

55 | 53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association—  
Support Group Inc.  
Secretary's Report  
October 2024 (2-2024)



*In association with the  
55<sup>th</sup> & 53<sup>rd</sup>  
Infantry Battalions 1<sup>st</sup>  
A.I.F.*

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**Treasurer: Keith Smith**  
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**Secretary: Peter Dowling**  
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0419631953 (mob)



Fred Denny & Ray Gentles

Anzac Day 2019



### Presidents Report October 2024

Dear Members and Descendants,

Thank you to everyone who marched with us on Anzac Day 2024.

We again need the support of members and descendants in 2025 and beyond to keep the mice colours flying each April 25. If you intend on marching, please register with us. This is vital for insurance and liability purposes

Our Sanananda Day Reunion will shortly be upon us. Some years ago, we were given feedback from members that it would be a better idea to move the day to a Saturday so more members could attend. The Committee took this into consideration with the Life Members including Ray Gentles, Fred Denny, Charlie Jennings, Reg Chard who voted for this to happen.

The first Friday in December was sacred to these Gentlemen and all Mice Soldiers, it was a big move for them to consider but was voted through and moved to the following day. Since then, we've seen a major decline in members and descendant attendance.

Please get down to the Martin Place cenotaph December 7 and remember those who have fallen before us.

This remembrance service has been conducted every year since 1946 and before that the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF soldiers from 1926. It would be a shame for the committee to have to consider moving it to a different location.

Our AGM will be held in February 2025, please attend if you can. Date to be advised

Rob Denny  
President  
Mice of Moresby  
55/53 Battalion Association & National Support Group Inc.  
2.11.2024

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### Secretaries Report October 2024

Dear friends,

The last edition of the Orderly Room Report was published earlier in the year. From now on there will be a letter from the secretary published two or three times each year. This is due to the fact we have almost no remaining veterans and the lack of feedback from most of the descendants of the Mice of Moresby. I have produced **The Orderly Room Report** since 2015: A lot of hard work is involved. The work involved in researching, and preparing the takes many hours to complete. I cannot continue to carry on doing this work and there is no clear succession planning in place. The average production including research took over 40 hours, this was the case for example when I produced the story concerning the 'Undefeated Rugby

League Team'. Also , the likelihood that veteran's descendants of submitting material is now almost non-existent.

Another disappointment is that despite generous membership rules, very few people take the time to renew their membership of \$20.00 per annum. The reason we continue to send out the Orderly Room Report to long term unfinancial members is that we are in a sound financial position and can absorb the additional costs. In future your committee will continue to post/email all members on our membership list. [We are in this sound financial position because of the extraordinary financial contribution by one member; to this person we are profoundly grateful.]

However, if you receive the Orderly Room Report in the past and in future do not require a copy to be sent to you either by email or post, please kindly let me know.

**Note:** In my time as secretary, we have always sent the Orderly Room Report to widows of deceased veterans. This will continue regardless.

Again, a copy of membership/ renewal is attached. Please act upon it if you wish to continue to receive information from the association. If you have renewed your membership, please ignore this request.

#### **SANANANDA DAY ARRANGEMENTS**

##### **Reunion Parade**

- Rob Denny and I will be in charge of overall proceedings. Gary Traynor will be Parade Sergeant.
- Arrive at Cenotaph before 1045hrs.
- Battalion will form up at 1055hrs.
- Catafalque Party to be in position at 1058hrs.
- Ceremony will commence at 1100hrs and conclude before 1115hrs.
- Depart Cenotaph at 1130hrs for annual reunion lunch at The Great Southern Hotel at 1230hrs (see below).

##### **Reunion Lunch – see below invitation for full retails – in summary;-**

- Arrive at The Great Southern Hotel from 1130hrs.
- Seating at 1220hrs.
- Lunch will be served at 1230hrs.
- Cost \$35.00 adults – Children under 12years \$10.00

Peter Dowling,  
Hon Secretary 21.10.2024

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**55/53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association and National Support Group**

**2024 Sanananda Day Reunion Luncheon**

**Saturday, 7 December 2024**

Dear Friends

You are cordially invited to attend our 2024 Sanananda Day Luncheon on Saturday, 7 December 2024.

**Venue:** the Great Southern Hotel, 717 George Street, Sydney.

**Time:** the luncheon will be served at 1230 hours, with seating by 1220 hours. You are most welcome to arrive earlier (from 11:30am onwards).

**Cost:** \$35.00 per adult and \$10.00 per child (to age 15). Coffee/tea available \$4.00 – order/pay at luncheon.

**RSVP:** the RSVP date is **Monday, 2 December 2024**. Please complete the form below and either post to the Treasurer, Mr Keith Smith, 5 John Miller Street, Ryde NSW 2112 **OR** send via email at [keithsmith48@hotmail.com](mailto:keithsmith48@hotmail.com). Your assistance is kindly requested to complete your RSVP as early as possible and post/email so that your attendance details are with Keith by the RSVP date to allow for finalisation of numbers, catering and seating.

**Payment:** the form below covers **1. Luncheon attendance / 2. optional contribution to 55/53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association/ 3. 55/53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association 2025 Membership**. (For your convenience, in addition to completing the form for the luncheon attendance and/or making a contribution to Association funds, you may also wish to use it to join or renew Association Membership for the 2025 calendar year – fee of \$20 – alternatively, please use the attached Association Membership Renewal form for joining or renewal.)

**Payment options:** indicate direct payment on the form and pay into CBA Bank Account: BSB 062 606 / Account No.2801 9947(please use your name as a reference) **OR** indicate cash payment on the form and pay (to Keith) at the luncheon.

My contact details, if needed, are email [miceofmoresby@live.com.au](mailto:miceofmoresby@live.com.au)/ mobile/text 0419 631 953. Keith's mobile number, if needed, is 0417 469 425.

Kind regards  
Peter Dowling, Secretary

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**55/53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association and National Support Group**

**1. 2024 Sanananda Day Reunion Luncheon Acceptance**

**Name:** ..... (please print) / **Contact number:** .....

**Number attending in my party:** adults..... / children (up to age 15)..... / **My total cost for luncheon:** \$.....

**Special dietary requirements:** .....

**2. My donation to Association funds (optional):** \$.....

**3. Join or renew 55/53 Association Infantry Battalion Membership for 2025:** I wish to: join the Association .....  
/renew my Association membership ..... (please tick your option). The fee is \$20 per calendar year.

**Total amount payable:** \$.....

**Payment options:** direct bank deposit..... / cash at luncheon.....(please tick your option).