



**55 | 53 Australian Infantry Battalion
Association—Support Group Inc.**
*In association with the 55th& 53rd
Infantry Battalions 1st A.I.F.*



**Orderly Room Report
March 2025, (1-2025)**

President: Rob Denny Mob: 0437 818 834 – Email: rdenny@prodarts.com.au
Treasurer: Keith Smith: 5 John Miller St., Ryde NSW 2112 Mob: 0417 469 425 Email: Keithsmith48@hotmail.com
Hon. Secretary: Peter Dowling: 14 Green Slopes Dr., RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324 Mob: 0419631953 Email: miceofmoresby@live.com.au



Figure1. Sanananda Day Reunion at NSW Leagues Club in the 1990's

NEW NOTICE OF 2025 AGM

The AGM was deferred from 28.2.25 to 25.4.25 at The Great Southern Hotel 717 George St., Sydney from 1230 hrs being part of the 2025 Anzac Day Lunch.



Secretary's Report March 2025

Dear friends,

Firstly, recently I had a conversation with Robert Chard the son of Reg. Reg is in hospital suffering from anaemia and has had several blood transfusions. He is in good spirits. Reg will be 102 this year.

At Sanananda day last year we had the honour to welcome two new members to the association. Lucie Davison and her son Tom Snowdon, who travelled from South Australia to be with us. Lucie is the daughter of Percy Clifford Davison. Percy was a lieutenant in the 53rd Battalion and led a section during the battle for Isurava in August 1942. Lucie is a publisher of '*Only Slightly Foxed Publications*.' Lucie has published with her partner Rob Gray many interesting books focusing on WWI. Currently Lucie and Rob are researching the 53rd Battalion during its short existence in 1941-1942 and to publish a new history of the battalion. This is badly needed as writers have consistently dismissed the 53rd Bn as that Mob ... We are giving Lucie and Rob our full support.

As we look towards ANZAC day, we reflect upon the commitment made by young men – mainly boys that were called to serve their country. The very first to give his life was private N235115, William Arthur Davey who died at Port Moresby from complications following surgery. Though he received training unlike many others, he did not face the enemy. Below is a copy of Private William Arthurs Davey's file that was prepared a short time before the website was hacked. Even though he did not fire a shot in anger, he deserves our admiration and respect. Rest in peace brave and gentle soldier. He lies with his comrades at Bomana War Memorial Cemetery. Lest we forget.

Members will be sadly disappointed in that the website that I established in 2018 and contained over 7500 records file photographs has been hacked. At the time of writing the website 5553battalion.com no longer exists. There are no adequate words that could be written to express my deep disappointment and sadness. Work on the site started in 2004 following long conversations I had with my late father-in-law Keith Henry Campbell. Keith joined the 55th Battalion at Newtown and attended the requisite training camps. Following call-up, he trained at Bathurst and Greta as a Vickers Machine Gunner and truck driver. Was part of the 55th Battalion that served at Milne Bay and Sanananda and later as a Biscuit Bomber. I made a promise to Keith to love and care for his daughter Marilyn and to remember the 96 of his mates who fell at Sanananda. I dedicated my work to Keith Henry Campbell and his daughter Maz. The website research and preparation the website took between 2-5 hours each to research, transcribe each soldier's file and upload. Of the soldiers who served in the 55/53 battalion, there were over 400 complete files and 1100 partially researched files on this website. The remaining 5,000 files are those of men who served during WWI in the 53rd and 55th Battalion. The amount of hours cannot be calculated. This work over the past five years was made easier by the generous help of Carole Matthew who contributed to creating 100 WWII files and 800 WWI files. Carole is currently working on the 55th Battalion WWI and is up to the letter 'D'. Approximately 80 files prepared by Carole were not uploaded to the site when it was hacked. I've been working on the 53rd Battalion and completed surnames up to the letter 'P'. I have about 50 files ready to upload as of the end of October last year.

Not all is lost as our PC still contains all the files that were contained on the website and regularly backed up. It's a matter of building a new website or walking away??? At this stage of my life this is the end point as secretary. I am afraid I do not have the energy to start all over again.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - Future of the Orderly Room Report: This is the last edition of the Orderly Room Report you will receive unless you have renewed or expressly wish to continue receive it. This includes copies sent by email. In future the newsletter will be only posted or emailed to veterans, widows of the veterans and paid-up members. If you have already renewed for 2025 then you will continue to receive the newsletter. For convenience I have attached

a membership/renewal form which to be returned to me as soon as possible. Otherwise, you will not receive any further Orderly Room Reports.

2025 ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS (See map attached)

The Battalion will meet in Phillip St at 8.30 am for this year's march for step off at 9.00 am; Cnr., diagonally opposite the former Lindt Cafe (where Martin Place crosses Phillip St). Look out for Keith Smith and the marching banner. We will form up at 9.00am in order of division. The WWII Australian Army forms up in Phillip St., please listen to directions. Remember it is a march and not a stroll: Dress appropriately. You are welcome to wear your ancestors medals – on the right-hand side. No carrying of photographs.

We will be greatly assisted this year by the Cadets from the 226 Army Cadet Unit - Normanhurst with banners and colour, flags. Thank you to this wonderful unit who is always supportive of our activities and commemorations. All Adults marching in 2025 due to insurance and legislation must be financial 55/53 Battalion members , Children under 18 may be accompanied by an Adult Member. The public liability laws now are very hard to get around and this will now be compulsory. The NSW RSL regularly posts update. We hope to send these out on email and face book posts.

Membership/renewals payments can be made to our Commonwealth Bank Account. BSB 062606 ACCT 28019947 Mice of Moresby. cost \$20.00 If making any payment please inbox us a screenshot / receipt of payment with your surname as reference. There are still seats at the luncheon Available , please contact us for details if you'd like to attend the Great Southern Bar from 1130am onwards after the march. See below invitation.

Thank you to Margaret Perry for her enthusiastic organising of the Anzac Day lunch this year.

Finally, I will be resigning as secretary of the association effective as of the 2026 AGM. A new secretary is needed as I have been doing this work for 11 years and someone with fresh idea to take over. It's becoming increasingly difficult producing the *Orderly Room Report* twice a year and as the editor of the newsletter and receive very little support outside your committee in producing , printing and distribution. Maz is my proof-reader. I thank her very much for her patience and good ideas. I have not received a single article that could be included for a very long time. As editor I do my best. Any errors are mine. However, I am entitled to make changes to contributed work where I see fit. I apologise to anyone who may be offended. If I can have the Website restored, Carole and I will continue to work of researching and uploading files of the diggers.

Good wishes, Peter Hon. Secretary.

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Presidents Report March 2025

Dear Members and Descendants,

Many thanks to all of those who attended our Sanananda Day Memorial in December. Big thanks to both Gary and Nathaniel Traynor for their leadership of the service. The service was boosted with the inclusion of a portable microphone which gained the attention of all passers in Martin Place Thankyou again Gentlemen.

ON top of this our membership and donation levels have been superb I'd Like to thank everyone who has supported the battalion both with Membership and donations. Many donations have been anonymous . Thank you to those who have supported us. Just to put Sanananda day on each year cost.

Attention now turns to Anzac Day 2025. We hope to see as many members as possible in attendance and then join us for lunch at the Great Southern Bar.

The Battalion will be sending a small entourage from the Committee to the Fromelles Remembrance Day In July which is attended by the NSW governor and other distinguished guests. We will update on our social media pages. Thank you to those who attended our February meeting. The change from Granville to the great southern bar was met well by those who attended with easier transport arrangements

Rob Denny

National President

55|53 Mice of Moresby Battalion Association

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Treasurer's Report: 55/53 Battalion Association & National Support Group inc.

Financial Report 1.1.2024 to 31.12.2024

Balance of account as of 1.1.2024	\$27,260.00
Plus	
Income see below	\$3,850.00
Minus	
Expenditure see below	\$4,889.64
Balance of account as of 31.12.2024	\$26,220.36

Income	
Description	Amount
Membership	\$1,380.00
Anzac Day Lunch	\$735.00
Donation	\$985.00
Sanananda Day Lunch	\$640.00
Sale of Books	\$240.00
Total	\$3,980.00

Expenditure	
Description	Amount
Anzac Day Lunch	\$729.50
Sanananda Day Lunch	\$587.00
Bugler for Sanananda Day Parade	\$250.00
Kings Colour materials	\$330.00
Website Hosting	\$96.00
Lodgement of Fair-Trading Report fee	\$54.24
Donation to Kokoda Historical for work on the Sanananda village Bn memorial site	\$1,000.00
Public Liability Insurance	\$485.65
Florist wreaths for Sanananda Day 2024	\$162.00
Accommodation – Gary Traynor and son Nataniel for Sanananda Day at The Great Southern Hotel	\$359.00
Accommodation – Peter Dowling for Sanananda Day at The Great Southern Hotel	\$339.00
Accommodation – Peter Dowling for attending Fromelles commemoration on 19.7.2024	\$143.00
Secretaries Expenses	
Bag to carry Kings colour flagpole	\$34.99
Brass pipe to repair Kings Colour flagpole	\$29.99
Printing Orderly Room Report March 2024	\$106.70
Postage Orderly Room Report March 2024	\$144.89
Printing Paper	\$16.00
Printing Orderly Room Report October 2024	\$21.78
Postage for Orderly Room Report October 2024	\$46.50
Renewal of Microsoft Office	\$83.40
Total	\$4,889.64

Keith Smith – Hon. Treasurer 31.12.2024



**Biographical and Service Record of Private William Arthur Davey
5.9.1912-17.1.1942.**

NOMINAL ROLL Service Record	
Name:	DAVEY, WILLIAM ARTHUR
Service:	Australian Army
Service Number:	N235115
Date of Birth:	5 Sep 1912
Place of Birth:	NORTH SYDNEY, NSW
Date of Enlistment:	15 May 1941
Locality on Enlistment:	NORTH SYDNEY, NSW
Place of Enlistment:	NORTH SYDNEY, NSW
Next of Kin:	DAVEY, ETHEBERT
Date of Death:	17 Jan 1942
Rank:	Private
Posting at Death:	53 Australian Infantry Battalion
WW2 Honours and Gallantry:	None for display
Prisoner of War:	No
Roll of Honour:	NORTH SYDNEY

Enrolment Form for Military Service for Home Defence Form A.A. form, M3A			
[Stamped Area 24.8.42 / 17B 10/157]			
Surname	DAVEY	Christian Names	WILLIAM ARTHUR
Date of Birth	5 th September 1912		
Town and Country of Birth:	North Sydney, Australia		
Nationality	Australian		
Postal address/Place of abode	46 Lord St., North Sydney, NSW		
Occupation	Commercial Traveller		
Employer/address	Craig & Atkins c/- 654 George St., Sydney		
Next of Kin	Amy Davey Mother, Ethelbert Davey {mother and father} Domestic Duties & Fitter, 46 Lord St., North Sydney, NSW		
Date:	21.2.1941		
Preferences	Army Medical Corps		
Posted	25.2.41		
Address	17th Battalion, 333 Military Rd., Mosman		

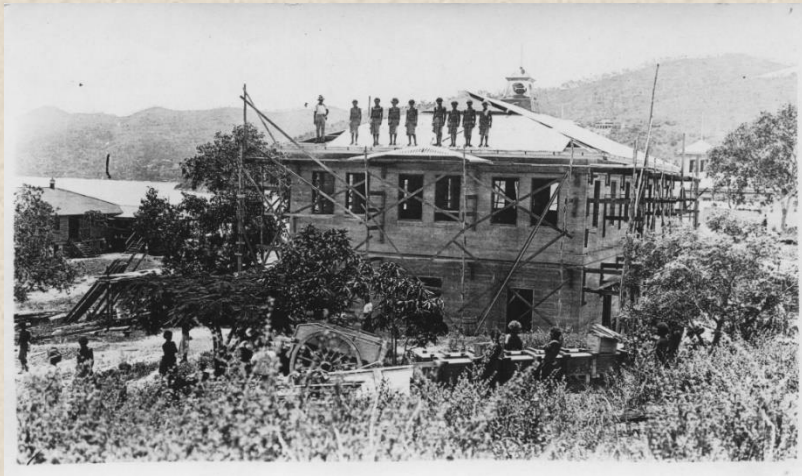
MOBILIZATION ATTESTATION FORM			
Army Number	N235115		
Surname	DAVEY	Christian Names	William Arthur
Unit			
Enlisted for service at:	North Sydney NSW		
Date:	15.5.1941		
A			
Name	Surname	DAVEY	
	Other names	William Arthur	
Where were you born	In or near town of	North Sydney	
	State	NSW	
British Subject	YES		
Age & Date of Birth	Age	28	
	Date of Birth	5.9.1912	
Normal trade or occupation grade	Commercial Traveller		
Married, single widower	Single		
Previous naval, military or Air Force service	No		
Next of Kin	Name	Ethelbert Davey	
	Address	46 Lord St., North Sydney NSW	
	Relationship	Father	
Prior medical conditions – Fits of any kind; Rheumatism	No to both		
Treatment in an asylum for insane	No		
Permanent Address	46 Lord St., North Sydney NSW		
Religious Denomination	Methodist		
Oath of Enlistment			
Where	North Sydney, NSW		
Date	15 May 1941		
Attesting Officer			

SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM (Other Ranks)			
Army No.	N235115	Unit	17 th Battalion 53 rd Battalion
Rank	Private		
Christian Names	William Arthur	Surname	DAVEY
Date of Enlistment	19 June 1941	Marital Condition	Single
Place	North Sydney	Next of Kin	E Davey
Date of Birth	North Sydney	Address of next of Kin	46 Lord St., North Sydney
Trade/Occupation	Commercial Traveller	Relationship	Father
Religion	Church of England		
Identification			

Colour of Hair	Black	Eyes	Blue	
Distinctive Marks				
REPORT				
Date	From Where	Record	Date of Casualty	Place of Casualty
	Area 17b	Marched in Routine Order 13/41	19.6.1941	
		Marched out to 113 Aust. General Hospital [Concord]	8.8.1941	
		Marched in from 113 Aust. General Hospital [Concord]	23.7.1941 (sic)	
26.11.41	C.O. 17 Bn	Marched in from Medical Examination 7 Military District	25.11.1941	Narellan
1.12.41	“	Transferred to 53 rd Battalion	26.11.1941	“
27.12.42	53Bn	Taken on strength ex 17 th Battalion	26.11.1941	Ingleburn
Contrary to reported misinformation emanating from uninformed military historians and others regurgitated time and time again since 1942: Private Davey was not Shanghaied on the wharves of Woolloomooloo.				
31.12.41	Ec RO	Echelon Routine Order – Embarked Pacific Area [from Sydney for Port Moresby per Aquitania]	27.12.1941	Echelon
12.1.42	53 rd Bn	Disembarked at Port Moresby transferred from 2 nd Military District [It took over a week for the unit stores to be unloaded from the transport ships so that the Orderly Room staff could update his file. The soldiers slept on the ground – no latrines or fresh water]	3.1.1942	Port Moresby
7.1.42	53 rd Bn	Posted to X List evacuated to Military Hospital Murray Barracks Appendectomy	6.1.1942	“
9.1.42	DRO 8 MD	Placed on S.I. List acute appendicitis Moresby	7.1.1942	Port Moresby
10.1.42	DRO 8 MD	Transferred from S.I. to D.I.	15.1.1942	Port Moresby
19.1.42	53 rd Bn	Died from appendicitis [following surgery] at the European Hospital at 1200 hrs. <i>[The European Hospital was designed and built by Mr. G.M. Turnbull architect to the Papuan government; grandfather of the Peter Dowling in 1932].</i>	17.1.1942	Port Moresby
21.1.42.	DRO 8 MD	Died 17.1.42	17.1.1942	Port Moresby
19.1.42	-	Buried Port Moresby Cemetery Section 11 Lot 9	18.1.1942	“
28.4.43	DRO NSW LofC	Division Routine Order NSW Line of Control – Reburied Bomana War Cemetery Port Moresby Block B Plot 1 Row 7	22.9.1942	Port Moresby

SERVICE RECORDS [Source: National Archives of Australia] <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/>

Accessed 28.12.2023.



Photos: European Hospital Port Moresby under construction in 1932.

INFORMATION DERIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES

Burial: Bomana War Memorial Cemetery Port Moresby:

DAVEY, Private, WILLIAM ARTHUR, N235115. A.C.M.F. 53 Bn. Australian Infantry. 17th January 1942. Age 29. Son of Ethelbert and Amy Davey, of Cronulla, New South Wales. B 1. B. 7. (https://australiancemeteries.com.au/war/bomana_d.htm)

No photographs of private Davey have been found as of 15.3.2025.

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William Arthur Davey was the eldest son of Amy Roberts and Ethelbert Davey of North Sydney, born at Milton NSW in 1891; [NSW BDM 22066/1891] Amy and Ethelbert were married at Canterbury NSW in 1912. [NSW BDM Marriage 1368/1912].

The following list of their children comes from NSW Births, Death and Marriages register . All births were registered at St Leonards which is close to North Sydney.

1. **DAVEY, WILLIAM ARTHUR** NSW BDM Birth 49060/1912
2. DAVEY, AMY CLARA NSW BDM Birth 32434/1914 [Died 1.7.1934 – NSW BDM 13764/1934]
buried Macquarie Park NSW Methodist A7, 0049
3. DAVEY, BERTRAM NSW BDM Birth 38820/1915 [Died 1915 – NSW BDM 13496/1915]
4. DAVEY, BASIL NSW BDM Birth 38821/1915 [Died 1915 -NSW BDM 13497/1915]
5. DAVEY, HARRY ALFRED NSW BDM Birth 4464/1917 [Died 1988 – 110439/1988]
6. DAVEY, JOHN T 8 NSW BDM Birth 734/1919 [Died 19.9.1989]

Ethelbert Davey died 12.4.1959 at Chatswood [NSW BDM Death 15996/1959 son of Samuel and Annie – Registered at North Sydney] The *Sydney Morning Herald Archive*, Monday, April 13, 1959, page 20 death notice stated "**DAVEY, Bert** April 12, 1959, at his residence 46 Lord Street. North Sydney, beloved husband of Amy Davey, and loved father of Harry, John, Dorothy and Marjorie, aged 68 years. At rest". Amy Davey died in 1967 – her death was registered at St Leonards [NSW BDM Death 26307/1967 daughter of Harry and Clara Roberts].

A brother John Thomas Davey enlisted in the 1st Battalion at Glenfield NSW on 3.1.1940. On strength 17th Battalion at Narellan 1.10.1941: with the regimental number of N38495 and later NX10526. John was born on 11.3.1919 and was 20 years old when he enlisted. Occupation Bicycle Builder and later Salesman. Served in the militia from 1.10.1941 to 19.6.1942 and 2nd AIF from 20.6.1942 to 37.3.1946. Qualified Trade Group III Storeman and served in New Guinea on 2 occasions 1st from [2/45th Battalion], 19.11.1942 to 22.1.1943 and second 9.12.44 to 31.12.1945. [On strength 2/1 Battalion 24.5.1943]. On discharge on 27.3.1946 his rank was Lance Corporal. He died 19.9.1989. [NSW BDM Death 23526/1989 District ?].





RSL
NSW

2025 Sydney ANZAC Day March Map



KEY

- March Path
- Participant Flow
- Cenotaph
- Information
- Band Chute (Eastern side of Chifley Square)
- Limited Pedestrian Access
- Train station
- Light rail
- Wheelchair Accessible Viewing Area
- Public Toilets
- Accessibility drop off/pick up
- Taxi Rank
- Music Free Zone
- Metro
- Bus stop

CONTINGENT

- 1 Police Motorcycle Riders (V formation)
- 2 Mounted Police
- 3 HE The Governor
- 4 ADF Duty Band
- 5 RSL NSW Contingent
- 6 New Zealand Veterans
- 7 Australian Flags Contingent
- 8 Memorial Horses
- 9 WWI Unit Flags Contingent
- 10 NSW Police Veterans
- 11 Taxis
- 12 Royal Australian Navy and Merchant Navy led by Australian Fleet Commander
- 13 NSW Fire and Rescue Veterans
- 14 Australian Army led by Commander – Forces Command
- 15 Signals (100th Anniversary)
- 16 WWII Army
- 17 Australian Korean War Veterans
- 18 Australian Army Training Team Vietnam
- 19 Head Quarters 1 Australian Task Force
- 20 Armour
- 21 Artillery
- 22 Engineers
- 23 Survey
- 24 A: Infantry (RAR)
- 24 B: Infantry (Reserves)
- 25 Special Forces
- 26 Army Aviation
- 27 Intelligence
- 28 Chaplains
- 29 Transport
- 30 Medical
- 31 Dental
- 32 Ordnance
- 33 Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
- 34 Educational
- 35 Public Relations Service
- 36 Catering
- 37 Pay
- 38 Legal
- 39 Military Police
- 40 Psychology
- 41 Nursing
- 42 WRAAC
- 43 Officer Training Unit
- 44 National Servicemen
- 45 Royal Australia Air Force led by Commander – Air Command
- 46 British & Commonwealth Forces
- 47 Entertainers + War Correspondents
- 48 Sydney Legacy and War Widows
- 49 Descendants of Veterans
- 50 Allied Veterans and Descendants
- 51 RSL marshals and SES

More information: rslnsw.org.au



Appendix 1 Application for Membership/ Renewal

(Part 2 of constitution)

55|53 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION & NATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP Inc.

In association with the 55th and 53rd Infantry Battalions 1st AIF

NEW MEMBERSHIP/ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2025

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
EMAIL:	
TELEPHONE:	
Reason for interest in the 55 53 Bn e.g. name of relatives who served:	
How can we help you?	The 55 53 Bn Association has records of most soldiers (1600) who served in the 55 53 Bn. between 1941 and 1946. Over 400 soldier's names Service Records have been transcribed. Contact the Bn Association by email [miceofmoresby@live.com.au] and we will try to help you find out more about a soldier.
How can you help us?	If you have stories, information or photographs of a Soldier who served in the 55 53 Aust. Infantry Battalion including the 53 rd Battalion and 55 th Battalion, We want to hear from you! Email: [miceofmoresby@live.com.au]
I hereby apply to become a member/ Renew membership of the 55 53 rd Battalion Association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force. Signature of Applicant. Date:	
Office:	

MEMBERSHIP: \$20 per person per year.

PAYMENT: Please complete the form and send monies to the Secretary, Mr. Keith Smith, 5 John Miller Street, RYDE NSW 2112: or deposit into the CBA Bank Account as below: -

Account Name: The 55|53 Battalion Association **BSB:** 062 606 **Account No.:** 2801 9947

If you wish to make a yearly donation, this would be welcome to meet the Associations on-going costs. If you change your contact details, please let us know at miceofmoresby@live.com.au.

DISCLAIMER: Your personal details will only be used by the support group for notification of changes and events information. This listing of members will not be sold or traded.



**55/53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association and National Support Group
2025 Anzac Day Luncheon
Friday, 25 April 2025**

Dear Friends

You are cordially invited to attend our 2025 Anzac Day Luncheon on Friday, 25 April 2025.

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 at \$4.00 - order/pay at luncheon.

RSVP: the RSVP date is **Sunday, 20 April 2025**. 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. 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 funds / 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 the form to join or renew Association Membership for the 2025 calendar year - fee of \$20 - please complete only if you haven't previously joined/renewed for 2025 Membership.)

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 / mobile/text 0419 631 953. Keith's mobile number, if needed, is 0417 469 425.

Kind regards
Peter Dowling, Secretary

55/53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association and National Support Group

1. 2025 Anzac Day 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. Donation to 55/53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association funds (optional): \$.....

3. Join or renew 55/53 Australian Infantry Battalion Association 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).