



**Issue 1-2005**

**“THE MICE OF MORESBY” MEMBERS BULLETIN**

### **CANBERRA PLAQUE DEDICATION**

The lightning flashed and the thunder roared – but it wasn't Young Harry Dale, with the first lot of members and friends on their way to Canberra, a bit before sun-up, via Tuggerah 0600 and Strathfield 0730. Everyone was on time at the pick-up points and through rain, mist sunshine, more rain, after a comfort stop around 1140 hrs. Just a little time for a quick look see, then lunch at the Outpost Café. They turned on a great array of rolls and sandwiches, plenty tea and coffee, excellent value for the cost and a letter of appreciation has been sent to them. 1400 hours assemble in the annex room o the West courtyard for the dedication ceremony, as the threatening weather was just that – threatening. Greeted by the director, Maj. Gen. Steve Gower, A.O., and other staff, welcome address by the Director and Peter Wright's response, the plaque was dedicated by Padre Roy Wotton, unveiled by Warwick Davis, original 53<sup>rd</sup> and Les Brown original 55<sup>th</sup>.

(Photograph of Warwick & Les in front of the banner)

A musician, Steve Carter from the band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon played Last Post and Rous, Harry Matthew recited the Ode and our march manner was displayed. Mr Stuart Baines of museum staff acted as Master of Ceremonies and everything went smoothly and it would remiss not to mention the assistance given over the last few months by Jen Bellman, Ceremonial Coordinator Education and Visitor Services and Mr Stewart Mitchel of the Building and Services Section. Clyde Parsons spoke the Thank You and Farewell. Just as the ceremony finished, the heavens opened up and it POURED. After making our way through the museum to the front entrance it was a case of having to dash to the bus as departure time was NOW. Rather wet we left Canberra about 1515 hours, Strathfield before 1900 and after a stop at Beacroft the day was fast coming to a close. There were about sixty people at the ceremony, those who went directly to the museum, from Western Australia, South Australia, country areas of NSW, and our city and Newcastle people coach travellers, family and friends all had a wonderful day and it will be remembered by them as something special. Jan Bellman arranged the printing of the order of service and if any member would like a copy of the service it can be provided at the cost of printing and postage, probably \$3.00.

Has anyone photographs of the dedication? If so, could you please select a couple of them and send to the secretary for sorting and selection to be included in our memorabilia cabinet at Glebe.

**KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALKWAY** invites members to attend a Commemorate ANZAC Day and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gallipoli at the Walkway Friday 22 April at 1030 hours If attending RSVP Hilary Nourse on phone 9767 5256 or Fax 9767 8477 by 8<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

Trusty and his master, Wally Meredith, a boundary rider, worked on a lonely Meredith Station in Central Australia. Wally had had cause to chastise Trusty that morning for he had been very naughty and eaten all those sheep. However, as time went by, Wally had forgotten all about their little difference then suddenly – FATE STEPED IN – and Wally's horse reared and threw him to the ground, breaking his leg. "Geez", said Wally, "me leg's broken". Then eighteen death adders slowly slithered out of the rocks. "Gaw", said Wally, "Death adders!" Frantically Wally scribbled a note and said to Trusty. "Taker this to the homestead." He said "Go boy, go." Trusty knew just what to do. He was off like the wind, over the stony desert, the hard stones tearing at his flying paws, his hot breath rasping in his parched throat. Not daring to stop. At last, just about sundown, he came over the hill and saw the lights of the homestead gleaming below. With his last bit of strength, he crawled to the tank stand, drank deeply – crawled UNDER THE HOUSE AND CHEWED UP THE NOTE.

A lengthy article written by Max Thompson called "Operation Downfall' concerning the Invasion of Japan and the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was omitted on the basis that the article is not relevant to the purpose of transcribing the diggers stories. There are literally thousands of pages written on the subject.

**"REMEMBER"** On February 8<sup>th</sup>, Peter **WRIGHT** and I were guests of Sydney Lions Club at lunch for a twofold purpose. It was Peter's pleasure to present to the registrar of Sydney Hospital a cheque for the balance of funds in the "Remember" account which has been in the capable hands of Mike Fernandez, as trustee, brother-in-law of the late John **RICHARDSON** who with Alex **BELL** prepared the booklet. These funds will go toward the provision of a bus for the Kirkton Road project, which is supported by Sydney Lions as an outreach service to the youth of Sydney. A very worthy project indeed. The second purpose was to induct Mayor Clover Moore as an honorary LION (Lioness?), and she responded with a very enlightening speech outlining her councils' vision for the greater Sydney area.

If any member wishes to obtain a copy of "Remember" booklet, send \$2.50 to the secretary to cover cost and postage.

**FRONT LINE SERVICE MEDAL** is still available for qualifying members and if you wish to receive one, please advise the secretary who will send you an application form. The cost is \$30.00 payable to 2/12 Battalion Association. DO NOT send money to the secretary. All required details are in the application form.

**DID YOU KNOW** that VX44906 Lt Col Allan Gordon Cameron, DSO, born 1909 in Brunswick Victoria took an active interest in Citizen Forces pre-war, resigned his commission when living in remote country areas, rejoined his old unit, The Brighton Rifles, on outbreak of war? Adjutant 2/22<sup>nd</sup>. He served with HQ New Guinea Force, and was Brigade Major 30 Brigade, commanded Maroubra Force and the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Awarded DSO for work at Choked sic. *(On 4 August at Deniki he took command of Maroubra Force which was confronting the Japanese advance across the Owen Stanley Range. First in attack, then in defence, this 'ruthless and able soldier' held his small force together for*

*twelve days in the face of increasing enemy pressure. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (1943)*, he commanded 53<sup>rd</sup> Bn for a few days after Lt Col Ward was killed, won bar to DSO at Gona, was CO 2/2 Bn, 16 Brigade 6 Div. 5<sup>th</sup> July 1943 to 14 December 1945 and took part in Aitape-Wewak campaign.