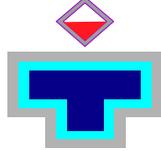


The Furphy Flyer in Mufti.



I HOLD FAST

Official Organ of the 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association Inc.
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Editor, Frank Tyrrell Telephone 9789 4764

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Melbourne

November 2007



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Your President and Committee wish all our members, their families, our Association friends and well wishers, special greetings for the coming Festive Season. Have a wonderful Christmas and a New Year filled with good health and happiness.

This is the last "Furphy" for 2007, the next issue, in February 2008, will advise you of all our major events for the coming months. Thank you all for supporting the Association and for the many kind words you have said about the work of the Committee and the Furphy Flyer.

Vale

M. A. (Max) Johnson	VX34884	28 May 2007
Ron Johnson	VX34893	19 Sept 2007
Alan J. Dwyer	VX52935	22 Sept 2007
R. McLean		17 Oct 2007
Beatrice (Betty) Eldridge		23 Oct 2007
O. E. (Ossie) Warden	VX35292	14 Nov 2007
G. F. Kellow	VX34429	18 Nov 2007
A. (Andy) McRedmond	VX146362	21 Nov 2007

All members of the 2/24th Battalion Association offer their deepest sympathy and understanding to those bereaved by the passing of members of the association.

Shrine Service Sunday 21/10/2007

It was great to see the number of attendees at this years Shrine Pilgrimage. Numbers may have been small compared to other years but, with the weather being un-seasonally warm, plus having to navigate around the many road closures due to the running of the Melbourne Cycling Festival and the final stage of the Sun Tour, it was certainly worth the effort to remember the men of the 2/24th.

With the traditional service held in the Shrine Sanctuary we were welcomed by our President Alan Macfarlane who also led the singing of the hymn, Abide with Me. Following the laying of the wreath and the observance of One Minute's Silence, Norm Gray, son of the late Doug Gray, played the Last Post, Lament and Reveille on the Flugelhorn. In the confined space of the Shrine Sanctuary, the sound of the music was amazing and very moving. Thank you once again Norm.

After the ceremony we all got to have a chat and a cuppa in an ante room of the Shrine.

A big thank you to the Shrine staff who were, as usual, very helpful and thank you to all those who attended, it was a great day! We hope you can join us next year.

With apologies to anyone I may have overlooked, those attending the ceremony included..... Alan and Faye Macfarlane, Janice Young, Keith Clark, Doug Dobson, Alan Nicholson, Roland Nicholson, Marjorie Evison, Pam and Frank Tyrrell, Neil and Win Holland, Edna Bridgman, Beatrice Fraser, Frank and Andrew Monotti, Daryl and Wayne Beaglehole, Norm Gray, Claude Condor, Frank Stephens, John Stephens, Marita Evans, Eric and Eve Elsdon, Sherry Elsdon, Mark and Clare Johnston, Alastair Davison, Eric Edwards, Russell Edwards, Jocelyn Edwards.

Apologies: Les Hansen, Rob and June Mitchell, Bob and Dot Clark.

Wangaratta Reunion Weekend

Friday 09/11/07

Wangaratta RSL

Fifty two Members and guests met at the Wangaratta RSL for a casual evening meal in preparation for a busy weekend.

RSL President Darrel Brumby officially opened the "2/24 Battalion Function Room" and presented the Battalion with several photos donated by local members. One photo showed the Battalion Band winning the Band Contest in 1941 and the other, the Battalion assembled at Tobruk.

Alan Macfarlane responded on behalf of the Battalion and also acknowledged the attendance of Mrs Val Gleeson who watched the Battalion march out of Wangaratta as an 11 year old girl in 1941.

Thanks again to the members and staff of the Wangaratta RSL.

Saturday 10/11/07

Memorial Wall Service at Wangaratta Cemetery, 2.30pm,

Well over 150 people had gathered at the cemetery for the Annual Memorial Service. The cemetery, as usual, looked in great shape – fresh and well manicured. As it was a hot afternoon the cemetery staff had kindly provided shelter for us.

This years Service was prefaced with the blessing of the newly completed Bluestone Piers and Entrance Gates. The piers and gates compliment our Memorial Wall, the Granite Stone, naming those 374 members who made the supreme sacrifice, the Tree Memorial, the Stones, the RSL Plaque, the Zonta Rose Garden, and the Fig Tree.

To Battalion members, their families and friends, this is Hallowed Ground.

The Mayor of the Rural City of Wangaratta, Cr Don Joyce, opened the proceedings.

It is my great honour to welcome you all to the Rural City of Wangaratta and to participate in today's proceedings as we honour the members of the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion, Wangaratta's Own. As young men you fought bravely for your country, 347 of your ranks paid the ultimate price.

Your commitment showed all the hallmarks for which Australian soldiers are world renowned – courage and determination, mateship and teamwork, leadership and tenacity, compassion and humour. Today we can all reflect on your sacrifice and that of all our soldiers who served their nation proudly, with honour and distinction.

We honour especially those who did not return and those who returned hurt. None will be forgotten, nor their families and loved ones who supported them.

The importance of the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion to the Rural City of Wangaratta cannot be overstated. I speak on behalf of the Rural City community when I say that we share in a strong sense of pride in our association with the 2/24th. As each year passes, it becomes even more significant and more important to recall, rekindle and remember the contribution made by the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion.

It is therefore my very great privilege, both as Mayor of the Rural City of Wangaratta and as a member of the Wangaratta Public Cemetery Trust, to take part in the official ceremony to formally open these Bluestone Piers and Gates.

The piers and gates are a permanent tribute by our Rural City of Wangaratta community and the wider Victorian community recognising the commitment and sacrifice of the members of the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion. It is now ten years since the dedication to the Memorial Wall and the piers and gates, constructed in the same bluestone, are a fitting addition to this very special place and create a striking entrance to our Wangaratta Public Cemetery and to the Memorial Wall.

On behalf of the Wangaratta community we thank the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion Association for initiating this project and the State Government for helping to bring it to fruition.

I now invite The Right Reverend David Farrer, Bishop of Wangaratta, to bless the Bluestone Piers and Gates. *Following the blessing, the Bishop of Wangaratta, the Mayor and our President opened the Gates and then removed the cover from the plaque commemorating the occasion.*

In closing, I would like to extend my appreciation to the members of the Wangaratta Zonta Club for preparing the afternoon tea today and for their ongoing commitment and support of the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion Annual Memorial Service.

Thank You.

Our President, responded by saying how proud he is of the Memorial Area, especially the way it had come on since they laid the footings for the Wall and planted the trees. Many of the members who assisted with that work are unfortunately no longer with us. He again emphasized how much the 2/24th is grateful to the Rural City of Wangaratta.

With the blessing of the gates ceremony completed we continued with our Annual Memorial Service.

Robin Mitchell gave the Reading and finished with a poem by an American Indian

When I am dead, cry for me a little
Think of me sometimes, but not too much
Think of me now and then, as I was in life
At some moments, it's pleasant to recall

But for long, leave me in peace
And I shall leave you in peace
And while you live
Let your thoughts be with the living.

Following the singing of the hymn, Abide with Me, Alan Macfarlane, the Mayor and five Prefects from Wangaratta High School, Amy Fuller, Simone Coote, Ashley Anderson, Aidan Jaigo and Tim Goodson, laid the wreath at the memorial stone - "Lest we Forget".

Showing great respect, Cadets from Wangaratta's 33 ACU carried the Battalion's Standard and assisted with the Ceremony. The cadets looked great and displayed fine professionalism in carrying out their duties. Members included, Cpl Vance, Cpl Marshall, Cdt Carney, Cdt Robbins, Cdt Miller, Cdt Cooper; Cdt Langhorn, CSM Hamlyn and Lt Graham.

Norm Gray, son of the late Doug 'Dolly' Gray, played the "Last Post, Lament and Reveille on the Battalions Silver Bugle, thank you Norm.

The Laying of Poppies completed the formal part of the ceremony.

The afternoon was finished off with tea and refreshments supplied by the ladies of Zonta. A big thank you to their President, Lindsay Fiddes and her helpers.

A very special occasion.

Town Hall Reception, 6.30pm, 10/11/07

Association Members, their families and special guests arrived at the Wangarrata Town Hall for nibbles and drinks, expertly served by Lions Members. A good time to catch up with friends and old mates.

Town Hall Dinner.

Following our nibbles and drinks we entered the Town Hall proper and located our tables for the dinner. There were approximately 170 attendees. Each table had souvenir menus with pictures of the new Entrance Gates to the Wangaratta Cemetery.

Our Master of Ceremonies for the night was Association Vice President, Doug Dobson.

Grace was said by Rob Mitchell, with the Loyal Toast proposed by Association Vice President, Alan Nicholson.

The following is our President, Alan Macfarlane's, welcome to the gathering.....

I welcome you all this evening to our Annual Reunion Dinner and it is indeed a pleasure to see such a fine gathering of our Battalion and friends. We are honoured to have the Mayor of the Rural City of Wangaratta, Cr Don Joyce and his wife, Brenda, also Cr Rosie Parisotto and her husband Joe with us this evening and we take this opportunity to thank Council for this Reception and indeed for all they do for 'Wangaratta's Own'.

We welcome the President of Zonta, Mrs Lindsay Fiddes plus her hard working members; Lions Club President, Ron Stafford plus his very special people here this evening; President of Wangaratta RSL, Darrell

Brumby and his wife Desma, and Vice President, Noel Fearn and daughter Carolyn; Wangaratta High School Principal, Judy Rose and husband Graeme and Vice Principal, Rex Pirie and wife Tracy. Also a special welcome to the two students we are honouring this evening plus their parents and teachers.

To the members of the Cemetery Trust, a warm welcome with special thanks to Paul Moss-Holland and wife Marilyn, his very able assistant, Peter Szeligiewcz and wife Toni; to the expert Blue Stone artist Lou Adamo and wife Kathy; the special Gate man, John Nolan and wife Nola. I'm sure you will have noticed their magnificent work at the entrance to the Cemetery this afternoon. To all concerned, plus the Wright Bros., Thank you.

Again we thank those members who have travelled from interstate; Queensland, Mick Benson and family; Doug Gray and Ted Turner from New South Wales plus their twelve family members.

We are indeed fortunate to have so many family and associate members plus friends with us, including some who are here this weekend for the first time and I suggest they please stand, as we say 'Welcome'.

Now that we have the Battalion on 'Parade', just a few moments of your time.

Here we are with a great gathering after all these years! It is only because we had and still have some special people running our Association.

Our thanks to our Secretary, Michael Oakley, Treasurer Roland Nicholson and Assistant to both, Janice Young. Stalwarts who have been active for some time, Doug Dobson, Alan Nicholson, Rob Mitchell, Keith Clark, Bob Clark, Eric Elsdon, Norm Collier and most importantly our "Furphy Flyer" Editor, Frank Tyrrell who keeps us in touch. Thank you also to our local Wangaratta Group who are very special and of course, my wife Faye.

I know it is chancy naming people but this special group deserve a huge thankyou.

To you all, thank you and enjoy your evening.

The Battalion Toast, printed below, was made by Rex Pirie, Vice Principal of Wangaratta High School.....

It is my great honour to accept the invitation to propose the toast to the 2/24th Battalion this evening.

My first response was to feel totally inadequate to this task. And I still feel that way but I understand that there comes a time for each generation to assume the responsibility handed to them from the previous generation.

So here I am accepting with great humility the responsibility of proposing a toast to those whom I hold in the highest regard. I hope that my few words are not used to judge the merits of those whom I toast for I can assure you that no words of mine could ever fully convey the importance of the actions of these few who accepted the responsibility to defend the world against a "New Dark Age" and to offer their lives in its defence.

Raised in July 1940 the 2/24th set off from Caulfield for their camp at Bonegilla but stopped at Wangaratta where they were welcomed with open arms and adopted the epithet "Wangaratta's Own". Marching out of Wangaratta on 27th Sept 1940 the battalion was led by 22 year old Sgt Alan Macfarlane carrying a 4 metre 'Wangaratta's Own' pennant; a gift from the people of Wangaratta, and two bricks in his backpack courtesy of a mate!

From Wangaratta to Tobruk in 1941, Tel el Eisa in 1942, El Alamein 1942, New Guinea 1943 and home. The service record of the battalion speaks volumes; more battle casualties than any other 2nd AIF battalion, 900 wounded and if I were to devote just one minute to outline the life, aspirations and contributions of each of the 360 men killed from the 2/24th I would be speaking here for six hours.

And the proud tradition continues: The first and only organisation given the freedom of the City of Wangaratta in 1990, a formal adoption of Wangaratta High School auspiced by the Shrine of Remembrance in 2006 and the growing number of young people joining Remembrance Day services in Wangaratta and marching with the 2/24 in the ANZAC day parade in Melbourne. Alan has propagated a cutting of a fig tree from Tobruk which he is nurturing in readiness for the completion of building works at WHS where it will be planted with pride of place to honour the 2/24 and perpetuate the link between the young people of Wangaratta High School and the 2/24th.

And so tonight I am honoured to offer the toast to the 2/24th Battalion: its members here tonight, to those members unable to attend, to those who gave their lives in the defence of this country, to those who have passed away since their return and to the continued memory and honour with which we will always regard Wangaratta's Own, the 2/24th Battalion.

Ladies and gentlemen please fill your glasses and be upstanding for the toast to the Battalion.
The Battalion!

The Mayor, Cr Don Joyce, again welcomed us all to Wangaratta. He spoke of the close and special relationship that the 2/24th had with the Rural City of Wangaratta and asked everyone to enjoy the Weekend Reunion.

Student Awards.

Each year students from Wangaratta Schools are recognised for their achievements by the 2/24th Battalion Association. The students, chosen by their teachers, were presented with certificates by our President and Gwen Elward. Gwen was filling in for the President of Zonta, Mrs Lindsay Fiddes, who was unfortunately on crutches.

The students were Alexandra Rose from Wangaratta High School and Laura Simpson from Galen College. They addressed the gathering, both speaking with confidence and maturity, telling us about their achievements and ambitions.

Stand to.

The lights in the hall were lowered and the 2/24th's Banners on the stage were floodlit as our President read out the names of Battalion Members who had died during the last twelve months. Norm Gray then played the "Last Post" and "Reveille" on the Battalions Silver Bugle.

A very emotional part of the evening for many of us. Thank you Norm.

The Len Ormsby (Pansy) Memorial Swindle.

Again the prizes this year were many, varied and exceptional.

To assist in drawing the winning tickets were the Mayor, Cr Don Joyce, Greg Larkins and Paul Moss-Holland.

Thanks to the Award winning students, Alexandra Rose and Laura Simpson, for helping deliver the prizes to the winners. Sale of tickets grossed \$957.

What a great effort from a very generous group of people.

Presentation.

Alan took the opportunity to make a formal presentation of cheques to the Mayor of the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Cr Don Joyce accepted a cheque for \$7700.00 from the State Government, a Grant to assist with the building of the Gate Piers and Gates at the cemetery, plus, a donation of \$3000 from our Association. Thank you to our very generous Members.

Alan formally closed the evening with a reminder to be at the Wangaratta Cenotaph at 10.30 on Sunday and "special thanks to Jennies Catering for again providing a great meal and the Lions Club for serving the refreshments".

Sunday 11/11/07
Cenotaph 11am.

The morning was warm and the Cenotaph again looked lovely surrounded by beautiful red roses. On this very special day there was a good attendance, well over ninety people, to remember the Australians killed in the service of their country.

Those present at the service included the Mayor of the Rural City of Wangaratta, Cr Don Joyce, President of Wangaratta RSL, Darrell Brumby, Vice President, Noel Fearn and RSL Padre, Father Lewis Nyman

BBQ Lunch

The traditional BBQ lunch followed the "Cenotaph Service"; the usual good country fare and excellent service provided by Lions and Zonta Clubs were enjoyed and appreciated by all present.

With Alan thanking us for attending the Weekend Reunion and asking us to drive home carefully, so ended another memorable weekend.

With apologies to anyone I may have overlooked, those attending the Reunion Weekend included.....
 Nola Adams; Betty, Yvonne & Shae Allen; Keith, Rob, Victor & Ellen Anderson; Lou & Kathy Adamo; Ray Allen; Christine Allen; Kay, Guy & Brett Antoine; Joyce Barry; Maureen Bedford; Mick & Stephen Benson; Edna Bridgman; Euan & Dawn Brown; Darryl & Desma Brumby; Holly Bechaz; Merne Beautyman; Keith & Lee Buckley; Margaret and Joe Bartolo; Jack Caple; Lyn & Tanya Chaplin; Bob & Dorothy Clark; Keith Clark; Vern Collier; Jack Collins; Harry Cornehl; Darren Chard; Michelle Cooke; Amanda Campbell; Alistair & Clare Davison; Margaret Deering; Jason & Peter Disher; Doug Dobson; Ray & Isabel Dunstan; Eric & Eve Elsdon; Eric Edwards; John, Gwen Bailey & Anthony Elward; Peter & Beverley Emmett; Beatrice Fraser; Brian & Dawn Fox; Lindsay Fiddes; Sandra Fitzpatrick; Cliff Giersch; Val Gleeson; Ron, Joan & Jenny Graham; Doug & Norm Gray; Nola Gribble; Veronica Groat; Les Hansen; Lorraine, Brad & Kelli Holland; Bob & Marjorie Hutchieson; Chris Hutchieson; Neil & Win Holland; Julie Johnson; Heather Jordan; Don & Brenda Joyce; Linda Kent; Alf Keenan; HESSIE KNIGHT; Bev Knowles; Greg & Helen Larkins; Alan & Faye Macfarlane; Graeme & Lyn Masters; Len & Grace McKenna; Rob McDonald; Robin & June Mitchell; Edna McColl; Phillip & Kylie McKenzie; Paul & Marilyn Moss-Holland; Gavin Moody; Graeme & Marie Neal; Russell & Alison Neely; Alan, Marion, Roland & Sue Nicholson; Bill Northausen; John & Nola Nolan; Michael & Margaret Oakley; Nance Ongley; Nance Ormsby; Sue Parsons; Roberto Paino; Rosie & Joe Parisotto; Rex & Tracy Pirie; Janet & Bill Picken; Marg Phillips; Sherry Radman; Jon Reid; Terry Reilly; Judy, Graeme & Alexandra Rose; Charlie & Loris Scales; Laura, Geoff & Lynda Simpson; Maudie Stevens; Gail Smith; Noel & Robin Smithwick; Ron Stafford; Peter & Toni Szeligiewicz; Terry Smith; Matthew, Vanessa & Grace Tranter; Ted Turner; Frank & Pam Tyrrell; Piet, Lynne & Kate Van Hooydonk; Rae Verstegain; Karl & Raelene Walla; Barry & Dorothy Weeks; Neil & Annie Whybrow; Marion, Caroline & Paul Weir; Geoff & Shirley Wild; John, Alan & Elma Wright; Diana & Michael Wymond; Sheryl Williams; David & Janice Young; Frank & Grace Zabilowicz;

Apologies were received from :-

Andrew & Patricia McRedmond; Joe & Margaret Drage; Della Barrett; Tiny Khan; Robyn Stevens; Rod Wilson; Owen & Jessie Lewis.

Notes from Wang.

On Friday afternoon, Alan Macfarlane, Alan Nicholson and Rob Mitchell were invited to Wangaratta High School to talk with students. School Prefects and some of the students who travelled to Melbourne for this years ANZAC Day March asked the men numerous questions and showed their interest in the 2/24th Battalion.

It was a pleasant afternoon chat and we thank Principal Judy Rose for her hospitality.

On Saturday morning two families visited the cemetery to scatter the ashes of loved ones.

Christine and Ray Allen scattered the ashes of Norm King around the roses near the Fig Tree. Christine, the daughter of Norm, read a special dedication in his honour.

Alison Neely, the niece of Reg Gunning, buried the ashes of Reg and his wife Vi, under the roses near the Fig Tree.

As has been noted before, the Memorial Area has special significance to many families of men of the 2/24th Infantry Battalion.

Talking to members on Saturday night I was amazed at the effort some made to attend the Weekend Reunion. No one felt making the trip was too hard. They were there to pay their respects to the men who did not come home, meet old mates, and enjoy the weekend.

One example was Ted Turner from Woy Woy in NSW. A friend of the family, Darren Chard, picked Ted up at Woy Woy and drove him to Wangaratta. The drive took 8 hours but Darren said he had a great time because Ted's a funny man and tells amazing stories.

We had a seating problem at the dinner on Saturday night. Due to two people taking it upon themselves to move from their allocated table, one member of a family group of five very graciously offered to move to another table, away from her family, when all the seats were taken. We thank her most sincerely and hope she did enjoy the evening.

The next two pages have a small selection of photos from the Wangaratta Weekend. I would like to thank Alistair Davison and Clare Davison for their contributions.



The Bishop of Wangaratta, His Honour the Mayor and our President officially opening the Cemetery Gates.



Bugler, Norm Gray.



Alan Macfarlane.



Cadets from Wangaratta's 33ACU with the Battalion's Standard.



Laying the Wreath



Men of the 2/24th.

Back row: Ted Turner, Alan Macfarlane, Bob Clark, Alan Nicholson, Keith Clark, Doug Dobson, Eric Elsdon, Charlie Scales. Seated: Les Hansen, Mick Benson, Jack Collins, Eric Edwards, Cliff Giersch, Vern Collier, Bill Noethausen, Rob Mitchell.



Student Award winners, Alexandra Rose and Laura Simpson with Alan Macfarlane.



Mayor, Cr Don Joyce and our President.

Letters to President & Secretary

From Eric Edwards of Carnegie ... Eric, a long time official of the Association, formally advised the Committee of his resignation

I have now reached, and passed, my 91st and I have begun to feel my age.

The Battalion Association has a loyal, hard working, competent and capable Committee and its members are to be commended for the fine work and achievements which they have done in the past and which, I am sure, they will continue to do in the future.

I take this opportunity to thank and commend, in particular, the President, Alan Macfarlane, who has devoted a considerable amount of time and effort in promoting the aims and activities of the Association.

I extend my best wishes for the future to the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion Association Inc.

From Thelma Hemphill of Tora VIC

Please find enclosed a donation to the association. My daughter is giving her two sons replicas (miniatures) of Ian's medals for their birthdays and I am giving my great-grandson a set also. Many thanks for the "Furphy Flyer".

Thanks for your donation and note Thelma, best wishes to you.

From Gladys Pech of Hamilton

Many thanks for the "Furphy Flyer"; I enjoy the good reading very much. Enclosed is a donation, keep up the good work.

Thank you Gladys, your support is very much appreciated.

From Harry Shilton of Melton South

Enclosed is a donation to be used as you see fit. Physically, Mum (*Hazel Shilton*), is doing very well but she is having a lot of trouble with her memory, which is distressing to her.

We will not be attending the Wangaratta Weekend Reunion as Mum finds things away from home to be stressful, so please accept our apologies.

Mum wants me to wish you and Faye all the best and Paula and I send our best wishes in the hope that this finds you both in good health.

Sorry that we will not see you at Wang but, I understand you situation very well. Our best wishes to Hazel and Paula and yourself.

Received 21 Sept from Andy McRedmond

.....

Enclosed is a cheque for subs and a donation.

Unfortunately I have been diagnosed with Oesophageal cancer. Due to inaccessibility and my ongoing respiratory problems an operation is out of the question, so too is chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy for the same reason.

I have had a stent implant which allows me to eat a little better but even so, only soft foods.

A drop of amber even presents difficulty but I remain devoted to the cause.

As a result of the foregoing I am unable to attend the 9th Division Luncheon. I will leave my options open for Wangaratta and advise later. It's a question of if I have the powder and shot at the time. Best to all.

Very sorry to hear of your situation Andy. Be assured your friends in the Association are thinking of you.

Sadly, Andy died on the 21 November 2007

From Jack Collins of Rosebud

I have just sold my house and am now living at the Rosebud Retirement Village. I moved here on the weekend of Eddie Shilling's funeral and missed seeing the notice in the paper until the night of the 21st of July. I was very disappointed at not being able to attend.

Eddie and I were in 9 Section, 18 Platoon for quite a while and were very good mates. I sent a card and note to his daughter care of the Funeral Parlour.

Best wishes to all.

Thank you for your note Jack.

From J Parker of Mulgrave

It is with deep regret that I am writing to you today to inform you of my much loved father-in-laws passing; Maxwell Albert Johnson, VX34884. We have been reading your "news letters" for years as Max would pass them on to us. Max lived here with myself and son Bruce and four grandkids for many years until he became very ill. On the 28th May 2007 he passed away. We all loved him very much and will miss him dearly.

Pop was 83 years old and enjoyed a long and mainly healthy life. Thanks again and God bless.
Thankyou for your letter. It's obvious Max was, and always will be, much loved.

From Elsie Webb of Mt Barker WA

Enclosed is a cheque for subs and a donation.

Ray's sight is so far gone he is unable to write and probably won't be able to attend the Wangaratta Reunion.

Regards to old mates and best wishes for future plans.

Nice to hear from you Elsie. Good luck to you and Ray.

From Lois Rourke of Tyabb

..... keep up the good work, I love getting the "Furphy Flyer".

Thanks for your support Lois.

From Les Morris of Wyndhamvale

Apologies for being late with my subs but I am on leave from hospital where I've spent most of my time since January. I go back tomorrow (5/8/07) with fingers crossed for a short stay.

Hoping this finds you keeping well and best regards to everyone.

Les, we hope you are feeling better and send you our very best wishes.

*I have copied this letter from the **Tobruk House** Newsletter. It was sent in by **Alf Miller***

I thought the story of the life and service of a particular Rat Of Tobruk might bring a reflective smile to the lips of any surviving Rats who might read it.

There were just three Rats at Ed Shilling's service – one, former platoon commander and 'B' Company Officer, Alan Macfarlane OAM (2/24th Battalion), Lt Bob Searle and myself, a serving member of 2/4th AGH Tobruk and elsewhere.

(Such is the pattern now at Rat's funerals. So few survivors still on their feet)

Ed Shilling enlisted in July 1940. He was in the first reinforcements of the 2/24th Battalion at Tobruk, he proved a fine soldier and man. Comments were made of Ed's time on patrol "Outside the wire". With mates he survived the siege. On leaving Tobruk by destroyer under the cover of darkness, Ed was swept overboard from the swerving vessel under Stuka bombing. Fortunately Ed's foot caught a trailing rope and he was dragged back on board – an almost "Drowned Rat".

After a time in Palestine and Syria, Ed served at Alamein where he was wounded twice. Ed served in New Guinea, Milne Bay and other actions. Malaria finally had him in its grip and he was repatriated to Australia and honourably discharged in 1945.

Alan Macfarlane's fine eulogy paid tribute to a friend who was much admired and loved. A trio of pipers under 'Rat' Bob Semple stirred the hearts and memories of the very large assembly in the chapel. Ed was mourned by his three daughters and his deeply loving grandchildren.

From Doug Dobson of Cranbourne

On Friday the 5th October I visited Beverley and Peter Emmett at their home at Rhyll, Phillip Island. Beverly is the daughter of Snowy Yarwood.

We were invited to afternoon tea at the Rhyll Art Gallery by the stepdaughter of Arthur Fitzpatrick, Jan and her partner Jim.

Arthur and his wife Pat were down from Heyfield for five days holiday and we had a very enjoyable time reminiscing how we won the war and most of the football games that Arthur captained.

We all enjoyed the afternoon and hopefully we may see more of Arthur and Pat in the future. They both send their regards to everyone.

Thanks for your note Doug.

The Committee was very sad to hear of the death of Ossie (Tuppence) Warden; a man who has been very generous to the Association with his support, time and donations.

When I was advised about his death I asked Robin Mitchell why they called him Tuppence. He said it was because he was short in stature and looked very young. Robin told me that when Ossie finally got to Wangaratta, after a couple of attempts to join up, Colonel Spowers said he was too young and small to come with them to the Middle East.

Being very upset at this, he was spotted by Bill Springs, who said "Do you want to go that badly?"

With that, Bill took him in to the Colonel and asked if he could go as his batman. The Colonel agreed only when he said to Bill "you'll have to look after him".

Ossie was wounded in the Middle East.

Thank you

Val Wilson, widow of the late Dick Wilson, has made a magnificent donation to the Association. Dick was an original and a Tobruk POW. He was a great Association worker from the early days.

Thank you very much Val.

Can You Help?

Eric Edwards has asked if anyone has photos of service personnel who were Killed in Action.

Mrs Anne Levens, Manger VICHERITAGE Projects for the Dept. of Justice, Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, is currently undertaking a project collecting photos of servicemen and women who were killed in action and is requesting the public for assistance.

If you can assist could you please LOAN them to our Secretary, Michael Oakley or Eric Edwards. They will be returned. If you have any questions Eric can be contacted on 03 9571 9780

Australia Army Cadet Corps

Our President, Alan Macfarlane, has received an invitation for the Association to attend the Final Parade and presentation of Certificates to the Cadets of the 33 Army Cadet Unit at Beersheba Barracks, Sisely Ave, Wangaratta, on the 6th December.

Unfortunately, with the mail out date of this "Furphy Flyer" being late November, Association members wishing to attend may not have time to organise their attendance.

If you have any questions, please contact Capt (AAC) Graeme Threlfall, at Beersheba Barracks.

Did you hear the story.....

A man and a woman are driving in opposite directions down a road. As they pass each other, the woman leans out of her window and yells, "Pig!"

The man immediately leans out of his window and shouts back, "Bitch!"

They continue on their separate ways, but as he rounds the next bend, he crashes into huge pig that is lying in the middle of the road.

Moral of the story: If only men would listen.

A man and his wife were sitting in their living room when he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

So she got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all his beer.