

PIB-NGIB-HQ-PIR ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE AGM & GM held on 21 July 2024 at Geebung-Zillmere RSL Club, Brisbane

President Don Graham opened the AGM at 1.30pm and welcomed all present. One Minute's Silence was observed for deceased members, including past Patrons.

Honoured Guest: L/Sgt Laurie Siegle (2NGIB) aged 99, cut the 80th Anniversary of NGIB Cake. Vice President, Greg Ivey gave a brief outline of Laurie's service beginning with his enlistment at 18 years, service in the NGIB and ending with his medical repatriation to Australia. Laurie thanked all present and all sang 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow'.

Present: D. Graham, K. Horton, G. Ivey, P. Adam, N. Hunter, I Ogston, G. Farr, F. Maclean, I. Minns, K. Smith, L. Siegle, F. Siegle (Six partners were also present for the cutting of the Cake supplied by Lindy and Kev Horton.)

Apologies: S. Beveridge, G. Screen, P. Jesser, B. Sayce, R. Scott, I. Heath, M. Fletcher, I Wust, M. Baillie, J. Morris, R. Wade, J. James, J. Humphrey, T. Edwsmith, E. Diery, J. Worthington, L. Quinlivan, R. Cassidy, J. Hooper, D. Dymock, J. Dark, G. Johnson.

Minutes of 2023 AGM & GM

Moved: K. Horton Seconded: K. Smith
"that the Minutes of the 2023 AGM & GM as circulated be confirmed" Carried.
Business arising from the minutes was moved to today's General Meeting.

President's Report (See Attached)

President Don presented his annual report.

Moved: D. Graham Seconded: F. Maclean that the Report be received. Carried.

Correspondence: (Secretary)

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

1. **Newsletters / information updates / items of interest** to/from members – (I. Ogston, G. Ivey, K. Horton, K. Smith, G. Farr, P. Jesser, G. Carnes, I. Minns, F. Cordingley, N. Hunter, G Johnson, D. Graham,)
2. Emails to/from re the **2023 Kokoda Day** Service at Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL.
Kokoda Day 2023/24 Gold Coast Kokoda correspondence – to/from G. Friend/ L. Hamilton / C. McCarthy Invitations /letters to members/Southport Rotary / C'tee.
3. **Membership reminders and Dues receipts/ new members welcoming letters/ membership forms** plus mail posting of Assn stickers – (Direct Credit payments and cheques for dues) to/from Treasurer F. Maclean, Membership Officer K. Smith, Secretary K. Horton and V/Pres G. Ivey.
4. **ANZAC Day 2023** emails to/from members, ANZAC March C'tee, 2/14th, 39th, 2/16th Assns re ANZAC Day, Brisbane/Townsville/Perth/Sydney marches – G. Ivey/ K. Horton/ P. Adam/ I. Minns.
5. Invite and reply to/from **PNG Consul General** Reatau Rau re ANZAC and Kokoda Day.
6. **Get Well and Sympathy cards** for Major General Howard

7. **Website updates and new articles** including articles from P. Jesser, N. Hunter, K Smith, T. Edwsmith, K. Horton.
8. Correspondence to/from **Bluehost re Assn Website annual and 3 yearly dues** etc (K. Smith, K. Horton, F. Maclean)
9. Correspondence re Purchase of 7 pavers for behind Broadbeach Wall – Talkingstones, K. Horton, P. Jesser, G. Friend, A. Robertson (GCCC), C McCarthy, D. Tolmer, M. Baillie.
10. Newsletters/ emails to/ from our Assn. and kindred associations.
11. Emails re 8 August being proposed as National Kokoda Day – G. Ivey, K. Horton, D. Graham.

All other e-mails/correspondence available to view on computer at AGM.

Business arising from Correspondence. The three-yearly Bluehost costs were explained. Moved K. Horton Seconded D. Graham that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

Treasurer’s Report (See Attached)

The report was presented by Frankie Maclean with a balance of \$1,888.02. Moved F. Maclean Seconded N. Hunter that the Treasurer’s Report be received. Carried.

Paypal Auxiliary Report (K. Horton)

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

Balance carried forward at 18.07.23 - \$100

Income \$nil

Expenditure - \$37.92AUD - (\$24.19USD) 20.05.24

(Automatic deduction by ‘Bluehost’ - Annual Domain Name ‘soldierspng.com’)

Current Balance as per PayPal - \$62.08AUD

Stickers – Approx 200 on hand - Cost to be sent is now \$3 each due to postage increase. Moved K. Horton Seconded P. Adam that the PayPal Aux report be received. Carried.

Membership / Website Reports – (See Attached)

These were presented and expanded on by Kevin Smith.

Moved K. Smith Seconded G. Ivey that the Reports be received. Carried.

Medallic Recognition Officer Report & NSW & ACT Rep report (See Attached)

Read by Secretary as prepared by Russ Wade.

Moved K. Horton Seconded F. Maclean that the Medallic Recognition Officer’s and NSW & ACT Rep’s Reports be received. Carried.

Newsletter Report – N. Hunter and I. Ogston

Norm and Ian presented their report verbally. The new format of ‘Armi Nius’ will continue, and they thanked all contributors and requested more articles and photos from Members. Positive comments were made by members present including the Website Manager.

Moved N. Hunter Seconded I. Ogston that the Editors’ Report be received. Carried.

Honorary Life Membership. After discussion led by G. Ivey on the invaluable ongoing work by (Major) Russ Wade as Medallic Recognition Officer and NSW & ACT Representative, it was Moved D. Graham and Seconded I Ogston that Russ be nominated to receive our highest award, Honorary Life Membership. Carried with acclamation.

Election of Office Bearers

Ian Ogston was asked to conduct the Elections.

Major Donald Graham was approached to become **Patron** after input from the Executive and Committee members. Don's sterling and dignified service to the Association as President for 10 years was noted and he was unanimously ratified as Patron by the meeting.

Nominations for all office bearer's positions listed below were called for by e-mail by the Secretary and nominations were also sought from the floor. Those elected were: -

President - Greg Ivey	Vice President - <i>Vacant</i>
Secretary - Kev Horton	Treasurer - Frankie Maclean
Assistant Secretary - Ian Minns	Newsletter Editors - Norm Hunter, Ian Ogston
Website Managers - Kevin Smith & Frank Cordingley	
History Officer - Peter Jesser	Membership Officer - Kevin Smith
Medallic Recognition Officer - Russ Wade	Brisbane Rep - Phil Adam
Regional Qld Rep - Graham Carnes	WA Rep – Graeme Johnson
NSW & ACT Rep - Russ Wade	183 Sqn Rep – <i>Vacant</i> Victoria Rep – <i>Vacant</i>

(Resolved that if Greg Ivey needs support in his new role, then he should feel free to call on any Committee member for assistance.)

Moved I. Ogston Seconded P. Adam that the above Members be elected to the Committee for the 2024-25 year. Carried

The outgoing Committee was thanked and the incoming President, G. Ivey was invited to take the chair – he declared the AGM closed and suggested a 5-minute break.

GENERAL MEETING

Items of General Business

- Business arising** from Minutes of last AGM: -
G. Ivey reported that books from the Hooper family were received for donation to schools at future Memorial services and the 'Stringfellow Education Fund' is in place. Sharon and Greg Farr were thanked for producing the excellent stick-on labels which are being used inside the book covers recognizing the Assn's donations to Schools.
- Kokoda Day 2024** - Anniversary arrangements for the 80th Anniversary of NGIB as sent to all members are in place with 24 currently indicating attendance including the PNG Consul General and his wife Susan. After advocacy from our Association, pavers laid each year will be recognized as an integral part of the Ceremony. Secretary Kev Horton will deliver a speech honouring each of the four Australian PIB/NGIB veterans, three PNG PIB veterans plus 2/14th and 2/16th veterans.
- 2024 **Remembrance Day** arrangements in Brisbane will continue as per 2023.
- It was Moved I. Minns and Seconded D. Graham that the cost of the **Portable P.A. System** used on Brisbane ANZAC Days be reimbursed to G. Ivey and that the PA become Association property. Carried
- After wide discussion it was Moved K. Smith and Seconded G. Farr that the Association support August 8 being promoted as the National date for **Kokoda Day**. Carried
- It was resolved that I. Minns choose a suitable lunch venue for ANZAC Day 2025 after considering comments about previous venues.
- Website Donations** The increasing cost of approximately \$330 per year for the ongoing maintenance and development of the www.soldierspng.com Website was discussed. The server 'Bluehost' costs of \$942.38AUD for the next 3 years was paid in July this year, partially covered by some generous individual donations.

Moved N. Hunter Seconded P. Adam that **all members** be asked for a **Voluntary Annual Levy of \$5** per year to assist in covering future Website costs. Carried
(It is understood that members who have already made Website donations or those who wish to make a one-off larger Website donation would not be asked for voluntary annual donations.)

8. **Anniversary Medal.** It was resolved by the meeting that the Medallic Recognition Officer, Russ Wade, could prepare a revised Interim Medals Policy and a Position Statement for consideration by the Association Committee, as proposed in his annual Report.

LEST WE FORGET

(Members deceased since the last AGM.)

L/Sgt. Matthew Donovan (Don) Collins (2/11th Field Regiment & 2 NGIB) of Melbourne, aged 100

Major-General Brian William (Hori) Howard AO MC ESM, Association Patron, of Austinmer NSW, aged 86

Meeting closed at 4:20pm.

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President's Report 2023-24

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to our 2024 AGM. Our special guest is L/Sgt Laurie Siegle, aged 99 years, who served in the NGIB during WWII. I now declare this meeting open and ask for One Minutes Silence for our deceased members.

Regrettably our distinguished Patron, Major General Brian (Hori) Howard, AO MC ESM, passed away on 16 May after a short illness caused by complications with a hip operation. His personal interest, positive input and support to our Association were invaluable during his tenure as our patron. Having served three times with the PIR throughout PNG, his experience and outlook were most beneficial to our Association. RIP Hori!

Remembrance Day 11 Nov 2023. On Remembrance Day 2023, I was unable to attend due to ongoing medical problems. Vice President, Greg Ivey, officially represented our Association and received valuable recognition for the PIR in both TV and other Media coverage at the conclusion of ceremonial activities at ANZAC Square. Well done, Greg!

Major General Singirok. Maj/Gen Singirok led our multi-unit Wreath Laying Ceremony on ANZAC Day 2023 and then joined us for lunch at the Goldfinch Restaurant.

ANZAC DAY Ceremony 2024. This was held in beautiful sunshine and of significance, was the PNG Consul General, Mr Reatau Rau and his wife Susan's attendance at our 9am service at the PNG memorial in ANZAC Square. He gave a most welcome address to our members, fellow Association representatives and guests and laid a wreath at the monument. He also marched with us. He and his wife Susan joined us afterwards at the Stock Exchange Hotel. He also confirmed his intention to join us on Kokoda Day at Cascade Gardens on August 8. The increased attendance at the 9am ceremony and the use of the PA system added to the public's awareness of the New Guinea Campaigns.

I am grateful to Phil Adam for helping organize a jeep for my participation in the March through Brisbane streets on Anzac Day. Our Association is also indebted to

the Wust family members, especially Frank Wust's grandsons, Steven Purcell and Cameron Simpson who were our banner bearers this year. Trish Purcell's Anzac biscuits were welcome at the conclusion of the March. Lunch at the Stock Exchange Hotel was unexpectedly overcrowded but still enjoyable. Our Association team will review other possible venues for 2025.

Memorial Pavers. Seven pavers will be laid at the Kokoda Wall, Cascade Gardens this year, four for Australian and three for PNG veterans. Servicemen honoured with Pavers will be recognized as an integral part of the ceremony for the first time on August 8.

Association Newsletter 'Armi Nius'. The most recent newsletters were outstanding. Norm Hunter, Ian Ogston and Greg Ivey are to be acknowledged and congratulated for their splendid newsletters. Our newsletter continues to provide an invaluable connection for our members Australia wide and in PNG. Articles provided by our History Officer, Peter Jesser, have been excellent and now appear on the soldierspng.com website thanks to Website manager, Kevin Smith.

Plaque for Colonel Ron Lange. A plaque purchased by our Association was laid at the Bribie Island RSL Club Memorial Gardens to honour the late Colonel Lange. A most fitting service was conducted with attendance by Ron's widow Trixie, family members, friends and Association members. This was followed by a most enjoyable luncheon and wake at the RSL Club hosted by Trixie.

Retirement as President. As President of the Association, I must regrettably step down as a result of ongoing health problems and age. My most sincere thanks go out to all members of the Association Committee for their friendship and invaluable loyal support throughout my appointment as President over the last ten years. My appointment has been a most enjoyable and rewarding one. My best wishes to all Members for many safe and successful years ahead.

Thank you.

Em Tasol!

Major DD Graham, President

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Treasurer's Report, 2023 – 2024 Financial Year

As at 20 July 2024

Opening Balance from 13 July 2023 (Bank Statement): \$2,405.35

INCOME

Dues:	\$305
Donations:	\$270
Refund from overpayment:	\$3.96
Pavers/Plaques:	\$560
Ako Lahui:	\$186

Total Income: \$1324.96

Balance carried forward plus income: \$3730.31

EXPENDITURE

Refunds and payments:	
Blue Host payment:	\$942.38
Talking Stones:	\$585
Bribie Island Vietnam Veterans Assoc:	\$182
Vice President expenses:	\$69
Secretary expenses:	\$63.91

Total Expenditure: \$1842.29
Income less Expenditure: \$-517.33

Balance as per Bank Statement at 31 May 2024: \$1,888.02

Frankie Maclean
 Honorary Treasurer

Membership Report to 2024 AGM

Membership Summaries 2024

STATE	Number	TYPE	Number
QLD	64	Members	37
NSW	33	Life	89
VIC	21	Life (Honorary)	9
SA	6	Honorary	14
WA	14		
NT	0		
TAS	0	Donor	0
ACT	5	Other	0
PNG	6		
Unknown	0		

July 2023	
Members	35
Financial Life	85
Honorary Life	10
Honorary	14
Total	144

Totals	149	149
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This is a net increase of 5 members since the 2023 AGM.
 1 Deceased (Patron - Maj Gen Brian Howard)
 6 New members since July 2023 (Qld 1, SA 2, WA 3)

July 2019	
Patron	1
Life	18
Life(Honorary)	7
Honorary	10
Pending	4
Ordinary	79
Total	119

Reflections:

Over the past five years, the membership has had a net increase of 30 members or 25%. Many members, especially new members, have opted to pay \$50 for Life Membership, which now represents 60% of all membership.

Kevin Smith
 Membership Officer

WEBSITE REPORT TO AGM 2024 www.soldierspng.com

Wordpress – This is the host of the Association website.

- Thanks to some generous donations to the Association, the website hosting has been renewed for another three years. The domain registration, paid annually, has also been successfully renewed.

- Website reports from Wordpress advise that the Association website has remained free of malicious attacks. The “Leave a comment” option on some of our website pages unfortunately leave a window through which many spam /or trash comments still get posted. Although they are not visible to the public view, they require a regular deletion exercise. The short-term solution has been to delete the “Leave a comment” box on those pages on which the majority of the trash was being posted. We use a free version of an “Add-on” widget called “Askimet” which is supposed to screen scams. To be free of scams might require an upgrade to the first tier of professional version at \$36 annually.

Events Page – The current year’s events are listed and are updated as details become available. Both members and public viewers can be informed of our activities.

Reunion Page- This page has been removed from the menu as we don’t have many reunions to warrant a category of its own. Perhaps the AGM may decide that the special reunion this year makes it worth re-posting the page. Article and photos welcome.

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 now added.

Newsletter –

The high quality of the Newsletter and its layout means that the Newsletter is posted to the website in the pdf form that gets emailed to members. This saves a lot of work translating the Newsletter to website code and formatting photos etc. If viewers wish to see photos in enlarged form, they merely have to increase the viewing size of the pdf. So, congratulations and a big thank you to the Editors.

Additions – Recent articles include historically significant contributions from Peter Jesser on the involvement of the PIB in “The First Ambush of the Japanese” and “The Kokoda Track – fact v fiction” ; Articles from John Stringfellow and Garry Young about their experiences while posted to PNG; A series of articles on an NGIB veteran A R Tolmer MC MID; An historical Newspaper clipping on the WWII plane crash that nearly wiped out a Company; An article from Asi Pakoi in Port Moresby on the 50th Anniversary Service for the school cadets killed in a Caribou crash in 1972; and a Report from Garry Young on the WWII veterans pilgrimage to PNG in 1995.

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 people from PNG.
- Other Suggestions are always welcome

Finally, a special mention goes to Vice President Greg Ivey for his excellent proof reading and detail checking of material that is posted on the Website. This ensures both the quality and the accuracy, and consequently, the integrity of the site.

Kevin Smith

Website Manager

MEDALLIC RECOGNITION OFFICER'S REPORT

TO AGM 2024

SUMMARY

There have been no new developments in the recognition of the 50th Anniversary Medal over the reporting period.

BACKGROUND

The work initiated by our late Patron Major General Brian "Hori" Howard AO MC ESM did not progress. The letter from the former CDF, General Angus Campbell AO DSC to President Don Graham dated 21 November 2018 made it explicit that foreign governments are not to be approached about awards.

ANOMALY

During the memorial service for our late Patron on 6 June 2024, the local President of the Austinmer-Thirroul RSL read out Hori's military record of service verbatim and amongst honours and awards, included the PIR 50th Anniversary Medal. How did this medal get recorded on Hori's record of service?

WAY FORWARD

There are several letters from former PNGDF Commanders and Senior Officer regarding the 50th Anniversary Medal and its eligibility from those who served with the PIR to those who served with the PNGDF. Having failed to get recognition of service in PNG post-independence, with the Australian Service Medal 1975 onwards, in a hearing before the DFHAT in 2010, I'm in favour of the Anniversary Medal having a broader application to those who served with the PNGDF.

As an Association, we need to have an agreed position on the interpretation of those letters and a revised Interim Medals Policy to include post-Independence service. Secondly, we need a new documented case and a new champion for making representation within the constraints placed on us by the former CDF.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Medalliac Recognition Officer prepare an agreed position, revised Interim Medals Policy and documented case for consideration by the Association's Committee.

Russ Wade

Medalliac Recognition Officer

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NSW AND ACT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT TO 2024 AGM

SYDNEY ANZAC DAY MARCH 2024

Association members attending the Anzac Day March in Sydney were disappointed by the absence of 103-year-old John "Jock" Wilkinson, who was attending the march in Leeton NSW with his family, where he was well greeted.

Peter Porteous again organised the Sydney contingent and the post-march luncheon and our thanks go to Peter for his involvement.

Photos of the Sydney March and Jock at Leeton were published in *Armi Nius* No 2/2024 on page 19.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PATRON “HORI” HOWARD AO MC ESM

Our late Patron, Major General Brian “Hori” Howard AO MC ESM passed away on 16th May 2024 in Canberra, having moved there from his former home in Austinmer, NSW.

The family in conjunction with Club Thirroul, convened a Memorial Service on Thursday 6th June 2024, which was attended by nearly 300 people and covered in *Armi Nius* No 2/2024 on page 2. I was pleased to represent our Association at this Service and personally convey our condolences to the family.

MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY OF NSW

Our Association continues to support the promotion of military history and the lectures convened by the Military History Society of NSW at the Auditorium at the Anzac Memorial Hyde Park in Sydney.

Russ Wade

NSW and ACT Representative

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