

FORWARD

Newsletter #21 - Anzac Day 2018 Review



The official newsletter of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association

Anzac Day 2018 is now over and what a great day. I was privileged to lay a wreath at the Regiment dawn service attended by a large crowd of serving soldiers, their families and friends of the Regiment. Let me thank both the CO, LTCOL Dan Connors and the RSM WO1 Peter Kirkman for including the Association in their service.

More than 40 Association members proudly paraded through the streets of Brisbane behind our Association banner. Our Association received great applause from the watching crowd as we stepped lively down Adelaide Street. Post march drinks at the Grand Central Hotel allowed the Association to enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship that our Association provides. Weary, dusty and with much spirit members filtered in to the moonlight to take a well earned rest.

To those who shared their Anzac Day in other locations with family or friends I hope it was also a time of reflection and a great occasion. I have included in this newsletter the address given by *Colonel Susan Neuhaus CSC* at the Australian War Memorial dawn service. The words are inspiring & chilling, the message poignant and very much from the heart. Susan is an inspiration to all who have or continue to serve, men and women. I recommend it to you.



Forward!

Graeme Nicholas, President

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AGM SUMMARY

The AGM on the 27th April elected a new management committee for the following year. I am pleased to introduce them to you:

• President:	Graeme Nicholas
• Vice President:	Shayne Burley
• Secretary:	Sandy Johns
• Treasurer:	Dean Chappell
• Welfare/Museum:	Phil Lilliebridge
• Membership/website:	Graeme Brown
• Media/Newsletter:	Darren Brown

You will see the committee remains as it generally was with the exception of a change of the Treasurer and the retirement of Colin Bunker. I keep reinforcing the need for fresh blood to keep the committee and the Association vibrant. **VOLUNTEERS are welcome.** (continues next page)



The AGM also unanimously voted that our previous president, Maurie Meecham be granted Honorary Life Membership. Maurie joins Miles Farmer as Life Members. This is well deserved recognition of Maurie's efforts as both Honorary Colonel and founding President.

There are a number of social events coming up in May (*Boer War Day 27 May, Brisbane City Shrine of Remembrance*) June (*Tall Tales Camp 2-3 June*), August (*Black Hat Dinner, 24 August Kedron Wavell SC*) and the annual BBQ in November (*3 Nov 41 Club*). Please include them in your calendar and where you can, please join us for the event. Keep an eye out for notices on these and other events that the Association either hosts or participate in.







ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 27th April 2018 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you all for attending the AGM today. We are now five years old as an organisation and the past year has seen continuing and steady development of our Association. Of note, we have assembled a dedicated and practical management team who are serving the Association very well.

The Association is, in my opinion, developing well, is financially secure and is focussed firmly on achieving its Constitutional Objects.

Some of key highlights of 2017 and matters of interest that I report on are:

The **Management Committee** continues to meet every second month at Legacy House in South Brisbane. We thank Legacy for the use of their facilities and once again made a small donation to their good work to show our appreciation.

Please note that any member is welcome to attend these meetings should you have a matter to raise with the Committee. We just ask that you advise the Secretary before the meeting so we can add your item to the agenda and consider the matter. We usually have a drink after these meetings at the Fox Hotel and you are welcome to join us there and provide informal feedback on the Association's management.

This leads me to the committee membership. Many on the committee are due for a change in 2019 including my role as President. While the committee members are very willing hands, they need some R & R occasionally.

Regimental Support. The previous Commanding Officer, LTCOL Andrew Moss, CSM was been supportive of the Association. I thank Andrew for his support.

LTCOL Daniel Conners has taken command in January 2018 and I hope that he is able to continue working with us to further the Regimental Association.

I would specifically like to thank Matt McQuillan who is the soldier representative on our committee. He has assisted the committee greatly in our communications with serving soldiers from the Regiment.

The Association has provided various **awards and support to the Regiment and Legacy**. As a thank you from the Association, Matt McQuillan was sponsored to attend the opening and dedication of the Boer War Memorial in Canberra in May 2017. After the successful BBQ in November, the Association donated \$400 to regimental funds/the 41 Club. The Association provided book prizes to TPR D. R Cooper, A Squadron, *Soldier of the Year 2017* and CPL A. Z Carlson, RHQ, who was *JNCO of the Year 2017*. The Association made a \$300 donation to legacy as a token of thanks for their support.

The Calendar of Events for 2017 was well received and attended by Association Members. Your committee organised the annual 41 Club BBQ on the 11th November, the Black Hat dinner on the 25th August, motor bike rides and our participation in the Anzac Day parade. Additionally the Association was privileged to get

VIP seating for the Freedom of Entry to Brisbane parade conducted by the Regiment on 28th October.

The Association was represented in May at Boer War commemoration ceremonies in Brisbane and Canberra when the *National Boer War Memorial* was unveiled. The Association was also represented at the annual RAAC Corporation AGM in Puckapunyal 13th-14th October.

The celebrations recognising the *100th year anniversary of the Charge at Beersheba* are now finished. Many watched the Regiment parade through the streets of Brisbane exercising their right of Freedom of Entry. Let me publicly acknowledge and congratulate all ranks of the Regiment for a splendid parade and spectacle. I would also like to acknowledge the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Andrew Moss for his assistance in arranging the Association to sit next to the saluting dais and in pride of place for the parade.

We met our **regulatory requirements for 2017** by returning the Office of Fair Trading's Association's Incorporation Form 12-1 and the form for 2017 will be despatched after this meeting. I thank Colin Bunker for his efforts in this regard.

We continue to be a supportive member of the **RAAC Corporation** and its contribution to the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO). Management Committee member Dean Chappell represented the Association at the Corporation's AGM in Seymour in October 2017. The RAAC Corporation continues to develop and represents the Armoured Associations on matters that require coordination.

Throughout the year, we distributed a **Newsletter** each quarter and I would like to thank Bill Cross for his continuing editing skills and efforts. Thanks Bill - your efforts are much appreciated and members enjoy the read. Please send us any short articles your think might be of interest and any good photos that you take. We look forward to members input. Please remember that copies of past Newsletters are on our web page.

The web page was substantially revamped in 2016 and I thank Graeme Brown for his hard work in that regard. It is an impressive and professional looking site and I recommend that members have a regular look at it as it contains notices on upcoming events, breaking news as well as plenty of other information.

Equally we have a **Facebook page** administered by Darren Brown. This is the 'go to' for our younger members and a valuable communication tool. I thank Darren for his hard work in that regard.

In finishing this brief report, I especially wish to convey my appreciation to each member of the Management Committee in 2017. Secretary Sandy Johns and Treasurer Shayne Burley are the backbone of the Management Committee and their efforts are greatly appreciated by me. I thank Graeme Brown, Dean Chappell, Darren Brown, Colin Bunker, Matt McQuillan and Phil Lilliebridge for their specific roles, loyalty and support. Your assistance, advice and encouragement is been greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to you as members who have helped us over the past five years make the Association what it is today.

Members, my best wishes to you all.

Graeme Nicholas, President

Anzac Day 2018: Dawn Service commemorative address by Colonel Susan Neuhaus CSC

As a small child I remember being rugged up in a parka and mittens and taken to a chilly Dawn Service. It was a service I didn't understand – a service of silence, half murmured hymns and old men gathered in their own thoughts. And yet somehow those stories of service and sacrifice wound themselves into my DNA.

Like most Australians today, I have no faded photographs of men or women in uniform on my mantelpiece – and I know of no family members who fought on the beaches of Gallipoli, the muddy fields of the Somme or the jungles of South East Asia.

And yet, like all of us, I benefit from what they have done. Inscribed into these walls here at our nation's memorial are the names of more than 102,000 Australians from all walks of life – Australians by birth; Australians by choice; indigenous Australians – who fought and died for our country; their country; the country of their ancestors.

And there are also the names of women ... women who, from the Boer War onwards, have served with gallantry, have been prisoners of war, and have died wearing the uniform of this nation – from the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific to the desert sands of the Western Sahara. These women include a group of twenty-two nurses of the Australian Army Nursing Service, evacuated from Singapore. When their ship, the Vyner Brook, was torpedoed in the Bangka Straits, they swam through the night to shore.

There, on Monday the 16th February 1942, shortly after 10 am, they were lined up along the beach, still in their uniforms – the Red Cross sewn onto their left sleeve – and at bayonet point were ordered into the sea.

They were under no illusion about their fate. In those last moments before the machine guns opened fire Matron Drummond turned to her nurses with words of comfort and of courage. And her words speak for a nation ... "Chins up girls, I'm proud of you and I love you all."

Behind every name on every memorial, large and small, across this nation, there is a story of courage. And for every name there is another story – a story of loss; of family, of friends and of those left behind. Each one a narrative thread in the fabric of service that underpins our nation. Each a thread extending from the sands of Gallipoli to the servicemen and women of the Royal Australian Navy, Army and Royal Australian Air Force that stand on duty today on operations worldwide.

As I stand here today, my understanding of Anzac Day has also changed. I have been privileged to wear the uniform of the Australian Army and now, as a veteran myself, I reflect on how very fortunate I am to have come home safely, changed but undamaged by all that I have seen and done.

Today, my thoughts are with those that I have served with – some of whom I knew, and more that I didn't – who now have their names also inscribed in the walls behind me. And I think of the names that have, sadly, yet to be written.

And of those whose names will never be recorded, even though their wounds – not always visible – are carved just as deeply into them, as names into granite.

As a surgeon, I reflect on the cruelty and devastation of which humans are capable – on a century of severed limbs and broken bodies; from the industrial carnage of the Western Front to the indiscriminate weapons of today's adversaries that target soldiers and civilians alike. As a mother, I recall with great clarity kissing my own two daughters good-night before I left for Afghanistan, and my heart aches for all those who have farewell loved ones to war – some to never return; others to return forever changed, haunted by the ghosts of their experience.

But as an Australian, I stand here in awe of what those who went before have given me. Because every Australian, regardless of whether we have a direct link to those that wore the uniform or not, is a recipient of their sacrifice.

And of their hope that we, who are left to grow old, would live in a country at peace; a prosperous country; a country where we are each free to vote; to choose our own paths through life; to marry whom we please and where we hold the hope that our children will have those same freedoms. Now I understand that when the bugler sounds the Reveille – the call to awaken – it is not a call to the dead. It is a call to the living.

It calls to each of us – that we might use the threads of their sacrifice to strengthen the fabric of this nation. That we might live our lives with the same courage, the same loyalty. That we might be imbued with fairness and compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves.

And set an example for the next generation of children, wrapped up against the cold and dark of the dawn. And then perhaps, if the so many who sacrificed so much, were to walk amongst us today, they might say: "We too are proud of you." **Lest we forget.**



Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus CSC MBBS, PhD, FRACS, FAICD

Susan graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1989 and holds a Fellowship in General Surgery with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, obtained in 2002. She practises both as a general surgeon and surgical oncologist with specialist interests in melanoma and soft-tissue tumours.

Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus attained a Doctorate of Philosophy in the mechanisms of cancer spread. In 2004, she was awarded the Lumley Fellowship to further her experience at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London. Susan holds an appointment as a Clinical Associate Professor to the Department of Surgery, University of Adelaide., Radiology in Surgical Practice. Susan has also completed a career spanning 20 years in both the Regular Army and Army Reserve. Her operational experience includes deployments to Cambodia, Bougainville and Afghanistan. She was promoted to Colonel in 2008 and her military service was recognised with the award of the Conspicuous Service Cross in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2009.

Susan remains actively involved in veterans' health issues and holds the position of Associate Professor, Conflict Medicine at the University of Adelaide. In 2012, Susan was South Australian finalist for Australian of the Year.



31ST INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Important Invitation

on this Centenary of the end of the Great War 1914-18

MR RAYMOND H. FOGG

President, 31st Infantry Battalion Association (Brisbane Branch)

on behalf of

The 31st Infantry Battalion Association (Brisbane Branch)

The Chinese-Australian Historical Association Inc.

The Chermside and Districts Historical Society Inc. and

Kedron Wavell Sub-Branch RSL Inc.

cordially invites you to attend

A Commemorative Ceremony

in honour of

Trooper W. E. (Billy) Sing DCM, Croix de Guerre

at

Lutwyche Cemetery, Brisbane (Anzac Plot 8)

on

Saturday, 19th May, 2018

at 10.00 a.m.

Afterwards for refreshments at

KEDRON-WAVELL SERVICES CLUB

Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside.

DRESS: Civilian: Good Casual/Jacket, Medals

Military: Ceremonial Parade Dress, Medals

Accessing the Memorial site:

Enter Lutwyche Cemetery via the Kitchener Road entrance
(second gate from Lutwyche Road).

Anzac Plot 8 will be visible on the right.

RSVP: Monday, 14th May, 2018 to Mr Tony Wadeson

Email: wadesonriver@aapt.net.au

Mobile: 0427 337 177



PLEASE NOTE DATE IS SUNDAY 27 MAY AND THE CHANGED LOCATION IS
THE ETERNAL FLAME ON ANN ST DUE TO ANZAC SQUARE RENOVATIONS

Invitation

The NBWMA (QLD) Committee cordially invite you to attend the

‘Boer War Day Commemoration Service’

Sunday 27th May, 2018 at 10:00am

Boer War
A map of Queensland is shown in the background, overlaid with a Boer War flag. The flag features a yellow field with a blue vertical stripe on the left and a red vertical stripe on the right. In the center of the yellow field is a black silhouette of a Boer warrior on horseback, holding a rifle.
1899 – 1902

‘Shrine of Remembrance’

ANZAC Square, Ann Street end

***Note:- There will be activity prior to 10:00am
(i.e. band, piper and the lowering of flags to half-mast)***

All Welcome