

PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE AGM 24 July 2022 held at Geebung-Zillmere RSL Club, Brisbane

In the absence of President Don Graham due to recent surgery, Vice-President Greg Ivey opened the AGM & welcomed all present.

Present: G. Farr, K. Horton, G. Ivey, K. Smith, I Ogston, E. Ogston, J. Humphrey P. Jesser, N. Hunter, R. Hunter, F. Maclean, J. Worthington, J. Stringfellow
(Special mention was made re the attendance of John Stringfellow from WA and John Humphrey from Victoria. It was later brought to everyone's attention that this was the 55th Anniversary of John Stringfellow and Norm Hunter doing their first ever Changing of the Guard at Taurama Bks, 1PIR as Duty Officer and Duty Sergeant in 1967 and that they escaped without a reprimand from the CO who observed it take place!!)

Apologies: G. Johnson, M. Pears, G. Carnes, R. Wade, G. Screen, M. Fletcher, Trixie Lange, T. Edwsmith, J. Morris, R. Sayce, I Warlters, C. Beszant, A. Wilcock, L. Quinlivan, D. Williams, D. Scott, P. Adam

Minutes of 2021 AGM/GM had been Emailed to all members.

Moved: K. Smith

Seconded: P. Jesser

“that the Minutes of the 2021 AGM/GM as circulated be confirmed” **(Carried)**

Business arising from the minutes was later discussed in General Business.

President's Report

President Don's report was read by Secretary Kev. **(See attached)**

Moved F. Maclean Seconded J. Humphrey that the President's report be received.

(Carried with acclamation.)

Correspondence: Secretary Kev outlined general correspondence as below.

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

1. **Newsletters / information updates / items of interest** to/from members – (Ian Ogston, Greg Ivey, Kev Horton, Kevin Smith, G. Farr, D. Graham)
2. Emails to/from re the **2022 Kokoda Day** Service at Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL.
Kokoda Day 2022 Gold Coast 80th Anniversary of Kokoda correspondence – to/from G. Friend/ L. Hamilton / Invitations /letters to members/Southport Rotary/ M. Pears / C'tee.
3. **Membership reminders and Dues receipts/ new members welcoming letters/ membership forms** 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
4. **ANZAC Day 2022** letters to/from members, ANZAC March C'tee, 2/14th 39th Assns re ANZAC Day. Emails re Sydney march – G. Ivey/ K. Horton/ P. Adam/ G. Farr.
5. Correspondence to/from **Bluehost re Website annual costs** etc (K. Smith, Kev Horton)
6. **Sympathy cards:** Lt Col Usurup, Col Ron Lange, (D. Graham, G. Ivey, K. Horton)

7. **Website updates and new articles** including articles from material provided from the late Ron Lange's memorabilia. Patron 'Hori' Howard, J. Stringfellow, P. Stokes, 183 Recce, Kevin Smith, Kev Horton, F. Maclean and others.
8. Emails in relation to support of **KARS** in PNG.
9. Newsletters from our Assn. and kindred Associations.
10. All other e-mails/correspondence available to view on computer at AGM.

Business arising. (Secretary expanded on some areas)

Moved K. Horton Seconded - F. Maclean that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. **(Carried)**

Treasurer's Report (See attached)

Frankie Maclean presented the report showing a balance of \$2394.68 at 30 June 2022. She expanded on her report and suggested that thought be given to alternate ways of increasing Association income in future e.g. sales to Members and soliciting Donations.

(This needs to be discussed further by the New Committee.)

Moved F. Maclean Seconded G. Farr that the Treasurer's Report be received. **(Carried)**

Frankie was thanked for her efforts and agreed to forward an updated membership list to Kevin Smith.

Paypal Auxiliary Report

K. Horton presented the Report related to our Website www.soldierspng.com as below.

Carried forward from 2021 - \$10.29 AUD

Income: \$50 transferred from main assn. account on 5 May 2022

Expenditure: \$20.89 **USD** to Bluehost.com on 22 May 2022

Automatic deduction by 'Bluehost' re retention of Annual Domain Name '**soldierspng.com**

Balance at 18.07.22 \$29.21 AUD

Moved K. Horton Seconded J. Worthington that the Paypal Aux report be received.

(Carried)

Guest Speaker: Peter Jesser

Greg Ivey introduced Peter Jesser, our History Officer and son of Major H. Jesser MC who was near by the historic ambush by the Papuan Infantry Battalion patrol on 23 July 1942.

Peter delivered an informative and enlightening presentation based around this first organised ambush 80 years ago this weekend.

After his talk, Peter donated a copy of *To Find A Path Volume 1* to the Assn Archives.

Greg Farr gave a **Vote of Thanks** to Peter.

Membership and Website Reports (See attached)

Kevin Smith presented comprehensive written reports and expanded on several areas of interest. A request was made for members historical photos to be sent directly to him as well as to Newsletter Editor, Ian Ogston. More and better quality photos could be displayed on the website than in Newsletters where only a limited number can be used.

Moved K. Smith Seconded N. Hunter that the Membership and Website Reports be

received. **(Carried)**

Newsletter Report

On behalf of himself and co- editor Greg Ivey, Ian explained the changing and expanding role of 'Armi Nius' with a combination of historical articles and general informative Association activities and the important input recently provided by the 183 Recce group of members. Ian thanked Greg Ivey for taking on the Editor's role while he was recuperating from his recent illness.

Moved I. Ogston Seconded J. Worthington that the Newsletter Editor's Report be received.

(Carried)

Medallic Recognition Officer

Russ Wade sent a message that little further progress has been made re the medal recognition project. Events during the year included the untimely passing away of the Association's PNG contact Lt Col Dr Jethro Usurup of the KARS Assn in Port Moresby. Condolences have been sent and further contact lines are being investigated.

Election of Office Bearers

Chairman G. Ivey vacated the chair and Ian Ogston conducted the Election of Office Bearers. Ian made a point of thanking all those who had agreed to accept nominations for their current positions and congratulated the past committee for their efforts on behalf of members in Australia and in PNG.

Patron: Major-General Brian (Hori) Howard has agreed to continue as Patron.

Nominations for all office bearer's positions listed below were called for by e-mail to all Members by the Secretary and nominations from the floor were requested.

Moved Ian Ogston Seconded N. Hunter that the following Members be elected to the

Committee for the 2022-23 year:

President	Don Graham
Vice President	Greg Ivey
Secretary	Kev Horton
Treasurer	Frankie Maclean
Assistant Secretary	Greg Farr
Newsletter Editors	I Ogston, Greg Ivey
Website Managers	Kevin Smith, Frank Cordingley
History Officer	Peter Jesser
Medallic Recog. Officer	Russ Wade
Membership Officer	Kevin Smith
Brisbane Rep	Phil Adam
Regional Qld Rep	Graham Carnes
NSW & ACT Rep	Russ Wade
WA Rep	Graham Johnson
Victoria Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
183 Rep	Dave Williams

The Outgoing Committee was thanked, and acting Chairman G. Ivey was invited to resume the chair.

Greg repeated Ian's Thanks to the past Committee Members. He informed everyone that he would not be able to spend the same amount of time on Association matters as in the past owing to pressing family matters at present. He therefore encouraged the New Committee Members to fill the gap by taking their own initiatives; by contacting each other directly by Email or phone; and to introduce new ideas to keep the Association growing.

Greg will discuss with the President the need to review some Committee procedures and projects.

Greg closed the AGM.

Chairman Greg then declared the **General Meeting** open for business.

Items of General Business

1. Business arising from Minutes of last AGM were covered by the Chairman:
 - Item 2 (Anniversary Medal Team) For several reasons, progress has slowed on this Project.
 - Item 3 (Sydney Kokoda Walkway) For several reasons, progress has slowed on this Project. A NSW Member will be asked to assist the Education objective.
 - Item 4 (KARS Assn Inc) Vice President Greg will continue to liaise.
 - Item 7 (80th Anniversary) Vice President Greg will continue to promote.
 - Item 8 (Teacher in a Box) Assn will continue to provide moral support.
 - Item 9 (Book Donations) After Covid delays, this Project will continue.
2. Details of Kokoda Day commemoration at Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach, Gold Coast on 8th August, coinciding with the 80th Anniversary of Kokoda, have been sent out to all Members. **New information** was announced: the Guest Speaker will be the Governor General of Australia – (General David John Hurley, AC, DSC, FTSE who is a former senior officer of the Australian Army.)
3. A separate ceremony for Assn members will be conducted after the Kokoda Service to honour Lt Fred Lucas (PIB). A paver was laid last year alongside other PIB, NGIB and PIR soldiers, several of whom served with Lt Lucas in PNG during WWII.
4. A request was received from George Friend (39th Bn) to assist Broadwater Southport Rotary Club with the cost of morning tea at the Rotary Kokoda Wall following the 80th Anniversary of Kokoda Service.
It was Moved K. Horton Seconded P. Jesser that a one off amount of \$200 be forwarded to the Broadwater Southport Rotary Club to assist with refreshment costs following the Service. **(Carried)**
5. It was moved G. Ivey, Seconded F. Maclean that Honorary Life Membership for Frank Cordingley (initial founder of the Assn website) and Ian Ogston (long term newsletter editor) be ratified by the meeting. **(Carried)**
6. Discussion was held about recognizing the long-term support of the late Colonel Ron Lange and Trixie Lange to the Association.
It was moved G. Ivey and seconded J. Humphrey that the Association provide suitably inscribed Association Donation Cards to be inserted into military books to be donated to Bribie Island High School (where the Langes resided). **(Carried)**
Greg Farr and designer Sharon Harper-Greentree will be asked to print the extra Donation Cards after consultation is held with Trixie Lange.
7. Chairman G. Ivey thanked Secretary Kev Horton for his long-term and continuing, dedicated service as PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR Assn Secretary. Carried with acclamation.
8. Brisbane 2022 Remembrance Day arrangements will follow the 2021 practice with Greg Farr asked to book a suitable venue for lunch following the RSL Service.
9. A cake recognizing the **80th Anniversary of Kokoda** was cut by former 2Lt John Stringfellow (who had travelled furthest to the AGM) and enjoyed by all present. (Thanks to Christine Ivey.) Members also enjoyed looking at the books and paper items displayed on a side table.

LEST WE FORGET

One Minutes Silence was observed to honour Association Members who died during or after the War.

Also, we record here those Association Members and Friends who died recently:

Col Ron Lange AM (Mil), MID who passed away in July 2022

Lt Col Dr Jethro Usurup, KARS Assn of PNG, who passed away in June 2022

Meeting closed at 3:05pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021-22

Our President, Don Graham is unable to be with us today for health reasons, but he sends his best regards to all and looks forward to renewing acquaintances in the near future. He and Barbara hope to attend Broadbeach Kokoda Day if given the all-clear from the medical fraternity.

Don's highlights of the past year:

- **PATRON** We again welcome the news that our Patron, Major General B W (Hori) Howard AO MC ESM (Ret'd), has agreed to continue as the Association Patron for 2022-23.
- **REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021** A good attendance highlighted by the presentation of Honorary Life Membership to our inaugural Website manager Frank Cordingley and the last-minute arrival of the Assn wreath.
- **NEWSLETTERS** The 'ARMI NIUS' continues to be an invaluable connection point for all members. Of worthy mention is the input of the 183 Recce group from Lae following their increased membership numbers e.g. items by Brig Ross Grant, Roger Dundas etc and also a related article by Russ Wade. Thanks to Greg Ivey for helping out with the newsletter while Ian Ogston recovered his health.
- **ANZAC DAY 2022** In spite of the torrential rain, our ANZAC Day activities in Brisbane included our traditional 0900 hrs service at the PNG Statue in ANZAC Square and the laying of our Assn Wreath. This service was followed by our saturated ANZAC Day march through the city! We were loyally assisted by our Banner Bearers, Noel Wust and Alex Wust. Thanks again to Trish Purcell for the ANZAC biscuits. May my lovely Panama hat rest in peace after its damp finish and great TV coverage. Thanks to Greg Farr and Phil Adam who assist in preparing our day. A special mention goes to our oldest member, WO2 'Jock' Wilkinson, 101 years young, who again led the Association in the Sydney March.
- **QLD STATE LIBRARY 'CHALKIES' RECOGNITION** Barbara and I were honoured to be invited to attend the morning of 29 May at the ANZAC Square Cenotaph museum during which an extremely professional presentation of the story of the input of the 'Chalkies' to the development of the PIR was recognized. The day was concluded with the presentation of a much-deserved Honorary Life Membership to long time Newsletter Editor and instigator of 'Telling the Chalkies Story', Ian Ogston.
- **PIR HISTORY ARTICLES** Thanks go to Patron 'Hori' Howard and to the late Ron Lange, for their informative articles on various aspects of the PIR from the 1950s to Independence. These along with articles submitted by John Stringfellow, Peter Stokes and others are invaluable in getting a more rounded perspective of the PIR. They are available to read on the Association website www.soldierspng.com thanks to Website manager Kevin Smith.
- **PASSING OF COLONEL RON LANGE** Our long-term member Ron had a unique PIR experience over 3 decades. His invaluable input into the association and always cheerful outlook will be missed by all. Our thoughts are with his wife, Trixie, and family.
- **My sincere thanks go to the Association Committee for their invaluable loyal support, advice and assistance throughout 2021-22. Our Association could not function without your generous support. THANK YOU and best wishes for a safe year.**

Major D. D. Graham (Ret'd)

Treasurer's Report
2021 – 2022 Financial Year
as at 18 July 2022

Opening Balance from 23 July 2021 (Bank Statement): \$2371.63

INCOME

Dues: \$170
Donations: \$70
Sticker Sales: \$6
Wall pavers: NIL

Total Income: \$246

Balance carried forward plus income: \$2,617.63

EXPENDITURE

Refunds:
Plant gift of appreciation: \$29.95
Books, postage etc (VP): \$49.05
PayPal: \$50.00
Archive expenses: \$33.95
Wreath: \$60.00

Total Expenditure: \$222.95

Income less Expenditure: \$23.05

Balance as per Bank Statement at 30 June 2022: \$ 2,394.68

Frankie Maclean
Honorary Treasurer

18 July 2022

Membership Report 2021-2022

AGM 24 July 2022

2021	
Total	145
Financial Life	86
Honorary Life	6
Honorary	15

2022	
Total	145
Financial Life	86
Honorary Life	9
Honorary	14

Total Membership remains at 145. There have been two deceased and two long term un-financial members removed. The four new members are all from the 183 Recce Flight/Sqn bringing their Membership total to 21.

2021-22 Membership by location:

STATE	2021	2022
QLD	61	63
NSW	35	35
VIC	20	21
SA	4	4
WA	11	11
NT	0	0
TAS	0	0
ACT	5	5
PNG	6	6
FIJI	0	0
Unknown	3	0
Totals	145	145

Regional Membership Lists have been distributed to the Regional Reps to assist in communication, welfare tracking and, hopefully, to encourage further membership recruitment.

Kevin Smith
Membership Officer

Website Report to the AGM 2022

The Website continues to flourish and to serve the Association well.

Some Comments:

Wordpress – This is the host of the Association website.

- Using the widgets (read add-ons) they provide, the website has remained free of malicious attacks and scams. A more secure https site could be obtained at added cost but, since the website does not offer interactive form filling or business transactions, it is deemed unnecessary to go to the added expense.
- Whilst the layout and interactive aspect may be a little outdated or staid, it serves our purpose and is within the expertise of the current manager.

Events Page – Current year fore-grounded and earlier years are archived and accessed via links. The current year's page needs further updating for current events.

Reunion Page- This page has no entries, which is understandable since this Association does not often lend itself to Reunions as such. It is proposed that this page be removed from the menu line.

Links to external sites – At the last AGM it was mooted that we should include links to like websites such as 39th Bn Assoc, 2/14th Bn Assoc, 2/ 16th Bn Assoc, the AWM, the Chalkies website. Greg Ivey kindly emails newsletters from some of these, with possible interest pieces highlighted, to Committee Members only. This is a page that will be included shortly after permissions are gained.

Newsletter – The Assoc Newsletter posted to the website is different from that which is emailed to members.

- It is not simply a copy of the PDF emailed but is a constructed website page which allows the inclusion of links to other associated website pages such as photos, articles, Guest Speakers' addresses and other resources.
- Secondly, having constructed a banner for the Newsletter, I have taken editorial licence and continued with the layout I constructed. In all other aspects, it is a faithful replication of the good work of the editors Ian and Greg.
- Further, Articles, Book reviews, Photos etc which are featured in the Newsletter are copied to other locations on the website where they are more likely to be accessed by the public visiting the website, rather than remaining buried within a newsletter.

Additions – Apart from the photos from Anzac Day, the Recent Articles have included Patrol Reports from Peter Stokes and John Stringfellow, as well as valuable Historical documents and photos courtesy of the late Colonel Ron Lange, General 'Hori' Howard and Kev Horton.

Photos –

- Photos of Association activities are welcome. However, they tend to be forwarded to the Newsletter editor who, by necessity, includes only a selection of them. I would appreciate it if the original copies of photos are also sent to me (CC in email) to post them on the website. (Copies of copies embedded in a Word document often give inferior results.)
- I would encourage members to look through their photo archives and send me **photos (with captions) of their time and experience in PNG**. These are not only personally valued but are also historically valuable especially to researchers or public visitors to the Association website, particularly people from PNG.

Other suggestions are always welcome.

Kevin Smith
Website Manager