



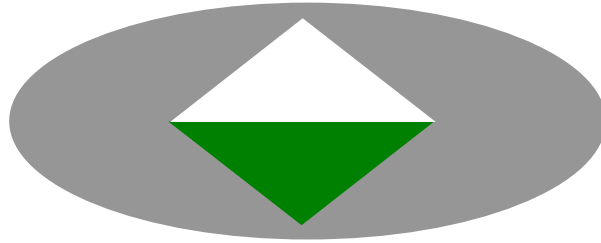
Thumbs Up 2026

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

www.secondtwentieth.org.au



2/20th Battalion



2/20th Battalion Association President's Report 2026

The past year posed a number of challenges, some procedural in relation to the change of Treasurer. Mr James Keady retired from that role at last year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Marty Salter was elected to this important office bearer position. Marty Salter is the grandson of Sergeant John Douglas Salter (NX45814) and the son of our Vice President Peter Salter.

Last year's luncheon at the Masonic Club was a great success, everyone I spoke to enjoyed the meal and service we were given.

I want to thank our Secretary and Public Officer Annette Bugitti (Lynch) for organizing our AGM and luncheon. She handles things very professionally and ensures the Association's compliance with its legal obligations as an incorporated association.

Another Association member I would like to thank is Graham Tweedie and his Choir for their very entertaining and professional performances.

Our new Treasurer has completed his first Annual Financial Reports which will be included with the Agenda for this year's AGM.

On Sunday 18th May 2025 Stewart Thompson, Wendy and I attended The Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial Canberra. This ceremony honoured Corporal George Dudley Pepper (NX54537) who died from beri beri at Sandakan on 10th March 1945. He was a member of the 2/20th Australian Infantry Battalion and a granduncle of my wife Wendy. We both laid a wreath at the base of The Pool of Reflection during the ceremony. David Hurley, former Governor-General of Australia, and his wife Linda also attended this ceremony and laid a wreath.



The 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Day Commemoration Service was held at the Cenotaph Martin Place, Sydney on Friday 15th August 2025. Our Association was well represented at this service with Annette Bugitti, Suzanne Tranter, Graham Tweedie, Phil Ward, my wife Wendy and I, also Geoff Creek who flew down from Queensland for the day. Graham and Phil held the 2/20th Banner for the entire service, they formed part of a group of banners which were displayed at this service. I laid a floral arrangement during the event. After the service we walked to P J O'Brien's Irish Pub for lunch organised by Annette.





Bev Cockle, a longtime member of our association, passed away on the 28th December 2025. Bev lived on the Northern Beaches of Sydney and was a very active member of a number of organisations which was evident with a large attendance at her celebration of life service on Friday 16th January 2026. Marlene James, Bev's cousin and also an association member, Suzanne Tranter, Wendy and I attended the service.

On Sunday 15th February 2026, Peter Salter and his wife Kathy, Stewart Thompson, Wendy and I attended The Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial Canberra. This was the 84th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. I laid a wreath at the base of The Pool of Reflection at this ceremony. This ceremony honoured Lieutenant Aubrey Harold Pringle (NX35009) of 2/18th Australian Infantry Battalion.

I look forward to seeing you on ANZAC Day. To raise some money for our Association, we are organising a prize to raffle on Anzac Day, so don't forget to bring your cash !!

Dennis Baker
President 2/20th Battalion Association Inc.

Item of Interest

Thank you to Graham Tweedie for providing the following item:

“AChoired Sound” Choir performs at Italian International Choir Festival 2025

Following on from Anzac Day 2025, the choir had the honour of singing for the Governor of NSW and many Order of Australia recipients at the Order of Australia gala dinner pre dinner drinks session in Sydney.

In October 2025 the choir had the further great honour of singing at the Vasto International Choir Festival in the Abruzzo region on the mid east side of Italy.

The choir performed admirably in a programme alongside well renowned choirs from across Europe (including from Romania, Italy and a 2024 World Champion choir from Lithuania). For the first time in the choir’s 26 year history our wives joined with us and sang very well to bolster the high tenor part in some of the songs. The ladies only had 3 weeks to rehearse and the Lithuanians could not believe they performed so well on such limited preparation.

The Festival was held at three locations over 3 days. The first concert was held at the Theatre Camillo de Nardis in Orsogna, at which the choir sang a range of songs, including “My Country” which we performed for the first time on Anzac Day 2025 and two songs which we sang in Italian. At the end of this concert our musical director Paul was given the honour of conducting the combination of all four choirs as an International Choir in the performance of a local Italian song.



The second concert was held in Lanciano at a magnificent 800 year-old church called the Anta Maria Maggiore and because of the venue we were required to sing “Sacred Songs”. The acoustics were perfect for singing.



The third and final performance was held in Vasto at the magnificent Church of Santa Maria del Carmine. Once again sacred songs were required and the choir performed extremely well to a pack house of around 400 people.





Many thanks to our Choir member Romano Di Donato (OAM) who organised both performance opportunities for us.

ANZAC DAY MARCH 2026

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 extending south from Hunter Street to King Street. (See reference 16 on map)



ANZAC DAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON 2026

COMMENCING AT 12.00pm

The 2026 Annual General Meeting and Luncheon will again be held at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel & NSW Masonic Club, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Generally, the costs remain unaltered from last year, however the menu is now 3 courses, not 2 as per last year:

NSW Masonic Club	
Room Hire contribution	\$5.00
3 Course lunch – per person	\$99.00
1 aperitif per person on arrival	\$0.00
All other beverages to be purchased by guests	\$0.00
TOTAL COST PER PERSON:	\$104.00

Each guest will be provided a complimentary “Welcome” aperitif, however, as per last year, all other beverages will be purchased by guests at the bar situated in the function room.

Please feel free to ask family members and friends to join us at our luncheon.

Please complete the form on the next page as instructed and return PRIOR to Wednesday 8th April 2026.

ANZAC DAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON 2026

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 2026			
I will be attending the AGM & Luncheon	Yes / No		
Invited Family / Friends / Guests			
Total number of persons attending			
3 course lunch including "Welcome" aperitif (including room hire contribution)	\$104.00	<i>Per head</i>	\$
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 WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL 2026

PAYMENT

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

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