

10TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD
AMBULANCE (A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated with Anzac House)

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NO. 10

APRIL, 1976

GOOD NEWS !!!

At the time of writing this Newsletter there has not been a report of any member of our Association going "permanently AWL" for the whole year - what a healthy lot we are.

Vern Laidlaw says to keep it up as we need the subscriptions!

The past year was also a successful one for the Association as we had the following activities :

1. a good muster turn up for the march
2. a very successful 30th Reunion at The Dorchester
3. a convivial follow-up at Bob and Marge King's house
4. a tremendous Reunion Dinner Dance
5. a most enjoyable family picnic at Healesville

Also a second Annual trip to Yarrawonga which is now established enough to be classified as an official activity.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANZAC DAY - SUNDAY APRIL 25TH, 1976

Because the March is in the afternoon this year, we will be commencing our Reunion Luncheon at 11 a.m. at The Dorchester, Alexandra Avenue, Melbourne. - the same place as last year.

REMEMBER !!

THE DORCHESTER

11 A.M.

SUNDAY 25TH APRIL.

The cost this year is expected to be \$8 per head - now considering inflation and triple time for holiday work, that is pretty reasonable. There's no truth in the rumour that we are getting Ron Sincock to Bankcard it !

After the reunion we will assemble for the March at the usual place that is, in Bourke Street outside Gaunts the Jewellers - opposite Myers at 2.15 P.M.

Then after the March the Reunion continues at the home of Bob and Marge King, 30 Princess Street, Fawkner, again this year.

So plan your Anzac Day 1976 around these functions - Come along and do your bit towards making this another successful day.

Last year's March was well attended. Sixty-one members, including a large interstate contingent, marched. Colonel Palmer led us and proved that he is still pretty fit. One of the boys was heard to remark that if there was a plane strike the Colonel would probably walk back to Sydney. (That was before he went to Bob King's place !)

Other interstate members included Dr. Adrian Paul, Bob James, Bob Mitchell, Roy de Jarlais, Murdock McMillan, Freddy Marles, Jack Best, Jack Standerwick, Arthur Holiday, Bill Schlenker and Bill Sheffield.

Our Banner was carried by two Senior Scouts - Col Remington, son of Bruce, and his mate Peter Maddern. Thank you boys.

The pre-March whisper proved correct and at our cheer squad assembly point on the East side of St. Kilda Road, near Alexandra Avenue (the same again this year) was a bevy of beauty - resplendent in T-shirts bearing the Unit Colour patch and the words "Tenth Tit-Bits" - Good on you 'girls'. I believe that it was Horrie Hamer who spoke the appropriate Biblical quotation - "Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these".

Some of the ladies are meeting on the Princes Bridge between 11 and 11.30 a.m. bringing lunch and having this picnic style in the gardens before the March. They extend a hearty invitation to all wives to join them, this year. Just look for the T-Shirts !!

The Dorchester proved to be a really good spot for our Reunion luncheon-meeting, there seemed to be more opportunity to move around and talk to chaps.

There were 74 members present, some for the first time and the stories were flowing thick and fast. It was really beaut to see Harold Mollison there and it isn't true that he only came to repossess those boots belonging to Ralph Hallum that we mentioned in last Tit-Bits.

Our President, Mick Dunn, once again did a first class job and I'm sure you all join in saying thanks Mick for your never failing support. Other officers present with Mick, Ted and Adrian were "Bull" Martin, Alec Keith, Lindsay Sampson and Gavin Johnson.

REUNION DINNER DANCE - Report by Jeff McGill

As you probably know, on Saturday 26th April last year your committee organised a Dinner Dance at The Dorchester.

With a spacious hall, a good band, and a general atmosphere of relaxation, members, their families, and friends, a total of 105 people gathered to enjoy a really super night. It was a night of nostalgia for members who had memories and experiences to relive, particularly with the interstate visitors we had not seen for some time. There must have been some really good ones told judging by the laughter that rang through the hall.

With everyone joining in the dancing and conviviality, the evening certainly passed too quickly.

One thing that really puzzles me ! - what did we ever do to have such young looking, attractive wives?

The interstate members were amazed at the spirit that still exists in the Association. Your Victorian mates thank you for coming, please come again at your earliest.

One of the highlights of the night that was greatly admired was a large cake perfectly baked by Sylvia Strudwick and iced by Faye Donovan. It featured the 10th Field Ambulance insignias and a large iced ambulance on top; it certainly was a marvellous centrepiece for the evening. Thank you girls, it was terrific.

At the appropriate time the cake was cut with great dignity by Bob James.

To members who have not joined in these family socials I assure you that you would be most welcome and assured of a really marvellous time. So Be In It !!

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW AT YARRAWONGA - Report by J. Stiglich

This is a lovely way to spend a weekend, could very well be the title of the Yarrowonga saga for this year.

The lucky couples able to "drop everything" and "head for the hills" on October 24 - 25 were rewarded with rain and more rain. But never a drop did it worry them (after they'd arrived).

There were those, so eager, who saw the sign Yarrowonga, and headed straight there, regardless of detour signs. One foot of water did not deter them, but when told they were heading into 3 ft., turned about in mid-stream. Others, in pitch dark followed a truck. With bated breath they travelled through water many times, but arrived without mishap. The last to arrive was the Steve Langton group at 11 o'clock to be greeted with the news of a new grandchild.

A huge feast greeted our eyes on arrival. An array of hot and cold dishes were arranged on a long table, to be replenished at intervals during the weekend. This table was in a large hall, which was to be the central point for the weekend, due to the rain.

A Bar-B-Q lunch in the hall followed the usual Saturday morning ritual in town. A gathering in the hall all afternoon preceded dinner at the R.S.L. Club followed by dancing.

The rain had cleared. Sunday began with church parade - or sleep-in. Bar-B-Q lunch, again ably cooked by the management, then ready to head off, back to the big smoke. Our good-byes took a little longer than usual this year due to the highlight of the weekend, namely the Sylvia Strudwick Special aided by Robert King (afterwards a very meek and mild Bob King).

This caper consisted of one fully dressed (plus gym boots) Sylvia being (dare it be said) pushed into the pool. Amid horrified screams and lots of laughter, Sylvia was landed safely, good-byes were said once more, and all went their separate ways. Once more, a very enjoyable weekend was spent by all.

A "rough" list of attenders at Yarrowonga:

Ron & Eileen Handley	John & Mary Stretton	Bert & Elsie Kenny
Bill & Laura Dickson	Gerald & Rohna Frogley	Steve & Verna Langton
Roy & Pat Dickson	Jeff & Marjorie McGill	Joe & Sylvia Strudwick
Des & June Rae	Jack & June Stiglich	Bob & Marge King
Neville & Nancy Stephens	Bill & Joyce Shepherd	Alan Stephens and his wife

REPORT ON FAMILY PICNIC HELD AT QUEEN'S PARK, HEALESVILLE ON SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY, 1976

Once again we were lucky to have near perfect weather for our picnic and had a total attendance of 88 persons. Country members were represented by Jack Standerwick from Bordertown, Keith Davey from Koo-Wee-Rup and Joe Strudwick from Yarrawonga. One face we haven't seen for years, but one you couldn't forget, was there together with his wife and children in the person of Micky Morrow. Others noticed included Albert Kenny, Alan Sharp, Ken Gordon, Gerald Frogley, Jeff McGill, Ron Handley, Jack Stiglich, Bob King, Des Rae, Ted Young, Bill Shepherd, Bob Crawford, Harold Grundy, Dr. John Lawrence, Stan Herbert, Roy and Bill Dickson and Wally Lovett. Ray Zumpe was away for the weekend and so his wife Shirley came to the picnic on her own - Good on you Shirley.

WELFARE - Report from Clem Winchester

When it comes to a welfare report, the briefer the better. This is one area where no news is good news.

Only three "casualties" reported since the last meeting - Ken Gordon, Jack Stiglich and Ern Milton. Ken and Jack were well enough to attend a special parade for Jack Cox when he was down in Melbourne earlier in the year. Ern has been discharged from hospital, but is still receiving therapy treatment. All would appreciate calls or visits from their old mates.

Don't forget, if you know or hear of any members who have suffered a misfortune, pass the message on to Clem Winchester or Jack Bacon who will then arrange action to be taken. Please don't worry the Secretary who has enough to do as it is.

TOPICAL TIT-BITS

Jack and Betty Cox were down from Laurieton in January and after a game of golf in which Jack and I were narrowly beaten by Ted Young and Ron Handley, most of the committee and their wives joined Jack and Betty for lunch at Kingswood Golf Club.

It was a scorching hot day but conditions inside the Club House were ideal (and the beer strike was over).

Ken Gordon was well enough to come along as was Jack Stiglich who was recovering from literally having his throat cut. This, Jack tells us, was a necessary part of some scraping that had to be done to some of the blood vessels which were clogging up.

Coxy was also recuperating after a prostate operation and of course we got all the details.

Noel (Porky) Norton made his first appearance at an Association function by turning up to the Dinner Dance. This was cleverly engineered by Jack Bacon who got the message to Noel's wife. After all it was Women's Lib. Year.

Ron Handley has been retired from the Public Service whilst still in his early fifties and is laughing all the way to the Bank. Says there's no need to feel sorry for him as after all you are paying for it in your taxes !!

Steve Langton has put in an early apology for Anzac Day. He and his mate Alan Stephens will be in Queensland on holidays this year. Thanks for the message Steve.

An apology also from Ted Donovan who will be in London on Anzac Day. It's not true that Ted is over there to negotiate the sale of possum skins.

Got word that Harry (Shaggy) Williams and wife Olive went up from Melbourne to a wedding at Walla Walla, New South Wales. Who should be attending the same wedding but local farmer George Brown and despite the fact that they hadn't seen each other for thirty years or more, recognition was instantaneous and they were nearly as happy as the Bride and Groom! George sends greetings to all his old mates, particularly mentioning Cyril Evans.

Bob Crawford decided to get out of the rat race for a while last year. Took three months off work, hooked up his caravan and he and wife Merle headed for Cairns. He is saving up to do it again this year, says it will add years to his life and grey hairs to his Bank Manager.

TOPICAL TIT-BITS (cont.)

Wally (Jock) Lovett had a trip to New Zealand which he thoroughly enjoyed. Jock is nearing sixty (we won't say how near) and was told by his Manager recently that he had better start thinking about dieing or retiring !

Our Secretary, Alan Sharp, attended an International Executive Council meeting of the World Energy Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in May last year.

Alan is Secretary of the Australian National Committee which is made up of representatives of Government departments, Federal and State instrumentalities and scientific, technical and industrial organisations concerned with energy.

The objects of the World Energy Conference are to promote the development and peaceful use of energy resources to the greatest benefit of all, both nationally and internationally.

The Conference was attended by representatives of 45 countries. Some of the important topics discussed being the conservation of all forms of energy, a survey of energy resources and the effects on the environment of the energy producing industries.

Several study tours were arranged following the technical discussions. Alan had the opportunity of travelling extensively through Denmark, visiting industrial complexes, the Barseback nuclear power station at Malmo, Sweden, and ship building yards at Odense, the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen.

The hospitality of the Danish National Committee was overwhelming and receptions were held at such places as the Tivoli Gardens and the Copenhagen City Hall.

The Conference was extremely well organised and Alan was impressed with the genuine concern being given by so many countries to the energy and fuel crisis confronting the world and the work being done to meet this problem and at the same time developing ways and means of protecting our environment from the effect of the energy producing countries of the world.

Following the Conference, Alan took a period of leave, spending about a week in London (where he visited Lords Cricket Ground), a 12 day 3,000 mile coach tour through Europe, including the countries of Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France. Alan spent the last week of his leave in beautiful Scotland where the weather was perfect and the scenery magnificent.

LETTERS AND EXTRACTS FROM VARIOUS LETTERS RECEIVED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY DURING THE YEAR.

4 Sutton Road,
MARYBOROUGH. 3465.

28 April, 1975

Dear Alan,

Thanks for my issue of "10th Tit-Bits". It is very interesting to read of our old mates - their doings and wanderings over the years.

Sorry I didn't make it to the re-union, but maybe next year.

Regards and best wishes to you all,

Yours faithfully,

JIM DRYSDALE.

P.O. Box 137,
DRUMMOYNE. 2047.

8 March, 1976

Dear Alan,

Thanks for the prelim. Anzac Day notice.

Enjoyed renewing acquaintances and friendships last year but regret I cannot repeat the performance this. Recently had a call from Arthur Rockett en route from a Schoolies' Conference in Perth to his home in Brisbane - not seen him since 1944 as a tall slim youth. Today he is still tall but must be 20 stone. Eric Barber one time dentist I see frequently. He has a general medical practice at 61 Perry Street, Leichardt.

Sincerely,

ADRIAN PAUL.

We haven't got Arthur Rockett's address so if anyone knows it please pass it on.

11 Waldron Street,
SANS SOUCI. 2219.

24 March, 1976

Dear Ron,

Prior to writing this letter I considered what we in Sydney had achieved this year, Tenth-wise that is ! and felt we had little to show. Nevertheless we were fortunate on at least three occasions.

Firstly, in June when Jim and Elsie Drysdale came to Sydney to visit their daughter Jennifer and son-in-law John and grandson Christian who live at Seven Hills about twenty miles out of Sydney.

Jim wanted to see as many of the lads as possible whilst in Sydney, but unfortunately was not enjoying the best of health. So John and Jennifer very graciously invited as many as possible to come to their home and join them for a Bar-B-Q luncheon on the Sunday. Among those present were Murdock and Kath McMillan, Bill and Rose Schlenker, Roy de Jarlais, George Johnston and myself together with the abovementioned and some friends of Jennifer and John's. It was a typical winters day for Sydney, the sun shining and all. We had a fine time together, the steaks were done to a turn and the drinks most enjoyable.

Thanks again for a wonderful day, Jennifer and John.

Then Andy McHattie paid us a lightning visit mainly to see his son safely married. Unfortunately Andy had a very full programme and a limited amount of time, but we were grateful for the opportunity of seeing him and having at least one night out. Present were Bob Mitchell, Bill Sheffield and myself. It was great seeing you Andy. Drop in any time.

We were indeed pleased to have Bill and Laura Dickson back again at Christmas time this year, when they were passing through on their way to Queensland. Unfortunately, it was that time of year when so many people are out of town or preparing to leave. However, we were able to get a few people together in Sydney and to have shared a pleasant evening with Bill and Laura, Murdock and Kath McMillan, Bill and Rose Schlenker, Murdock's daughter Pam and friend and of course yours truly. It was a pleasant spot at the Earlwood R.S.L. Club where we dined and enjoyed a concert. Laura was particularly impressed with one male artist and after the show she was seen talking intently to him and I was told that he promised to get to Melbourne for a season. I hope he kept his promise Laura.

It seems the Sydney fellows are remaining at home this year, with the possible exception of Roy de Jarlais who Kath McMillan informed me may visit his sister in Melbourne at the time of Anzac Day.

May I take this opportunity of again thanking all you fine people in Melbourne for the wonderful hospitality you extended to us last year; it was indeed a thrilling experience.

May Anzac Day be as pleasant as last year and as successful.

Kindest Regards,

BOB JAMES.

When Jack Cox was down he read us a letter he had received from Geoff Flower. I rang Jack to see if we could publish some or all of it and the following two publications are the result.

16 Lake Street,
LAURIE TON. 2443.

17 March, 1976

Dear Ron,

Good to hear your voice the other evening from down there in the deep South.

Re Geoff Flower's (Daffy's?) letter - I rang him this evening with the thought of getting his OK to send you his note written to me last year but when we got talking I was side-tracked (unlikely story?) as he mentioned he was going to visit down this way next week. So I said briefly that you fellows would like to have the note (or part thereof) and then stupidly said "but we'll discuss it next week". On hanging up I realised, as an ex committee man, that this would not be giving you much time to print, post etc. so what the hell - here's the letter and I'll put up with any wrath from Geoff.

No .. there's no need to reimburse me for the phone call to Guyra it's OK this year but things could change!!

We're all keeping OK up here but have had few of our nice days since Xmas in fact I'm thinking of migrating to Victoria for some good summer weather. Seriously, it's been warm but hasn't stopped raining I reckon for 2 months in which we've had approx. 30" !

Well Ron sorry for this near unreadable scrawl - will have to finish but not before saying first how much Bet and I enjoyed our day at Kingswood Golf Club. To have so many old pals to "ear bash" (complete with wives) was really tremendous and for so many to turn up on such a hot day was really appreciated by this couple of Ex-Victorians. Good to see Ken out and about and to meet Ack-Ack's "child bride" !!

All the best to everybody who makes the re-union - am seriously thinking of altering our trip schedule to make 1977 ourselves, in the meantime

Good Cheer to all,

COXIE

P.S. I reckon there'll be some slight flirting with the truth next week when Geoff and I see each other for the 1st time in 30 years.

- doesn't really seem that long does it? incredible.

"The Folly",
GUYRA. 2365.

11 November, 1975

Dear Jack,

I was pleased to receive your note and to hear that you are on the mend. Take it easy.

You are lucky to be retired. I am just tired. I wanted to leave the land after the war but felt obliged to get my father out of a situation of near bankrupt farm. In 3 years I had him on his feet and then bought half his place and made a productive farm of that. Married in 1948, 1951 a daughter, 1953 a son, 1956 a son.

Dairy farming is constant work and hazardous. Horse fell on me in 1951 and broke one leg, 1952 a tractor rolled on me and broke the other leg.

We sold the dairy farm in 1963 and bought at Guyra to try our luck with sheep. The only place I had seen sheep was at the zoo. Right place for the b.....s.

In 1965 the place was running 3,000 sheep and 50 cattle. No rain, big drought, big loss, big head-ache, cranky bankers.

The drought lasted the best part of four years and the wool and fat lambs slumped and then cattle slumped.

Thirty years is a long time. This is what I think I remember.

Horror Cox - His people had a farm somewhere one time.

Big brother was a detective.

This bloke got married about 1944 to Betty

This bloke had big hands and could pick up his tin hat by the dome.

In July 1954 my wife and I passed through Melbourne at 7.30 a.m. and I thought I saw Hocking up the top of the main street. We had been holidaying at Lakes Entrance and tried to buy a farm at Warragul. Couldn't sell the one we had.

It is raining cats and dogs. I finished shearing last week. Did it myself.

My phone is 067 - 797517. It was out of order last week.

I would like to meet you half way at Doorigo pub for a counter lunch. That would be a nice drive for a young bloke in a Mercedes. I don't drink much but enjoy company.

I have twin grand daughters 4½ years old annoying me.

Eldest son is a wool buyer he is 22 and youngest son is 19 and works in the lab of Lindemans Wines.

Well Jack, I hope you can understand all this scrawl.

I hope you are feeling better. Regards to your good wife and son.

Yours sincerely,

GEOFF FLOWER.

- FINALE -

Costs are increasing, particularly postage, and this newsletter goes out to about 200 ex unit members. Last year there were only 93 financial members. Now this is not meant to be a note of complaint or anything like that as it is so easy to overlook the account and we can only send one. However, let's see if we can increase the number of financial members this year.

Also, an appeal to all who cannot get to the Re-union. What about dropping me a line for publication next year - the more the merrier.

Cheerio for this year,

RON WOFF

17 Summerhill Road,
BEAUMARIS. 3193.