



**SPECIAL ISSUE September '96**  
**"MICE OF MORESBY" - MEMBERS BULLETIN**

**PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT**  
**COVER SHEET CAREFULLY**

and mark off the items if you have taken appropriate action.

Place a tick in the Box as you complete

D 1. The Kokoda Walkway Appeal - Have you posted your donation?

D 2. Membership of the 55/53 Bn Association Support Group - Have you discussed the matter with family and friends and if so have you enclosed name and address details for same?

D 3. Memorabilia for Safekeeping with the Support Group. Have you addressed it to the 55/53 Bn Assn c/- 1/11 Tennyson Rd, Greenacre 2190?

P.S. Finally tear this sheet off and return it with the answers we require and sign it

below with your name!

## **THE KOKODA WALKWAY (CONCORD) APPEAL**

The Kokoda Walkway planned for completion in 1997 is quoted to be one of the country's few monument solely commemorating World War II veterans and certainly the one most suited for involvement of our association along with that of the support group .

Along the memorial walkway will be 22 sponsored Remembrance station named from Owers Corner to Gona.

I am delighted to announce that the 55/53 Bn Support Group moved quickly to lodge a claim for the SANANANDA Station making a payment of \$1,500 which represents half of the Sponsorship amount of \$3000.

On behalf of our Association I express our deep appreciation to our support group for their magnificent gesture and at the same time invite members to personally donate to an appeal towards the balance amount of \$1500.

We will have until December '96 to raise the amount.

All donations will be personally acknowledged and major contribution of \$100 or more will receive a specially endorsed certificate of thanks

**PLEASE GIVE THIS APPEAL YOUR SPECIAL ATTENTION NOW  
ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE  
ALEX BELL**

P. S. A progress report on the project itself and contributions to the appeal will appear in the next (Nov/Dec issue of Orderly Room Gossip.

## **WANTED**

### **Members for the 55/53 Inf Bn Support Group**

(Previously announced in Dec. 95 issue of Orderly Room Gossip.)

The **Qualifications** to join the support group are simply to believe in and support the idea to be part of the action in planning the history of the 55/53 Aust. Inf Bn Association.

The Support groups objectives are:-

- 1) To preserve and honour the history of the 55/53 Battalion.
- 2) Uphold the traditions of the battalion and preserve the battalion's memorabilia.

The **REWARDS** become obvious once there is personal involvement.

PLEASE MAKE IT KNOWN TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHAT THE SUPPORT GROUP IS DOING AND HOW THEY CAN ASSIST (Both Sydney and Country members needed).

### **The Committee's Achievements to date are:-**

1. - Sponsoring the "REMEMBER" publication
2. - Securing the sponsorship of the 'Sanananda' Remembrance Station at the Kokoda Walkway (Concord)
3. - Establishing the 1st display of 55/53 memorabilia.

THE  
THINGS  
MEMORIES  
ARE  
MADE OF  
... AND  
PRESERVED



An earlier appeal for items which help us recall our experiences in training and on the battlefields did not stir too many in the ranks. Very few contributed to this very important plan by the Support Group to preserve the history and traditions of the 55/53rd.

But the Support Group has not given up and has started to assemble a display ( see picture) of photographs and documents . When enough is available the Support Groups plans an "open day' for general viewing.

The Support Group is ready to receive for preservation and display many more documents and photographs which members may have tucked away amongst their souvenirs - the scrounged records, diaries, army newspapers or cuttings . We have already the licence of the Papuan Hotel dated 1942..

It is over to us to contribute - **NOW** .

Care will be taken that nothing is lost or destroyed.

Adrian Nall (Sigs) who has a special interest in our memorabilia has been recruited as link-man between the Association and the Support Group for the project.

Photographs and documents in the first instance should be sent to Alex Bell (1/11 Tennyson Rd., GREENACRE) who will register the items and then pass them on to the Support Group- the first step in ensuring the safety and security of the material.

Please remember to say where and when photographs were taken and who features in them. Give as much information as possible about the documents you send in. Without these details the material means very little to the majority of members.

## **55/53 Citizens Support Group**

Although still only small, the group is progressing quite well. With the help of a grant from the "Remember" publishing committee we have been able to secure the Sanananda Station at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway at Concord for the association. The men of the 55/53 will be honoured by way of a plaque at the Sanananda station and we will be eligible to secure the walkway for a function of our choice once a year.

### **Memorabilia**

With the help of Adrian Nall we have put together a small display and we are now in a position to receive and catalogue more memorabilia.

One of the items in Adrian's collection was an extract from a private Latta's diary. He was at Sanananda in December 1942 in a trench with a Japanese sniper firing at him. "I fired one shot into a tree, where I thought he might be, but had no result. He quit after half an hour & I had another look over & then I saw the right hand section moving up, when suddenly his woodpecker (.5mmg) opened up on them. Cpl. Carruthers was standing up and he got it in the chest and out his back, killed instantly".

Corporal Carruthers was my father and that small paragraph from private Latta's diary was the only indication I've ever had on how he died. I'm sure you will appreciate how moved I was to read it.

In years to come your memorabilia will give pleasure to others who seek to find information on their relatives and loved ones, so please send in what you have to Alec Bell in the first instance. I can assure you that anything you send in will be looked after and safely secured.

### **New Members**

The support group does need more new members so please mention it to your friends and relatives. It doesn't take up a lot of time and it's not hard work. Anyone interested can ring me at home 9838 7840 or work 9794 7141.

Looking forward to meeting you all one day.

**Kindest Regards**

Clyde Parsons