



10th Australian (AIF) Field Ambulance Association

ISSUE NO. 52

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TREASURER: Trevor Ward Tel: 9877 8027

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Julie Mayberry 0412 250 521 / David Hall 0412 714 840 / Wendy Ward 9877 8027 /
Sarah Goode 0438 667 367

LIFE MEMBERS:

Mrs. Glad White / Mrs. Margaret Holmes / Mr. Jack Bacon / Mr. Ted
Young / Mr. Ron Woff

ANZAC DAY MARCH AND LUNCHEON (WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2018)

For reasons better known to the March Committee, WW2 veterans units have this year been relegated to “step off” towards the end of the March. Consequently, the Unit will “step off” at 10-55 am after assembling in Swanston Street East between Flinders St and Flinders Lane. Those intending to march need to be at the above location by 10-30 am.

The luncheon is again at the Seasons Botanic Gardens, 348 St.Kilda Road, Melbourne. The actual cost is \$50 but the Association has subsidised \$5 so the price for members and guests is \$45. Doors will open at 11-30am with the meeting commencing at 12 noon and lunch commencing at 12-30pm.

Bookings for the Luncheon and Annual Subscriptions can be made on the enclosed form.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE “ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION & LUNCHEON” FORM BY
WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2018.**

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

Welcome –

Chairman, President Ted Young, opened the meeting and :

- extended a warm welcome to Members, Affiliates and Guests with special mention to Robert and Peter de Jarlais from NSW and the following family groups - 11 Woffs , 9 Thurlows , 7 Stanleys and the Kruger King family for their attendance and carrying the Unit Banner in the march;

- acknowledged the attendance of the Principal of Vermont Secondary College (VSC), Mr Tony Jacobs and College Captains Hannah Frank and Josiah Duncan and the Colleges continuing support of the Unit through the “Adopt a Service Organisation” program;

- offered a special welcome to past Association Secretary Brendon Holmes and first time attendees Matthew Waldron, Thomas Goode (Ron Woffs great grandsons) and Ronnyne Stanley.

President Ted then recited the poem “Anzac Day “

Attendance –

The Meeting and Luncheon were attended by 53 Members, Affiliates and Guests.

Apologies –

Life Member - John Bacon.

Life Members (Affiliates) - Margaret Holmes, Marj King, Glad White.

Affiliates – Lynette Blackwood, Anne Cooper, Rhonda Holmes, Heather McKenzie, Pamela McMillan, Carolyn Macleod, Chris Martin, Brad Murphy and Family, Trish Nilsson, Jim Nilsson, Meryl Patrick, Lorraine Pulham, Liz Ray, Anne Saville, Joyce Shepherd, John Shepherd, Raelene Stojan, Ali Waight and Family.

Trevor Ward moved acceptance of the apologies / Seconded Julie Mayberry/ Motion Carried

Loyal Toast

Vice President Rob Stanley invited attendees to stand while he proposed a toast to the Queen , Australia , the 10th Field Ambulance and the Anzacs.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 2016

President Ted moved that the minutes of the AGM of April 25th 2016 – as published in 10th Tit Bits - be taken as read and approved.

Moved President Ted Young - Seconded Rob Stanley – Motion Carried.

Remembrance

President Ted announced that the Roll of Honor would now be read.

A period of silent reflection was observed as Wendy Ward, Brendon Holmes and Noel Woff read the Honor Roll containing the names of deceased Unit members.

The Last Post & Reveille were played as our thoughts were brought together, followed by President Ted presenting the Ode – “ They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old – LEST WE FORGET “.

[**Note** : As it has not been necessary to make any changes to the Honour Roll since last years AGM, a printed version of the Honour Roll has not been included in this years “Tit Bits”. If any Member/ Affiliate would like a copy of the Honour Roll, please contact Mike Englefield (0408 514 850 / Englefield@techinfo.com.au)]

Vale

Life Member Marjorie King (21/5/2017).

Report on the March – Brendon Holmes



The Unit Banner

Brendon reported that three members participated in today's march – President Ted Young, Ron Woff and Don Thurlow – led by the King family members carrying the Unit banner.

Brendon then reflected on the manner in which the weather unfolded with early morning rain only for it to clear for most of the march. Brendon then expressed the sense of pride he felt to be representing his father Dick in being able to accompany the unit members who marched and mix with the numerous other veterans and their family members.



Pres. Ted leading the way !



Doing it in style !....Don Thurlow & Ron Woff

Correspondence – Trevor Ward

Trevor Ward presented the following correspondence –

Joyce Shepherd - 11 April 2017.

“ Dear Wendy, I have enclosed a cheque for \$30-00. I am sorry I will not be able to attend the luncheon. Wishing the 10th Field Ambulance Ass. every good wishes. Your sincerely.”

Ali Waight - 18 April 2017

“ Hi Trevor. I hope you are well.

We received the Tenth Tit Bits and wanted to let you know that our tribe will be at the march again this year proudly carrying the flag for the unit. Unfortunately myself and Brad are not able to attend the luncheon however Justin and his family will.

My grandmother Marj King is doing well considering her dementia and living down at Anglesea Aged Care. Her illness allows her to revisit some of the best years of her life and so many of those include all of you together at the March and afterwards back in Fawkner.

If you would kindly advise me of banking details I will transfer funds for all our Affiliate memberships.

See you at Flinders St. Kind regards.”

Pamela McMillan

“ Thankyou for the Tit Bits. Please accept my apologies for the lunch & wish all the boys a great ANZAC Day. Murdoch, my dad, never missed a march while he was alive.”

Lynette Blackwood

“ Thankyou for the Tit Bits No 51 and I read with great interest so many special contributions and my admiration to all those concerned for such an excellent document. I regret again that I cannot be with you at the luncheon.

I was particularly moved to hear about the memorial plaque commemorating the Units time in the Seymour area and that it has been kindly maintained by the Nilsson family. It was in Seymour where my father Lt. Colonel Stanley McKenzie commenced the training of the Unit to mould it to the highest degree of efficiency (his ethic always) to give the greatest amount of medical knowledge to treat all wounded cases they would confront.

It is special to read that Vermont Secondary College is to adopt the 10th Field Ambulance and all credit to the Principal and all involved in the Ex- Service Organisation Program so that young students now hear and learn the great sacrifices made by earlier generations for them.

Finally it is amazing my granddaughter attended Vermont Secondary College. That is a remarkable connection for me and her great grandfather would be so proud too.

I will be thinking of you all on the day.

Very sincerely.”

Moved by Trevor Ward to receive the correspondence/ Seconded Julie Mayberry/ Motion Carried

Finance Report – Mr Trevor Ward

Treasurer Trevor Ward tabled the Financial Statement for the period ended 31 January 2017. Trevor moved that the report be accepted /Seconded Ted Young - Motion Carried

Trevor also expressed a vote of thanks to David Hall for his audit of the Unit books of account

General Reports

- **10th Tit Bits** – Mike Englefield reported that after authoring/editing/publishing 50 Issues of TTB's, Ron Woff had taken leave for this year and has in fact bequeathed the task of producing future editions to his family members.

Rons ever faithful writer/ co-editor and publisher, granddaughter Sarah , also took leave of absence from preparing this years Edition 51 of TT B's .We thank another of Rons granddaughters, Megan McLean for taking over Sarahs role this year and compiling the 2017 Edition. The door is open for Sarah to resume her position in the future.

A vote of gratitude was expressed to them all and those in attendance supported their great contribution with strong applause.

- **Welfare** – Wendy Ward

Wendy Ward commented that there had not been any members pass in the preceeding year.

Wendy also reported that sadly,Esma Young had passed away on 18 March 2017 and that jack Bacon has limited walking ability but is otherwise managing ok. Glad White is still living independently in her unit and is still driving her car.

Wendy moved the allocation of a donation to Legacy of \$ 500 / Seconded Mike Englefield – Motion Carried.

- **Adopt an Ex-Service Organisation Program** – Julie Mayberry
Julie reported on a visit she, President Ted Young and Mike Englefield made on 24 April 2017 to Vermont Secondary College where they attended 2 sessions of the Colleges Anzac memorial assemblies for 1400 students.

President Ted addressed the assembly focusing his presentation on the importance of Anzac Day to the freedom that we as a nation now enjoy and the need to remember those who had paid the price (and didn't return) for that freedom. He expressed the desire that the

students continue as the years pass to enjoy that freedom and never have to do what his generation had to do.

As a former student of the College Julie expressed pride in being able to return to the College and in the behaviour of and respect shown by the 1400 students towards us, the Anzac memory and attention to Principal Jacobs Anzac address.

Our attendance was highlighted when a couple of students approached President Ted after the assembly to thank him for his attendance and presentation.

Pres. Ted addresses Vermont
Secondary College 24/4/2017



Pres Ted, Julie Mayberry, Principal Tony
Jacobs & School Captains
Hannah Frank and Josiah Duncan



College Anzac Assembly

As President Ted's words to the students missed last year's TTB's, here for your reflection, is the text of his speech.

"Anzac day is a most important day on our calendar. It's a day to reflect on our freedom and to remember those who paid the price for it. Those who never came back. Those who died defending our way of life.

I hope that as the years pass by, you will live in freedom and not have to do what our generation had to do.

You have in your library a book of the 10th Field Ambulance history called “Care, Courage and Camaraderie. Read it if you have time. We all know what “Care and Courage” mean but what does “Camaraderie” mean. Perhaps you could have a competition to understand the meaning of the word. Thankyou.”

President Ted introduced Tony Jacobs, Principal of Vermont Secondary College. Tony thanked all at the meeting for the opportunity for the College to be involved with the 10th Field Ambulance Association and talked about the 1400 College students who attended Anzac Assemblies (held on 24 April 2017) He also thanked President Ted, Julie and Mike for attending as representatives of the Association.

Tony then indicated that Vermont Secondary College is proud of its involvement with the Association and is extremely happy to now have the opportunity this association provides for inclusion in the Colleges curriculum.

Trevor Ward moved that the Reports be accepted/ Seconded David Hall/ Motion Carried

Toast to the Unit

President Ted then invited Vice President Rob Stanley to the microphone and Rob presented the following :

“ ANZAC DAY – April 25th - 2017

It is always an honour to stand here today and to toast the unit

There are certain words that encapsulate the essence of the 10th.The preface of Care Courage and Camaraderie details why we need to recognise the 10th - And always remember the introduction says :

“The unit had a high standard and unenviable record of caring for their wounded and sick comrades

Their courage in times of danger, hardship and deprivation was never in question

The experience of those years formed a unique and close bond of friendship and comradeship that has endured to the present day.”

The key words I take - **Caring Courage & Bond**- These words stamp their mark on all involved with the unit

The history of the 10th Field Ambulance unit dates back to the battle fields of France in WW1.Let me give a very short history

The 10th Field Ambulance unit supported the 10th Brigade .The 10th Brigade comprised of the 4 Battalions – 37 to 40.The majority of members were from Victoria with a few members from South Australia.

The 10th Brigade was first deployed with the 3rd Division at Messines in July 1917 - Hope that is the correct pronunciation. French was never one of my better subjects

The unit was a large casualty retrieval centre. The cover of the WW1 history of the unit quotes "Their courage is deserving of the highest praise"

We have this image on the front of our slide show today

Courage – this is a word we cannot emphasize enough

Just consider –

For all the unit members they spent their early adult years at war.

What did they know of what was to be. They were only teenagers

We learn from history .From what has been written. It allows us to at least appreciate what was their WAR

My father Ken – Sorry – The Husband / The Father and in law and the Grand Father .They are all represented here today .He documented his years at war - from December 41 to January 46.We can read his thoughts and understand what he and his mates endured

In 1942 – a young teenager – now only 19 – enlists into the army .His journal details the feelings and .What will be. We do not know.

It is December 1941 – he writes: Dec 7 "Japs bomb Pearl Harbour" Dec 8 "Australia declares war on Japan" Dec 31 "Called up into the Army – we were waiting for the call"

Remember - They all joined knowing what was needed to be done. But not knowing what to expect.

First half of 42 - Training and getting prepared. September / October – "we are going to New Guinea" .There is great anticipation

They arrive in Port Moresby at the start of the summer in 42 – in November. Arriving in Moresby at the same time as the 95th air raid was in progress. they are into action helping the injured following the air raid. With over 1,000 patients from the fighting zones inland from Port Moresby. They were now part of this war.

They were issued with 2-man tents and allocated hillside lots – Dad notes "With views" and the wet season. What a welcome.

Over the next two months these young men are quickly understanding what is required.

March 43 – returning to the front line – 10 members of the unit are transported to Milne Bay by plane. Boarding a transport ship at Milne Bay

onto Oro Bay. Knowing that anything can happen - the worst did. The transport ship is attacked by ZERO's. The newspaper article states -

Nine enemy bombers escorted by 13 fighters attacked and sank a small Allied cargo vessel .The enemy were dispersed and driven back by our intercepting fighters. One medium bomber and one Zero were shot down.

The unit members were picked up by an Allied naval vessel but after spending significant time in the water - 8 miles off shore

On light hearted side Dad always talked about the crate of peaches that saved his life.

At all times these guys showed Courage . It was like this for 4 years for all the members of the unit

The journal notes - There were some extravagances – some highs to note: March 43 - my own tent in the latter days at Oro Bay and with views of the River Valley.

But what was it really like ??

As there was no air strip at Oro Bay it made the evacuation of patients difficult. The only way out was by boat - small or large or whatever was available at the time. A small fishing boat could only take 2-3 patients with an orderly. by night and hiding by day. The Japanese costal vessels would be constantly patrolling the shallows. Our unit members played a game of cat and mouse with the Japs

We read thru the journal – comments like – Aug 43 – attacked this morning by the Japs – but no damage. No reference to themselves only about the patients – their only consideration - the care and safe delivery of the injured.

Early 44 – 21st Birthday – with his mates – went to Dreger Harbour with Alan Sharp. July 44 – back in Australia – on leave .Away from action – Ken wrote - we can take time with our loved ones

Ken had little time in town – had to make the most of his stay - including getting engaged.

They can find time during this war to be again with family. There are some great shots in the journal . All the guys would have enjoyed their time back

1945 – close to the end. After leave the unit was sent to the Atherton Tablelands for 9 months of training then onto Borneo on July 1, 1945.

Their target was Baik Papen - which had been flattened by a 250 ship armada. Just consider the thoughts going thru their minds

Fortunately - World War II finished on August 14, 1945. The unit remained in the islands – arriving in Ambon on September 27, 1945.

Going home day for our unit members to Australia was fixed for January 21, 1946. It is now over. From what these guys went thru the following words were special to my father :

Quote

"The 10th Field Ambulance earned for itself a proud record of achievement during the Second World War.

It is true that any organisation is only as strong as it's leaders, and the people they lead.

The 10th Field Ambulance was indeed fortunate in having the calibre of officers and men who worked together so closely and intelligently over a long period of time. "

In discussing the unit history with my family It was my brother John who noted that he was taken by the influence that the unit had in discovering new and effective tropical medicines. The unit had to find new ways to treat the complications of the tropics. New ways to treat tropical diseases. This proud record of achievement we spoke about earlier is clear .Thru such adversity real benefit can be found. Thru their Courage and Commitment to endure 5 and even 6 years at war. We can only be thank full. "

May I please ask you all to be upstanding and toast the 10th Field Ambulance

In conclusion, Rob encouraged relatives of member families to contribute to future “Toasts to the Unit” by putting together their recollections of their fathers involvement in the Unit.

General Business

Report from the February 2017 meeting the Unit Committee :

- resolved to donate a further copy of the book “Care, Courage & Camaraderie” to Vermont Secondary College for inclusion in the Unit display cabinet;
- during the year the Laidlaw family presented memorabilia from Verns collection for retention by the Unit. Selected pieces will be added to the display maintained at Vermont Secondary College;
- Another book titled “10th Field Ambulance In World War 1” (authored by James Anderson) is now available;
- Rob de Jarlais requested that Unit photographs reproduced in TTB’s be annotated with the names of the subjects.

Close

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2 -00 pm with President Ted thanking everyone for their attendance and contributions to the day.

Group Photograph

A group photograph comprising attending members President Ted, Ron Woff and Don Thurlow backed by the Unit Honor Board was then arranged.



L to R : Pres. Ted Young, Ron Woff & Don Thurlow



Association Honour Board

Visit to Seymour Memorial Plaque

In June 2017, President Ted accompanied by committee members Trevor and Wendy Ward and David Hill visited the Seymour Memorial site. This is the location where the Unit first began its training and where the seeds of lifelong camaraderie and fellowship were sown.

With the relocation of its former custodians, the Nilsson family, maintenance of the memorial surrounds had fallen into disrepair. However, displaying obvious hereditary 10th Field Ambulance

foresight and initiative, David Hall took to the overgrown grass (weeds) with his whipper snipper and restored the site to a presentable condition.

The committee has written to the Mitchell Shire and requested that it maintain the memorial on a regular basis.



Pres. Ted at Association Memorial Plaque
- Seymour 2017

2018 Committee Meeting

At the committee meeting held on 17 February 2018, the following matters were addressed :

- Rob Stanley to canvass Units members families with a view to having them contribute at the Anzac day luncheon their thoughts/reflections in memory of the Units history;
- Memorabilia. The Laidlaw family has generously donated items which will be housed in the Vermont Secondary College TFA display unit;
- Megan McLean and Mike Englefield will continue to prepare 10th Tit Bits;
- Resolved to make a donation of \$500 to Legacy.

Email Addresses

If you have an email account and have not already advised the Association please do so to Secretary Mike Englefield, (englefield@techinfo.com.au)

If you are not an email user, please rest assured that we will still be in touch with you by traditional post .

