

## **“TENTH TIT BITS”**



### **10<sup>th</sup> Australian (AIF) Field Ambulance Association**

**ISSUE NO.54**

**APRIL 2020**

<b><u>PRESIDENT</u></b> – Ted Young (9569 8393)	<b><u>LIFE MEMBERS</u></b>
<b><u>VICE PRESIDENT</u></b> – Rob Stanley (0418 329 047)	Mrs Glad White
<b><u>HON. SECRETARY</u></b> – Mike Englefield (0408 514 850)	Mrs Margaret Holmes
<b><u>HON.TREASURER</u></b> – Trevor Ward (9877 8027)	Mrs Marj King
<b><u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u></b> – Wendy Ward	Ted Young
Julie Mayberry	

Members and Affiliates, welcome to the 54th edition of “TTB’s”.

It’s in rather sombre circumstances that we bring you this year’s TTB’s as we approach, for the first time since WW2, an Anzac Day without a March or Unit Luncheon being held. The devastating consequences of the spread of the coronavirus – covid 19 – means that our Federal and State Governments in a drive to arrest the spread of the virus, have amongst other initiatives, banned public gatherings such as our ANZAC day lunch. While the introduction of these public health policies have caused disruption to our lives and traditions, they have clearly been imposed for the better of the Australian community.

In attempting to put it into context, maybe the sacrifices we are currently being asked to make to “protect” our country (albeit from an invisible enemy) , pale into insignificance when compared with the sacrifices our forebears, ANZACS and subsequent service personnel have made in protecting our freedom and country over the last 100 years.

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### **BEREAVEMENTS**

Members and Affiliates will be saddened to hear of the passing during the year of stalwart Life Members / Committeemen Ron (“Woffie”) Woff and John (“Jack”) Bacon and Affiliate and longtime Committeeman David Hall (son of deceased Member John Hall)

**Ronald Lewis Woff (19.10.1922 – 29.9.2019)**



**John Bacon (21.11.1920 – 5.7.2019)**



**Vale :**

“Both Ron & Jack were dedicated 10th Field Association Committee members after the war. After they had served their country well in the time of war they decided it would be fitting to keep our family fellowship & mateship together. After 4 or 5 years being together we were like family with all that we went through during those trying years of war. So Kel White along with Ron & Jack and a few other dedicated members formed the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Amb . Assocn.

When Kel White suddenly died from a heart attack in 1974 he had been Secretary and Editor of 10<sup>th</sup> Tit Bits since its inception. Ron took on the task after Kels passing. Continuing Tit Bits has held our Unit Assocn together all these years as it is today thanks to Rons dedication to this task. He was given the honour of Life Membership in 1985.

Ron was a good golfer and in his 90's he had a hole-in-one. We had many great games together over the many years of our friendship and I am most grateful to have known him.

Jack Bacon was a committeeman on our Association after the war. He became our Welfare Officer in the early days and remained so until ill health forced him to resign in 2017. Jack was made a Life Member in 1997 for his dedication to his work in the welfare area in visiting the sick in hospital, visiting the widows of deceased members, attending funerals and generally keeping in touch.

Jack was a dedicated and loyal member of our Association and it was a pleasure to be a friend.

LEST WE FORGET – Ted Young “

**David Hall**

For 9 years David served on the Unit Committee in his unassuming but considered manner. He willingly acted as Auditor of the Units financial statements and carried for many years the responsibility for organizing the ANZAC Day march transport for those members who would otherwise have not been able to participate. In addition, David oversaw the marshaling of the Members/Affiliates and Unit banner bearers participating in the march. The Association was represented at Davids funeral by Pres Ted, Wendy & Trevor Ward and Mike Englefield.

We sincerely thank Ron, Jack and David for their devoted contribution to the longevity of the Association and perpetuating the memory and deeds of the Units members.

**Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting and Luncheon**

**Date – April 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 – 12.00 noon**

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



President Ted Young

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

- extended a warm welcome to Affiliates and Guests and especially the Principal of Vermont Secondary College (VSC), Mr Tony Jacobs and College Captains Kara Morrison and Spencer Macleod-Finke.
- made special mention of the family of deceased Member Bob “Kruger” King and the Young family for their support and attendance.



- offered a special welcome to Brendon, son of deceased Member Dick Holmes and Dicks grandsons Mitchell and Lachlan Holmes.



## **Apologies – (per T Ward)**

**Life Members** - John Bacon & Ron Woff.      Member – Don Thurlow

**Life Members (Affiliates)** - Margaret Holmes & Glad White.

**Affiliates** – David Bachelor, Anne Cooper, Gerard Handley, Eileen Handley, Michael Handley, Peter De Jarlais, Robert De Jarlais, David Hall, Robert Hall, Geoffrey Hall, Rhonda Holmes, Jenny MacFarlane, Heather McKenzie, Megan McLean, Carolyn MacLeod, Julie Mayberry, Meryl Patrick, Elizabeth Ray, June Rea, Desmond Rea, Michael Rae, Marj Stanley, Raelene Stojan, Noel Thurlow, Russell Thompson, Chris Trafford a 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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, Justin Murphy & Wendy Ward read the Honour Roll containing the names of deceased Unit members.

As our thoughts were brought together President Ted recited the Ode followed by the playing of The Last Post & Reveille.

## **Report on the March – Brendon Holmes**



Pres. Ted & Daughters Gail, Lyn & Heather

Brendon reported that President Ted Young and 17 Affiliates marched led by the King family members carrying the Unit banner. After a hectic step off due to work around Flinders St station associated with the underground rail project the march progressed well. A special flavour was added to the day when Anzac biscuits were handed around in the group.

President Ted thanked Brendon for his report

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 2018**

President Ted referred to the minutes of the AGM of April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and requested that they be taken as read and approved.

Moved Pres Ted Young - Seconded Mike Englefield – Motion Carried.

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

President Ted asked if there was any business arising from the Minutes. There was no business arising.

### **Finance Report – Mr Trevor Ward**

Treasurer Trevor Ward tabled the Financial Statement (attached) for the period ended 31 January 2019 and in doing so highlighted the:

- reduction in from 49 to 29 in 2018 lunch attendees;
- Reduction from 43 to 36 in Affiliate numbers;
- Contribution of \$2197 towards purchase of a Unit display cabinet at Vermont Secondary College

Trevor noted committee member David Halls absence due to illness and expressed a vote of thanks to David for his years auditing of the Unit books of account. Trevor moved that the report be accepted /Seconded Rob Stanley - Motion Carried

### **Correspondence – Trevor Ward**

Trevor Ward presented the following correspondence –

#### **- Jack Bacon (Email)**

Thank-you for the invitation to the luncheon but I will be an apology for the day. Please pass on my best wishes to all and I hope the day is a pleasant for everyone, kind regards John Bacon.

#### **- David Bachelor (Email) – son of Arthur Bachelor**

My wife Beryl and I will not be able to make the Anzac Day march or dinner this year as I am about to go into hospital for major surgery. We are hoping to march with our local RSL at Woodend instead. My brother John should be attending the unit dinner and will pay my \$10 affiliate subs to you on my behalf. Regards, Bach

#### **- Anne Cooper (Letter) – daughter of Alan Sharp**

Dear Mike, please pass on my apologies for non-attendance at ANZAC day lunch. Hope the members and affiliates and family members have an enjoyable lunch. Dad (Alan Sharp) treasured this day, ANZAC day, with his old mates very much. Regards

#### **- Peter de Jarlais ( Email) – son of Roy de Jarlais**

Dear Mike,

Many thanks for your email and the attached TTB's. As requested have mailed my 2019 Annual Subscription plus a small donation to Trevor.

Unfortunately, will be marching with my Army mates again this year. We start our first March at 6.50am marching down Beamish Street Campsie (main street in Campsie) where there is an ANZAC Service. We march to Campsie RSL for breakfast then board a train for the city then march there returning to the Campsie RSL for lunch.

Campsie RSL is going from strength to strength on the back of Korean and Chinese members who are gamblers beyond belief. The club has bought Belmore RSL, Chester Hill RSL and Chester Hill Bowling Club – opposite the Campsie RSL there is a huge park which on ANZAC Day the club has a Family Day free for the community – all sorts of rides and entertainment for children and their parents –



bringing home to everyone the importance of ANZAC Day with a huge picture show on the Campsie RSL club wall opposite. Check out these adverts from the club web-site :

<https://www.campsiersl.com.au/>

Hope you find this interesting – the club in the past 12 months has donated \$649,000 to the community which is a pretty good effort I reckon.

Best regards.

- **Rob de Jarlais (Letter) – son of Roy de Jarlais**

Dear Everyone

Thanks for the TTB this year. I'll be in Bingara again this year. Have a great lunch! A warm sunrise should greet us on the 25<sup>th</sup> in Bingara but I will reflect on the 10th unit marshalling in cooler climes. Yours faithfully.

PS. Trevor, enclosed is a cheque for \$110, \$10 being for the affiliate membership and the \$100 is a donation. Thanks Rob.

- **Heather McKenzie ( Email) – daughter in law of Lt Col Stan McKenzie**

Dear Mike

Thanks for information re Reunion Luncheon & 53rd Tit Bits, very interesting as always, & congratulations to The Editor. My apologies for lateness of reply but I am not long back from a month's cruise around Australia with much catching up to do.

I have not attended the Luncheon for some years but still like to keep in touch. My cheque etc will be in mail today, up to Aust Post when it arrives.

On my cruise around Australia we of course were in WA waters very close to the wreck of HMAS Sydney. The Master together with our guest lecturer Lt. Col. Peter Sweeney RFD Retired arranged an early morning Memorial Service. Very moving. I happened to be on the same ship Sea Princess in 2015 when a Dawn & 11am service were held on the 100th anniversary of ANZAC Day. The ship was very close to the international dateline & the Dawn Service was believed to be the first in the world to take place. All these services are very traditional & while not a naval vessel done with similar ceremony & precision. There were a number of Veterans on board who took part in these Anzac Services, including The Laying of The Wreath, in this case overboard into the depths of The Pacific Ocean. Incidentally on my latest & previous cruises I have visited Albany & the Anzac Memorial & Museum, Geraldton to the very symbolic HMAS Sydney Memorial, Broome, Darwin & Alotau (Milne Bay). Peter gave a number of lectures on the various battles in SE Asia. I seem to have developed an interest in Australian war history & was a school girl in WW2 but at the time did not realise the war was on our doorstep.

My best wishes & thoughts to members & affiliates as they march & gather together on this sad but very special day.

Kind regards

**Liz Ray ( Email) – daughter of Alan Williams**

- Dear Mike, I phoned Trevor a week ago and let him know that I'm an apology. I'm in Germany on exchange with students. I'll organise payment for membership when I'm home early in May,

My friend Brigitte Ankenbrand from Vermont is with the group in Kassel, the neighbouring city to where we are – Marburg! Brigitte and her husband Volker came to the 10 FA reunion with me the first year after dad passed away. I do plan to catch up with Brigitte, it's a small world! I'm so glad Vermont SC has adopted the unit.

Ciao,

- **Unit email to Mitchell Shire Council 20 March 2019**

Attention: Michael Treanor

Re: Your Reference: INW18/3649

Michael,

Further to our letter of 25 September 2018 I have been appointed to liaise with you on behalf of our committee regarding the further development of the surrounds of the Associations memorial plaque adjacent to the Golburn Valley Highway.

Could you please advise how we might progress this matter.

Regards,

- **Letter from Mitchell Shire Council 29 March 2019**

Hi Mike,

As just discussed, due to VicRoads managing the tract of land where the plaque is located, MSC is unable to be involved in any additional works in this vicinity. However, as an act of good faith, we will offer to keep maintaining this location as we have to-date.

Thank you for your understanding of this matter.

Regards.

- **The Bacon Girls (Julie, Lyn & Sue) – daughters of John Bacon**

With sincere thanks to all the members of the tenth Australian Field Ambulance ( AIF) Association for your messages of condolence on the passing of our dear dad. We greatly appreciated the card and the Herald Sun death notice, on behalf of the Unit.

Thanks also to Ted Young and Trevor and Wendy for attending dad's funeral and celebrating his life well lived with our extended family.

Sadly over recent years it became too difficult for dad to attend the ANZAC day march and the annual Unit lunch. He did however take part in the service held at his nursing home with great pride and we enjoyed being able to share this with him. Thankyou.

Moved by Trevor Ward to receive the correspondence/ Seconded Mike Englefield

Motion Carried

**General Reports**

- **Welfare – Wendy Ward**

Member Don Thurlow has moved to Melbourne but visits Adelaide to sort out legal matters. He sends his love to all.

Ron Woff is in deteriorating health in aged care at the Kingston Centre Cheltenham.

Jack Bacon is in: Arcare" at Wantirna. He is going along quite well but not able to walk far these days. Wendy spoke briefly to him.

Ian Goldsmith is in aged care at Lake Entrance following a stroke a couple of years ago....still all right...likes going out;

Glad Smith is still in her unit in a retirement village and is managing quite well;

Margaret Holmes turned 90 this year and is living at Woodend.

David Hall our committee member in charge of ANZAC Day transport is unable to be here today as he is not well. He is undergoing treatment;

Committee member Julie Mayberry was taken ill a few days ago with a nasty virus and is unable to be here today.

We wish them all well from us all.

#### **Donation to Legacy**

Wendy recommended correspondence be accepted and that the unit make a donation of \$500 to Legacy.

Moved Wendy Ward / Seconded Chris Martin, David Hall – Motion Carried.

- **10<sup>th</sup> Tit Bits** – Mike Englefield expressed the Committees appreciation to Ron Woffs' daughter Lorraine Englefield and granddaughter, Megan McLean, for their assistance to him in compiling the 2018 Edition of TTB's and to Ron's son, Noel Woff, for the printing and collation at no cost to the Unit.
- **Adopt an Ex-Service Organisation Program**  
President Ted reported that he and Trevor Ward had again attended Vermont Secondary College on 24 April participating in 2 sessions of the Colleges ANZAC memorial assemblies. To demonstrate to the students the reasons why we today solemnly remember our servicemen Ted made a presentation to the students of the following poem "ANZAC Day". to the students
- 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"

**LEST WE FORGET !**



## Vermont Secondary College



President Ted introduced and then invited Tony Jacobs, Principal (accompanied by College Captains Kara Morrison and Spencer Macleod-Finke) of Vermont Secondary College to speak on behalf of the College.

Tony thanked all at the meeting for the opportunity for the College to be involved with the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Unit and what it meant to the College to be able to continue this invaluable link with men who had earned freedom for Australians. He also thanked President Ted for presenting to the Colleges 1400 students on ANZAC Day eve and his reciting of the poem "ANZAC Day".

## Acceptance of Reports

Trevor Ward moved that the Reports be accepted/ Seconded Rob Stanley/ Motion Carried

## Toast to the Unit 2019

In his stead Vice President Rob Stanley asked his brother John to make the following presentation :

**"Their courage is deserving of the highest praise."**

**This is the title of the Record of the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance from WW1**

" When we remember the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Unit

We should always think of the men who came before

The 10<sup>th</sup> field ambulance history is well documented in Chapter 1 of  
Care Courage & Camaraderie

The 10<sup>th</sup> Filed Ambulance Corp was formed in March 1916

And by September 2016 the unit was in Europe

The unit served in WW1 with distinction – in very trying conditions

Julie Mayberry – who is not with us today made the pilgrimage to the battle fields of Europe  
this time last year

To visit the theatre of war of the 10<sup>th</sup> field ambulance corp

Julie was to talk today about her experiences

Unfortunately Julie cannot be with us today due to ill health

Julie was very touched by her trip

We look forward to hearing of her experiences next year

As the 10<sup>th</sup> field Ambulance in WW1 was deserved of praise

Our unit continued to serve with honour all thru WW2

And we are here today to remember all those brave soldiers

When we take time to reflect ...We all imagine what it must have been like  
At such an age ...The young men...Being thrust into such an unthinkable conflict...The horror  
of war – something we can only picture  
We have all asked the question – Trying to understand what they endured .The question  
being simply - “What did you do in the war dad or grandpa and what was it like ?”  
This was not a question to which many of us got an answer...Such answers were often  
too painful to convey.

In our home the war was not talked about greatly  
It was a time in our father’s life that was left on the beaches at Oro Bay  
Or in the jungles of Borneo  
He would be a part of each years ANZAC day reunion  
It was there he could share . They all understood

But when we did hear of what they went thru  
We could not align this to any of our life experiences  
When I read my father’s journal I have a greater insight  
In some ways the words in the journal are very “A matter of fact”  
Maybe a way of normalising the events that took place  
There is no doubt that the strength to endure came from mateship  
That bond that they all shared  
That they were together and would survive

I read the detailed description of the sinking of the AA Jacob  
And the absolute fear of what was happening  
March 7 – Left Milne Bay on the SS Jacob – 2500 tonne cargo boat  
There was 10 of us – we had been in Moresby due to illness  
I remember chatting with Bruce Pascoe  
Our thinking was of the sunset – how beautiful it was  
The next day Bruce was to be our first fatal casualty  
March 8 – On board the SS Jacob  
About Midday March 8<sup>th</sup> 1943 – we received a great shock  
The Jacob was under attack by Japanese Bombers  
The attack was without any warning  
The guys were not prepared – some not dressed  
Some just in shorts  
I grabbed a life jacket and my tin hat  
At least one – or two bombs went down the funnel  
The ships guns were targeting the Japs  
I can’t remember much of the next few minutes  
Then the Jacob started to sink  
The crew then said it is time to abandon ship  
Losing my tin hat – I was in the water  
We were about 10 miles off shore  
We were lucky – we were only in the water for 45 minutes  
We were rescued by H M A S Bendigo  
Later detailed reports of the attack noted that

There were 9 bombers & 13 fighter aircraft  
They were driven off by allied aircraft

The last entry in the account says –  
I was able to stay afloat by holding onto a crate of Peaches  
**“Believe It or not”**

All thru the journal there is a distinct emphasis on the guys presenting a Positive outlook...There are many images of the guys showing great mate ship Each relying on the other ...They did it together  
We continue to read – and understand what was their day...Their week -  
Jan 44 There is action in the Ramu Valley ...Evacuation of patients fighting in the area...Ever present threat of the Japs  
But the following page ....We read of the celebrations...Our fathers 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday...Along with Doug McLerie..They never lost the real feeling of sharing in their personal celebration  
All through 44 and to 45 the unit continued serving...In July 45 the unit is sent to Balik Papan...Balik Papan had just experienced a massive bombardment ...An Armada of 250 ships  
Every time the unit moved there was uncertainty ...What are we to expect....Each time they endured  
Then it is late 1945 – peace is declared ...The boys return home...It is time to put this war behind them ...To look to the future...To now live their lives  
We can never forget their commitment and sacrifice...Their bravery  
May I please ask you to be upstanding...We toast the members of the 10<sup>th</sup> field ambulance “

President Ted then offered a vote of thanks to John for his moving rendition of Robs words and to Rob for making the Toast to the Unit.

### **General Business**

- **Seymour Memorial**  
Mike Englefield reported that contrary to previous advice from Mitchell Shire Council, he had now been advised that because the memorial is located on a VicRoads tract of land, the Council is unable to be involved in any future work. However they have offered to keep maintaining the site.  
The Committee will pursue the matter with the Shire.
- **Memorabilia**  
Rob Stanley requested Affiliates to donate items on a “loan only” basis for inclusion in the Vermont Secondary College display case;
- Mike Englefield asked attendees to keep the unit advised of email address changes.

### **Photograph**

Being the sole Member in attendance, President Ted then sat for photographs.

### **Close**

At 2 -45pm President Ted thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions to the day and closed the meeting.

**10th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE (AIF) ASSOCIATION**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS  
FOR YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2019**

	<b>Actual Year to 31/01/18</b>	<b>Budget Year to 31/01/19</b>	<b>Actual Year to 31/01/19</b>	<b>Budget Year to 31/01/20</b>	
<b>Bank Balance at Start</b>	7630	7177	7177	4830	
<b>Luncheon Receipts</b>	2205	{49}	1305	{29}	{30}
Subscriptions - Members	30	{3}	20	{2}	{2}
Subscriptions - Affiliates	430	{43}	360	{36}	{30}
Donations	595	{15}	615	{15}	{10}
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>3260</b>	<b>2835</b>	<b>2300</b>	<b>1970</b>	
<b>Luncheon Costs</b>	2650	{53}	1870	1815	{33}
Legacy Donation	500	500	500	500	
Bereavement Notices, Cards and/or Flowers	232	300		300	
Life Member Plaque					
10th Tibbits	272	250	80	200	
Administrator and Bank Fees	59	50	2197	50	
Display Cabinet				200	
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>3713</b>	<b>3900</b>	<b>4647</b>	<b>3065</b>	
<b>Result for Period</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>Def 1065</b>	<b>Def 2347</b>	<b>Def 1095</b>	<b>Def</b>
<b>Bank Balance at End:</b>	<b>7177</b>	<b>6112</b>	<b>4830</b>	<b>3735</b>	

**Note: Budget figures not subject to audit**

**Trevor Ward FCPA  
Hon. Treasurer**