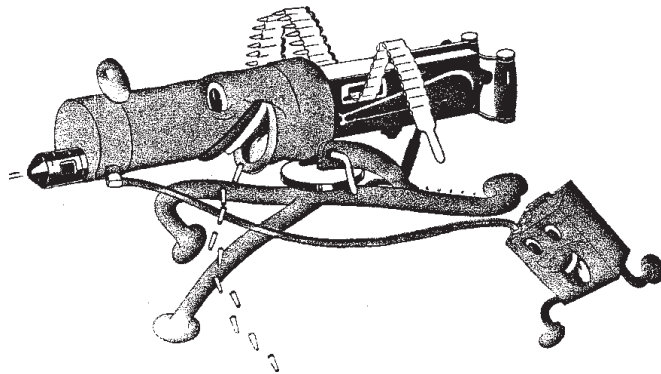




THE 2/2ND AUSTRALIAN  
MACHINE GUN BATTALION  
ASSOCIATION

MUZZLE BLAST



MARCH-APRIL 2009

**2/2ND AUST MG BN ASSOCIATION**

<b>President:</b>	Ron Myers 52/28 Curagul Road, North Turramurra 2074	Ph: 9983 1919
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Adrian Simpson 201/153 Epping Road, Marsfield 2122	Ph: 9878 0525
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	Denis Riley 17 Lisa Crescent, Castle Hill 2154	Ph: 9659 6863
	Di Symon 12 Spurwood Road, Turramurra 2074	Ph: 9488 9778
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Denis Riley 17 Lisa Crescent, Castle Hill 2154	Ph: 9659 6863
<b>Joint Secretaries:</b>	Sally Butcher 4 Bromborough Road, Roseville 2069	Ph: 9416 7944
	Denise Herman 74 Roland Avenue, Wahroonga 2076	Ph: 9489 9707
<b>Minute Secretaries:</b>	Sally Butcher, Denise Herman	
<b>Muzzle Blast Editor:</b>	Adrian Simpson	
<b>Committee:</b>	Neville Bargwanna, Michelle Lavan, Bob Fitzsimmons, Ron Bruncker, Bill Harley, Barry Izzard, Julie Owens	
<b>Hon. Life Members:</b>	Ron Bruncker, David Martin, Ron Myers, Mick Riley, Adrian Simpson	
<b>Hon. Chaplain:</b>	Canon Ray J. Bomford 19 Coomassie Avenue, Faulconbridge 2776	Ph: 4751 6465
<b>Hon. Member:</b>	Ralph Short	
<b>Deceased Hon. Life Members</b>	Charles Armitage, John Boughton, Hugh Brown, John Cockram, Jim Cuddihy, Clyde Davy, Jim Dods, Gerry Ferguson, Charles Gould, Nev Green, Norm Ihlein, John Kenyon, Frank Lavan, Ian Mills, Les Reid, Bok Rowe, Keith Sloss, Reg Somerville, Lon Villiers, Wes Ward.	

## COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Anzac Day is nearly with us once again. A lot of work has already been done to once again ensure a very successful march and luncheon. This is the most important day of the year for our Association and all those other units that will celebrate and remember those of our comrades who did not return to our shores.

This year we have included as a part of the issue of *Muzzle Blast* the nomination form, the last page. Your committee will be most appreciative if those who intend to attend will complete and detach the page and send it to Denis Riley for the fee of \$45 per person. It is the aim to have all fees, etc., received by **17 April, 2009**. Please note the reference to 'Family Groups' on the nomination form.

Again we have secured the booking for the luncheon at Menzies where this event has been held since 1973. Always we negotiate with the hotel for the best possible deal which, after subsidy, it has been possible to hold the cost to \$45 per person, which has not increased for the last 2-3 years.

Our Association is very fortunate to have a group of Associate Members who are enthusiastic in support of all our activities. It is mainly due to them that the organisation for Anzac Day, in particular, is so successful. You will note there have been some changes in the executive following the Annual General Meeting. The Association is well set up to remain active well into the future.

We thank all those members who settle their membership fee of \$20 p.a. as from 1 July each year. This has enabled our Association to function well. Of course, our main cost is the production and mailing of *Muzzle Blast* — this is approximately \$800 each year. This is the one means of keeping us all in touch with the news of our comrades and their families.

We trust that you and yours enjoy a fair measure of good health, happiness and prosperity for the rest of the year and beyond.

**The Committee.**

**A Reminder:** Do not forget to complete the nomination form and return to Denis Riley **NOW**. Thank you.

## ANZAC DAY

**Saturday, 25 April, 2009**

- Wreath Laying** Form up in Barrack Street, outside the Combined Services Club.
- Time** **7.15am.** We will march to the Cenotaph with the 9th Division group at 7.30am sharp. Wreaths must be laid by 7.42am to fit in with all the other units.
- The Parade** Assemble in O'Connell Street. Look for our banner.
- The Luncheon** At Menzies. It is important that all should be seated by 12.30pm.
- Cost** \$45 per person. This is the same cost as last year.
- Payment** It will be of great assistance to our Treasurer, Denis Riley, if payment is made by cheque or money order in favour of the Association and forwarded direct to him.
- Accommodation** For those who intend to stay at Menzies it is suggested that a booking is made early as the AWA also have their reunion at Menzies and many stay at the Hotel.
- Parking** Available at the Hotel. Entry via the lane at rear. Access from Margaret Street.
- Contact at Menzies** Reservations — phone (02) 9299 1000.  
Quote event name — 2/2 MG Bn Luncheon.  
In need, contact Leanne Wigmore  
Conference & Catering Co-ordinator  
Phone: (02) 8235 1751

This year meals will be by table service, which should be more efficient than in previous years.

**Note:** To facilitate the dispatch of *Muzzle Blast*, the last page includes the nomination of attendance. Please use this page to send your payment. Needless to say, it is very important that we receive as early as possible the nomination form. Also, to help our hardworking Treasurer, it will be appreciated if the nomination and fee is received no later than **17 April, 2009.**

There is a tremendous amount of work (mainly by our Associate Members) in organising this important event, so to conform with the above will help them a lot.

**DON'T FORGET THE DEADLINE FOR YOUR NOMINATION AND FEE  
IS 17TH APRIL**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**24 November, 2008**

Attended by:

Neville Bargwanna	Barry & Rachael Izzard	Mick & Nell Riley
Dawn Graff	Ron Myers	Denis Riley
Bill & Phyllis Harley	Beth Mackay	Dianne Symon
Denise Herman	Julie Owens	Adrian Simpson

Apologies from: Lyle Brown, Ron White, Dave Martin, Frank Lade, Bruce Robinson.

Confirmed office bearers:

President	Ron Myers
Immediate Past President (new position):	Adrian Simpson
Vice Presidents:	Denis Riley, Dianne Symon
Treasurer:	Denis Riley
Editor:	Adrian Simpson
Joint Secretaries:	Sally Butcher, Denise Herman
Committee:	Neville Bargwanna, Michelle Lavan, Bob Fitzsimmons, Ron Bruncker, Bill Harley, Julie Owens, Barry Izzard

You will note several changes in the Office Bearers of the Association. Adrian Simpson retired as President and Ron Myers was elected. Mick Riley resigned as Vice President and member of the committee. Denis Riley and Dianne Symon are joint Vice Presidents, and Frank Lade resigned from the committee.

This was a very satisfactory meeting with an excellent attendance considering the current circumstances. Following the meeting members retired to the Occidental Hotel for a first class luncheon organised by our Associates Dianne Symon, Denise Herman and Sally Butcher.

After 17 years in the chair and 33+ years on the committee the President considered it time to 'hand on the torch'. A worthy replacement is Ron Myers who has also served with the Executive of the Association for many years.

Mick Riley, who has had some health problems recently, has decided that the tyranny of distance (he lives in Bomaderry) and his health would mean the time has come to tender his resignation. He is a great supporter of the Association and was Treasurer for many years. His son, Denis, assumed this responsibility.

For health reasons Frank Lade also decided that the time has come to tender his resignation from the committee. For many years Frank was the bearer of our national flag on the Anzac

Day march and attended all committee meetings and other events 'come rain or hail'. His efforts on behalf of the Association are much appreciated.

We extend to Barry Izzard a warm welcome to the committee. He will add strength to our Association.

\* \* \*

### MUZZLE BLAST

A number of members now receive their copy of *Muzzle Blast* via email, which is reported as being very satisfactory. This also saves on printing and postage costs, etc.

If you have this facility and would like to avail yourself of this method, please advise your email address to: Mrs. Dianne Symon, 12 Spurwood Road, Turramurra NSW 2074.

\* \* \*

### ELEVEN DISC SET OF AUDIO CDs OF MUZZLE BLAST

In the last issue of *Muzzle Blast* you were advised of the above, based on the Muzzle Blast unit History produced by the late 'Buck' Buchanan. On Anzac Day we will have on hand sets of this wonderful narration at a price of \$35, or \$40 if posted anywhere in Australia.

As mentioned, this could be of great interest to those with a sight disability or other problem which does not allow the reading of the Unit History.

The price of \$35 is the actual cost to the Association of these 11 disc sets. If you would like a set reserved for you, please advise Ron Myers, Di Symon or Sally Butcher.

\* \* \*

On Goldman Sachs' reckonings, the cost of the 2008 credit crisis, or GFC (Global Financial Crisis) as is its moniker, is \$US4.6 trillion, and counting.

It has even surpassed the aggregate cost of the Marshall Plan, the Louisiana Purchase, the Race to the Moon, the Savings and Loans Crisis, the Korean War, the New Deal, the Invasion of Iraq, the Vietnam War and NASA combined. And that's inflation adjusted.

The only event which even comes close in terms of cost, says Goldman, is World War II, which cost \$US288 billion, or \$US3.6 trillion in inflation-adjusted terms, and that lasted three years and nine months (for the Americans at least).

\* \* \*

Ron Myers recently joined a group who toured the battlefields of France where so many of our young Australians were KIA. Ron is writing an account of this very interesting tour, and we are hopeful to present it to our members in the next issue of *Muzzle Blast*.

\* \* \*

## HISTORY

The following are extracts from records held in our archives:

### **Annual General Meeting held on 24 October, 1945**

“On 23 March, 1945, a meeting of ex-members of the Battalion was called at the YMCA Pitt Street and our Association was formed There were approx. 70 present, some of whom were still serving.

### **Membership**

At present there are 80 names on our books.

Up to the present juncture, membership fee has only been 2/- per head for 12 months, but it is proposed to amend the Constitution at this meeting to alter the fee to 10/- for the first year and 2/- thereafter in order to establish a reserve for correspondence, etc., and to come into line with those chaps who have paid their fee at the unit.”

### **Statement of Receipts and Payments to 24/10/45**

Shows income of 21.1 (twenty-one pounds, one shilling) with a bank balance of 1.9 (one pound, nine shillings). The cost of refreshments on Anzac Day 1945 was 7.8.6 (seven pounds, eight shillings and sixpence).

**Committee Meeting No. 1** was held on 6th April, 1945, at Park Lane Mansions, Rushcutters Bay.

Those present were: Messrs. Ward, Williams, Jacob, Foster, Donohoe and Edwards.

After various amendments to the Constitution it was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Foster:

“That the Hon. Secretary should take appropriate initial action with a view to preparing a Battalion History” (35 years later our History was published in 1980.)

“That any Committee man failing to attend 3 consecutive committee meetings without obtaining leave of absence shall forfeit his position.”

### **Announced**

“Lieut. Laurie Lee and Lieut. Gus Longhurst were killed in action since our last meeting. Following the receipt of their commissions they were posted to Infantry Battalions and I know that they would be just as highly thought of in these battalions as they were in ours. Suitable letters were sent to the parents on behalf of the Association.”

### **Committee Meeting No. 7, 17 July, 1946**

“It was moved by Mr. Ferguson that Mr. Mitchell make enquiries at Sergeants regarding a

permanent booking of a hall for Alamein Day and Anzac Day, also cost of catering. If total cost of function is not more than 10/- (one dollar), booking to be made.”

*This meeting was Chaired by E. Macarthur-Onslow as President.*

*Ed: As a matter of interest, all minute books from the first meetings are held in our archives. They make very interesting reading.*

\* \* \*

## LUXURY TRAVEL



*The sleeping/living quarters on board a troopship moving our Battalion to New Guinea in 1943. The vessel was a 'Liberty' ship which had a bad habit of breaking in half in a heavy sea (so it was reported by the American crew)!*

*Note the luxury of the sea cruise. The bunks were located on the bottom of a hold with very little room to move.*

*Norm Ihlein is standing near his bunk.*



## SATTELBERG, NEW GUINEA



*Bill Keihne and Mick Mahoney (B2 Platoon) in action at 'White Rock' at Sattelberg. B Company was supporting the famous 2/48 Battalion and it was here that 'Diver' Derrick won the Victoria Cross (he was awarded the DCM in the Middle-East).*

B company had 12 Vickers guns in action. Alf Mooney and Bert Steen were killed as a result of shell fire. There were a number wounded. It was in the shelling that Ron Myers (No. 1 Gunner) had his gun receive a direct hit. He was very lucky.

Those who have the Unit History can read all about it on page 209.

\* \* \*

## VALE – PADDY O'DRISCOLL

All those from the NSW Association who attended the joint NSW/Queensland reunions at Sawtell and Port Macquarie remember Paddy with affection. Paddy was the Secretary of the Queensland Association when the reunions were first organised — they were held for at least 23 years. Adrian Simpson was the Secretary in this State. Paddy never wrote letters but would ring from Brisbane to the Gulf Country — on one occasion he was warned, “This call is going to cost you a fortune”. The answer was, “No worry, mate.” Of course, he was a long time employee of the Postal/Telephone Service!!

Paddy was held in high regard by all who were fortunate enough to meet up with him — a ‘gentle giant’ with a keen sense of humour and a great supporter of the Battalion.

## IN FLANDERS FIELDS

**By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918), Canadian Army**

In Flanders fields the poppies grow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

McCrae's *In Flanders Fields* remains to this day one of the most memorable war poems ever written. It is a lasting legacy of the terrible battle in the Ypres salient in the spring of 1915. Here is the story of the making of that poem:

Although he had been a doctor for years and had served in the South African War, it was impossible to get used to the suffering, the screams, and the blood here, and Major John McCrae had seen and heard enough in his dressing station to last him a lifetime. As a surgeon attached to the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, Major McCrae, who had joined the McGill faculty in 1900 after graduating from the University of Toronto, had spent 17 days treating injured men — Canadians, British, Indians, French and Germans — in the Ypres salient.

It had been an ordeal that he had hardly thought possible. McCrae later wrote of it.

\* \* \*

*Subscriptions were received from the following members between 3/10/08 and 31/1/09*

Loraine Bowan	Dawn Graff	Ross Hutchison	Mick Riley
Sally Butcher	Adrian Graff	Sharon Ihlein	Ian Riley
John Butcher	Bruce Harley	Matthew Lamb	David Riley
Charles Butcher	Bill Harley	Anthony Lamb	Denis Riley
Thomas Butcher	John Harley	Robyn Lamb	Adrian Simpson
Anthony Butcher	Malcolm Harley	Eric Nunn	Tony Simpson
Betty Davy	Anne Harley	Les Poole	David Wells

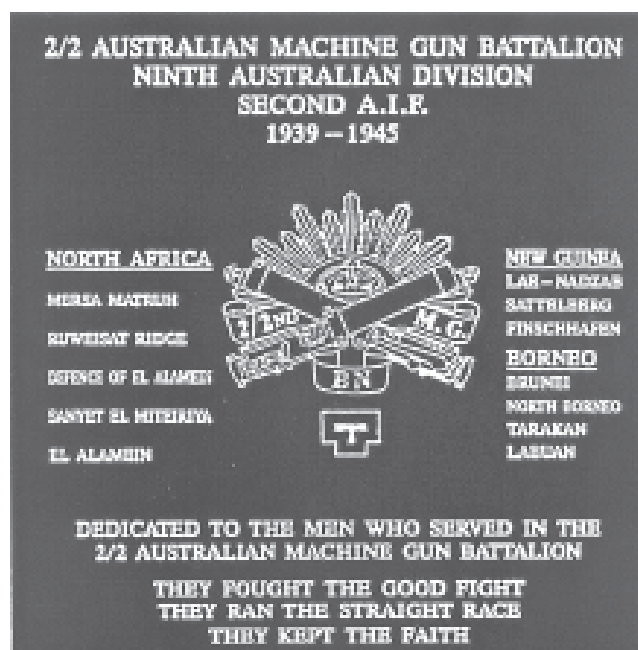
## LAST POST

It is with sincere regret that we report the passing of former comrades:

MAURIE CAVE (Q)     PADDY O'DRISCOLL

To their families and friends, members of the Association extend deepest sympathy.

“They fought the good fight  
They ran the straight race  
They kept the Faith.”



## LEST WE FORGET

### ODE

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

The Ode is part of a very famous poem, *For the Fallen*, written by Laurance Binyon who served in France in WWI. He was born in England in 1869 and died in 1943.

## Help us to help you!

It is important that we know as soon as possible the names of those who intend to attend.

Please detach the nomination form and return to Denis Riley at 17 Lisa Crescent, Castle Hill NSW 2154.



## ANZAC DAY LUNCHEON Saturday, 25th April, 2009

I/We intend to attend this reunion.

---

---

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME(S)

**Cost is \$45 per person.**

Please send your payment to Denis Riley by cheque or money order in favour of the Association.

If convenient, members might like to include the annual subscription (\$20) normally due on 1st July.

**With Family Groups:** we suggest that fees for the group be collected prior to the reunion and sent to Denis Riley with a list of the attendees. This will be a great help to those who attend to the finances. Thank you.

**Reminder:** We wish to receive all nominations and fees by **17 April, 2009**.  
Thank you.