

**Newsletter Issue 4**

**Vol 10**

**“Commando” Newsletter**

**December 2009**



**1<sup>st</sup> Commando Regiment Association  
Victoria Inc**

**PRESIDENT Peter Beasley (03) 5127 4229  
SECRETARY Glenn MacDonald 0414 311 093**

2010 will also be busy. Please note the events that commemorate the Rip incident fifty years ago. Your presence and support will be appreciated.

Our WW2 Commando colleagues continue to appreciate our support. As an Association we need to be conscious of any help we can offer.

As this year rushes to its close I wish all Association members, affiliated Associations, serving members of 1<sup>st</sup> Commando Regiment, and our Special Forces colleagues, together with all families and friends, a safe and happy Christmas, new year and summer holiday period.

To those who are away from home, best wishes to you and your families, and we look forward to a safe return.

Strike Swiftly.

Peter Beasley, President.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**



**Association President  
Peter Beasley**

Association activities have been frequent, with many members taking part. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to organise the events, and those who made them successful by participating.

A small piece of history was created when Bryce Watson won the inaugural Trevor Watson Trophy, established in memory of his father. Many thanks to Richard Godden for organising the day.



**It is the Soldier, not the reporter  
who has given us freedom of press  
It is the Soldier, not the poet  
who has given us freedom of speech  
It is the Soldier, not the politician  
who gives us freedom to demonstrate**

**Wishing you all a successfull new year  
with a safe return.**

**1st Commando Regiment Association  
Victoria**

## DAVID AWARDED MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Former 2 Commando soldier David Bergman has been awarded a NATO Meritorious Service Medal for his service while on NATO duties in the Middle east, including serving as OIC of the Mine Action Centre at Bagram AB in Afghanistan.

David served in 2 Cdo Coy from 1985 to 1991, after transferring from 3RAR where he enlisted in 1982.

David's father is Captain Don Bergman, a long serving member of the Unit (1955 to 1976) who is one of the Company "originals."



David's citation certificate

## COMMANDO PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE

Report by Dick Pelling

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Maybe a few headaches as a result of the previous day's Grand Final celebrations kept a few away. It was a small gathering for this year's event, which did not detract from the occasion.

The weather was a little worse than last year - colder wetter and much windier - so much so, it was decided by the powers that be to conduct the service inside the Shrine.

What a wise decision it was. Music was provided by the Preston Citadel Salvation Army's brass band, and the Secretary of the Commando Association, Ron Hamilton congratulated them for their contribution, and Ron also gave thanks on behalf of the Association to piper David Sheppard who regularly gives his support to both Associations.

The amazing acoustics inside the shrine gave a spiritual atmosphere to the playing of the Last Post and the sound of it gave me goose bumps, it was a very special moment and one I will remember.

President Evan Macgregor presented the Association's guest for the day, Lt Col Lombardo, head of the Shrine's management, who gave a brief account of Commando actions in PNG in WW11.

The attendance roll for 1<sup>st</sup> Commando Regt Association included Rob Osborne, Jack Ripa, Dave Rice, Dave Waterston, Mike McLaughlin, Peter Beasley, Tony Jones, Glenn MacDonald, Dave Sheppard Don Bergman, Maj Steve Pilmore and WO2 Greg Summers. If I have missed some I apologise.

I would suggest that this year's service was very significant being that it was held inside the shrine, the doors shut to the public, and a fitting display by the Catafalque party from 2 Company. This format may be something to consider for the Association's future services.

## PRESIDENTS' CUP PISTOL SHOOT

Report by Dick Pelling

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October saw a good turn up from both the ASASA and the 1<sup>st</sup> Commando Regt Association for this year's pistol shoot. The weather was kind to us with sunny conditions, and best of all no wind.

I understand the head count was 43 participants, which made it a worthwhile competition for both the shooters and the Lysterfield Gun Club who, once again, deserve a big pat on the back for their efficiency in running such a well-organised day.



Our own president, Peter Beasley, thanked the club and particularly their president Clive Whelan, safety officer for the day, Arthur Gordon, and club secretary Rod King. The sad news for us was that we failed to bring home the

bacon despite some fine shooting from the old stalwarts such as. . . Ian Storey...



I have to confess, this writer took along a young girl for her first ever shoot and she encouraged Bob Dunball's wife, Sue, to also try her hand for the first time. "I will if you will" sort of thing. I am embarrassed to say she outscored both Bob and myself. "Nuff said."

Peter Beasley took along a WW11 revolver that he allowed interested shooters to fire and compare it with the modern day weapon.

Shooting over, it was time for the results and the presentation of the shield. A promise was made to deliver the Shield ASP to ASASA, because it had inadvertently been left behind.

Secretary David Jones, on behalf of his Association, thanked all concerned for the day.

We then adjourned for a BBQ and a beer.

Results. The President's shield competition was won by the SAS (VIC) Association with their 10 shooters returning a total averaged score of 149.58 to our team of 12 who scored 146.56. I will be personally presenting the shield to President David Jones at his home sometime before Xmas (this year???)

Top (Association) shooter for the day was the indomitable Ian Storey with 130 – pity the rest of us couldn't live up to Ian's standard on the day

Top shooter for the SAS was David Jones with 123

Top shooter in the men's (non- Association) Open group was Peter Champion's son Thomas with 135 – he pipped Ian Storey's son Paul by 1 point.

Top shooter in the women's group was Bob Dunball's wife Sue with 111.

Glenn MacDonald.

## TOUR OF VICTORIA BARRACKS

### Report by Peter Campion

On Sunday 18 October a gathering of Association members and guests assembled outside the main (North) gate at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne (VBM) for a guided tour arranged by Dick Pelling. Our guides were Lt. Col. (Ret) Bill Little and Marg Little.

The party of 30 visitors was split into two groups for ease of mobility.

VBM is rich with history, still being a working site (Defence Materiel Organisation - DMO) and has been occupied constantly since 1856 - by the British Army (1856-1870), Victorian Colonial Forces and from Federation (1901), the Australian Defence Force (ADF), with 'tenants' such as the Victoria Police, Australian Federal Police and the offices of the Prime Minister.

VBM was HQ, Department of Defence, for nearly 60 years including the duration of WW2.

Featured in the foyer of 'H' Block to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Army (2001) is the commemorative gift presented by 2 Company Association, of a picture of the 'Krait', honouring Z force Commandos.

Anecdotes were told at various points of interest.

'F' Block at one time simultaneously operated as both hospital and ordnance store (c.1875) and 'F' and 'J' Blocks were the same design, except for the verandah added to 'J' Block in 1878 whilst being used as Staff Sergeants Quarters.

The 'War Cabinet Room' had many of its original fittings and furnishings, including maps and ventilation for cigarette/cigar smoke.

Only 'time' preventing us from eavesdropping on famous names such as Menzies, or Curtin at the signing of the Declaration of War on Japan and other momentous decisions, made so long ago.

There are many other historical and architectural points of interest at VBM such as 'The Keep', 'The Blamey Room', the

'Victoria Cross' garden honouring Australian VC winners and the 'Peace Rose' garden dedicated to the pursuit of peace and to ADF Members who have served in UN multi-national forces.

Among those who enjoyed the tour were Peter Tierney, Roy and Margaret Walden, Syd and Margaret Groves, Peter Lynch, Keith Hughes, Dave Caddy, Dennis and Linda Wilkinson, Steve Milliken, Frank and Magdalena Wheatland, Rob and Ann Osborne, Bob and Kath Dettering, Lindsay and Mary Lorrain, Roy and Gaylene Duncan, Glenn MacDonald, Leigh Power, Dave Waterston, Trever, Vanessa, Naomi and Alexander Bailey, Liz MacLaine and Peter Campion.

Although at Safe Base Bravo status, photography was, unfortunately, not allowed.

Working at VBM, the tour has given me a renewed perspective to the living history of the 'Barracks' as I see Officers, Warrant Officers and ORs continue the legacy of the ADF, whether in sport, on the parade ground, or at work in the office.

Thank you to the volunteer guides and to Dick Pelling for arranging the tour. For those who were unable to attend, bookings for tours (Wednesdays at 0930 hrs or 1330 hrs, Sunday, 1330 hrs) may be made on 03 9282 5999. Proceeds of the tours go to Legacy.



John Addison presents the "Krait" photo to mark the Army's centenary in 2001.

## TREVOR WATSON MEMORIAL SHOOT

### Report by Richard Godden

The weather was just perfect for shooting, around 28 deg, with no wind to speak of.

All of the Association members and families had 12 shoots, commencing at 11.00 am. We were finished around 1.00pm.



Happy participants relax after the Trevor Watson trophy shoot

Weapons used were a .303 Range Rifle and a 7.62mm scoped Omark target rifle.

Bryce Watson started the shoot with the remarkable score of 50 out of 50 with 8 centres - this set the bar very high for the other shooters.

All other shooters displayed a variety of skill – and luck - as the shoot proceeded.

After shooting we retired to the clubhouse for cold quiche and salad followed by cheesecake.

At the end of lunch the Trevor Watson Shield was presented to Bryce Watson. He also won the Best Shot of the Day trophy.

It seemed to all that it was most fitting that a member of the Watson family should win, and his name is the first to be engraved on the shield.



Scores. Top five: Bryce Watson - 50 with 8 centres; Bob Dunball - 50 with 5 centres; Richard Godden - 49 with 5 centres; Jessica Watson - 48 with 5 centres; Lindsay Lorrain - 47 with 3 centres.

### ERRATA - SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

In the article “Vale Michael Parker” in issue number 75, September 2009, of the “Commando” magazine, the second-last paragraph (page 22) should have referred to “Rock” magazine (No 80, Oct-Dec 2009) rather than its associate publication “Wild” magazine.

### CA COMMENDATION TO SGT CHRIS SMITH

In the recent Commendations awarded by the Chief of Army, Sgt Chris Smith was recognised for “superior achievement and devotion in application of skills and dedication to duty” as the Tp Commander and Tp Sgt of the Ken Clift Tp, at the Defence School of Signals.

Chris, the son of former 2 Cdo Coy NCO Dan Lorkin, whose name is on the Rock at Fort Gellibrand, has used his knowledge and skills to help many of his Troop members reach the standard required to become valuable members of the Cdo Sig Sqn.

### HMAS ASSAULT ASSOCIATION

Poor health has forced founding member Ron Zeuschner to relinquish office in the HMAS Assault Association after 21 years of dedicated service. See the next issue of the “Commando” magazine in April for more details.

## COMMANDO PILGRIMAGE TO TIDAL RIVER



Introduced by Commando Association president Evan Macgregor, the Commanding Officer 2nd Commando Regiment, Lt Colonel Paul Kenny. Gave the address.

2/3 Squadron member Roly Good reported that about 17 WW2 members attended, but the attrition rate was high as the formal ceremony was conducted.

As always, Ron Hamilton applied steel-clad discipline to keep the men under control.

We look forward to seeing more Association members at Tidal River next year.

Thanks to all members of 2 Company and the Association members who supported our senior comrades with whom we are affiliated.



*Photos : Dick Pelling*

## GRAMPS SERVES IT UP COMMANDO STYLE

Basic gear lacking in warning towers

By Sarah-Jane Collins

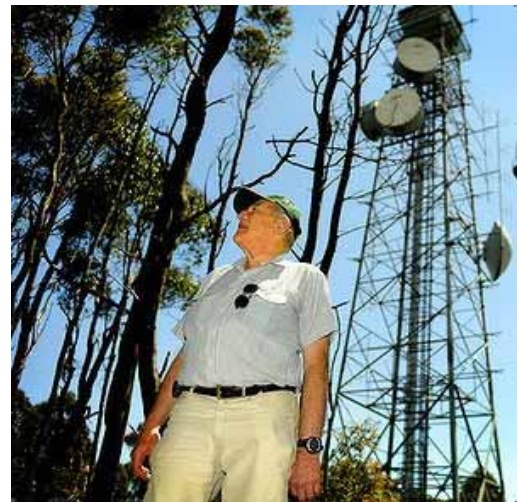
Department of Sustainability and Environment fire spotters have criticised the State Government for failing to provide proper equipment and safety gear, warning that a haphazard approach to essentials had put communities in danger.

Graeme Wilson, a DSE fire tower operator since 2002, said he had bought his own binoculars because the pair issued to him was not good enough.

"Some of the members are lacking in boots and things like that, and some say they don't have binoculars, but it's not consistent throughout the regions," Mr Wilson said.

An experienced fire spotter, Mr Wilson spends the fire season living in his caravan in Orbost near the Mount Buck tower. He said many other fire tower operators had complained to him about a lack of basic equipment, including weather gauges.

The DSE operates about 70 fire towers across Victoria, which are manned throughout the fire season.



Standing on top of Mount Macedon, fire spotter Graeme Wilson warns that better equipment is urgently needed. *Photo: Craig Abraham*

Mr Wilson said fire tower operators had been asking for better equipment and consistency across the towers, but nothing had been done.

"I'm concerned that there's inconsistencies: some people have got gear, some haven't. The time's running out. This fire

season's here now and from this week it's going to get pretty hot," he said.

But Tony Edgar, the director of land and fire services for DSE, said standardised equipment was currently being rolled out.

"There's been some variation across the state and I guess this year we've decided that we need to make sure that we've got uniformity," Mr Edgar said.

"We've had complaints at various times about some of the gear [but] we believe that we will have a set of gear that's suitable for the job."

Courtesy "The Age", October 30, 2009

*Graeme Wilson served in 2 Cdo Coy during the 1970s and has been an Association member since 1991, taking part in the 2002 Kokoda Track 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary walk.*

#### **GEOFF RIDDELL SOLDIERS ON**

Geoff recently wrote, "Recovering from a massive heart attack I have had time to reflect on my life and put pen to paper."

"I realise times have changed, however you may choose to print some verse I have composed."

"I wish all of you the very best."

1 Commando Regiment  
2 Company Fort Gellibrand Williamstown

At the going down of the sun on the Rock  
We will pause and remember, that  
Some of us were heroes,  
Some of us died,  
Some of us were survivors, and  
Some of us were just there.  
And they cannot take that away from us.

Geoff Riddell 3/776562 1956.

*Geoff completed National Service with 20 NS Trg Bn in 1956, shortly before transferring to 2 Commando Company. Another of Geoff's verses will be published in the next magazine – Ed*

#### **BEREAVEMENT THANKS**



**Shaughn David O'Connor**

**22 December 1971 – 6 September 2009**

Bruce and Mavis O'Connor and family would like to thank all members of the Association and 1<sup>st</sup> Commando Regiment for their messages of support to us and especially for Danielle, Mitch, Braiden and Sage at the sad time of Shaughn's death through complications of melanoma.

We all miss him, but are thankful that he had a varied and successful sporting and business life and his enjoyment of his own little family.

The respect shown to Shaughn by his friends and acquaintances at his funeral was overwhelming, and we take comfort in the generous support we received from all of you.

## VALE LCPL MASON EDWARDS

Lance Corporal Mason Edwards, 2nd Commando Regiment, was tragically killed in a training accident on Tuesday 20 October 2009.

Born in Birmingham, England on the 20th of February 1979, Mason spent most of his life in Queensland. A student of Kelvin Grove State High School, he went on to complete a BA (Psychology) before enlisting in the Australian Army.

He enlisted into the Australian Army in January 2004 as one of the first members of the Special Forces "Direct Recruiting Scheme". After recruit and initial employment training, he successfully completed the Commando Selection and Training Course and the ensuing Commando Reinforcement Training Continuum.



He was posted to the then 4th Bn, RAR (Commando), now the 2nd Commando Regiment, on the 16th of May 2005. During his service within the Commando Regiment, he underwent further intensive training.

In August 2006 he deployed to East Timor with Alpha Commando Company. In May 2007 he deployed on his first tour of duty in Afghanistan with the Special Forces Task Group. He returned to Afghanistan in June 2008.

Mason Edwards proved himself to be a consummate professional. During his tours to Afghanistan he demonstrated considerable

mental toughness and physical endurance whilst deployed on combat operations.

He was held in the highest regard by both commanders and peers alike.

The 2nd Commando Regiment family mourns the passing of a fine Australian.

Mason is survived by his parents Julie and Kerrin; his siblings Katie, Remie and Jared; his nephew Henry; and his beloved partner Cassie.

## COMMANDO CASUALTIES SA

From: Harry Smith

I have just returned home after another five months sailing cruise up the Reef. I was saddened to hear of the loss of a Commando soldier (Mason Edwards) in training in SA.

Like many others killed in training in recent years, it is an unfortunate by-product of serious training aimed at saving lives in action.

My thoughts are with the Regiment and the family at this time.

Sincerely,  
Harry Smith

## Rip Commemoration Dinner

From: Nigel Moth

Dear Glenn,  
My apologies for this event on 20 Feb 2010.

Tricia and I will be walking the hills of NZ South Island, but we will raise a glass or two at dinner that night.

Regards to all  
Nigel M

## MY ENCOUNTER WITH KEITH PAYNE VC

By John Crane as told to Dick Pelling

"Wow" was my first impression when I recognised who he was.

It all started when I was in Townsville for the Australian Defence Force Air Show. The air show was staged over two days.

The first day's display was in front of 'The Strand', over water rather than on the RAAF Base. It gave a wider frontage for spectators and it drew a large crowd.

The big draw card for the display was the USA demonstration team, 'The Thunderbirds', in six F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft.

A static aircraft display was held at RAAF Base Townsville the following day including aircraft and equipment from the three services as well as a UH-1B chopper that had been lovingly restored - it served with the US 57th Medical Detachment in Vietnam in 1963 as a DUSTOFF aircraft.

This is where the story started. I was photographing the aircraft when I noticed a guy leaning over the barricade and patting the aircraft; he showed obvious signs of great emotion, and it was at this point I recognised him as Keith Payne.

I introduced myself and spent some time with him discussing his past experiences, both serious and humorous. The following says it all.

Keith joined the army in August 1951 and was posted to the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in September the following year.

He served with his unit in Korea between April 1952 and March 1953.

He joined the 3rd Battalion in February 1960. Keith served in Malaya with this unit and in 1965, now a sergeant, he joined the 5th Battalion.

In June 1965, by now a Company Sergeant-Major, he was posted as an instructor to the OTU at Scheyville, NSW. In February 1967 he joined the 2nd PIR in PNG, serving until March 1968.



John Crane, left, with Keith Payne VC.

In February 1969 he was appointed to the AATTV.

In May that year he was commanding the 212th Company of the 1st Mobile Strike Force Battalion when a strong North Vietnamese force attacked it. His company was isolated and, surrounded on three sides; Payne's Vietnamese troops began to fall back.

Payne, by now wounded in the hands and arms and under heavy fire, covered the withdrawal before organising his troops into a defensive perimeter. He then spent three hours scouring the scene of the day's fight for isolated and wounded soldiers, all the while evading the enemy who kept up regular fire.

He found some forty wounded men, brought some in himself and organised the rescue of the others, leading the party back to base through enemy dominated terrain.

Years later, asked whether he was afraid, Payne replied, "My God yes, yes, I was."

*John is a good friend of Graeme Wilson – see article above. Both are keen aircraft 'spotters', but Crane is not as big a "Mr Gadget" as Gramps. They served in 2 Cdo Coy together in the 1970s.*

## GET STUFFED – I'M SEVENTY

A verse for Bob Dunball on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday by the self appointed "Poet Lorikeet" of the Portsea Autumn Group - "words are for the birds."

In October 1939 a special event occurred,  
For some, it's unimportant, and you may not have heard.  
And in a year of hard times - you keep your chin up,  
As the "bolter" Rivette wins the Caulfield Cup.  
The war had started, and the world was in trouble,  
Then Rivette backed up with the Melbourne Cup double.

This is serious stuff - but that's not all. . .  
While everybody everywhere was having a flutter,  
A young lady gave birth to a right little "nutter".  
So for our generation it's not Rivette we recall,  
We've had to put up with Robert George Dunball.

These events are related as you readily see -  
The "bolter" Rivette, wins the Cups double and goes into history.  
Our Bob, the "nutter" wins three score and ten, and today is seventy.  
They put Rivette out to stud, - so draw your own analogy.

When our Bob was a lad and growing up, he focused on a career.  
He thought of a mechanic, a welder, a builder, electrician or engineer.  
Meantime he figured the army was also well worth a go -  
So he signed up for a stint with 2 Commando.  
It must have been on a parachute jump when the answer came like a shot,

He wouldn't do just a single job, he would do the whole darn lot.

Whatever he picked, you can be sure, he would be the best you could be.  
Bob does it all, and just for good measure added golf, cricket, Dad's Army and Legatee.



Bob and Sue at his 70h celebrations.

There's an old saying that goes, "them that can't do - teach."  
Bob wanted to play football, but couldn't reach  
The high ones,  
And to top it off he couldn't kick, - but was labelled as a trier,  
So decided to be a white maggot, - otherwise known as an Umpire.  
(apologies to other white maggots here)  
Then the worst thing happened – they dressed him all in white.  
It makes me throw up to imagine, - they thought that it was right.  
But to top it off - you can't work it out, and it just makes you bristle,  
And stops you in your tracks to think, - they gave our Bob a whistle.  
But no surprise, it's just Bob's style, - he really knows the game.  
This year they put our maggot in their Hall of Fame.  
Time takes it's toll on all of us, not one of us is free,  
Your PSA goes up the scale, and your pissers just won't pee.

Your prostate needs a rebore, - at nights you just can't sleep.

The ball won't hit the fairway, and the short rough is still too deep.

You need a mate, some good advice, no bull, just man to man.

Pick up the phone, at any time, - you know you always can

Find common sense, no hidden plots, - he's been the road before,

Call Bob on 5984 4484

The message you'll get comes straight from the heart, - and this you can guarantee,

*Fix your own life you silly twit, - Get stuffed, - I'm seventy.*

Abridged poem courtesy the Portsea Autumn Group

Among the many guests at Bob's party at the Dromana Estate, Crittenden winery were former 2 Commando colleagues, and fellow footy umpires, including Bill Deller (19 VFL/AFL grand finals). Bob and Sue did the Association's 2006 'Anzac Advance' expedition.



**Bluey's newly converted three-wheeler – big toys for big boys!**

## SAS – THE UNTOLD HISTORY

### A ten-episode DVD series, SAS – The Untold History

Senior staff at the new Joint Operations Command HQ at Bungendore recently viewed the updates of the first four episodes and gave them a security clearance. They are now vetting a large number of interview extracts that are not in the episodes but will be included as a separate chapter on each DVD.

Episode 1 - "Heads and Hearts" Introduces SAS and the world of Special Forces; selection; head and heart values driving the term "special". CMF Commandos provide specialist skills. By 1964 the SAS Company has established itself and is ready for action.

Episode 2 – "The Arc of Instability"

Episode 3 - "The Phantoms of the Jungle"

*Episode 4 - "Fortress Australia"*

The next three episodes are completed off line and will be available some weeks after Eps 1-4 are finalised. These episodes are

Episode 5 – "The Black and the Green"

Episode 6 - "The Niche Operations"

Episode 7 – "The Postmodern Regiment"

The final three episodes at the production stage are Ep 8 – "Crisis in East Timor", Ep 9 – "Fighting the Asymmetric War" and Ep 10 – "The once and Future Regiment".

Sincere thanks for the progress and authenticity of the series are due to MAJGEN Tim McOwan, SOCAUST, and his staff, to the SASR and to the project patron, MAJGEN Mike Jeffery.

Further information including how to obtain copies of the DVDs, can be obtained from Bruce Horsfield, at [forwardscoutfilms@gmail.com](mailto:forwardscoutfilms@gmail.com)

## BAD BACK TO BODY BEAUTIFUL

### **Former 2 Cdo Coy soldier wins state bodybuilding championship**

Five years ago Vesna Stanfield could barely walk due to back problems.

In October this year she won the Victorian Natural Physique Championship in the novice figure section.

Stanfield, 43, said she had been on cloud nine since Saturday.

"I have been walking on air ever since," she said. "It was my first ever competition and I just went there for experience.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be in contention to win it."

Her victory qualified her for the national championships in Sydney on October 24 and 25.

"I have begun training every day for the nationals. I have a lot of work to do," she said.



Stanfield began the road to her state championship when she started to look for ways to strengthen her back.

"I was on a selection of narcotics for my back and it wasn't improving," she said.

"I thought I might not walk properly again and I was depressed about it."

"So I decided to seek a different way to get better so I got lots of physiotherapy and other treatment."

"Everyone kept telling me I needed to work on my core strength to support my back. So I started to go to the gym."

"I started to change shape and get stronger."

Former body builder Sue Gunther, who suggested bodybuilding, then approached her.

"I thought I would give it a go," she said.

After only 15 months Stanfield won the state championship.

She said she enjoyed natural bodybuilding because competitors worked more on toning their body rather than building muscle. "You get to keep a feminine shape," she said. "We work a lot on our muscle tone."

Stanfield said she would eventually move into competing in her age group. "They were all very good, I will eventually compete there but this was my first competition," she said.

Stanfield also won the award for best posing routine.

*Abridged article courtesy "The Wimmera Times" newspaper, 16 October 2009.*

Note. Vesna Stanfield (formerly Fiser) was a CPL Medic at 2 Coy from 1990 - 1992, following previous service with 6 Fd Ambulance.

Vesna did two water descents in the early nineties (one at Altona and the other at Pt. Cook) and also completed airborne rappelling and suspended extraction training. Using her Patrol Medic knowledge to begin a career in nursing, Vesna is currently working at Stawell Regional Health as a RN Division 1 Theatre Nurse.

## VALE DON PORTEOUS

Don Porteus' daughter Robyn asked to pass on to Association members that Don father passed away in early November after six weeks in the Austin Hospital and latterly in the Repatriation Hospital at Heidelberg.

Don had previously had a stroke, but was in good health and spirits when he had morning tea with old comrades last December.

Robyn said, "Dad was with 2 Cdo for approximately five years at its beginning, leaving just a week before the Rip Incident."

"We were fortunate to have caught up with some of the older members last year at the commemoration for Peter Herd at Half Moon Bay (late last year)."

A service was held at the Don Porteus Scout Hall at Noorong Avenue in Bundoora. and a large contingent of scouts formed a guard of honour in recognition of Don's marvellous contribution to the scout movement.

Jim Trainor represented our Association and presented the salute to Don. Don's family and his extended scouting family appreciated Jim's presence.

Robyn wrote, "Although it is hard to lose Dad it was more than time for him to go. Too many things were happening to his health and not being able to drive any more was something that really upset him."

"He really enjoyed going to the commemoration for Peter Herd. When a lot of his short-term memories were causing problems he could always go for the long term ones. He still remembered so many good times with 2 Cdo, and driving past some of the strangest places would start him reminiscing about them. It was a privilege to drive him there that day and to participate myself."

"Although I am terrible with names and can't recall his, the gentleman who spoke who had been there that night reminded me so much of someone I served with at 126 I felt like I was looking at his older self."

"It was actually being told that he had to do the divers course which made up his mind for him to leave the Army. Jumping out of planes was fine and dandy but going under

water was a BIG NO! Dad was discharged approximately one week prior to the Rip Incident and had great memories of those involved."



**Don with Robyn at Peter Herd's commemoration service last year.**

"In notes that Dad has written about his early life he talked of being on an exercise and having to get 'special leave' for the night of his engagement party and having to be back by midnight. He wrote that he made it with 'seconds to spare'."

"To carry on the tradition, 126 were having an exercise the weekend of my 21st birthday party. With so many from the Unit invited to the party it was eventually decided to 'shut down the exercise for the night', but unfortunately all those who were 'bush' although they got the night off they had to make their own party."

"One of the positives has been that some of the people I served with at 126 have been in contact today by email and it has helped to lighten the mood for me to be in touch with them."

"We are fortunate to be able to grant his wish to be buried from the Don Porteous Scout Hall. Scouts were a natural progression for him from the Army and he had spent nearly 60 years with the Scouting movement," Robyn concluded.

## **Coming Activities January – April 2010**

### **ARCHERY DAY**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Participants must attend the briefing session at 10.00 am. Cost \$12 per head for the hour. In the past we have been free to go over the hour as long as the place is quiet. Outdoor BBQ area available – BYO food. Food and drink may also be purchased on site; counter lunches are available at the Launching Place Hotel. Take the Warburton Highway to Don Road, Don Valley (opposite Launching Place Hotel). (Melways 287 H1 H5.) Cross the Yarra River and continue for approx 400 metres to Archery Park on right.

Please check with Tony Jones, as this activity is extremely popular and there may be a cut-off number. Contact Tony Jones for more information (03) 5962 4590, anthonyjones45@aapt.net.au.

### **WILSONS PROMONTORY WALK**

**Weekend 23-24 January 2010.**

This is not a 'long' weekend – Australia Day public holiday is Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Commence walk on Saturday morning, to Oberon Bay for overnight camp. (Depart Tidal River Saturday 11am). Return to Tidal River on Sunday. Intending walkers will need to book their own campsite places directly with Parks Victoria, 13 19 63. Cost is \$7.30 per adult (\$3.60 child) for the night. There may also be "hikers" sites available (\$23) at Tidal River for the Friday night.

Book early – some have already booked – as numbers are limited at each campsite.

For further information please contact Barry Higgins, 5174 3712 or by e-mail.

## **Rip Anniversary Observances:**

### **SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 1800 hrs Wednesday 17 February**

Meet at the Shrine forecourt prior to the service.

### **COMMEMORATION DINNER 1900 hrs Saturday 20 February**

Venue: The Heroes Club at the Toorak RSL, 72 Clendon Road, Toorak, 3142.

Booking required by 16 December.

Pre-dinner drinks, a three-course meal, port for toasts, and coffee. All other drinks at bar Prices. Cost is \$55.00 a head

If you would like to attend could you please fill out the attached form and return it with the relevant payment (\$25.00 per head attending for those with deposits already paid, or

\$55.00 per head for any extra Starters – required by 16 December 2009.).

If you have paid a deposit and now do not wish to, or are unable to attend, please advise

how you would like your deposit dealt with.

Please call Glenn MacDonald, 0414311093 if you have any queries.

### **RIP MEMORIAL PILGRIMAGE**

**Sunday 21 February**

Shortland's Bluff, Queenscliff. Meet at Shortland's Bluff car park by 11.30am.

Please wear beret and tie. This is a very important day for the Association.

Refreshments and lunch are available afterwards. For further information ring Bruce Parker on 03 9794 7322.

### **RIFLE SHOOT – MOE**

**Sat 13 March 2010**

Moe Rifle Range. Meet at McDonalds Restaurant on the western approach to Moe at 1200 hours. Cost approx \$10. A safety briefing will be held during the barbecue lunch at the range.

Program: practice shoot, competition shoot, and then join with Rifle Club activities. The club will provide .303 rifles for all shooters.

For more information contact Peter Beasley, 5127 4229, libbynretep@vic.australis.com.au.

**BIKE RIDE - WARBURTON TRAIL TBA**

## **WARNING ORDERS**

### **AGM - ANNUAL DINNER**

Please check the web page for updates.

### **ANZAC DAY** Friday 25th April.

Dawn service at the depot followed by official Anzac Day march from the city, and Commando Association (Victoria) luncheon at Bayview Hotel (Eden On the Park).

### **WANTED**

Ideas for activities, trips, tours or activities you would like to share with members of your Association, and families and friends.

**Remember to check the Association website for the latest information:**  
**[www.1stcdoregtassocvic.com](http://www.1stcdoregtassocvic.com)**

**1<sup>ST</sup> COMMANDO REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION – VICTORIA INC  
A0014983Z – ABN 87 282 474 621**

**Patron: Gen Sir Phillip Bennett AC KBE  
DSO  
Brig WH 'Mac' Grant OAM RFD**

## **OLD COMRADE**

### **Wlady Romanawicz**

To Mack Hinds: Hi Mack, I'm a member of Knox Toastmasters club and until recently we had a long serving member name of Wlady Romanawicz, and I was shocked to see in the local paper that he had passed away in August this year.

The paper mentioned that he had been in 2 Commando, which none of us knew about. He appeared to have no family, his wife passed away a few years ago, and Wlady never said much about himself. I think he was still doing something on the QT, as he occasionally mentioned airports he's just come back from and I guessed 'Security', but who knows.

I thought perhaps your Association would like to know of Wlady's passing, and we would like to know a bit about his career - if possible.

Cheers mate.

Mike (President, British Airborne Forces Assn, Melbourne).

## **NOTES**