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ISSUE 2/94

**"MICE OF MORESBY - MEMBERS BULLETIN**

Lt./Col Lovell who we only recently tracked down in South Australia passed away during August.

Mrs. Lovell responding to a letter of condolence forwarded on behalf of all members of the Association had this to say: -

"And it was only towards the last that John talked freely about his wartime experiences and fortunately did not suffer too long."

"We had 46 happy years - not a bad record in this day and age." "With many thanks again - Judith Lovell."

The Colonel's eldest son John, came over from San Francisco to assist in tidying up his father's affairs and duly passed over an amount of his military possessions to the Association.

Amongst these were: -

A Summary Report of the Sporting Achievement of the Battalion. (Rugby League, Soccer, Cricket, Athletics and the Magnetic Island Surf Carnival).

Newspaper Reports: -

18-6-44 "Townsville Army No. 6 defeats Railways" 19-10-44 "Army Team Shows Fine Form"

A set of some 30 or more issues FIFTY-FIFTY produced in the field 1943-44

(Future issues of the ORDERLY ROOM GOSSIP deal with Battalion's sporting prowess in more detail)

### **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

Our very good friend John Richardson made a suggestion to expand our Associate Membership with the formation of a 55 /53 BATTALION SUPPORT GROUP so that as our members decline in year there will be someone to PICK UP THE STEP. This proposal will be outlined more fully at the December Meeting for your vote of approval if you wish that it proceed.

**"FAREWELL TO MUSO" - HARRY WOODS.** This was the newspaper heading which covered the passing of our good friend Harry Woods who suffered a brain clot caused by a fall on the evening of 26th May, whilst returning home after a professional performance with his two sons.

Parts of the Eulogy to Harry are repeated: -

"He was a music fanatic. He slept, ate and drank and in fact did almost everything with his music. During World War II Harry was made Chief Bugler in Charge of Morale Boosting Entertainment at Homebush Arm Base. He never accepted payment for his teaching. He simply said, God gave me this talent and I want to pass it on." - Harry will always hold a warm spot in our hearts for his INFECTIOUS cheerfulness.

**TALKING OF MUSO'S** - the following concerns another Harry's history uncovered in the Publication - The "BANKSTOWN STORY" by Merle Peters under the title "Entertainment Interlude".

Another entertainment always popular and much in demand was that provided by the Bankstown Municipal Band.

Under the various batons of Ted Instone, Ern Haywood and HARRY HASTINGS, the Band brightened many heavy periods, particularly the depression years.

A "Sign of the Times" was a Secret Concert in 1930, sponsored by the Band in aid of the Distress Fund; and regular Monday night community concerts in the Capital where, 6d and 3d, respectively, adults and children were invited to roll up and enjoy the fun.

Featured soloists often were Ted Instone on cornet and Harry Hastings on euphonium and for a couple of hours each Monday night this ray of sunshine lifted the cloud of depression with perhaps the only reminder of the troubled period being an advertisement on the program claiming "HARD TIMES - PRICES BEAT THE BAND". (Close your eyes and listen - can you hear the Battalion Band playing GARRY OWEN and can you see Harry

Hastings urging them on to give it full bore!)

**NOW ANOTHER HARRY** - The Third. (Better known as our good mate **SKEETER**) who through his connections with the Australian Forces Re-enactment Unit has been able to line up a Bugler for our December Parade and has also arranged for a very Special ceremonial parade from the same unit to provide a Cenotaph drill presentation

(This is a further good reason to make the day a must for your attendance on the 9th of December.)

Reprint of item Appearing in "Reveille" page 18 SEPT/OCT. Issue '94.

### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

Dear Sir,

I believe there are veterans who only need a little prompting and a lot who would appreciate a call or letter from an old mate. The names, initials, illnesses in the following report are genuine - It's called "Keeping in Touch."

On Sundays you can telephone all over Australia for \$1.00 for five minutes.

A local is 30c or 40c.

On Sunday I rang R A in Perth, passed on some local gossip, told him I had heard Fred Bendall has had a stroke, learnt that Peter Sims had passed away and was told that they had a good roll call for Kapyong and Anzac days.

I also rang Vic and Jefry, both OK and well (local calls), Vic and

Bob will be visiting in July, Jefry will be going north in a couple of weeks.

I had a call from Bob, a letter from Frank, and one from Tim.

Have you called and talked to any of your old mates? Have you written a letter lately?

How about helping to keep that bush telegraph working, write a letter, use the phone, maybe someone needs a friendly word or someone would just like to hear from you.

## **OUR FUZZY WUZZY MATES**

You will recall the appearance of Raphael Oambari and Frank Sosa in Macquarie St last Anzac Day and our boys presenting flowers to them.

This resulted in m receiving a very nice 'Thank You' letter from FRANK SOSA

with a very definite invitation for us to visit SENG! Village KOKADA anytime but preferably in the near future - mention of a UNIT badge was also made. Your committee authorised two name plates to be made and the same were promptly dispatched. (Our special thanks to Bob Quinn who supplied the flowers for the day.)

## **SPIDER WEBBS UNMARKED GRAVE**

Funds raised by member subscription now \$507 - estimated final cost \$620. Committee still pressing for advice from Melbourne for OK on "discharge details" in order to have rising Sun emblem included on the plaque.

## **UNIT BANNER PRESENTATION FOLDERS**

These very attractive post card folders include colour prints of the Unit March Banner and Fallen Comrade Banner. The folder itself includes the various unit insignia with mottos - price is \$5 per folder and will be available at 9th December meeting.

## **ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE**

Chas Jennings, because of his past newspaper experience, has been invited to join the committee as a co-opted member and particularly to assist with the Orderly Room Gossip production.

## **ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE - SUNDAY 1ST MAY '94**

The excellent address by our good friend John Richardson titled "Lest We Forget" was well received by a large gathering of 55/53 members and families and we were pleased to see Newcastle Boys Eric Gresham, Peter Wright, Fred Rand and Skeeter Mathews with their ladies in attendance, Trevor and Joan Harper along with Alex and Betty Bell attended the ORGAN Restoration Celebration occasion at St. Johns on Saturday 3rd September and were able to enjoy the Special Organ recital by University organist, Norman Johnson.

## **REPORTING FROM CENTRAL COAST REGION**

(By our News Scoop Eric Gresham - very ably assisted by his wife, Marjorie)

**THE PICNIC DAY AT LIONS PARK, LONG JETTY - 24th February '94 -**

Central Coast members of the Association had a most enjoyable day and no doubt similar outings will be organised in the future.

This day was a first outing with the Association for Geoff Morris (Sigs) and his wife Dorothy. Geoff will be remembered for his sketching talent, one of which is of great significance. It records the situation of HQ.'s "D" COY personnel pinned down in the vicinity of the BIG WHITE TREE SANANANDA on the 19th Dec. '42. Geoff would be pleased to supply souvenir photo copies of this memorable occasion on request. (Tel. No. (043) 883573 Berkeley Vale). Jack Symonds 'D' COY can recall vividly much of the action that took place at this location. Geoff has produced his personal autobiography built up from his war diary, and one extract of his war time reflections about that time reads as follows: -

"My reasons for being there was to run a few hundred yards with a reel of signallers wire to keep the COY Headquarters in touch with Battalion Headquarters. The experience of laying the wire may have given me the chance to crawl back after being wounded - - or maybe it was the HAIL MARYS of my kid sister that was my real LIFELINE BACK TO SAFETY."

Many thanks Geoff for sharing this experience with other members.

Bill McLeod (Lake Munmorah) expressed his support for ORDERLY ROOM GOSSIP and promises an interesting anecdote for the next issue. So, does Lou Scott (Wyong) who will be reflecting on his civvy life experience with the Fisheries Branch, Dept of Trade. Irvine Richards (Killarney Vale) who was O. C. "C" COY 55BN at Milne Bay and whose wife does not enjoy good health, is not a well man himself as he suffers from severe osteoarthritis of the wrists. He expresses his

warmest greetings to all members and would certainly appreciate any cheerio calls but remember if you can write don't anticipate a reply in the mail - IT HURTS HIM TO WRITE!

Irvine's Milne Bay Task Force included a platoon of machine gunners together with "C" Co. troops to safeguard the building of an aerodrome to enable RABAUL as a Strike Target to be within bombing range. Irvine was proud of troops under his command He later in 1992 made a return trip to BOMANA-KOKODA TRACK, etc.

Tom and Grace Delbridge (Berkeley Vale) are not enjoying a winning streak. When Holidaying in Queensland in May, they struck a "wet" period and later on returned home. The family car was stolen (not a one-off experience for Tom). When recovered the car was fortunately unmarked and now Tom boasts that his updated Security System is faultless. Harry "Skeeter" Mathews (Whitebridge) has a very active involvement with the Australian Armed Forces Re-enactment Heritage Unit which recently visited Bathurst attired in faultless Blanco Webbing with all the trimmings and were involved in appropriate ceremonies to help celebrate the B.C.O.F. Annual Meeting.

Ray Gentle (Auburn) also mentions his visit to B.C.O.F. Annual Church Parade on the 27th August at the Garrison Church at the Rocks and speaks in glowing terms of the excellent turnout of "SKEETERS" Re-enactment group. Harry recovered from these experiences by having a camping holiday in Tasmania and despite adverse weather had a most enjoyable time.

Editing Corrections: Ned Kelly (Gunnedah) in the last issue of Orderly Room Gossip was reported to have a wife ALMA and insists this information

be put right - It's his sister ALMA and having survived 50 years without shackles doesn't want this record to come to a sudden end. HOWEVER, there is a great deal of good in the old chap yet and we are grateful to him for introducing us to his nephew Anthony on Anzac Day. Anthony has volunteered (with his computer) to help with the work on our Orderly Room Gossip. THANK YOU, ANTHONY. (Editor's Note - We all know from army days what it is like to be inundated with volunteers.)

Charles Renouf and wife Margaret (Woy Woy) who have been of great assistance in chasing up the Central Coast new recently enjoyed a well-earned holiday in ILUKA Secretary Trevor Harper and Joan were warmly welcomed home after a well-earned holiday in the U.K. which was extended to include a spell in Europe. Trevor in quick time and with his usual enthusiasm wasted little time in getting association affairs back into ship-shape order. Eric Gresham reports on well attended funeral services for our dear departed comrade of the area - Angus McIntosh, Mick Button, Bill Moffat, John Wilton and Winston Judd in all instances appropriate messages of condolences have been passed onto families.

Visit to An Old Mate: by Ron Nosworthy 10 PL B COY

In December '93 I went to my first reunion in many years. It was great to see many old friends looking 80 good. Yes, sad to hear of 80 many no longer with us. While talking to the "A COY" Boys I heard that Winston Judd was suffering from Terminal Cancer and was now living a Crescent Head. As it happened, I was spending my holidays at Crescent Head with my family in late December.

On the third day of our holiday, Juddy called to our unit. A mutual friend had told him I was in town. We talked for hours and as he was leaving, he told me he had a lot of memorabilia; would I like to see it?

Next day, Juddy arrived with three boxes full of poems, magazines, and notes of our army days. I introduced Juddy to my wife, my three daughters and their families. As we looked at the things he had brought, we began to live again the times through Greta, New Guinea, Townsville, Bougainville and other places. About 4 hours later, I drove Juddy home, and I mentioned how sorry I was that we had kept him talking so long. He looked at me said, "I'll see you tomorrow Nosie!".

When I arrived back home. my family was all talk about the 55 /53. How wonderful Juddy was and asked why I had not told them before of the things wa (were) had talked about all afternoon.

"I thought I had". The next day was the first time Juddy talked about his illness. All he wanted was to hang on long enough to make the 94 ANZAC Day March with the Boys. SADLY, he did not make it. The privileged time we spent with Winston Judd, those holidays will remain in the memory of my family forever.

#### VALE WINSTON CHURCHILL JUDD

Ron Nosworthy- Makes Headlines: - "Blasts From The Past"

Express 29 May 94

The story tells of the mustard gas experiments that took place secretly during WWII. The story went on to say: Six months ago, Long Jetty man Ron Nosworthy asked the Veterans Affairs Department to acknowledge that he had been affected by top secret mustard gas bombings in 1944. He cited his exposure to mustard gas during Army experiments as a reason why the aortic valve in his heart failed in 1980s. In an application to upgrade his entitlements and provide for his wife after his death, Mr. Nosworthy asked the Department

to recognise events during the war which records will say did not even happen. "I have had several letters back since the application went in but they simply said which section the application is with and they haven't mentioned mustard gas," Mr. Nosworthy said last week. He was speaking at the St Hubert's Island home of Robert Graves who revealed in the Express that a London documentary team was interested in producing a film on the experiments. Mr. Nosworthy was with the 55/53rd Aust. Infantry Battalion based outside Townsville after service in New Guinea. He was 19 at the time and, like the 32 men with him, "volunteered like a shot" when an English Colonel offered "3 bob a day danger money" to take part in "gas experimental school". The men were required to wear protective clothing to check on 12 goats tethered to stakes on an island which they were told had been hit with mustard gas. They wore a lot of protective clothing and were ordered to carry out exercises as if they were actually trying to take the island. There were meters near the goats which gave the levels of mustard gas and as the days progressed and the gas levels dropped, we gradually wore less and less protective clothing, Mr. Nosworthy said. "Up to 90 percent of the fellows were burnt." The goats were seriously affected with their eyes burnt out and by the second day parts of their heads burnt off. "The most horrible sight was the poor goats because the skin was hanging from their bodies. We asked whether we could shoot them but we were threatened with disciplinary action if we did" Mr. Nosworthy said he received blisters on his arm and neck. "I was young and you didn't give much thought to what this might do to you in 50 years' time. It was a game really. I was only thinking of 3 bob a day." (It will be interesting to see what else will come to light from the "Secrets Department" in the future.)

The above article was reported in "Marching On" the 36 BN OCTOBER 94 ISSUE BY KETIH IRWIN

The explanation for the reason of the above "gas" experiments was given in a later newspaper article by FLIGHT LT. GORDON

JAQUES of Vaocluse: -

The answer is that because of the horrendous American losses incurred in amphibious landings on Japanese held islands in the Pacific it was thought Allied lives might be saved if the use of poison gas could defeat the Japanese defenders.

However, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the Allied high command in the end decided not to go ahead with the use of gas.

(The highly secret testing of the gas bombs by us is an interesting and little-known part of World War II history.)

### **FROM LAKE MACQUARIE DISTRICT**

Rex Marden and wife Phyllis (Summerland Point) have been caravanning around the North of N.S.W. for sometime now and are amazed at the drought problem out West. Looking forward to being back. home and attending the dances that they love so well.

Mick O'loughlan has moved to Mannering Park. and can be seen visiting the various clubs in the district. Would like to hear from some of the old transport mob. Beverly Dawson - daughter of Madge and "Bulla" Hayes is getting to know a lot of the old locals. As she has now obtained a Nursing position at Wyong hospital where we all seem to have a spell from time to time. Can't keep up with Jones these days. Rajah and wife have moved to Lakehaven to a lovely new home, right near the large shopping complex. Not so far to carry the groceries. "Good On Ya RAJ". Bill Franks and wife Jan are also just around the corner from there. Bill is a keen gardener. His yard is a picture. He also likes to keep up on home

prices in the area (might like to make a killing). Mick. Riotto and wife Noela (Buff Point) have just returned from a trip to the top end of Queensland including Hamilton Island. Also checked on Alligator Creek while travelling. "Still there fellas". Mick. did not go for a swim. (Remember Geoff Valentins' swimming ability there?)

Peter Wright's wife Joyce is now President of Halekulani Womens Bowling Club and is a very busy girl. Peter is looking forward to warmer weather so he can do a spot of fishing again, after recovering from a couple of cracked ribs. Incidentally, Peter reports he will not be seeking election to the Committee this year (maybe we can twist his arm before nominations are called for in December).

Speaking about Alligator Creek. - One of the smartest remarks was made in our local rag up there - not far from Townsville - there is a small hamlet called "AYR", a member of "C" Company was caught today "Airing" his blankets. (I wonder who it was?)

**NEW ENGLAND/NORTH AREA** (Our News Hound is  
NEVILLE WHITE)

Ned Kelly (Gunnedah) is back in the news again - He smelt the pot brewing at Neville's place at Singleton and Nev's wife graciously enough when he played "the Old Bachelor Hang dog look." served him up tea and goodies using the very best family china. Nev also writes: - "Allen Woods was visiting in Brisbane, down from the Philippines. I had long been endeavouring to locate my runner/batman who I remember as Allen Woods but this is not the same man." "From the phone call received our Allen from the Philippines had not served in "C" COY where I was but it was

interesting to learn of his service after I was wounded and returned to Australia."

Nev continues - whilst perusing the nominal roll of our Association members a name stood out and just on spec. I rang Clem Pagett of Macksville. Clem asked me who was calling and he recognised my name instantly, after 52 years.

When he enlisted, Clem told the army staff that he was 18 years of age when in fact he was only 15. He was with the 13th platoon, SS BN when C Coy and others went to Milne Bay in August 1942. I remember the day when we were bivouacked by the northern shore of the bay near the Gilli Gilli mission when he borrowed a native's canoe. Late in the afternoon, we were watching him desperately trying to paddle it back to shore against a strong tide. He landed a mile or more towards China Strait, beached the canoe and decided that "terra firma" would do thereafter.

The army caught up with him after we returned to Port Moresby when he and Bill Tomlin (another 15 year old) were dropped from the BN. Their parents gave permission for them to remain in the army and Clem took over a mule train supplying the Kokoda track, later reaching the Markham Valley. (THANK YOU NEVILLE)

How many fellows travelling the New England Highway have visited Hassetts Military Museum at URALLA. It's well worth the entrance fee of \$2 and if you mention the name Alex Bell, you'll get a personally conducted tour by the proprietor. Darcy Basset who was a Captain with a 'para' regiment. has walked the Kokoda trail on a number of occasions.

**SYDNEY GOSSIP** - (Ray Gentles reports)

There is a 50-50 chance that you will remember our weekly newsletter called "Fifty Fifty News". An extract from the issue 29 February 1944 is worth repeating at this time.

From the C.O. of the Burleigh Heads Convalescent Depot to our C.O. and it reads as follows:

"Approx. 200 personnel from your unit have been patients in this depot since November 1943 and they marched out on 23 February 1944 to the great regret of our staff with whom they have been on excellent terms. We have nearly 10,000 patients through the depot in a year and the men of 55/53 BN have been outstanding. Their soldierly bearing and general behaviour mark them as men from a unit whose 'esprit de corps' is high. I had not a single case of any serious misdemeanour amongst them.

We shall miss their cheerful presence here and deem it a privilege to have had them with us so long. It is with regret though that not all will be returning to their unit due to their medical condition but we would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their help in making a name for their unit "Down South" and also wish them all the very best in whatever sphere of army life they may enter."

Paul Rees, Jack McDermott, Ray Gentles, Barney Thorburn of "A" Coy and their wives met at Barney's place for a superbly prepared lunch recently. The old army photo album was produced and with a special magnifying glass supplied by Barney's wife Joy and some old friends were clearly identified. Barney's special and famous home brew was not on tap but I believe it is always available for after golf mates such as Norm King.

Ina and Ray Gentles are becoming regular visitors to the Canberra area. Ray Jnr. has taken the position of Principal of the school at Bungendore.

Norm King's wife Nancy cooks just great - top selections on every plate. She says to Norm, "What would you like?". He answers, "Sao biscuits with Vegemite!".

Good friends Roger Smith and Fred Denny didn't have a falling out. More like a 'falling off. Roger off a ladder and Fred off a chair. Never even had one drink. Maybe five or six but certainly not one.

Roger will manage Fred as he tries to break on to the local club circuit. Not as a singer or dancer but as a whistler.

You know how long it takes to organise a wedding these days? Compare this! One of our well known officers was married during the war years. It took exactly two days to complete the wedding arrangements including the acquisition of the bride's wedding gown and other fancy trimmings on the honeymoon, our officer was taken to hospital with a severe attack of malaria. Does this story ring a bell?

Ken Fitzsimmons "A" Coy and wife Bess celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary just a few months ago. Congratulations to you both and our best wishes for the future.

Do you remember or can you forget?

1. The scream and whine of the Cobras wheels "up and down".

2. The strange pulsating rise and fall of the Nippon's engines.
  3. The dawns and sunsets over Gila and the harbour.
  4. The "Macdhui" lying like a stricken duck.
  5. Coconut Grove.
  6. The lack of liquor.
  7. The picture of searchlights and ack-ack fire.
  8. The flying boat with the mail.
  9. The digging, digging, more digging.
  10. That infernal swish, swish, swish getting louder then crump, crump, crump.
  11. The scrambling and yelling "Where's my bloody tin bat".
  12. Three rifle shots.
  13. The hairpin bend on the pass.
  14. The eternal tinned tucker.
  15. The leprosy looking tinea.
  16. The wreck on the reef.
  17. The damned "Dobies".
  18. The first white woman to return.
- (WELL DONE RAY!)

### **NORTH COAST AREA - (Clem Pagett Reports)**

Bill Tomlin (Nambucca Heads) relates an experience at Milne Bay when unloading supplies from the Liberty Shop "The General Black". He heard that there were cases of fruit cake in No. 2 hold where Clem was working and suggested Clem (without being nabbed) might get a case. Clem originally carried out Bill's (Tojo's) request only to be abused for being a "BLOODY \_\_\_\_\_ head". & unfortunately, by mistake the box

contained American Officers' shoes. Rumour has it that not all was lost and Tojo is still wearing these top-quality shoes today. Bill and his wife Dawn with family recently spent two weeks holidaying at FORSTER planning to live exclusively on a fresh fish diet. No accurate report is to hand regarding Bill's fishing prowess. Bob Ellis (Katoomba) spent two weeks holidaying with Clem and Mary. He had an extra super time preening himself in front of the ladies at the same time impressively swaggering his white cane at every opportunity- Good in you BOB! (Tic this report in with what Bob has to say elsewhere in GOSSIP.) Harry Miller (Nambucca Heads) recently had a knee operation and is now doing OK. Perhaps a call from old mates would buck up his spirit. Since our last Orderly Room Gossip, we have sadly farewelled a mate - Ray Pascoe (Nambucca Heads). The funeral service conducted by the local RSL Branch was very well attended and included Ray's mates from "PARRA" troops many of whom had travelled from afar to pay their last respects. Clem himself has had a spell in hospital and could do with an encouraging call or two. In fact, Orderly Room Gossip has to thank Mary for her special efforts for getting this bulletin report in on time.

### **CLARRIE MEREDITH (MERMAID WATERS QLD.)**

Clarrie like a good many others is keeping himself busy in retirement One of his interests is with the Gold Coasts Legacy Club. As one of 65 active members the club takes care of approximately 2,000 widows. Clarrie is an area leader with 16 legatees reporting through him. That is a great commitment and rates a hearty "Pat on the Back".

(EDITOR: I'm certain there are others giving similar service - don't be

bashful fellows. Let us know who they are.)

Clarrie is Chairman of Selectors with the local Bowling Club and for relaxation, both he and Olwyn belong to the Gold Coast Theatre Organ Society. Olwyn is quite a singer and Clarrie's role is PROVIDOR, which is an interesting assignment and no doubt his combined army leadership ability as a capable sergeant together with a naturally acquired talent as a scrounger makes him a TOP MAN (almost irreplaceable) with the society.

**SOUTHERN AREA** (Our man with his car to the ground is FRED DENNY (THIRLMERE) who reports as under:

"Paid a visit to Carrington Hospital Camden to see "Tiny" (Allen Harper). Tiny has Alzheimer's disease. Although his physical condition is good, he has shown no improvement in the memory department."

"Contacted Les Eckford of Campbelltown. Les's wife passed away a few months ago and he felt the need to get away for a spell. He is now at Coffs Harbour and can be contacted on 066-550116."

"Have the pleasure to blow the froth off one or two with Jim Jenkins every now and again. And he sends his best wishes and hopes to make the reunion on the 9th December."

"C" COY Boys may remember Ken McGuinness and Jack Turner (Picton). Ken now lives at Tahmoor and Jack runs a video shop at Thirlmere." Bill Eson (BARGO) resides at Tahmoor and sends his best regards. Bill and his brother Tom were both in "D" Coy. Tom K. I. A at

Sanananda Bill Eson's address is W. V. ESEN, 64 York St, TAHMOOR 2573. (Bill was original 55th.)

**WESTERN REGION** - BOB ELLIS (KATOOMBA) is doing a particularly good job, rounding up "Next of Kin" info which will please our Secretary Trevor no end.

Bob says, "I am pleased to report that KEVIN PRACY (PENRITH) has made an excellent recovery from a Cancer operation on his throat. He tells me it was touch and go for quite a while - but as many of us know having to go through this type of trauma not very long after losing your mate of many years is extremely difficult. However, he is well and coping with life, and looking forward to many more reunions.

Bob reports, "One of boys, NOEL BROWN (MOLONG) says he cannot get suitable transport but I will try and arrange something." He is also having a battle with the drought like so many other farmers. (GOOD WORK BOB!)

Now the other side of Bob's nature - Bob mentioned having a most enjoyable July holiday with Clem and Mary Pagett (Here it comes pouring out). Clem has a friendly neighbour who when first introduced had a "Home Brew Cellar of approximately 600 bottles" - Bob confesses, "I'm not certain he will invite me again and Naturally, I had a wonderful time!"

Roy Hollis (BLAXLAND) is expected back from a tour to the Flinders Ranges. "I'll be pleased to see him. I am on the promise of a good scotch or two.", says Bob.

(Editor - This guy Bob Ellis is without a doubt a smooth operator who never seems to miss a trick and obviously takes easily to the drink!)

**THIS ITEM SUPPLIED BY FRED BASTCK (ASSOCIATE MEMBER)  
BE QUIET WHEN WILLY WALKS BY**

Did you see the old boys with their medals on?  
They were marching down Main Street today.  
Some helped the others as they went along,  
But their minds seemed far away.  
And when they laid the wreath at the top of the hill,  
I saw some of them cry,  
As they thought of the friends they knew long ago,  
In ages long since gone by.  
And old Willy Johnston, he walked all alone,  
as the rain tumbling down,  
And someone laughed when Willy drew near,  
For he was the drunk of the town.  
Then one of the men came over and said,  
Y'know, Willy's one hell of a guy,  
If it wasn't for him I wouldn't be here,  
So be quiet when Willy walks by.

He sold all his medals a long time ago,  
For the hope that a bottle can hold,  
But it's hard to crawl out of the cracks in your soul,  
When the last of your pride has been sold.  
But deep down inside there's a heart of pure gold,  
And a spirit that money can't buy.  
So, remember, my friends, and bow to the truth,  
Be quiet when Willy walks by,  
Please be quiet when Willy walks by

MICHAEL O'REILLY, 1986

The Committee of "ORDERLY ROOM GOSSIP" have been encouraged not only with the favourable comments for the initial issue but also with contributions received for our 2nd Issue.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ASSISTED.

DESPITE OUR EARNEST INTENTIONS TO KEEP THE COST OF PRODUCING THE "GOSSIP" TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM, THERE IS A "BOTTOM LINE" EXPENSE AND WE WOULD URGE MEMBERS PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND ASSOCIATION FUNCTIONS TO HELP WITH AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (SAY \$5) TOWARDS ITS COST.