



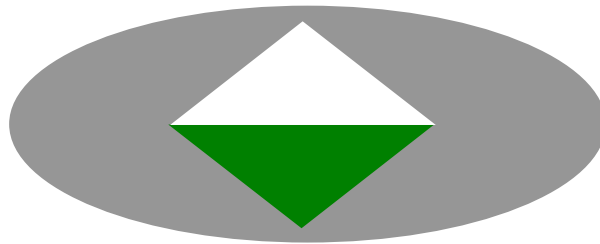
Thumbs Up 2025

The Annual Newsletter of the
2/20th Battalion Association Inc.

www.secondtwentieth.org.au



2/20th Battalion



2/20th Battalion Association President's Report 2025

Firstly, let me say 'Hello' to you all.

The last twelve months seems to have flown by. This is our first full year as an incorporated association. And this is our first year at a different venue to host our Annual General Meeting and Luncheon for many years. The luncheon cost increases required by our former venue Tattersalls were such that we looked for a more affordable venue situated in close proximity to the ANZAC Day march end. The NSW Masonic Club ticked all the boxes.

I thank our Secretary and Public Officer Annette Lynch (Bugitti) for organizing our AGM and Luncheon as well as the production and distribution of Thumbs Up, our annual newsletter. I also thank her for ensuring our compliance with all legal obligations required of an incorporated association.

On the 4th August 2024 Wendy and I attended the Sandakan Remembrance Service held in Burwood Park Burwood NSW. Also in attendance from our Association was Suzanne Tranter, daughter of Private John Hurley NX33607 who died in Naoetsu, Japan 22/12/1943. Instead of laying a wreath, I laid 2 books at the service, Singapore and Beyond by Don Wall and Portrait of a Nurse by Pat Darling (nee Gunther) (Captain Janet Patteson Gunther Mentioned in Dispatches NFX70493). Pat was a POW of the Japanese 1942-1945 in Sumatra. At the end of the service, I handed both books to the Director of Burwood Girls High School Ensemble Program, Mr Andrew Del Riccio, who directed the Burwood Girls High School Senior Concert Band who performed at the service. Their performance was excellent. Mr Del Riccio passed both books to the school librarian, who sent an email to me with a thank you.



On Sunday 12th January 2025, Wendy and I attended the 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Gemas held at 11.00am at Suakin Barracks Pymble. This was the first time I have attended this event. It was well organized and well attended. The 2/30th Battalion (part of the 8th Division), along with the 2/15th Artillery Regiment and 2/4th Anti-Tank Regiment fought the first major battle by the Australian Army with the Japanese near the town of Gemas in central Malaya around 200 kms north of Singapore on the 14th and 15th January 1942, inflicting hundreds of casualties on Japanese troops for the loss of 20 men.



On 15th February 2025, Stewart Thompson, Wendy and I attended The Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. This was also the 83rd Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. This ceremony honoured Private Douglas Andrew Love Craig NX35512, 2/19th Australian Infantry Battalion who died 7th November 1944 in Hiroshima POW Camp #4-B Japan due to illness. I laid a wreath at this ceremony on behalf of the Association.



Finally, this year marks the 80th Anniversary of the end of WW2 both in Europe and the Pacific.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our new venue, The NSW Masonic Club, on 25th April 2025.

Dennis Baker
President 2/20th Battalion Association Inc.

Membership Fee Increase

We currently have 64 financial members who pay \$10.00 as an annual subscription. A review of our annual recurrent costs, comprising insurance, domain name renewal, website hosting and annual fees payable to Fair Trading NSW amount to \$1,104.49. This amount divided by 64 financial members = \$17.28.

The committee comprising the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and 5 committee members have decided to increase the membership subscription fee to \$20 to cover the above annual costs. This is within the power of the committee as provided in our constitution. We appreciate your understanding.

Items of Interest

New South Wales Garden of Remembrance



There are Gardens of Remembrance in all capital cities and in Townsville and Launceston. The New South Wales Garden of Remembrance at Rookwood was constructed adjacent to the Sydney War Cemetery, within the Rookwood Necropolis, in the early 1960's. The garden was expanded several times and in the late 1980's was completely redeveloped.

The NSW Garden of Remembrance has a plaque capacity of 100,000 and has recently undergone structural works to provide more commemorative wall space. The central archway of the main entrance building houses the register books which list the wall and panel number of each individual plaque. The central pathway between the walls leads to a circular lower bed which contains a red granite stone and commemorative plaque. The path continues to a fountain which cascades into a gently flowing race of river stones which encircle a steel belvedere. To the rear of the belvedere is an arbor, in which a plaque recording the opening of the redevelopment garden is located. To the left lies the contemplation area and to the right is a small summer house.

Throughout spring, summer and autumn the gardens bloom with roses and rosemary, flowers that symbolize remembrance. Open sunrise to sunset, 7 days a week, with the office open 6.20am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday and open ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. It is also wheelchair friendly and has seating, water and toilets.

Veterans who are entitled to be commemorated in the Garden of Remembrance include those whose deaths are accepted as due to war service and ex-Prisoners of War. Each eligible veteran is commemorated by a small brass plaque, which includes their name, service number, date of death and age at death.

Graham and Margie Tweedie trip to Northern Borneo (late October 2024)

As part of an organised tour, Graham and Margie commenced the trip with a visit to the Sandakan War Memorial Gardens which is located on the site of the POW Camp and where the 1945 death marches commenced. Many men lost their lives at this camp and nearby smaller camps.



This memorial was placed at the location of a large tree that existed in the POW camp, and it was in a secret nook at the base of this tree that the POWs would hide radios, drawings, and other items documenting their treatment.

Below are structures in this park that were used in the POW Camp.

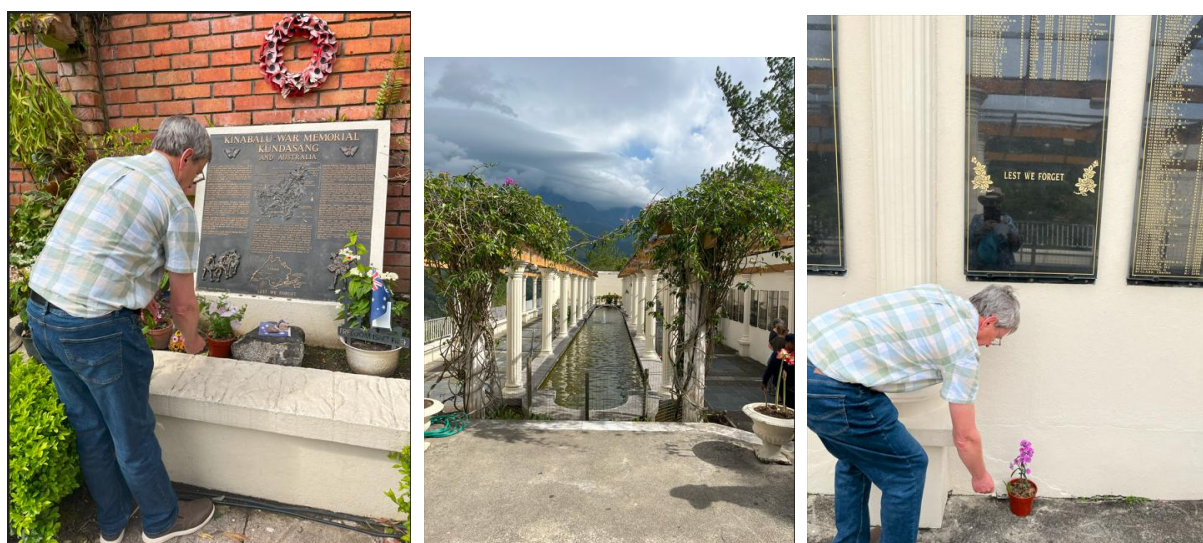


Our local Borneo tour guide on this trip was a walking encyclopedia in his knowledge of everything relating to the POW camps, the marches and the many associated stories. The local tribes were wonderful in their support (supplying food etc) of the POWs at considerable risk to themselves. Head hunting of unsuspecting Japanese was carried out along the marches.

Heading west, and in the second half of the tour, it generally followed the route of the death marches, and we visited the Sabah Tea Plantation where there is a POW Memorial, and a former POW camp was located nearby.



We then passed through Ranau (about 200kms west of Sandakan) which is where the death marches finished. Nearby we visited the Kundasang War Memorial Park. This park is made up of four beautiful gardens including the Australian garden. The memorial wall in the park contains the names of all the POWs who died in this whole Sandakan atrocity. It is a very sombre place and includes the names of the approx. 135 men from the 2/20th Battalion. On behalf of the 2/20th Battalion Association, flowers were laid at the Australian Garden Memorial and at the foot of the memorial wall. The Commonwealth Graves War Cemetery associated with Sandakan is located on the island of Labuan just off the west coast of Sabah State in Northern Borneo. We did not visit this cemetery.



ANZAC DAY MARCH 2025

This Anzac Day, we will be marching behind the 8th Australian Division AIF banner (see No. 16 under CONTINGENT). We will meet up on Phillip Street, corner of Hunter Street at 8.45am.



ANZAC DAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON 2025

After extensive research, the 2025 Annual General Meeting and Luncheon will be held at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel & NSW Masonic Club, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

It is a shame that we have had to move from the Tattersalls Club, however the increase in cost made their proposal prohibitive. Last year, the minimum charge at Tattersalls was \$7,500. This year the minimum charge increased to \$10,000 with the following charges per person (based on 80 attendees):

Tattersalls Club	
2 Course Lunch – \$82 per person (Non-member)	\$6,560
3 Hour Classic Beverage Package – \$64 per person (Non-member)	\$5,120
Anzac Biscuits – \$1 per person	\$80
Coffee/Tea – Charge per consumption (???) – assuming 50 x \$5	\$250
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$12,010
ESTIMATED COST PER PERSON:	\$150

NSW Masonic Club	
Room Hire	\$400
2 Course lunch - \$99 per head	\$7,920
1 welcome drink per person	\$0
All other beverages to be purchased by guests	\$0
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$8,320
ESTIMATED COST PER PERSON:	\$104

The NSW Masonic Club results in a saving of \$46 per person. The only difference is that beverages will be purchased by guests at the bar situated in the function room. As noted above, each guest will be provided a complimentary “Welcome” beverage.

We trust that this arrangement will encourage more members (and family and friends) to join us at our luncheon.

Please complete the form on the next page as instructed and return PRIOR to Friday 4th April 2025.

ANZAC DAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON 2025

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

(Please complete member details so that we can check that our current information is up to date).

Member's name			
Member's e-mail address			
Member's phone number			
Dietary requirements			
Anzac Day Lunch 2025			
Invited Family / Friends Guests			
2 course lunch including "Welcome" drink	\$99.00	<i>Per head</i>	\$
Venue hire contribution	\$5.00		\$ 5.00
Association Membership	\$20.00		\$
Donations (thankfully received)			\$
Singapore & Beyond (incl postage)	\$40.00	<i>2/20th Battalion history</i>	\$
Battalion Badge (incl postage)	\$10.00		\$
Total			\$

PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 4TH APRIL 2025

PAYMENT

Electronic payment is preferred. *When making electronic payments, please show the payment reference as your surname and number of people attending, for example "LUNCH BAKER 2".*

Bank Details:

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

Cheque payments:

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

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