



Thumbs Up 2024

The Annual Newsletter of the
2/20th Battalion Association
www.secondtwentieth.org.au



[2/20th Battalion](#)

2/20th Battalion Association President's Report 2024

Firstly, let me say thank you to Annette Bugitti our Secretary and Public Officer for all her hard work during this past year. It has been an eventful year for our association, we went from being an unincorporated association which had no separate entity status from its members to an incorporated association under the Associations Incorporations Act 2009.

We are now the 2/20th Battalion Association Inc. Registration No. INC2301010, date of Incorporation 5th October 2023. A considerable amount of work was required to comply with the process including changing our Constitution to a new one which we achieved as a team. Annette in addition to her role as Secretary of our Association, has become Public Officer of our Incorporated Association. I would also like to thank our Vice President Peter Salter for his participation and assistance in the process.

On Sunday 6th August 2023, John Fisk, Suzanne Tranter, Wendy and I attended the 30th Anniversary Sandakan Remembrance Service, held in Burwood Park. It was a very well organised event and well attended. John Fisk, a longtime member of our Association and a general committee member is also a founding member of the Sandakan Community Education Committee that organized the event.



Sandakan Memorial Burwood Park

The Victory in the Pacific (V.P. Day) Commemoration Service was conducted by R.S.L. N.S.W. and held at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney on the 15th August 2023 at 11-00am. Wendy and I attended this service.



The Last Post Ceremony held on the 22nd December 2023 at the Australian War Memorial Canberra honoured Private John Hurley NX33607 who died on the 22nd December 1943 in Naoetsu Japan.



John was a member of the 2/20th Australian Infantry Battalion. His daughter Suzanne Tranter, Granddaughters Fiona Daw and Sharon Tranter and Grandson Steven McAleer who are members of our Association and other family members laid wreaths at the ceremony.



Also in attendance Stewart Thompson, Wendy and myself. I laid a wreath at the service.



The Last Post Ceremony held on the 15th February 2024 (the 82nd Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore) at the Australian War Memorial Canberra honoured Private Timothy O'Mara NX72020 who died on the 23rd January 1945 at Changi.

Private O'Mara served in both 2/20th and 2/19th Australian Infantry Battalions. His nephew Wayne O'Mara, a member of our Association laid a wreath at this ceremony along with Wayne's nephew Joe Patterson and his wife Vesna Patterson. See above photo.

Vice President Peter Salter, his wife Kathy, Kath Guyer, Stewart Thompson, James Thompson along with Wendy and I attended the ceremony. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Association. Also at the ceremony was Glen Bramhall of the U.K. (father-in-law of Claire Bramhall, Stewart Thompson's daughter). Glen laid a wreath. Claire Bramhall is a member of the General Committee. Also at the ceremony was the Singapore High Commissioner Mr Anil Nayar and his wife; a delegation of Advisors to the Chief of the Australian Defence Force; Colonel Brian Martin (Rtd) Patron 2/19th Battalion Association; and Lieut. Colonel Ben Beddington, member of the 2/19th Battalion Association.

I look forward to catching up with those marching this year and those who attend our ANZAC Day luncheon at Tattersalls Club Sydney.

Dennis Baker
President 2/20th Battalion Association Inc.

Items of Interest

Private Timothy O'Mara NX72020

The photos below show the then Prime Minister John Howard laying flowers at the Kranji War Memorial Singapore on the grave of Private O'Mara. Prime Minister Howard was on an official visit to Singapore in February 2005 and Wayne O'Mara, nephew of Private O'Mara arranged through the Military Attache at the Australian High Commission in Singapore to have flowers placed on his grave for the 60th Anniversary of Private O'Mara's death on the 23rd January 2005.

Wayne O'Mara advised that the military attache made every effort to accommodate his request. It was he (the attache) who sent the photos to Wayne, who later wrote a letter to Mr Howard commending the service of all of those attached to the attache in Singapore.



The Sandakan Memorials

The National register of War Memorials, Places of Pride can be seen on the Australian War Memorial (AWM) website. This is an excellent article. In the second paragraph it makes reference to Don Wall and his book "Sandakan – the Last March". It further states inter alia... "This book was without doubt the catalyst that led to the formation of The Sandakan Memorial Foundation". I encourage everyone to read the article on the AWM website. Here is the link:

[The Sandakan Memorials | Places of Pride \(awm.gov.au\)](http://www.awm.gov.au/sandakan)

National Archives of Australia Canberra (NAA)

We have recently been advised that the National Archives of Australia (Canberra) have decided to upload all 2nd AIF Service Records to their website. This is being progressively done. It means that family members and friends of men and women who served in WW2 can access their military records without the need to pay a fee.

ANZAC DAY MARCH 2024

This Anzac Day, we will be marching behind the 8th Australian Division AIF banner (see No. 15 under CONTINGENT). We will meet up on Phillip Street, corner of Hunter Street at 8.45am. Estimated time of “step off” is 9.45am.



Please see the following information regarding our Annual General Meeting and luncheon after the march.

ANZAC DAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON 2024

As you are aware, and as my e-mail to all members dated 29th November 2023 explained, preparations for 2024 Anzac Day began in September 2023 and contact was made with a number of venues to obtain a quote for our 2024 Annual General Meeting and luncheon. The replies confirmed that Tattersalls Club is the most suitable both from a cost point of view and availability to host the event.

The cost is the same as 2023 in that it is a minimum spend of \$7,500. To compare, the minimum spend at the Sheraton for our 2024 luncheon was \$11,000. The cost per head (if 69 persons attend) is \$110. In addition, membership of our now Incorporated Association will be \$10.

Please consider inviting extended family, and friends who have an interest, to our luncheon to protect the association's funds.

Please complete the form on the next page as instructed and return BEFORE 5th April 2024.

ANZAC DAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON 2024

Please complete this form and e-mail to Annette Bugitti at abugitti@gmail.com and jameskeady@keady.com.au

Member's name			
Member's address			
Member's e-mail address			
Member's phone number			
Dietary requirements			
Anzac Day Lunch 2024			
Invited Family / Friends Guests			
2 course lunch (including 3 hour selected beverages package)	\$110.00	<i>Per head</i>	\$
Association Membership	\$10.00		\$
Donations (thankfully received)			\$
Singapore & Beyond (incl postage)	40.00	<i>2/20th Battalion history</i>	\$
Battalion Badge (incl postage)	\$10.00		\$
Total			\$

RSVP NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 5TH APRIL 2024

PAYMENT

Payment can be made by either cheque or electronic bank transfer. When making electronic payments, please show as the payment reference your surname and number of people attending, for example "LUNCH BAKER 2".

Cheque Payments

Mail to:
The Treasurer
2/20th Battalion Association Inc.
PO Box 299
COWRA NSW 2794

Electronic payments

2/20th Battalion Association Inc.
BSB: 032 820 (Westpac, Cowra)
Account number: 132670

Treasurer e-mail:
jameskeady@keady.com.au
Mobile: 0427 312 402

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ANZAC DAY LUNCH, PLEASE CONTACT ANNETTE BUGITTI (LYNCH) AT abugitti@gmail.com OR DENNIS BAKER AT dennis.wendy@bigpond.com