and your good wishes are reciprocated.

• **BRIAN SMALLHORN**, Armidale. Many thanks for the Subs. **Brian**. Afraid we can't make much news out of "regards and good luck", but we do know that you and Armidale are still with us.

• **KEN OLIVER** sends a Sub. to the Treasurer and the news that he has good intentions about Anzac Day next year. **Ken** sold the "Blue Gem"

MAIL BAG Continued

cake shop at Earlwood last year, decided to retire but couldn't stick it after 6 months so bought the "Blue Feather" at Petersham, and may give the retirement business another run next year. Well **Ken**, all I can say is, all the blokes around me seem to be thriving on the same retirement, must have something going for it.

• **MRS. ETHEL STARR** widow of the late **Archie** sends a donation for a little help to the paper, and **Ethel** is another of our good ladies that look forward to receiving the News and reading of the doings of the chaps that were such a big part of **Archie's** life. Many thanks **Ethel** and we hope you continue to enjoy our little paper.

• **NOEL HIBBARD** of Meadowbank writes that he is always waiting to receive the News. **Noel** sends a cheque to the Treasurer and the news that he has been to Norfolk Island where he contacted **Humph. Jackson** and wife, and was welcomed with open arms. Visited his home there and spent an evening at the R.S.L. with them, of which **Humph.** is a past President. **Noel** assures that any Pioneer visiting Norfolk would be made welcome by this great couple, with the hospitality overwhelming. Many thanks for the letter **Noel**, and Treas. knows just what to do.

• **PHIL BAWDEN** of Leongatha, Victoria sends a cheque to the Treasurer, and thanking the Secretary for the back issues of the News. **Phil** was a member of the 2/2 and as such, a more recent member of our mailing list.

• **PHIL CRAMSIE**, Brisbane sends a cheque to the funds and a glowing page of thanks for the great time enjoyed at Kyogle. As **Phil** says, after almost 40 years, just to see so many of the old faces was incredible. **Phil** also comments on the Paper and the fact that without same, some of the names mentioned would never be remembered, especially so by perhaps the Queensland boys.

• **MRS. PAT MacFARLANE** widow of the late **Ron** writes offering good wishes to the Association and encloses a subscription for the Pioneer News. Many thanks **Pat**, hope you keep in contact, and perhaps take part in some of our future enterprises.

• **BILL MORROW** writes from Canberra as how some months ago he ran into **Max Law** down at the Capital Territory and since then has been receiving the Pioneer News, for which he is very grateful. **Bill** assumes that it is through **Max** that the Paper is posted, so enclosed a cheque to cover his subscription (it's easy, isn't it). Another new member.

• **KEN BARRETT**, Victoria sends a letter with amendments to Victorian Boys' addresses, which have been rectified on the mailing list. **Ken** also remarks that he will overlook (probably my words) about lack of news. My apologies **Ken**, however I did not know of your copies of your newsletter. Hope I am forgiven this lapse, and all relationship back to square one.

• **BILL NICHOLLS 2/2** writes his letter from Concord, from where he has since been discharged and wants to show his appreciation for the visits by **Monty**, also **Bob Dixon** and **Bob Lee**. **Bob Lee** on his second visit took along some old photos and much pleasure was derived from trying to identify some of the faces of 35 years ago. **Bill** thinks it is terrific the way the boys have stuck together after all these years. Would also like to express his sincere sympathy to the wife and family of **Charles Gatehouse**. **Bill** only finding out about this from **Monty** plus the fact that they had such a good day together last Anzac Day, made this news a great shock to him. Brother **George** visited **Bill** every weekend during his hospitalisation, making the trip from

Ettalong, where he continues to soak up the sun and sand. Thanks for your letter **Bill** and we all wish you a speedy recovery.

• **ERIC "Bombo" REYNOLDS** writes from Macksville on the coast with a cheque for the Treasurer and the news that all is quite good at Macksville. The gardens are looking good, the chooks are laying, and he is not going too bad at the golf. **Eric** and wife recently paid a visit to their youngest daughter down at Gippsland, Victoria, where they did the complete trip by plane. On their return to Sydney, they had a couple of days in the smoke, where they found time to visit Coogee R.S.L., **Eric's** old stamping ground, and odd spots where the Reschs is still good. Reschs not so hot at Macksville, where they mostly stick to the Tooheys new and old. Their last night in Sydney they had dinner with his brother in their new house at Woollahra, his brother being a judge in the Appeals Court, where **Eric** claims he gets plenty of cases these days. **Eric** sends his best wishes to all the Associates and also for the festive season, which is almost upon us.

• **BRUCE CHAMBERS** now at Wahroonga renews his acquaintance with the Association with a short note, enclosing a cheque, and the news that it was 1945 when he had contact last with the mob. However, through **Alan Stutchbury**, he has seen many copies of the Paper and noted with interest items about many of the chaps he knew. **Bruce** has not altogether been stationary, however, as he has a family of seven children and seven grandchildren, and still manages a game of golf most Wednesdays and Saturdays. **Bruce** with a partner, is in the real estate business, so I should think that any of our blokes interested in land or housing in the Hornsby area should by all means make contact — "CHAMBERS & FREWIN" — ask for **Bruce** and probably come away a very satisfied client. Many thanks for the letter **Bruce**, and the cheque which will do most good, and don't leave it quite so long next time, otherwise quite a few of us may not be around to receive it.

• **RAY BLANCH** sent a donation for Subs. from Beaudesert, Queensland and wishes to be remembered to all that were not present at Kyogle.

• **CURLY BENTLEY** from Ashfield met **Gordon Finlay** and **Max Herron** at Bardwell Park R.S.L., handed over a donation to the Association and the news that he has just retired as President of the T.P.I. Association.

• **SID ABERCROMBIE**, Perth writes thanking the publishers for the continued issues of the News, as **Sid** says, although so many miles separate him from us, it's nice to know what is going on and the doings of the blokes, especially at the big get togethers. **Sid** sends his best regards to all and encloses a cheque to the Treasurer.

• **ALBERT BARTON** sends greetings and good wishes to the mob, and also to **Max Herron** on his retirement. Quotes, "that if **Peg Herron** is anything like **Gwen Barton** there must be a long list of chores to do around the house." "Whose boss at your house, **Alby**?" **Max** and **Peg Herron** send their best regards, hope to see you at the next reunion and Treasurer has your cheque where it will do most good.

• **TOM GODDEN** writes from Epping with an apology for late Subs., enclosing same and telling of his retirement of over ten years now, and despite disabilities still maintains fairly good health. **Tom** also corrects the address for mailing purposes, these initials have been noted and rectified **Tom** and we hope you enjoy the news for many years to come.

That completes Mail Bag for this issue and in closing I would like to thank all the members that

kept it alive with their letters and their donations. I would also thank all those that have never written or sent a Sub., and one and all. I wish you and your families a very Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

—LAKEY

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bob,

I would like to sincerely thank **Max** and **Peg Herron**, firstly for transporting me to the Kyogle Reunion and secondly for arranging really good accommodation and giving me a holiday I will never forget.

Space will not permit me to carry on about those "terrific Pioneers" and their virtues, but to them, their wives and all the wonderful people of Kyogle, who showed me such hospitality and friendship, I say, thank you, for letting me be a part of it.

Your sincerely,

MARY LLOYD

REUNION APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Kyogle Committee I would like to thank the Executive Committee of the Association for their co-operation and assistance given to us while organising the Kyogle Reunion. Also would like to thank all members for their wonderful attendance without which, this Reunion would not have been possible — in the words of one **Pat Laughren** — "may their shadows never grow shorter".

— JIM (JUMMA) HALL

A TRIBUTE

I would like to pay a tribute to all the Ladies of our Association with these few words of appreciation. Over the years, our Association has gone from strength to strength, not numerically, but in closer ties than any other I have heard of and I think it is due to the support given to all Pioneers by their wives, and the great bond of friendship that has grown between these wives. No names should be mentioned, no names need be, let it be sufficient to say, 'LADIES, WE SALUTE YOU.'

BOB LAKE

COUNTRY REUNION AT DUBBO — 1980

REUNION DINNER at Dubbo RSL
on Saturday 20th September, 1980

TOUR and BARBECUE at Dubbo Zoo
on Sunday 21st September, 1980

This date is the 40th Anniversary of the 2/1 Pioneers proceeding on final leave and the Western Plains Zoo is on the old Army campsite.

FURTHER PARTICULARS in future issues of Pioneer News — Make sure you note the date.

— GORDON FINLAY — Publicity Officer

Reporters:

JACK BERTRAM and LARRY ROBSON.