

PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE AGM 26 July 2026 held at Geebung-Zillmere RSL Club, Brisbane

President Greg Ivey opened the AGM at 1:30pm and recited the RSL Acknowledgement of Country. One Minute's Silence was then observed for Deceased members plus all deceased National Servicemen from 1951 to 1973.

Guest Speaker: Dr Max Quanchi delivered an informative and entertaining talk about his time in 2PIR as a member of the first cohort of Nasho Chalkies in 1966. He was thanked by Lahui Ako from Port Moresby and a book gift, organized by President Greg, was presented.

After a short, thought-provoking talk by Ian Ogston, the pioneer of the Nasho Chalkies network, the **75th Anniversary of National Service Cake**, made by Lindy Horton, was cut by Ian and shared with those present.

Present: K & L Horton, G. Ivey, N & R Hunter, L. & D. Ako, M. Quanchi, R & H Whittaker, I. Ogston, L. Quinlivan, T & J Edwinsmith, K. Smith, D. Dymock, G. Farr, J. Worthington

Apologies: R. Sayce, G. Young, R. Larsen, R. Wade, J. Morris, M. Baillie, G. Carnes, G. Johnson, M. Fletcher, P. Jesser, G. Pike, D. Graham, S. Beveridge, F. Maclean, S. Brooks

Minutes of 2025 AGM/GM had been emailed to all members. Moved: K. Horton Seconded K. Smith that the 2025 AGM Minutes as circulated be confirmed as accurate. Carried.

President's Report (Attached)

Greg Ivey highlighted areas of his written report, which was tabled, also explaining his reasons for retiring as President after a combined 20 years as Vice-President and President. Moved: G. Ivey Seconded M. Quanchi that the President's Report be received. Carried with acclamation.

Greg was sincerely thanked by members present for his many years guiding the Association since its re-formation in 2007. He has been a backbone of the Association assisting and guiding Presidents, representing the Association at functions in Australia and PNG at his own expense and formalizing many aspects of procedure. His recent time as President has helped leave the Association in a sound financial situation. Greg will remain on the Committee as Immediate Past President.

Correspondence: Secretary Kev Horton presented the incoming and outgoing correspondence highlighting various aspects.

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

1. **Newsletters / information updates / Committee updates / items of interest** to/from members – (Norm Hunter, Ian Ogston, Greg Ivey, Kev Horton, Kevin Smith, S. Beveridge, R. Wade, G. Carnes, L. Ako)
2. Emails re the **2025 & 26 Kokoda Day Service at Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL** (Greg Farr) **Kokoda Day 2025 & 26, Gold Coast Kokoda correspondence** – to/from G. Friend / C. McCarthy, G.C. City Council / Invitations / letters to members / Southport Rotary C'tee.

3. **Membership reminders and Dues receipts/ new members welcoming letters/ membership forms** plus snail-mail posting of Assn stickers – (Direct Credit payments for dues) to/from Treasurer Frankie Maclean, Membership Officer Kevin Smith, Secretary Kev Horton and President Greg Ivey.
 4. Numerous Emails re **Desecration of Kokoda Memorial Wall** - Police – Council – wall committee – AAIM, Singleton – repair of 2014 Plaque – restoration of Kokoda Wall etc. ABC interview with Kev Horton re desecration of Kokoda Wall.
 5. **ANZAC Day 2026** letters/emails/photos to/from members, ANZAC March C'tee, 2/14th, 39th, 2/16th Assns, PNGVR, PNG Consul General, Lahui Ako, M. Baillie, Wust family, G. Johnson also **ANZAC Day March in Leeton** with R. Wade and S. Beveridge attending with **Jock Wilkinson (PIB)**. Emails re Sydney Anzac Day march – G. Ivey/ K. Horton/ R. Wade/ P. Porteous. P. Adam re Brisbane **ANZAC Day March** meetings.
 6. Emails re Paver placement/design behind Kokoda Memorial Wall WWII – K. Horton, Talkingstones, P. Jesser, G. Friend, Southport RSL, Kindred Assns, B. Templeton (Defence Dept Canberra).
 7. Emails to/from PNG Qld Consul General Mr Rau and his secretary.
 8. **Website updates and new articles** including articles from G. Ivey, N. Hunter, Kevin Smith, Kev Horton.
 9. **Newsletters** from kindred Kokoda Associations by Email.
 10. Correspondence to/from **Lahui Ako** (PNG Rep.)
 11. **Petition** for formal recognition of Cascade Gardens as a Memorial Park. Monique and Wust Family, K. Horton, Cascade Gardens C'tee)
 12. **Letter** from Brisbane Lord Mayor re 75th PIR Anniversary meeting A. Schrinner, G. Ivey
 13. **Support** for PNGAA proposal for Pacific Community precinct, Wacol. G. Ivey.
 14. S. Beveridge/ K. Horton to / from AAIM in Singleton re **plaque donation** and PIB NGIB overview for museum event.
 15. Meetings/ correspondence with Trixie Lange re **Col R. Lange** dispersal of PIR memorabilia. (Kev Horton, Greg Ivey, T. Lange)
 16. Emails / Invitation to/from Cathy Macarthy re Broadbeach Kokoda Day 2026.
 17. Request re financial support for staging of Kokoda Day Service to/from (Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport, Surfers Paradise RSL, A. Grimes, G. Ivey, K. Horton, Wall trustee G. Friend, C. McCarthy)
- After discussion it was Moved: K. Horton Seconded L. Quinlivan that the Incoming Correspondence be received and the Outward endorsed. Carried.

Treasurer's Report (Attached)

The report as at 19.07.2026 prepared by Frankie Maclean was presented by K. Horton.

PayPal Auxiliary Treasurer's Report (K. Horton)

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

Expenditure

(Automatic deduction by 'Bluehost' - Annual Domain Name '**soldierspng.com**'

- \$24.41 **USD (\$34.49AUD)** was deducted by Bluehost.com on 20.05.26
- Paid by Secretary and refunded by Treasurer as insufficient funds in Paypal account.
- Current Balance PayPal - \$22.29AUD

Moved: K. Horton Seconded N. Hunter that the Treasurer's Report be received. Carried.

Frankie's resignation from her position was accepted with regret. After eight years as Treasurer, many thanks were expressed for her diligent work.

(This position is presently vacant so any member willing to take on the role please contact the Secretary.)

Car / Van stickers

The Association currently has 160 small car stickers and 5 large stickers on hand for presentation to New Members and for sale. Email kevhorton49@gmail.com to request orders which are sent by snail mail. Current cost is - 1 sticker = \$3 – any extra stickers in the same envelope are \$2 each

Membership & Website Reports (Attached) – Presented orally by Kevin Smith.

Moved: K. Smith Seconded D. Dymock that the Membership and Website Reports be received. Carried.

Medallic Recognition Officer and NSW & SA Reports (Attached)– prepared by Russ Wade and summarised by Kev Horton. Moved K. Horton Seconded I. Ogston that the three Reports be received. Carried.

Newsletter Report – Norm Hunter, Ian Ogston, Steve Beveridge

Norm Hunter delivered the newsletter Report orally highlighting that the Newsletter was now more than simply updates for members. The important aspects of keeping the stories before PNG Independence alive, and introducing more issues that are thought-provoking and provocative, was highlighted. With this in mind, the title 'Newsletter' will become 'Journal' in future editions.

Norm and his team were congratulated by several members present on the quality of the past year's editions.

Moved: N. Hunter Seconded T. Edwinsmith that the Newsletter report be received. Carried.

PNG Representative Report – Lahui Ako delivered the PNG Representative's report orally. In an informative and interesting report, he emphasised the importance of moving from an oral PNG cultural history to a more permanent written history in relation to the role played by the Army pre and post PNG Independence, because much Army history is being lost to the modern-day soldier. He believes that this proud heritage should be taught as part of Army education as part of the glue that keeps the Army together. Lahui is postponing the release of his latest book on Brigadier Ted Diro to include a section on the important role of Education to the Army. The importance of the Australian-PNG Mutual Defence or Puk-puk Treaty was expanded on. Lahui emphasised the importance that the Association Website plays in providing photos and historical information to people in modern PNG. Moved L. Ako Seconded K. Smith that the PNG Report be received. Carried.

Honorary Life Membership for Ian Wust and Noel Wust was discussed.

Moved: G. Ivey Seconded L. Quinlivan "that Honorary Life Membership be conferred on Ian Wust and Noel Wust for "long-term participation in Brisbane as the original Banner bearers on ANZAC Day and continued Association support through their relatives."

Carried with acclamation.

Election of Office Bearers

Ian Ogston conducted the Election as usual.

Patron: Major Don Graham has agreed to continue as our Patron for 2026-27 (The Association thanks Don for his continued active support.)

Nominations for office bearer's positions listed below were called for by e-mail and from the floor and those received are listed below.

President	<i>Vacant</i>	Vice-President	Steve Beveridge
Secretary	Kev Horton	Treasurer	<i>Vacant</i>
Assistant Sec./Treas	Margot Baillie	PNG Rep.	Lahui Ako
Membership Off.	Kevin Smith	Website Manager	Kevin Smith
Newsletter Editors	Norm Hunter, Steve Beveridge, Ian Ogston		
ACT Rep.	Garry Young	Brisbane Rep.	Phil Adam
NSW & SA Rep. & Medallic Recognition Officer	Russ Wade		

Vic. Representative	<i>Vacant</i>	183 Recce Sqn Rep.	Lang Kidby
History Officer & Kokoda Wall Rep.		Aidan Grimes	
W.A. Rep.	Graeme Johnson	S. Qld Reg. Rep.	Peter Jesser
N. Qld Reg. Rep.	Graham Carnes	Immed. Past Pres.	Greg Ivey

It was resolved by the meeting that all nominations as above be accepted. Carried.
 It was resolved that M. Baillie become a Signatory to the Assn. Bank Account. Carried.
 Greg Ivey thanked the retiring Committee Members (Frankie Maclean and Ian Minns) as well as all the ongoing Committee Members.
A short break was then taken.

The Immediate Past President was invited to take the chair and declared the Meeting open for General Business.

Items of General Business

1. Arrangements re Kokoda Day Saturday Aug 8, 2026 (84th Anniversary) Cascade Gardens, Gold Coast, arrive 10:15am. Guest Speaker Japanese Ambassador (to be confirmed). Group Lunch at Broadbeach Bowls Club. Friday night Welcome Dinner at Kurawa Surf Club 6.00pm. Cascades event organizer, Cathy McCarthy has been updated on a confirmed 19 attendees from our Association. Limited Parking onsite.
2. For information - future Services: Korean Veterans Day 27 July, Brisbane Kokoda Day Service 9 August, Vietnam Veterans Day 18 August, Battle for Australia Day 2 September (Chermside Historical Precinct at 11am), Remembrance Day 11/11.
3. It was resolved that payment of the next 3 years Website costs (due in May 2027) be approved.
4. G. Ivey spoke on a NSAA project: "The National Servicemen's Association of Australia is running a new project to document the contribution of **all** Nashos from different Corps to the development of **PNG** before self-government. RAAEC has been well-covered but not the other Corps. Stories from all Corps will eventually be uploaded to the NSAA website and to the portals of DVA. The benefits of this project might include more awareness of the work done by all Nashos in PNG among Servicemen and the "gate-keepers" in DVA."
 (Contact Greg Ivey if interested, IVEYGJ@GMAIL.COM.)"
5. A request for funding support for staging of Broadbeach Kokoda Day was received from the Rotary Club of Broadwater-Southport. This is due to increasing costs, and less Grant funding, plus the fact that the Rotary Club's core role is focussed on assisting families in need and the broader community.
 After much discussion it was moved M. Quanchi, seconded N. Hunter, that "The Association contribute \$250 this year and that future donations be dependent on the Association's financial situation each year". It was also resolved that our Committee Members be informed by the Event organisers of the 2026 income & expenses, including other kindred Associations' donations to this event. Carried.
6. Greg Farr and Sharon Harper-Greentree were thanked for representing our Assn at the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL's Kokoda Day Service each year in August. As they are not able to attend this year, other Members will be invited to represent us.
7. All present were thanked for their attendance, and Greg Ivey was thanked for organizing various gifts for attendees. Lahui Ako won the lucky-door book prize.

LEST WE FORGET (Deceased Members & Friends)

John Davies – 2PIR 1967-69 – Hygiene Inspector

Ray Bassett – 1PIR 1970-71 – Nasho Chalkie

Dr Brendan Nolan, Nasho Chalkie, Murray Barracks, 1969-70

Meeting closed at 4.12pm

President Report to 2026 AGM

by Greg Ivey

I would like to report to Members on our progress during 2025-26 and I would like to thank all Members for the part they played in that progress.

Fulfilling our Mission

We honoured our deceased Veterans & Members at Commemoration Services on Kokoda Days 8th & 10th August, Remembrance Day and Anzac Day. We were pleased to have the active participation in Brisbane of the PNG Consul-General for Qld, Hon. Reatau Rau, and his wife Susan. Last Anzac Day, NSW Representative Russ Wade and Vice President Steve Beveridge travelled to Leeton in NSW where they marched behind the last surviving member of the Papuan Infantry Battalion in Australia, WO "Jock" Wilkinson, aged 105. In May 2026, Sgt Laurie Siegle (NGIB) celebrated his 101st birthday among his family and his close friends at Caloundra. To carry out our mission, we have also distributed *Armi Nius* to members and many friends in the Kokoda Email network and we have published PNG stories on our website and in the *PNG Kundu* Journal. We are also using social media to advertise the Wreath Laying ceremony in Brisbane on Anzac Day, and to advertise our AGM. In August 2025, Patron Don Graham and I were invited, at our own expense, to attend a PIR/RPIR Formal Dinner in Port Moresby, coinciding with the formation of the PIR Veterans League for local veterans. Patron Don was unable to attend for medical reasons, so I represented the Association at the APEC Haus Dinner attended by the Governor-General, Sir Bob Dadae and many former Commanders of the PNGDF. I spoke briefly to as many senior PNGDF officers as possible and to the Governor-General whom I gave a book gift. Our PNG Representative Lahui Ako was at this dinner with his wife as also was our 183 Recce Squadron representative, Lang Kidby with his wife. I provided a written report on my visit to the Committee. In January 2026, Vice President Steve Beveridge and Secretary Kev Horton, and their wives, travelled to Singleton NSW, along with Russ Wade, to donate our original brass plaque from the Broadbeach memorial to the Australian Army Infantry Museum. This 2014 plaque had been stolen and damaged in August 2025, but it was returned to us by the Police then restored by Ian & Brian Wust. Gold Coast City Council, who manage the Broadbeach memorial site, replaced the stolen plaque and other stolen items thus allowing us to donate the restored plaque to a secure museum open to the public. At Singleton, it will become a centrepiece for the Infantry Museum's permanent exhibition of PNG military memorabilia. I wish to pay our thanks to Steve Beveridge, Kev Horton, Brian Wust and Ian Wust for all their hard work over 6 months on this project.

Increasing Our Membership

In the past, we have recruited New Members through the DVA newsletter & website and the Qld RSL Newsletter. This year we trialled a more personal approach to military friends and to family. Our Committee team provide a Welcome letter, the latest Newsletter and a Car Sticker to each new member. We want to recruit more New Members, and we ask for your help by simply asking your friends or family to join the Association.

The Secretary also sends Thanks or Get-Well notes to Members as well as Sympathy messages if we learn of a Member's death. The Interstate Representatives play a key role in keeping in touch with local Members and sending local Member news to the Secretary or Newsletter Editor.

Every one of our Members is valued and I thank them for their Emails & phone calls and their support. Membership is open to anyone interested in our mission and we are very happy to see the descendants of War Veterans playing an increasing role in our events.

Maintaining our Finances

The membership dues remain at a modest \$5 annually or \$50 for Life Membership. We hold a small balance in the bank to meet administration costs and occasionally make a modest donation to projects related to our mission. We are very grateful to Members who make Donations to support either our Website costs or the resources used to educate the next generation about the war-time New Guinea campaigns. Donations are always very welcome.

Working with our Partners

We could not continue our Mission without the understanding and back-up of our wives and partners, so we thank them enormously for their patience and tolerance. We also want to acknowledge and thank our Kokoda Battalion partners who participate in the annual Services, reunions and lunch events. It is good to see the ongoing exchange of Newsletters among Kokoda Battalions and the linking of websites so we can all continue to learn about other Battalions. The friendships which follow are proving long-lasting.

On the local front, we continued our cooperation with the NGVR & PNGVR Association based in Brisbane. We tried to assist them with the stocktake of their Military Museum which is aiming for new management. We supported the PNGAA proposal to convert the Wacol Military Precinct to a Pacific Community Centre. Since the NGVR & PNGVR Association no longer marches on Anzac Day in Brisbane, we have offered their members the opportunity to march with our group in Brisbane on Anzac Day.

Our hard-working Committee

Your elected Committee Members work hard behind the scenes to bring success to our everyday activities and our special events. I would like to publicly thank each person in the outgoing Committee for their hard work during 2025-26 and for supporting me initially as Vice President and recently as President. They are an amazingly talented team, so I encourage them to exercise that talent and potential within our Committee. As we all age, we need new people on the Committee, so I ask members to volunteer for the Committee for 12 months and we'll find a role that suits you.

Our Committee is very grateful for the advice & active involvement of our Patron, Major Don Graham. Don and his wife Barbara from the Gold Coast continue to "turn up" at all our events, and they inspire us.

We are now sharing Committee Members' contact details to facilitate more communication and collaboration on Association projects.

Our future

After being close to the top of this Association for 20 years, it is time for me to step down. I have a lot of unfinished business to handle at home. Our future is in your hands, so I invite you to attend our events, send us your suggestions for new projects, or join our Committee. With your input, I am confident about our future. Thanks everyone for your generous support and willing cooperation over many years.

Treasurer's Report
2025 – 2026 Financial Year
as at 19 July 2026

Opening Balance from last AGM: **\$2948.90**

INCOME

Dues: \$425
Donations: \$1235
Sticker purchase: \$14

Total Income: \$1674

Balance carried forward plus income: **\$4622.90**

EXPENDITURE

Refunds and payments:
Rotary Club, Broadwater \$200.00s
President expenses: \$154.45
Secretary Expenses: \$579.24

Total Expenditure: **\$933.69**

Income less Expenditure: **\$740.31**

Balance as per Bank Statement at 19 July 2026: \$ 3689.21

Frankie Maclean
Honorary Treasurer

AGM 2026 Membership Report

Membership Summaries 2025

STATE	Number	TYPE	Number
QLD	72	Members	38
NSW	35	Financial Life	100
VIC	21	Life (Honorary)	8
SA	6	Honorary	14
WA	14		
NT	0		
TAS	1	Donor	0
ACT	5	Other	0
PNG	6		
Unknown	0		

Totals	160		160
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Deletions: Dr Brendan Nolan (NSW) deceased; Capt Lindsay Pritchard (Honorary, PNG) withdrawn

Additions: New members 6 QLD, 2 NSW, 2 ACT

Membership Summaries 2026

STATE	Number	TYPE	Number
QLD	78	Members	38
NSW	36	Financial Life	107
VIC	21	Life (Honorary)	10
SA	6	Honorary	13
WA	14		
NT	0		
TAS	1	Donor	0
ACT	7	Other	0
PNG	5		
Unknown	0		

Totals	168		168
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The **Online Membership** form has been updated with the correct information and current contact details. If members are recruiting new members, they should **only use the website form** as it is always updated and mailed forms will thus reach the correct address.

Kevin Smith
Membership Officer

WEBSITE REPORT TO AGM 2026 www.soldierspng.com

Wordpress –

This is the host of the Association website.

The Wordpress reports continue to indicate successful blocking of malicious attacks.

At the AGM last year, I reported on the annoying flood of trash comments that were regularly appearing on our website. This problem has now been resolved. The statistics show a steady number of visitors to the website and some useful correspondence with service personnel in PNG has resulted.

Layout:

Because the layout of the pages on the website is tied to the selected theme provided by the host, Wordpress, no major changes to the layout have been made.

With the recruiting of new members in mind, a “Become a Member” button has been added to the **home page**. This is a link to the membership application form which can be downloaded. The membership form still has the same format, but it has been updated with correct information and current contact details.

Additions – These are mainly the Newsletters and a few Recent Articles from Members.

Photos and Articles -

- Again, 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 residents of PNG.
- Other suggestions are always welcome.

Kevin Smith

Website Manager

MEDALLIC RECOGNITION OFFICER'S REPORT

SUMMARY

Efforts made through personal representation by the Association President Greg Ivey during his visit to PNG in 2025 are yet to bear fruit, however avenues of communication with the Commander of the PNGDF remain open, with a commitment to follow up.

BACKGROUND

The former CDF, General Angus Campbell AO DSC made it explicit in a letter to the Association President in 2018 that foreign governments are not to be approached about awards.

WAY FORWARD

An initiative to communicate with the Prime Minister of PNG is in progress and we remain optimistic of at least establishing awareness with the PNG hierarchy.

The proposal to establish a Papua New Guinean team in the National Rugby League competition and the Australian Government's commitment to support this proposal, plus the ongoing development of Defence relationships with the PNGDF, may present opportunities for further representing the case regarding the state of affairs over the Anniversary Medal.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Medallic Recognition Officer further brief the Association's Committee on any developments with the initiative.

Russ Wade
Medallic Recognition Officer
PIB NGIB HQ PIR Association

11 June 2026