"TENTH TIT BITS"



10th Australian (AIF) Field Ambulance Association

ISSUE NO.53 1 APRIL 2019

Hello Members and Affiliates and welcome to the 53 rd edition of "TTB's". We trust that you find the contents of this issue interesting as well as bringing you up to date with what has happened in regard to the Associations affairs over the past year.

We are happy to report that as far as we are aware there have been no passings of members during the year. As a result and to contain the size of TTB's for mailing purposes, we have again this year not included the Association Honour Roll.You can however access the Roll on the Association website – www.10thfieldambulance.com/

We look forward to seeing as many of you as is possible at the AGM Luncheon on 25 April 2019

ANZAC DAY MARCH (THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2019)

Unit marshalling will commence at 8-30 am in Swanston St (between Flinders St and Flinders Lane) with step-off for Army 1st Corp (which includes the 10th Australian (AIF) Field Ambulance Association) at 9-30 am.

Unfortunately the March organizing committee has decided that veteran vehicle transport will only be provided by RACV Car Club members and that these vehicles will not travel with veterans units.

PLEASE NOTE : Due to the extent of construction work being carried out on the underground rail project in the vicinity of Flinders/Swanston Streets and Princess Bridge, public viewing of the march in those areas is being discouraged. Non marching supporters of Units are requested to follow the Units march commencing on the southern side of Princess Bridge

ANZAC DAY AGM & LUNCHEON

The luncheon is again at the Seasons Botanic Gardens, 348 St.Kilda Road, Melbourne. The cost to the Unit is \$55/head but the Committee will subsidise \$10 meaning the cost 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 TO TREASURER TREVOR WARD BY MONDAY 15 APRIL 2019. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

Date - April 25th 2018 - 12.00 noon

Held at – Seasons Botanic Gardens – 348 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Welcome – Chairman & President Ted Young opened the meeting and :

- extended a warm welcome to 53 Members, Affiliates and Guests with special mention to the King, Young and Englefield (Ron Woff relations) family members for their attendance.

- acknowledged the Principal of Vermont Secondary College (VSC), Mr Tony Jacobs and College Captains Peter Mantzounis and Caitrin MacDowell.

- offered a special welcome to all attending the luncheon for the first time.

<u>Apologies – (per T Ward)</u>

Life Members - John Bacon and Ron Woff. / **Member** – Don Thurlow /Life Members (Affiliates) Margaret Holmes and Glad White.

Affiliates – John Bachelor, Lynette Blackwood, Anne Cooper, Karen Danielsson, Peter De Jarlais, Robert De Jarlais, Sarah Goode, Olive Gordon, Ngaire Holman, Rhonda Holmes, Jenny MacFarlane, Heather McKenzie, Carolyn MacLeod, Pamela McMillan, Julie Mayberry, Meryl Patrick, Deborah Pulham, Lorraine Pulham, Marj Stanley, Raelene Stojan, Russell Thompson, Noel Thurlow, Audrey Trafford, Chris Trafford, Noel Woff.

Trevor Ward moved acceptance of the apologies / Seconded Rob Stanley / 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.

Remembrance

President Ted announced that the Roll of Honour would now be read. A period of silent reflection was observed as Brendon Holmes, Chris Martin and Wendy Ward read the Honour Roll containing the names of deceased Unit members.

As our thoughts were brought together President Ted recited the Ode – "They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old – LEST WE FORGET "followed by the playing of The Last Post & Reveille

Report on the March – Brendon Holmes



"The Banner Kings" – Pres Ted Young supported by the King family and their long standing commitment to carrying the Unit banner on Anzac Day.

Brendon reported that President Ted Young and 17 Affiliates marched this year.

Due to an earlier than expected step-off President Ted and the King family bearing the banner had a good 10 minute start on the Affiliate marchers. Showing a turn of speed Brendon and the others eventually caught up with and joined the Unit on St. Kilda Rd. Brendon reflected on how he was emotionally taken by the clapping and smiles of the crowd lining the road. He encouraged other Affiliates to embrace the march experience in the future.

On reaching the Shrine, Brendon was approached by an ABC TV journalist and cameraman for an interview and his thoughts on the march.

President Ted thanked Brendon for his report and then commented that Affiliate Julie Mayberrys absence from the day was due to her currently being in Villers Britteneux., France.

Meeting Chairman – Point of Order

President Ted took leave from chairing the meeting, asking Secretary Mike Englefield to be his proxy.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 2017

Proxy Chair Mike referred attendees to the minutes of the AGM of April 25th 2017 – as published in the 2018 10th Tit Bits -and requested that they be taken as read and approved.

Moved Mike Englefield - Seconded Wendy Ward – Motion Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Proxy Chair Mike asked attendees if there was any business arising from the Minutes. There was no business arising

Finance Report

Treasurer Trevor Ward tabled the Statement of Receipts & Payments (refer attached) for the year ended 31 January 2018 and spoke to various aspects of the Receipts/Payments and the reasons for variations to budgeted figures.

Trevor moved that the report be accepted /Seconded Rob Stanley - Motion Carried

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

Correspondence

Trevor Ward presented the following correspondence:

- Lynn Phillips – 14 April 2018

"Thank you for the information re Anzac Day. Dad, Jack Bacon, will not be attending and sends his apologies. He hopes this day is successful and sends his best wishes. Regards..."

- Robert de Jarlais – 2 April 2018

....." Dear Everyone. With apologies I'll be attending the Anzac Day March in Bingara NSW. A small town & surrounding district of 1300 people.

Thankyou for welcoming my brother Pete and I at last years march and luncheon.

I really liked seeing the Unit Banner in the real. Yours sincerely. Yours faithfully...."

- Peter de Jarlais – 29 March 2018

Hi Mike ,

Have forwarded my Annual Subscription by mail today; must apologise that I cannot be with you all this year as I am marching with my Army mates in Sydney who I went through Basic training with at Pucka.

I have a little story I thought I would share with you all – whilst in Artillery – 102 Field Battery 8 Medium Regiment went on an exercise called "Ascot Ridge" and was away for 3 weeks from Holesworthy Army Barracks down the south coast of NSW. While I was away the parking arrangements were changed – I was given three warnings with the tyres being let down a bit each week to remove my vehicle – returned after three weeks to find my pride and joy my HK Monaro's tyres on their rims !

Well I went off and nearly lost it but my Gun Sergeant Phil Prosser a full blooded aboriginal told me to get a grip – I`ll phone your mother to let her know you will be a little late home, I`ll ring the NRMA (like the RACV in Victoria) they will fill your tyres with air and on the way home drop into the nearest service station and fill your tyres with proper air.

Well when I arrived home mum was full of praise for Phil …"What a really thoughtful and wonderful man"; Mum I said Phil is aboriginal well Mum was taken aback being on the land and running three farms for her father before the war Mum was not keen on aboriginals …"lazy good for nothings etc etc" – well Mum changed her tune and met Phil (Phil said I would really like to meet your mother). They got on like a house on fire Mum was never the same about our indigenous people again and just loved the guys in my unit. Mum was in the WRAAF (Australian Airforce) during the war.

Phil Prosser did two tours of Vietnam, did a "Knife & Fork" course (non-commissioned ranks course) to become an officer; Phil retired a Major and is retired now living in Busselton WA.

I encouraged lots of indigenous friends to join the army as he loved the extended family aspect and said it would be and is a little tough for indigenous folks to get on in the commercial world .

Another very great example of what Phil and some of his friends achieved via the army is Colin Powell – he knew his prospects in the commercial world were limited so he joined the school cadets. Colin went on to be the Head of the US Army and become the US Secretary of State eg. of Colin's problems at the time whilst at Officer Training he and his wife were not allowed to live in the camp they had to live in a nearby caravan park !

Enclose a photo of Phil Prosser working our "Charlie" gun in 1971 at Holesworthy – this gun was captured by a North Vietnamese Division that overran our Battery position – the gun was of course later re-captured.

Hope you find this story interesting - we can all learn a lot from true stories like these,

Best regards,...."

General Reports

10th Tit Bits – Mike Englefield expressed the Committees appreciation to Ron Woffs grandaughter, Megan McLean, for her assistance to him in compiling the 2018 Edition of TTB's and also to Rons son, Noel Woff, for the printing and collation at no cost to the Association.

Proxy Chair Mike expressed a vote of gratitude to them all and those in attendance supported their great contribution with strong applause.

- Welfare – Wendy Ward

Marj King sadly passed away in May last year. Marj was a life member and a wonderful contributor to the 10th Field Ambulance.

Ron Woff sadly is not at all well and is in the Kingston Centre

Don Thurlow is unable to attend this year due to medical conditions much to his disappointment

Jack Bacon is in "Arcare" Wantirna and is not able to walk far and therefore is unable to attend

Ivan Goldsmith had a very bad stroke and is in a nursing home in Lakes Entrance

Glad White, a life member is still very bright and living in a retirement Village independently at 90 years of age

Margaret Holmes, a life member, is now living up at Woodend and is not well enough to attend today

On behalf of the 10th Field Ambulance Wendy proposed that we donate \$500 to legacy

Moved Mike Englefield / Seconded David Hall – Motion Carried.

- Adopt an Ex-Service Organisation Program

Proxy Chair Mike reported that President Ted and Trevor Ward attended Vermont Secondary College on 24 April 2018 participating in 2 sessions of the Colleges Anzac memorial assemblies. President Ted made the following presentation to the 1200 students focusing on relationship between Anzac day and the freedom that Australians have enjoyed since World War 2.

" I am here to tell you what you already know, that it is a holiday tomorrow. Why ? Because it's ANZAC DAY. It is a day that we should all remember; something that we all take for granted. Our way of life. Our freedom.

This day we set aside to remember to give thanks for those who fought and died so that we don't live under some foreign government, some foreign power that could take away the freedom we all enjoy today.

One of the members of our Unit wrote of an experience he had early on our arrival in New Guinea. Not being used to the tropics with its humid weather, our Unit members had health problems like most of the other Units. This story is about the dark days of the war in 1942 when the Japanese troops had landed at Buna and Gona.

Keith writes......"On our trek from Buna to Poppendatta we were very footsore, caused by walking over the very uneven terrain, The swampy, intermittent corduroy tracks towards where we were to set up the field hospital will long be remembered."

We even set up an operating theatre in the jungle, a staging post for emergency medical attention for injured soldiers before sending them to better facilities like the Oro Bay Hospital.

Both of us, Don and myself, had dysentery. Both aged 19. Never been away from home before. We were very homesick and both with very sore bottoms. We would have thrown in the towel had our Sergeant not urged us along. On reaching the Regimental Aid Post we were given medication for our dysentery which tasted like Epsom salts. If we thought we were crook before, it was nothing to what was to come from this purgative.

The boys remember a motorbike lying beside a track though most of us thought it was useless....but a team of horses could not have pulled my mate away from it !

So, eventually our good old Sergeant let us try it. One kick, maybe two, and away it went. We thought we had won Tatts ! I never thought one bike could carry so many packs and rifles and two blokes with their bums on fire !

We followed the track until we reached our destination and collapsed under a coconut tree and waited for the rest of the Unit to arrive. The bike was later retrieved by its grateful owner.

In war its not only the enemy you have to contend with; it's the climate, poor living conditions, missing family and friends that you have to put up with.

The reason we have ANZAC Day? This poem says it all – listen to it.....

A POEM ENTITLED ANZAC DAY

I saw a kid marchin' with medals on his chest/He marched alongside diggers marchin' six abreast/He knew it was Anzac Day – he walked along with pride/He did his best to keep in step with diggers by his side.

And when the march was over the kid was rather tired/ A digger said "Whose medals son?" to which the kid replied/ "They belong to my Daddy but he did not come back/ He died up in New Guinea on a lonely jungle track"

The kid looked rather sad then a tear came to his eye/ The digger said "Don't cry my son and I will tell you why/ Your Daddy marched with us today – all the bloomin' way/ We diggers know that he was here – it's like that on Anzac Day"

The kid looked rather puzzled and didn't understand/But the digger went on talking and started to wave his hand/ "For this great land we live in, there's a price we have to pay/And for this thing called freedom, the diggers had to pay.

For we all love fun and merriment in this country where we live/ The price was that some soldiers his precious life must give/ For you to go to school my lad and worship God at will/ Someone had to pay the price so the diggers paid the bill.

Your Daddy died for us my son – for all things good and true/I wonder if you can understand the things I've said to you/The kid looked up at the digger – just for a little while/And with a changed expression said, with a lovely smile/ "I know my daddy marched here today – this, our Anzac Day,/I know he did – I know he did – all the blooming way".

VERMONT SECONDARY COLLEGE

Principals Address

Proxy Chair Mike then introduced Tony Jacobs, Principal of Vermont College.

Tony thanked all at the meeting for the opportunity for the College to be involved with the 10th Field Ambulance Unit and what it meant to the College to be able to continue this invaluable link with men who had earnt freedom for Australians. He also thanked President Ted and Trevor Ward for attending as representatives of the Unit and presenting to the 1200 students.

At the conclusion of Tonys presentation, Vice President Rob indicated that the Unit would consider allocating funds to allow a more professional presentation of the Unit memorabilia housed at the College.

TOAST TO THE UNIT

Proxy Chair Mike invited Brendon Holmes (son of Richard "Dick" Holmes) to make the Toast to the Unit.

"It is with great honour that I propose a toast to the unit, the 10th Australian Field Ambulance. Honouring our fathers and understanding the personal side of their war. Today we're honouring our past secretary Richard "Dick" Holmes.

RICHARD OLDAKER HOLMES 1923-2006

To gain an appreciation of "Dick" and his years in the 10th Field We reflect on a recent lunch I enjoyed with Ted and Ron back in July 2018At this lunch I gained a greater insight into the time Dick spent with his mates

During their years Dick was in "B" company, Ted was in "A" company After the war they were just **great company**! Ted commented - *"It was fantastic to see him again after the war because he was our Secretary.* He did a lot of work for the plaque at the gates at Seymour and Atherton table lands". "He was still Secretary when he passed away".

Ted and Ron visited him two days before he passed away on May 9th 2006. Ted also spoke at Dick's funeral which I know Dick would have been immensely proud of.

Ted recounted the 10^{th} unit as being 250 members at full compliment. Over a period of 5 years - 1000 + (Ted's estimate). Ron Woff came from the 4th FA. Dick was called up to the Canterbury drill hall at the age of 18.

Having lost his father 4 years earlier, it was very difficult for him and his mother. This was in a time of financial hardship for the family with the main income earner gone And a large family to support for his mother.

Dick had a strong Christian faith and requested not to carry arms, but rather to look after the sick and wounded. Many of his friends from the local church requested the same. They were all to be a part of this coming war

The 10th was formed

As young, raw, new soldiers they knew nothing of what was awaiting them. The first camp they found themselves at was Nagambie This is where the memorial plaque is situated today.

For us, it is hard to relate to the discomfort these young men endured. Firstly the footwear. No comfy caterpillar boots. These were tough, heavy leather boots. Then there was the cold. One night camping in northern Victoria, It was so cold, cows in the local paddock died from the cold.

From Nagambie The boys marched to Bonagilla, Albury. From there, Jimboomba by train, then to Maryborough QLD It was in Maryborough where the boys boarded ships There final destination PNG Then to Buna Gona and Sanananda Just to keep it in perspective The Japs landed at Buna

Reflecting on my memories of Dad and his experiences Going to War - he was so young. He wrote letters all the time to his mother He like all the boys they had loved ones at home Dick had a deep longing to be

back home but he knew he had a duty to his country and to his mates to fulfil whatever task was asked of him

The stories he shared were a blend of the horrifying – but also time way from the action. Ted told one story when Dick was invited into his first operating theatre. They amputated a blokes hand and they gave it to Dick to dispose of...he got the fright of his life!!! He said it stood him in good stead for the rest of the war.

We recall many gruesome stories such as times when bombs would be whistling through the air. Trenches were deep enough to get your body below ground level. This would allow the shrapnel to fly over you But on one occasion, a soldier wasn't so fortunate and he lost part of his skull. This had a lasting impact on Dick.

There were also some funny stories of the New Guinea natives, I recount...... One favourite story We heard the whistling of bombs heading straight for the camp There was a nearby jetty As one native was sprinting down to the jetty yelled out "Lord grease my heels" He won his race

The 10th on another occasion were travelling on a medical ship (I hope I'm correct in interpreting the story) however the ship was hit hard by a bomb from a Japanese warplane. Several were injured. Dick was ok however his biscuit tin wasn't so fortunate. We are privileged to have the biscuit tin to show you.

Dick was gifted in carpentry, extremely practical, forward thinking Very innovative when it came to building things left for PNG with a small hammer and a packet of nails, he was able to build many structures – Including the operating tables. Who would have thought to take a hammer and nails! Carrying them in your backpack all the way up the Hume Highway, Adding to the blisters. But that was Dick, always thinking of ways to help others.

Dick had a very good ear and was used by his superiors to identify enemy and friendly planes. Each plane had its own unique sound. They would say "what's that Dicky"....And Dick would identify it as friendly or not.

On one occasion, the Japs had stolen friendly planes, later reported in the news "Dick got it right " But all of a sudden bombs came whistling down.

Dick formed great relationships with the local natives As long as we remember, Dick spoke his favourite lines of Pidgin English. Food was always high on the list....And if it wasn't bully beef (spam) but something prepared with love Dick was known to say "Number one kaikai toubada", loosely translated as number 1 food my friend.

Speaking of food, the locals had a rather unique way of fishing. The water off the coast of PNG has been described to as crystal clear. The locals had learnt that if they detonated a grenade in the water, the fish would shortly float to the top. Many a nice feed of fish were enjoyed this way!

My favourite item that Dick brought back from the war is this smoking pipe. You can still smell the tobacco. Items for show and tell: Footwear, Belt, Jacket, Biscuit Tin, Smoking Pipe, Hammer

When the news came <u>"It's Over".</u> It is jubilation . Yes there was relief

During the war there were times when it was grim But they could also enjoy some times They could make the best of the time they were together when the fighting was low Dick and the boys would enjoy these times away from the heat of war They would enjoy the time – gaining some balance - Playing table tennis, 2 up and other general games where everyone was involved - football L cricket

Away from war – now back at home the years away – the bonds of friendship grow – especially during times of conflict By far, his greatest appreciation was that of his friends at the 10^{th} . This day, ANZAC DAY was the most important day of the year for Dick He took this day very seriously with much preparation well in advance.

For some years after the war, he lost contact with many of his mates Every serving member – they had to re start their lives Return – careers to re build – families to start Then – around the early 80's he reconnected with his old mates To once again share in an eternal comradeship. The one connecting thread was always present The experience of war, the threat of losing one's life, being separated from loved ones. The guys created a bond that we still see today.

As a son - marching towards the shrine, it never fails to stir emotion, admiration for Dad – and all those that have served for this great country.

The Great Southland of the Holy Spirit as named by Capt. Pedro Fernandez de Quiros He gave this continent the name "Australia del Espiritu Santo" in the year 1606. This country is truly blessed and we can see why

As we not only reflect on the members of the 10th Field Ambulance But now look around at the wives, sons, daughters and grandchildren We all have a responsibility to continue the legacy.

We all agree, there is a bond that has been created through adversity when you're in the battle, fighting a common enemy, nothing creates a stronger bond. We may be separated from loved ones. But thanks to God, who has brought us together, keeps us together.

In memory of Dick (Dad) and all those that have served in the 10^{th} . Would you all be up standing and charge your glasses as we toast the 10^{th} .

Brendon Holmes

ANZAC DAY 2018"

Proxy Chair Mike thanked Brendon for the time, effort and feeling he had invested in preparing the Toast to the Unit and the graphic picture he had painted of his Dads experience with the Unit.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Mike reinforced the Committees desire for Affiliates to consider donating or lending memorabilia to the Unit display at Vermont Secondary College.
- Seymour Memorial Plaque Mike reported that further to the Unit formally approaching the Shire of Mitchell, verbal advice had been received this week that the Shire would be more than happy to not only maintain the site but it would also like to improve the surroundings. It would be happy for the Unit to have input into the improvement concept.

"GROUP" PHOTOGRAPH

- Being the only Member in attendance President Ted, backed by the Unit Honour Board, posed for a photograph.



CLOSE

At 2 -45pm Proxy Chair Mike thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions to the day and closed the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS - 2019

SEYMOUR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The Committee agreed to accept an offer from the Shire of Seymour to be involved in the design of the area surrounding the memorial plaque. Up until a week ago we were awaiting advice from the Shire as to the nature and nature of the possible work.

Unfortunately, we have now been advised that, because the memorial site is located on a tract of Vic Roads land (rather than Shire land), the Shire of Mitchell is not in a position to make further improvements to the memorial area.

The Association Committee will now need to decide whether to pursue the matter with Vic Roads.

VERMONT SECONDARY COLLEGE

UNIT DISPLAY CASE

The Committee decided at last years AGM to fund the purchase of another display case at the College in which Association memorabilia can be displayed. The new case is now in place and Vice President Rob Stanley is canvassing members families for items for the display.



At the initiative of the College Principal Tony Jacobs , a sign/plaque recognising the Units contribution to the display will be incorporated in the cabinet.

NOTE : Any items of memorabilia provided by members' families for display in the cabinet will be on a "loan only" basis on the understanding that they will be returned to the donor family if or when requested or should the College no longer wish to have the display case on show.

IMPORTANT !!! - EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have within the last year acquired an email address or have recently changed your email address and have overlooked advising us, could you please send details of your email address to Trevor Ward <u>-tandwward@bigpond.com</u>

Association Office Bearers

 PRESIDENT:
 Ted Young Tel: 9569 8393

 VICE PRESIDENT:
 Rob Stanley Tel: 0418 329 047

 SECRETARY:
 Mike Englefield Tel: 0408 514 850 / englefield@techinfo.com.au

 TREASURER:
 Trevor Ward Tel: 9877 8027 /

 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
 Julie Mayberry ,/ David Hall , Wendy Ward Sarah Goode

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

10th AUSTRALIAN F	IFI D	AMBULANCE	(AIF)	ASSOCIATION
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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2018											
Dark Dalarse of Ofere	Actual Year to 31/01/17		Budget Year to 31/01/18	l	Actual Year to 31/01/18		Budget Year to 31/01/19				
Bank Balance at Start	7921		7630		7630		7177				
Luncheon Receipts		{51}	2250	{50}	2205	{49]	2205	[49]			
Subscriptions - Members	30	[3]	30	[3]	30	[3]	30				
Subscriptions - Affiliates	450	[45]	400	(40]	430	[43]	400	[40]			
Donations]	375	[13]	200	[7]	595	[15]	200	[10]			
Total Receipts	3150		2880		3260		2835				
Luncheon Costs		[56]	2915	53]	2650	[[53]	2800	[52]			
Legacy Donation	400	-	400		500		500				
Bereavement Notices, Cards and/or Flowers	125		300		232		300				
Life Member Plaque	102	2	100		272		250				
Bank Fees	14		20								
Administration					59	Contractory of Contractory	50	of the local data of the local			
Total Payments	3441		3735	<u> </u>	3713		3900				
Result for Period	-291	Def	-855	Def	453	Def	1065	Def			
Bank Balance at End:	7630		6775		7177		6112				

Note:Budget figures not subject to audit

CHECKED AND CORRECT:

David Hall Hon. Auditor

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Trevor Ward FCPA Hon. Treasurer