

PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE AGM ON 12th August 2020 held at Geebung-Zillmere RSL Club, Brisbane

In the absence of President Don Graham due to COVID-19 concerns, Vice President, Greg Ivey chaired the AGM. He declared the AGM open at 12:05pm and welcomed all present.

One Minute's Silence was observed for deceased Members of the Association. History Officer, Peter Jesser was invited to cut the Cake celebrating the 80th anniversary of the official Formation of the Papuan Infantry Battalion in 1940. Before doing so, Peter related a relevant and amusing anecdote related to his father, Major Harold Jesser MC (PIB).

Present: G. Ivey, K. Horton, I. Ogston, G. Farr, K. Smith, P. Adam, P. Jesser, T. Edwsmith, L. Quinlivan,

Apologies: D. Graham, G. Johnson, M. Pears, R. Lange, T. Lange, G. Carnes, R. Wade, I. Warlters, N. Hunter, J. Morris, F. Cordingley, R. Sayce, J. Dark, T. Purcell, E. Diery, G. Screen, F. Maclean.

Minutes of 2019 AGM/GM were circulated in 2019 and copies were tabled.

Business arising:

- G. Ivey reported that framed Hon Life Membership certificates had been presented to NGIB Veterans L/Sgt Don Collins, Sgt Laurie Stevens and W.O. Bill Scott to celebrate the 75th Anniversaries of the formation of the NGIB battalions.
- Links have been strengthened with kindred Kokoda Battalion Associations
- A cabinet has been purchased to hold the Association Archives. Members are invited to donate archive material to the Association via Greg Ivey.

Moved: G. Farr

Seconded: K. Smith

"that the Minutes of the 2019 AGM/GM as circulated be confirmed"

CARRIED

President's Report

In the absence of President Don Graham, Chairman Greg Ivey read Don's comprehensive annual Report. (See Attached)

Moved: L. Quinlivan Seconded: P. Jesser That the President's Report be received.

CARRIED

Correspondence: (read by Secretary Kev Horton)

Major inward/outward items consisted of multiple e-mails relating to –

1. Thank you letters to **Conan Bland and T.S.S., Southport RSL, George Friend** re Kokoda Day 2019 at Broadbeach.
2. **Newsletters / information updates / items of interest** to/from members – (Ian Ogston, Greg Ivey, Kev Horton, Kevin Smith)
3. E-mails re **PIR Re-union** and **Singleton Museum Exhibit** – Garry Screen, Steve Beveridge, etc
4. Invites and related items re **Broadbeach Kokoda Day 2020** and changes because of Covid 19.

5. E-mails to/from **Lahui Ako – author of *Nameless Warriors*** re 2nd Edition.
6. Orders/ correspondence re Paver laid to honour **Lt Fred Lucas (PIB) – Frankie Maclean**, David Yardley, Talkingstones, George Friend
7. E-mails to/from L/Sgt Collins, Sgt Stevens, Greg Ivey re **Honorary Life Membership**.
8. E-mails to/from **Alan and Marg Whelan** re Kokoda Day/ANZAC Day
9. **Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL** to/from re their 2020 Kokoda Day Service.
10. E-mails relating to **continuing exploration of official recognition of PNGDF Medal** Russ Wade/Don Graham/Greg Ivey/Secretary/Medals C'tee
11. **Membership reminders and Dues receipts/ new members welcoming letters** plus snail mail posting of Assn stickers – (Direct Credit payments and cheques for dues) to/from Treasurer Frankie Maclean, Membership Officer Kevin Smith, Secretary Kev and V/Pres Greg
12. **ANZAC Day 2020** letters to/from members, March C'tee, 2/14th, 39th Assns re alternate ways of celebrating ANZAC Day due to Covid 19.
13. Correspondence to/from **Bluehost re Website annual costs** etc (K. Smith, Kev Horton)
14. E-mails re **Duplicate Banner for display at Kokoda Bks, Canungra** – Palmer Flags, Don Graham, Greg Ivey, Peter Jesser, Brian Howard, George Friend, Kev Horton
15. **Sympathy cards** etc re Jack McIntosh, Garry Ghent, Martin Forbes, Paula Wade.
16. **Website updates and new articles** - Kevin Smith
17. All other e-mails/correspondence available to view on computer at AGM.

Business arising from Correspondence

K. Horton expanded on negotiations/discussions re the Duplicate Banner for display at LWF Canungra.

A question was asked about the size of the Duplicate Banner. It is close to the size of our Anzac Day Banner.

Moved K. Horton Seconded T. Edwsmith that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. CARRIED

Treasurer's Report

Report as prepared by Frankie Maclean presented showing a balance of \$1972.87 (See attached)

Although funds are adequate for the next few years, discussion was instigated by P. Adam re need for alternative fundraising in the future as necessary.

Chairman Greg Ivey agreed.

It was resolved that the Committee explore the question of a Member Levy to cover the cost of maintaining our Website operations.

Moved K. Horton Seconded P. Adam that the Treasurer's Report be received. CARRIED

Paypal Auxiliary Report

Kev Horton presented the report related to our Website www.soldierspng.com showing a balance of \$37AUD (See Attached). Moved K. Horton Seconded P. Jesser that the Paypal Aux Report be received. CARRIED

Membership and Website Reports – by Kevin Smith (See Attached)

Discussion re Website Host costs due May 2021 (*\$8.99 USD x 36 months for 'Bluehost' website hosting - \$323.12USD (\$445.98AUD) for 3 years - 29.05.18 to 29.05.21 was paid in May last financial year. Will be due for renewal in 2021*)

It was resolved that the website costs for the next 3 years be paid when due.

Moved K. Smith Seconded T. Edwsmith that the Membership and Website Reports be received. CARRIED

Medals Officer Report –

Read by G. Ivey as prepared by Russ Wade. (See attached)

Moved G. Ivey Seconded K. Smith that the Medal Officer's Report be received. CARRIED

Newsletter Report –

Presented by Ian Ogston – Ian reported on ANZAC Day newsletter and thanked those who sent in photos. All newsletters are available on the Assn website. Ian requested more contributions from Members to the Newsletter *Armi Nius*.

Moved I. Ogston Seconded P. Jesser that the Newsletter Editor's Report be received.

CARRIED

Election of Office Bearers

Chairman Greg Ivey declared all Committee Positions vacant then vacated the chair. Ian Ogston conducted the election of office bearers for 2020-2021.

Patron: Maj Gen Brian (Hori) Howard has generously agreed to continue as Patron.

Ian thanked the outgoing Committee for their efforts during 2019-20. Nominations for all office bearer's positions had been called for by e-mail to all Members by the Secretary. Ian now called for further nominations from the floor.

The following positions were voted on individually by the meeting with the following results:

President:	D. Graham
Vice President:	G. Ivey
Secretary:	K. Horton
Treasurer:	F. Maclean
Assistant Secretary:	G. Farr
Newsletter Editor:	I. Ogston
Website Managers:	K. Smith, F. Cordingley
History Officer:	P. Jesser
Medals Officer:	R. Wade
Membership Officer:	K. Smith
Brisbane Representative:	P. Adam
Regional Qld Rep.	G. Carnes
NSW & ACT Representative:	G. Screen
WA Representative:	G. Johnson
Victoria Representative:	Vacant

The New Committee was congratulated by Ian Ogston who invited Greg Ivey to resume the chair.

Items of General Business

1. Duplicate Assn Banner for display at LWC, Kokoda Barracks – Kev Horton expanded on background of banner – thanked President Don for his donation of \$95 for the initial cost of layout preparation with Palmer Flags and Maj George Friend for co-ordinating the application through Army funds to cover the cost of over \$500 for our banner production.
Moved L. Quinlivan Seconded P. Jesser “that the Committee investigate the wording of Battle Honours on the Anzac Day banner and take any necessary steps, for the sake of accuracy” CARRIED
2. 2020 Kokoda Commemoration Services –
A link to the You-Tube video of the Service conducted at The Southport School on 7 August has been sent to all members.

Member Jay Hooper was Guest Speaker at the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Service on 9 August. Greg Ivey was also present. Kev Horton recommended that Jay's presentation be considered for our Association Website.

3. A Paver honouring Lt Fred Lucas (PIB) has been purchased and laid behind the Rotary Kokoda Memorial Wall at Broadbeach, Qld. It is proposed that he be mentioned during the 2021 Kokoda Day Commemoration Service at Broadbeach.
4. Greg Farr tabled and recommended an old book called 'Assignment New Guinea' by Keith Willey, especially Chapter 13 relevant to National Service in TPNG. Greg Farr is able to Email Chapter 13 to interested Members.

LEST WE FORGET

LT. John Charles McIntosh, C Coy, PIB, 1942-46 Awarded MID

MAJ Garry Ghent, PNG Service: 1960- 1962 Lt. INFANTRY PIR & RECRUIT TRG AT GOLDIE 1968- 1970 Maj INF PIR

MAJ Martin Forbes, Didiman 2 PIR 1972-73, Reg. Army Murray Bks 1974, Retired from Army in 1993

Mrs Paula Wade, wife of Association Medals Officer, Russ Wade

ATTACHMENTS

PAYPAL WEBSITE REPORT *PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR ASSN As at 16.06.2019 (K.Horton)*

Carried forward from 2019 **\$65.62AUD**

Expenditure 22.05.2020
(Automatic deduction by 'Bluehost' - Annual Domain Name 'soldierspng.com')
- \$17.99 **USD** to Bluehost.com until May 2021 - (\$28.62AUD)

Total expenditure 2019-20 **\$28.62AUD**

Balance as at 10.08.2020 **\$37AUD**

Car Stickers on Hand – Approx. 70 small

Treasurer's Report PIB NGIB HQ PIR Association 2019 - 2020 Financial Year

As at 10 August 2020

Opening Balance from 10 July 2019 (Bank Statement): \$1198.70

INCOME

Dues: \$1022

Donations: \$70

Sticker Sales: \$44

Kokoda Pavers: NIL

Total Income: \$1136

Balance carried forward plus income: \$2334.70

EXPENDITURE

Paver (Lt. Lucas) \$75.00

Refund: \$14.30

Certificate Expenses: \$24

Sticker expenses: \$150

Total Expenditure: \$361.83

Income less Expenditure: \$774.17

Balance as per Bank Statement: \$1972.87

Frankie Maclean

Honorary Treasurer

10 August 2020

MEDALS OFFICER'S REPORT 2019-20

There were several applicants who enquired about eligibility for the PIR 50 th Anniversary Medal in accordance with the current guidelines endorsed by the Association, namely:

- Mr Don Collins – formerly 2NGIB, as previously reported to 2019 AGM, this enquiry was processed 30 April 2019 with Christies. Due to Christies not responding to our email request, this was followed up in July 2019.
- Mr David Scott – formerly 163 Recce Flt, enquiry processed 19 August 2019 with Christies. No confirmation of purchase at this stage.
- Mr David Melandri – formerly 183 Recce Flt, enquiry processed 22 August 2019 with Christies. Purchase confirmed 22 October 2019.
- Mr Lang Kidby – formerly 183 Recce Flt, enquiry processed 22 August 2019 with Christies. No confirmation of purchase at this stage.
- Mr Peter Young – formerly 1 BOD Det, enquiry processed 26 August 2019 with Christies. Purchase confirmed 10 September 2019.
- Mr Robbie Scott – formerly RAAEC, enquiry processed 5 November 2019 with Christies. No confirmation of purchase at this stage.
- Mr Wolf Iwanowitsch – formerly RAAEC, enquiry processed 21 November 2019 with Christies. Purchase confirmed 20 December 2019.
- Mr Ian Kuhl – formerly 1 Pvnt Med, enquiry processed 26 November 2019 with Christies. No confirmation of purchase at this stage.

With the decision to suspend the processing of requests to purchase the Medal during 2020, there have been no subsequent purchase requests.

Russ Wade
Medals Officer
PIB NGIB HQ PIR Association
21 July 2020

Membership Report, 2019-20

2019	
Total	119
Financial Life	39
Honorary Life	8
Honorary	9

2020	
Total	123
Financial Life	56
Honorary Life	8
Honorary	11

There have been 1 request to leave and 5 deceased with an overall increase of 4 members. This represents **10 new members** of which 7 are in Qld, 1 in VIC and 2 in PNG.

Thanks must go to Greg Ivey and to Graham Carnes for their recruitment efforts.

Website Report

Changes in layout:

Revamped **Events Page** – Current year fore-grounded and earlier years are archived and accessed via links.

Additions:

Apart from the photos of ANZAC day, the main additions have been on the **Resources Page**. These include:

Peter Jesser's - History of the PIB

Kev Horton's - Pen picture of Lt Fred Lucas PIB

WW2 Photos from Lt Jack McIntosh – donated by daughter Irene Heath

Book Reviews by Greg Ivey.

Future Additions:

WW2 photos and **articles are invited**.

Possible Links to "associated" websites eg 39th Bn, 2/14th Bn, 2/16th Bn, AWM

Finance:

Domain payment required in 2021 as per PayPal account report.

Kevin Smith

Website Manager and Membership Officer

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019-20 TO AGM

1.INTRODUCTION

Members I am grateful for your attendance and continued support, despite the severe restrictions imposed on us since Feb 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 Virus Australia wide.

2. 1 MINUTES SILENCE in memory of deceased members.

3. CUTTING OF THE 80th ANNIVERSARY CAKE – Peter Jesser has the honour of cutting the cake. As you may well know, Peter is the son of Major Harold Jesser, MC, who 'served with distinction' in WWII in PNG with the PIB. (Peter's response and cut the cake)

4. ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES 2019-2020

(A) PREFACE – Regrettably our year 2019/20's traditional activities have been disrupted by this Corona19 Virus.

(B) PATRON – Our distinguished patron, Major General B W (Hori) Howard AO MC ESM is honoured to continue as our Association's Patron. Thank you, 'Hori' - your support for the Association during 2019/20 has been outstanding.

(C) PIR REUNION & SINGLETON MUSEUM EXHIBIT – A splendid re-union was conducted in the 3TB Singleton Army Barracks and the Hunter Valley /Pokolbin area. These areas were well known to those who completed training at 3TB in the 60's and early 70's as I did in 1965/66. There has been much change since those headier days.

Garry Screen and Steve Beveridge and Patron Hori Howard are congratulated for their foresight, outstanding planning and execution of this incredibly successful re-union which included the Cessnock Leagues Club, Singleton Army Museum, Potter's Brewery, Hunter Valley etc.

The best I have ever attended amid so many convivial members and their families. This major activity, assisted by Singleton Army and Museum staff, has established a 'HOME' for our Association. It was supported by the Aust Army Education Corps, Senior Officers, NSW Education officers and the media and was outstanding.

Garry and Steve were awarded Certificates of Appreciation during our visit to the beautiful Hunter Valley Gardens. Photos were included in Ian Ogston's Association newsletter. The final evening at the Potter's Brewery was a most fitting conclusion for our re-union.

5. REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOV 2019, BRISBANE

This annual Remembrance Day was conducted at the Shrine of Remembrance. I represented the Assn and laid a beautiful wreath provided by Christine Ivey. The Assn was also represented by Greg Ivey and Terry Edwsmith. At the conclusion of the service we all met with Mr James Ovia, the acting PNG Consul-General.

6. LAHUI AKO

A request for our Association support was received from PNG author, Lahui Ako to assist with the production of the second Edition of 'Nameless Warriors'. Regrettably, the Assn. was unable to support his request (financially or operationally). However, we were advised subsequently by Lahui that a new publisher was now being consulted.

7. ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL 2020

Regrettably all of our established traditional ANZAC Day activities – Dawn service, Morning service at our PNG memorial, Brisbane City March and luncheon were cancelled due to Qld Govt restrictions re the Pandemic. However personal family Remembrance activities were observed by many Assn members in their relevant localities. Our newsletter Editor, Ian Ogston, sent out photos of these activities by members from all parts of Australia.

8. THE PNGDF 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEDAL

PNG will celebrate their Anniversary of Independence from Australia on 16th September 2020 – their 45th anniversary. Positive action in 2019/20 to ensure the official recognition

of the medal for members has been undertaken by your Assn. President with full support from our former Patron, Major General, The Honourable Michael Jeffery in Canberra.

Regrettably, in late 2019, Maj Gen Jeffery became seriously ill with a tumour and is being treated with Chemo and the like medications meaning he only visits his office once weekly. I have been in close contact with his family and Personal Assistant. Our current Patron, Major General 'Hori' Howard has agreed to take up the project and will keep us informed of any progress.

9. DUPLICATE ASSOCIATION BANNER

In 2019, Major George Friend from the 39th Bn requested our current banner be donated to the Land Warfare Centre (LWC) Canungra, for permanent display with the 39th Bn Banner within the LWC HQ. I visited LWC with George Friend to locate/establish a location for a suitable site.

Subsequently a request was received that we agree to a replica new cloth material Banner being produced for display at no cost to the Association. The banner was produced by Palmer Flags, Mermaid Beach.

Good liaison was established and a banner was produced after final approval. The replica banner is now being framed/encased for permanent location at LWC. Details of the 'Laying Up' program are to be advised. This is in recognition of the two Battle Honours the PIB/NGIB and 39th Bn earned in WWII: 'KOKODA-DENIKI' and 'KOKODA TRAIL' which ultimately led to the establishment and naming of Kokoda Barracks in November 1942.

10. CONCLUSION

My sincere thanks to all our Assn Committee and general Members for their generous support throughout 2019-20. I am most thankful for the unselfish and time-consuming support by Vice-President Greg, Secretary Kev and other Office Bearers. The Association could not survive without your most generous support. Thank you – EM TASOL.

Maj DD Graham (RA Inf) Retired

President

Meeting closed at 1:10pm