

PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE AGM 23 July 2023 held at Geebung-Zillmere RSL Club, Brisbane

Opening: Following the RSL Club lunch, attended by many partners, President Don Graham opened the AGM at 1.30 pm & welcomed all. One Minute's Silence was observed for deceased members of the Association, including our War Veterans.

Present: D. Graham, G. Farr, K. Horton, G. Ivey, K. Smith, I Ogston, J. Humphrey, P. Jesser, F. Maclean, J. Worthington, I. Minns, N. Hunter

Apologies: B. Yelds, I. Warlters, R. Larsen, B. Howard, S. Beveridge, Chris Bell, Bob Sayce, Garry Young, Russ Wade, David Sandoe, Graeme Johnson, L. Quinlivan, Phil Adam, T. Edwinsmith, J. Morris, D. Williams, D. Lamberton.

Minutes of 2022 AGM/GM as circulated by email to all members were discussed.

It was Moved: K. Smith Seconded: J. Humphrey that the Minutes of the 2022 AGM/GM as circulated be confirmed. **Carried**

President's Report President Don presented his report and thanked all Committee Members & general Members for a successful year. (See Report attached)

Moved: D. Graham Seconded: P. Jesser - That the President's Report be received

Carried

Correspondence: (Secretary)

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)
2. Emails to/from re the **2023 Kokoda Day** Service at Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL.
Kokoda Day 2023 Gold Coast 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 2023** letters to/from members, ANZAC March C'tee, 2/14th, 39th , 2/14th Assns re ANZAC Day. Emails re Sydney march – G. Ivey/ K. Horton/ P. Adam
5. Letter to KARS from President Don Graham
6. **Sympathy cards/ Get Well** Lt Col Jethro Usurup, etc (D. Graham, G. Ivey, K. Horton)
7. **Website updates and new articles** including articles from P. Jesser, N. Hunter, - Kevin Smith / Kev Horton
8. Draft Assn position descriptions to C'tee members for comment (G. Ivey)
9. Correspondence to/from **Bluehost re Website annual costs** etc (K. Smith, Kev Horton)
10. Newsletters from our assn. and kindred associations. DFRB Assn updates.
11. Emails from Lahui Ako re Kokoda Day

Business arising from Correspondence The secretary expanded on some areas and several topical emails to and from members were read and discussed.
Moved K. Horton Seconded J Worthington that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. **Carried**

Treasurer's Report - Frankie Maclean presented and expanded on her report showing a balance of \$2505.35 on 01.07.23 **See Report attached**
Moved F. Maclean Seconded D. Graham that the Treasurer's Report be received. **Carried**

Paypal Auxiliary Report Report related to our Website www.soldierspng.com as below.

Carried forward from 2022 - \$29.21 AUD

Income \$105.43 AUD transferred from Linked Assn Acct.

Expenditure Automatic deduction by 'Wordpress - Bluehost' for -:

Retention of Annual Domain Name 'soldierspng.com' - \$20.89 USD

Balance at 18.07.23 \$100 AUD

Moved K. Horton Seconded I. Minns that the Paypal Aux report be received. **Carried**

Membership / Website Reports – Kevin Smith expanded on his detailed and comprehensive reports and made specific mention that he would like **anyone sending in photos for the newsletter to also send a copy directly to him for inclusion on the website** to help improve the quality and suitability of the photos for the Assn Website.
Moved K. Smith Seconded G. Farr that the Membership and Website Reports be received.
Reports attached Carried

Medallic Recognition Officer's Report & NSW/ACT Rep's Reports

Russ Wade's detailed reports were distributed to all present and read by the Secretary.

Moved R. Wade Seconded N. Hunter that the Reports be received.

Reports attached Carried

Newsletter Report – Ian Ogston / N. Hunter

Ian and Norm were congratulated on the smooth transition and excellent presentation of this year's newsletters with their updated format. They presented their report orally and thanked all contributors and put out a request for more articles/photos from members.

Moved I. Ogston Seconded F. Maclean that the Newsletter Editor's Report be received.

Carried

Presentation of Honorary Life Membership to Peter Jesser

All present were delighted that Peter and his wife Rochele, had made the trip from Toowoomba to be at the AGM.

President Don congratulated Peter and presented him with his framed Honorary Life Membership Certificate listing the following achievements which led to him being a worthy recipient.

Peter has the PIB & NGIB story in his blood because his father Harold was a senior PIB Officer during the War. Peter was a W.O. in 1PIR. He was Vice President of the old PIR Association until it was closed down and has been an active member of our Association since it began in 2007. He has been History Officer for 16 years and helped us answer questions on many occasions, has given talks to our AGM and has written detailed historical articles for our Newsletter and Website. We are very grateful to him for his long and valued contributions to the Association.

Peter responded and indicated his willingness to continue in his Committee role, and that one new War article was already completed and another was on the way.

(You can't keep a good man down!)

(For the information of those who did not know Colonel Ron Lange AM, MID)

Col. Lange was an active Honorary Life Member of our Association for many years and provided many historical website articles and memorabilia re the PIR having served there in the PNGVR in 1950, 2nd Lt 1953-55 at 1PIR, Major at 1PIR and 2PIR 1964-65 and C.O. of 1PIR 1970-73. He also served in Vietnam and Singapore. He was awarded the following honours – Member of the Order of Australia, Mentioned in Despatches, The Vietnam Medal, The National Medal with First Clasp and The Vietnamese Campaign Medal. Ron is survived by his wife Trixie, a Life member of our Association and Bribie Island RSL member. Trixie was consulted and happily involved in arrangements for the plaque.

4. **2023 Remembrance Day in Brisbane** will follow last years' format with Lunch to be arranged by new Assistant Secretary Ian Minns, preferably at the same venue as last year. Details to follow in late September.
5. It was moved G. Ivey and seconded I. Ogston that the \$500 donated to the Association by Member, John Stringfellow be used to purchase historical books and produce resources for Schools. This is designed to educate the next generation about the PIB, NGIB, and PIR involvement in PNG during the Second World War. The Fund is to be called the 'Stringfellow Education Fund.' **Carried**
6. The meeting was informed that books may become available to the Association from the Hooper family. If possible, some books might be donated to Schools taking part in Services such as Kokoda Day.
7. It was moved G. Ivey and seconded G. Farr that Secretary K. Horton be approved as a second signatory to the PIB NGIB HQ PIR Assn bank account with CBA, Coolum. **Carried**
8. Discussion was held re the Assn Website. It is seen as an integral part of the Assn in carrying on the mission of keeping important history alive and accessible to members and all other interested parties both in Australia and PNG. It was moved K. Smith and seconded G. Ivey that the 3 yearly renewal of the Association Website Hosting group 'Wordpress', 'Bluehost', due 29 May 2024 be approved. **Carried**
9. J. Humphrey gave information re the value of obtaining the Dept of Veteran Affairs 'Veteran White Card'. Benefits included getting your name and number on the DVA register and free medical treatment for Mental Health issues.
10. It was agreed that diplomatically worded reminders would be forwarded to unfinancial members.
11. It was moved G. Ivey and Seconded D. Graham that the meeting express its thanks for the work done throughout the year and in preparation for the AGM by secretary, Kev Horton and his wife Lindy. Frankie Maclean also expressed thanks from herself and family for the time and effort involved in arranging the paver and small ceremony in honour of her father, Lt Fred Lucas (PIB), on Kokoda Day 2022. **Carried with acclamation.**

LEST WE FORGET

Brigadier Laurie Lewis (Retd), CO 2 PIR 1973-74. Died in Adelaide, September 2022.

Meeting closed at 3.15pm.

AGM REPORTS BELOW

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022-2023

Dear Members,

Patron

Our Association once again welcomes the news that our Patron, Major General B.W. 'Hori' Howard AO MC ESM (Retired) has agreed to continue as our Assn Patron for 2023-24.

Remembrance Day Nov 2022

A good attendance by Assn members was covered by Channel 9 and 7 TV and included in the RSL Magazine. Lunch and fellowship following the ceremony was enjoyed by all.

Armi Nius Newsletters

'ARMI NIUS' continues to grow with our editors Ian Ogston and Norm Hunter providing excellent articles on the Association and members activities.

ANZAC Day 2023

Fine weather in Brisbane (unlike the WET experience in 2022) enabled the Association members to carry out our traditional ANZAC Day remembrance activities.

Our traditional 0900hrs ceremony at the ANZAC Square South-West Pacific Memorial was well attended and included General Singirok who was visiting from PNG who played a role in the ceremony, giving a short address and saying the oath in Tok Pisin.

Two Wust family members, grandsons of Sgt Frank Wust (PIB & NGIB) again loyally assisted our Brisbane march as the Assn Banner Bearers. Many thanks to Phil Adam for arranging Jeep transport which enabled me to participate with our Assn members. An outstanding and invaluable aid.

Our Association luncheon held at the Goldfinch restaurant was comfortable, well located, with a wide menu and was outstanding success enjoyed by all. General Singirok, family and friends joined us.

Again, in Sydney, WO2 'Jock' Wilkinson, 102 years, led the Association contingent.

Kokoda Day Broadbeach, 8 August 2022

Kokoda Day 2022 at the Kokoda Memorial Wall at Broadbeach was very well attended and highlighted by two events. The first was the attendance and address by Governor General David Hurley AC DSC (Retd). The second was the ceremony held by our Assn following the Kokoda Ceremony to honour our Treasurer, Frankie Maclean's father, Lt 'Fred' Lucas (PIB), whose paver was laid at the rear of the Kokoda Wall. It was fitting, on the 80th anniversary of Kokoda Day, that the Governor General joined our group behind the Memorial Wall to help honour a PIB veteran. Lunch followed at the Broadbeach Bowls Club. I look forward to a good attendance at Kokoda Day and luncheon with Members again this year.

Our Association was also represented by Greg Farr at the Brisbane Kokoda Day Service.

Thanks

My sincere thanks go to the Association Committee for their invaluable, loyal support, advice and positive assistance throughout 2022-23.

Our Association could not function without your continued generous support. Thank you and best wishes to all for a safe year ahead.

Major D. D. Graham (Retired)
President

TREASURER'S REPORT

PIB NGIB HQ PIR Association 2022 – 2023 Financial Year

Opening Balance from 27 June 2022 (Bank Statement): **\$2394.68**

INCOME Dues: \$130, Donations: \$500 Sticker Sales: NIL Kokoda Wall: NIL
Total Income: **\$630**

Balance carried forward plus income: **\$3024.68**

EXPENDITURE Refunds and payments: Secretary Expenses (paper, stamps, printer ink):
\$29.95 PayPal (Blue Host, website): \$5.43 Wreath for Melbourne ceremony: \$120.00
Kokoda Day contribution to Southport Rotary - \$200
Total Expenditure: **\$519.33**

Income less Expenditure: **\$110.67**

Balance as per Bank Statement at 01 July 2023: **\$2505.35**

Frankie Maclean - Honorary Treasurer
20 July 2023

WEBSITE REPORT TO AGM 2023

www.soldierspng.com

Wordpress – This is the host of the Association website.

- The website domain has been successfully renewed by our auto-payment in June.
- Using the widgets (read add-ons) Wordpress provides, the website has remained free of malicious attacks and scams. Comments posted by public viewers on various pages of the website are not viewable unless approved. There are many spam comments posted to the website and these are routinely deleted.

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 been removed from the menu line as was forecast last AGM.

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 websites. Greg Ivey kindly emails newsletters from some of these with possible interest pieces highlighted. These links are yet to be added.

Newsletter –

- Congratulations to the current editorial team on the new layout of the newsletter.
- It is intended to continue the practice whereby Articles, Book Reviews, Photos etc that 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 –

- Again, 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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2022-2023 AGM 23 July 2023

2022	
Total	145
Financial Life	86
Honorary Life	9
Honorary	14

2023	
Total	144
Financial Life	85
Honorary Life	10
Honorary	14

Total Membership stands at 144. There have been one deceased (Col. Ron Lange) and one member resigned. One new member (Mrs Margot Baillie –daughter of Major Alex Tolmer,1 NGIB) was a spectator at the Brisbane ANZAC Day march. There are 30 unfinancial members as at 23 July 2023.

Membership by STATE:

STATE	2022	2023
QLD	63	63
NSW	35	34
VIC	21	21
SA	4	4
WA	11	11
NT	0	0
TAS	0	0
ACT	5	5
PNG	6	6
FIJI	0	0
Unknown	0	0
Totals	145	144

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

Kevin Smith - Membership Officer

MEDALLIC RECOGNITION OFFICER'S REPORT (abbreviated)

In keeping with the Association's moratorium on handling medal enquiries, there were no enquiries regarding the medal during the reporting period. This moratorium was to allow the Association's Patron, Major General Brian Howard AO MC ESM (Ret'd), to review avenues to have the 50th Anniversary Medal formally recognised. There has been no progress on this matter during this period.

LIST OF MEDAL CANDIDATES

In response to the Patron's earlier enquiries, the Association was requested in early September 2020 to furnish a list of eligible candidates. This list was compiled as far as was reasonably practicable, given the short degree of notice. There was no response to the submission of this list.

CURRENT SITUATION

We await developments from the PNGDF and the PNG Government on this issue.

CHANGE IN COMMITTEE POSITION TITLE

The PIB NGIB HQ PIR Association Committee has agreed in principle to the change in title from Medals Officer to Medalliac Recognition Officer, to better reflect the role of this position in advising on recognition of PNG service and the standing of the 50th Anniversary Medal.



Russ Wade
Medalliac Recognition Officer

2023 NSW AND ACT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

SUMMARY

There were some communications to NSW and ACT members during the reporting period, but the most significant event was the Anzac Day March in Sydney.

SYDNEY ANZAC DAY MARCH 2023

Association members attending the Anzac Day March in Sydney were honoured and blessed to have 102-year-old John "Jock" Wilkinson march with the Association contingent, albeit for a short distance and to the delight of the crowd, as we held up the March to get Jock into position.

Peter Porteous again organised the contingent and the post-march luncheon and our thanks go to Peter and Jock's family for their involvement.

A write-up of the Sydney Anzac Day March was combined with the same for the Brisbane March and submitted to the Editor of the *PNG Kundu* journal of the PNG Association of Australia. The article was published in their June edition, as shown below.



Russ Wade
NSW and ACT Representative
PIB NGIB HQ PIR Association

Anzac Day Marches 2023

On 25 April 2023, the sun shone on Anzac Day in Sydney and Brisbane. The Papuan and New Guinea Infantry Battalions were represented amongst the Second World War units marching in Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.

In Sydney, former PIR servicemen and descendants were led by 102-year-old John 'Jock' Wilkinson who managed to march some of the route before retiring to a wheelchair, pushed by his daughter Susie Rowe. Following the march, this contingent had a reunion lunch with family members at the Castlereagh Club in the city.

Before their march, the Brisbane contingent held their annual Wreath Laying Ceremony led this year by Major-General Jerry Singirok, Commander of the PNG Defence Force from 1995 to 1997 and from 1998 to 1999. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the PIB-PIR Association, the 2nd/14th Battalion Association, and the 39th Battalion Association followed by former residents of PNG and the general public. This ceremony is held in Brisbane's Anzac Square at the South-West Pacific Memorial where the number of wreaths laid by former servicemen, schools, and the public increases each year.

**RUSSELL WADE,
PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR ASSOC.**



1. (left to right) Mark Fletcher, Russell Wade, Wayne Bensley, Jock Wilkinson, Peter Porteous & John Morris, with banner holders Michael Porteous & Anton Bassett before the Sydney March (Photo courtesy of Peter Porteous); 2. Wreaths at Anzac Square, Brisbane; 3. NGVR/PNGVR March, Brisbane