



M.S. "MONTEVIDEO MARU", 7,300 TONS GROSS 噸位五千七百噸噸 大あびてんも

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

# Memorial News 17

## August 2010

*Warmed by the embrace of the dear lost of the Montevideo Maru - Kim Beazley*

### Members sign up for their Society

**A STEADY flow of Friends signing up as new members of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society made July a busy month.**

The conversion from free to paid membership was initiated to ensure the Society bears some of the weight for fund-raising for the proposed memorial in Canberra.

Ordinary Membership of the Society costs \$50 a year for people who live at the same address. And, for people who can afford it, the Society also offers a Gold Membership for \$100 a year and Life Membership for \$500.

At last count, the Society had 161 subscribed members, including the wonderful tally of 48 Life Members. [A full membership list is at the back of this newsletter.]

After this issue, the newsletter will be available only to financial members.

Financial members will also receive a free booklet including all the historic speeches made in Parliament on Monday 21 June.

They are also eligible to purchase Phil Donnison's documentary of the day's events, available later this month, for \$20, half price.

Gold and Life Members receive a Certificate recording their special membership of the Society. Life Members will receive all Society publications and DVDs free.

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The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society was established to ensure national recognition and commemoration of the tragedies that ensued from the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea Islands in early 1942, including Australia's greatest maritime disaster, the sinking of the Montevideo Maru with the loss of more than 1,050 lives.

You can join the Society (ordinary membership costs \$50 a year) and donate to the construction of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial at the Australian War Memorial by sending an email to [tharyjanto@jacksonwells.com.au](mailto:tharyjanto@jacksonwells.com.au) or writing to PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089.

You can also remit funds by direct deposit to the Society's bank account: BSB 082-401 Account No 16-083-2367.

### Govt grants \$100K for memorial

**THE FEDERAL government has granted \$100,000 towards the construction of a memorial at the Australian War Memorial.**

In early July Veterans' Affairs and Defence personnel Minister Alan Griffin approved the grant to the Society.

"It was a great privilege for me to deliver the historic statement in Parliament on 21 June," Mr Griffin said.

"This funding demonstrates the Australian Government's commitment to ensuring there is a fitting tribute in Australia to honour all who lost their lives...."

Society president, Keith Jackson, said the grant was a huge boost to the Society as it begins its effort to raise up to \$500,000 for a memorial in Canberra.

"This is a huge challenge for a small voluntary association," Mr Jackson said. "Corporate donors and our own members are going to be called upon to make a big effort to achieve an enduring monument to a massive tragedy of war."

### How to join the Society (& order your DVD)

**Electronically.** Transfer the appropriate funds to the Society's bank account: Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee BSB 082-401 Account No 16-083-2367. Notify us of the deposit in an email to [benelong@bigpond.net.au](mailto:benelong@bigpond.net.au)

**By mail.** Post a cheque made out to the Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee to the Society at PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089.

Membership (one postal or email address) - \$50  
Gold membership - \$100  
Life membership - \$500  
DVD (financial members) - \$20  
DVD (retail price) - \$40

**Remember, the only way you can receive the *Memorial Newsletter* in future is by becoming a financial member of the Society.**

# Descendants honour victims of war tragedy

By Jim Gainsford

HUNDREDS of relatives of those killed when prisoner of war ship *Montevideo Maru* was sunk during World War II attended a memorial ceremony in Canberra last month.

Veterans who fought in the New Guinea islands were also at the ceremony.

More than 1000 lives were lost in Australia's greatest maritime disaster when the Japanese transport ship *Montevideo Maru* was sunk by the American submarine USS *Sturgeon* on July 1, 1942.

The *Sturgeon* had been unaware the *Montevideo Maru* was carrying prisoners of war and civilians.

On board were 845 Australian prisoners of war and 208 civilian internees.

About 350 friends of the Rabaul and *Montevideo Maru* Society gathered in Canberra on June 21 to

witness the passing of a resolution by the Federal Parliament.

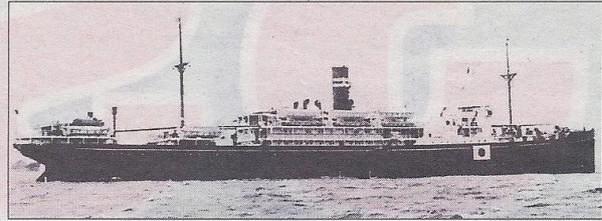
This was in recognition of the Australian service personnel and civilians who lost their lives in the *Montevideo Maru*, and the other brave Australians who died in Rabaul and the New Guinea islands during WWII.

On the day, Veterans Affairs Minister Alan Griffin said the government would give \$100,000 towards a permanent memorial in Canberra to those who lost their lives in the fall of Rabaul and the loss of *Montevideo Maru*.

Patrick Bourke of Miranda made the trip to honour the memory of his father's cousin, Lloyd Sibraa, who died in the disaster.

Lloyd Sibraa served in 1st Independent Company, the first commando unit in Australia and was 23 when he died on *Montevideo Maru*.

"Lloyd's mother, Mabel Sibraa, who



**Keeping the memory alive:** Patrick Bourke (right) made a special trip to Canberra with hundreds of other Australians to remember relatives lost in the *Montevideo Maru* (above) disaster and in Rabaul and the New Guinea islands during World War II.



was my great aunt, lost her only child in the disaster," Mr Bourke said.

"For many years afterwards she placed notices of remembrance in the *Sydney Morning Herald* for her son."

Because Lloyd was an only child, Mr Bourke makes it a point to honour his memory.

On his trip to Canberra, Mr Bourke had a folder containing the service records of Lloyd Sibraa, and copies of the notices of remembrances placed over the years by his mother.

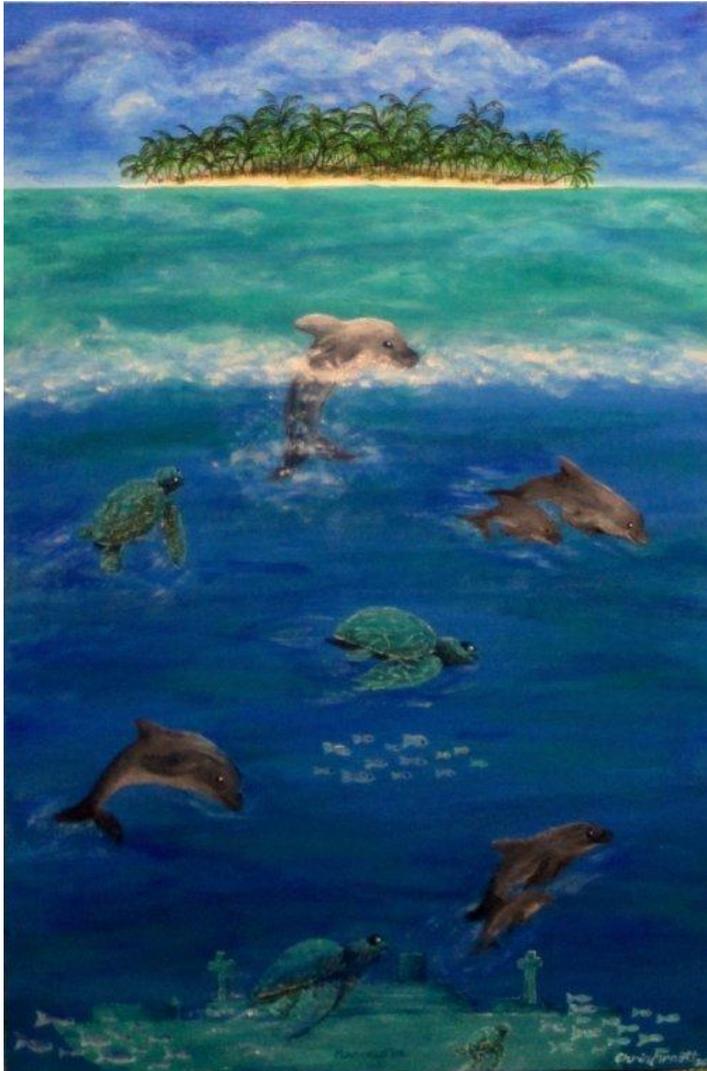


Denis and Judy Ireland with Colin, Helen and Lesley Pearce and Federal MP Tony Windsor.

# Memorial triumph

## A painting that casts a tragedy in a new & more hopeful light

BY CHRISTINE ARNOTT



### AT PEACE NOW

My mother, especially in her later years, found consolation that her brother, Neil Smith, and her brother in law, Harry Harvey, were together with Arthur Gullidge and others from the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Band, and were resting with them.

My uncles enlisted as bandsmen and stretcher bearers, they did not carry firearms. They joined up to assist their fellow Australians in any way that they could, taking into account their own religious views.

My father had been required to stay in Australia to work at the Commonwealth Aircraft Factory, so was at home when his relatives and his mates went off to war.

He used to say he'd lost most of his mates when the *Montevideo Maru* went down. And, when he remembered them, which was frequent, he always spoke of them being "all together" on the ship. I know he was comforted by that thought.

My mother got very emotional whenever she heard the song, 'We're off to see the wizard, the wonderful wizard of Oz'. She had vivid memories of the Band playing this song as the troops had their final parade through the streets of Melbourne.

To me, this music symbolises the attitude of those men: enthusiastic but unprepared for the horrors they would face when they reached their destination. This innocence and purity of intent has influenced my painting.

I attended the memorial session at Parliament House on the 21st June 2010. This was a moving and proud moment for me. However, I was concerned when it was mentioned that the wreck of the *Montevideo Maru* may be disturbed. After returning to my

accommodation, I had a restless night. The thought of anyone disturbing the ship was very distressing to me.

As I was lying in bed, I envisaged the ship at the bottom of the ocean, surrounded by nature in a pristine tropical environment. The spirit of the men who perished would be at peace, and it would be at one with their environment. I knew I had to paint this image, to express my vision of where the men are. They are *At Peace Now* - together in Death as they were in Life.

### Keith Jackson writes:

Chris's painting is a beautiful interpretation and her thoughts, and her parents' thoughts, are shared by many other people. It is not the belief or policy of our Society that the *Montevideo Maru* should be explored or disturbed in any way, although there are some who do not share this view. Hence the comments of Steven Ciobo MP during the committee session of Parliament on Monday 21 June.

However, Minister Alan Griffin and others, including the veterans who were mates of the men on the *Montevideo Maru*, know and share the Society's and Chris's view on this matter. We know where the ship lies; we need know no more. Our aim is to have this site declared as an official war grave and we are currently working on this as a project with the Federal Government. Quite apart from the recognition this implies, declaring the site as a war grave will also protect the wreck from any interference. Although, since the vessel lies at a depth of about 4,200 metres, any intrusion is unlikely.

Chris has kindly given her permission for the Society use her wonderful interpretation, entitled *At Peace Now*, in our newsletter and other publications. We are truly grateful for this. It is such a peaceful and beautiful rendition of the outcomes of such a black and tragic story.

# Locals mark our worst maritime disaster



Phyllis & Doug Smith, Elaine Campbell, Helen & Charles Boutell and Brian Campbell in Canberra to mark the sinking of the Montevideo Maru.

Over 350 members of the Montevideo Maru Society from across Australia attended Parliament House Canberra on Monday of last week (June 21) to witness national recognition of Australia's worst maritime disaster, the sinking of the Montevideo Maru on July 1, 1942.

Included amongst the members present in Canberra were residents of Bellingen and Dorrigo who had lost family members on the occasion, when more than 1,000 Australian troops and civilians who had been taken prisoner in Rabaul, New Guinea, died when the Japanese ship was torpedoed off the Philippines.

The commemoration had been organised by Federal Parliament in conjunction with the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society. Veterans of the New Guinea Islands campaign and relatives of the men who died during the invasion of Rabaul and on the ship were in Canberra for the event.

A Ministerial Statement was presented in the House by the Hon Alan Griffiths MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel. This was responded to by Mrs Louise Markus, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs. Mr Bod Katter then spoke in bi-partisan support.

The Member for Ballarat, Catherine King, then gave notice of motion:

*That The House.....*

*1. Expresses the gratitude of the Australian nation to the service personnel and civilians in Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands for their services in the defence of Australia during World War II.*

*2. Expresses its regret and sorrow for the sacrifices that were made in the defence of Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands and in the subsequent sinking of the Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942.*

*3. Conveys its condolences to the relatives and loved ones of the people who died in the conflict.*

*4. Conveys its thanks to the relatives for their forbearance and efforts in ensuring that the nation remembers the sacrifices made.*

The President of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, Keith Jackson, said national recognition of the Montevideo Maru tragedy had been a long time coming. "The relatives of those who died, especially those who were civilians, felt the nation had forgotten one of its most shocking disasters." "This act of recognition by Parliament represents a wonderful day for all these folk."

After the Parliamentary speeches, Alan Griffiths hosted a function for the veterans and relatives. Included were Elaine Campbell, of Dorrigo; Helen & Charles Boutell, of Bellingen, and Phyllis & Doug Smith, of Bellingen.



TH "The Bellingen Shire Courier Sun", Wednesday, June 30, 2010

## Bill Haines, a hero of Tol: *'He showed not a trace of fear'*

BY LINDSAY FOX

**Ron Cook and Bill Haines [pictured right as stretcher-bearers during a field exercise at Trawool] were great mates.**

Ron played trombone in the Moreland Citadel Band and Bill was on tenor horn in the Camberwell Citadel Band; and they were both members of the elite Melbourne Staff Band.

They enlisted at the Victoria Street Drill Hall in Melbourne, along with 15 other Salvation Army bandmen on 15 July 1940.

In keeping with the usual war-time duties of military bandmen, Bandmen Cook and Haines were stretcher-bearers with D-Company 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion during the Japanese invasion of Rabaul.

When told by Lieutenant Donaldson to get away as best they could, they took off into the jungle.

There was a rumour that RAAF flying boats were picking up escaping soldiers at Wide Bay, so Cook and Haines walked hard to get there, existing on whatever could be scrounged from abandoned properties.

They ended up in the Tol Plantation area on the south coast of New Britain.

An increasing throng of exhausted soldiers and a small number of civilians gathered at Tol, when six Japanese barges arrived in Wide Bay and landed well-armed troops who quickly captured the Australians.

Major Figgis (the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Intelligence Officer) later filed this report on one of the "most horror-filled episodes of the war":

"...The Japs rounded up these men and confined them in several houses. They were fed that night and given a few cigarettes.

"The next morning, 4<sup>th</sup> February 1942, the soldiers and civilians had their hands tied behind their back, and had their identification tags, papers and equipment taken off and burnt.

"They were then led off and bayoneted singly or in groups, in the presence and hearing of others about to be killed."

Incredibly, of the 160 soldiers and civilians subjected to that senseless savagery, four men survived. One of them was Private Bill Cook (no relation to Ron) of the 2/10<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.

When the Japanese herded the Australians together, Bill Cook was strung to Bill Haines. Miraculously, Bill Cook, although pierced with 18 bayonet stabs and suffering severe pain and great loss of blood, survived under a pile of massacred soldiers.

He was found by other fleeing Australian soldiers and was helped to escape from New Britain.

Back in Australia, Bill Cook wrote to Bill Haines' mother:

"We were the second-last batch to be taken away and, as we were taken away, Bill [Haines] said, "We shall soon see what the next world is like." In our march to what was to be our last resting place he showed not a trace of fear.

There is an ironic postscript to this tragic story of horrific death and miraculous survival. Years later, when Bill Cook was employed by the Victorian Railways, he suffered the loss of his legs in a shunting accident in the North Melbourne railway yards. Always one to make the best of life's misfortunes he quickly adapted to prosthetic limbs and was known to regularly quip, "At least I don't need suspenders to hold up my socks; I can use tacks!"



## Canberra: Monday, 21 June 2010 - A personal experience

BY JOHN MOORE

**It was a day of contrasts, some good aspects and some hideous ones.**

I arrived in Canberra at 8.45 where the weather was kind - a cool, clear day with bright, warm sunshine. With time on my hands until 3pm, I walked for an hour from Narrabundah to St Mark's Library at Batton. I first visited the library in 1957 (soon after its opening).

The Librarian, Susan Phillips, liked my 53 year old photo and requested a copy which I have sent to her. It is a reminder of the days when there were few other buildings in the area.

A short distance further up the slope, I entered Parliament House (airline type search) and inspected some of the public areas. To put it mildly 'bedlam' had come to town with busload after busload of children pouring from point to point "doing Parliament House".

My instruction was to be there by 3 and seated in the House by 3.15. After cloaking my camera and mobile and getting at the end of the line, it became clear I needed a ticket. Off to another line, was given a ticket, back to the first line to wait until seats were available.

Fortunately many tired of Question Time so I was admitted (after another search) at 3, in time to endure 30 minutes of frivolous behaviour by the Members.

The 350 visitors wishing to hear the Ministerial Statement expressing Parliament's regret at the tragedy of the *Montevideo Maru* and the New Guinea islands were seated in the four Visitors' Galleries at 3.35. When the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, the Hon Alan Griffin, rose to speak, at least half the Members on both sides of the House left the Chamber. By the time the Shadow Minister, Mrs Louise Markus began her speech of support, all except two ALP Members had gone, leaving 15 Liberals to offer support.

Bob Katter (Ind Q) spoke briefly on behalf of the Minor Parties. Many of the visitors were dumbfounded and were left wondering whether the Members really did regret the tragedy of 68 years ago.

At a meeting in the Main Committee Room, a formal motion recording the *Montevideo Maru* tragedy and the loss of life in the New Guinea islands was passed at 7.20pm by House of Representatives Members. A similar motion was passed in the Senate.

The Reception for Visitors was held in the Queen's Terrace Gallery at 4.30. News of the death of three servicemen in Afghanistan had just been received in Canberra and the formalities, quite naturally, became of secondary importance for the Minister. However, many people had many stories to share with friends and strangers. Those who stayed until after 7, watched the proceedings in the Main Committee Room on a big screen.

Yes, I was pleased to be in Canberra on this occasion even though the crowds and other distractions took some of the gloss off the event. On Tuesday I visited the Australian War Memorial in order to complete the pilgrimage in honour of the memory of Charles Hubert George Moore by taking a photo of his name on the Memorial Wall under the heading "New Guinea Volunteer Rifles".

PS, In the Tuesday issue of the *Canberra Times*, there was not a word about the resolution. There were three reports about other events in Parliament House: (a) a group of 100 indigenous children from northern Australia had visited Parliament; (b) Mr. Rudd had welcomed China's Vice-President, Xi Jinping; and (c) Question Time had shown once again that the affairs of government are not always dealt with seriously. Is this the way that we record significant events in the history of our Nation?

### **THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER FOR NON-MEMBERS**

**Current members of the Society are listed on the back page of the newsletter.**

**This is the last *Memorial News* non-members receive. You should contact us:**

**(1) If you believe you should be listed as a member but cannot find your name (membership is backdated to include all donations made since 1 January 2010)**

**(2) You cannot afford to pay the membership fee (get in touch with Teddy Haryjanto at one of these two contact addresses)**

**tharyjanto@jacksonwells.com.au**

**PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089**

## FEEDBACK

### LORNA JOHNSTON

#### Kohimarama, New Zealand

Thanks for all the wonderful things you and your committee have achieved on behalf of the families and friends of the *Montevideo Maru*. Also I must say I enjoy your newsletter - so many times I pick up old memories. This time was one I couldn't pass by: Pam Wheeler's article about her uncle Trevor Collett.

I only saw and spoke with Trevor for about an hour but he was someone we nurses never forgot. He came to the convent where we were staying at Vunapope and introduced himself as a Seventh Day Adventist missionary. He said he was concerned about our welfare and could he help us in any way. He ended up sleeping on the floor outside our bedroom door, as he and we thought, for protection.

But some time during the night the Imperial Guards came along and there was a lot of banging and noise. The Nips sent Trevor on his way. Now in that volatile situation it took a lot of guts to do what he did. We never saw him again to thank him but we also never forgot him. Perhaps this may be something Trevor's daughter may like to know. I hope you will see our film *Sisters of War* when it comes out later this year.

### NORM FURNESS

#### President, 2/22 Battalion & Lark Force Association

What a day of memories is today 1 July that I have picked to drop you a line but, as the old saying goes, life goes on. Margaret Curtis told me she has been asked to go on your committee. She is a remarkable woman and will be a great asset to you. My regards to all your group. Keep up the good work.

### BARBARA SELBY

#### Bowral, NSW

My late husband, then Lieutenant David Selby, was commanding officer of the Anti-Aircraft battery (two outmoded guns) in Rabaul when it fell to Japan. He was very caring of his young troops and was saddened when most of them accepted the advice of a senior officer to surrender to the enemy, the medical officer saying that, in their weakened condition they were unable to continue the fight. They of course went down with the *Montevideo Maru*. A few joined David to retreat to the jungle with him and some other troops, and were subsequently rescued by Ivan Champion and Alan Timberley.

### PATRICK BOURKE

#### Cronulla, NSW

I thank you and your committee on your efforts in organising the special event in Canberra on 21 June. I know of the many hours you, Andrea Williams, Bob Lawrence and others spent on the organisation of this special event, which meant so much to Australian families. I'm sure your efforts and the efforts of your team are greatly appreciated.

One public reflection of the grief of families who lost loved ones on the *Montevideo Maru* was the appearance in newspapers for many years of notices of remembrance, placed by family members on 1 July. I enclose some newspaper notices placed in remembrance of Lloyd Sibraa (my father's cousin) by his mother, aunt and uncle.

*We reproduce one of the more touching tributes, dated 1 July 1947*

SIBRAA - Treasured memories of my son, Lloyd, died POW at sea Jul1, 1942

"At night when shadows are falling  
And I am all alone  
There comes that longing Lloydie  
If you could just come home"

Inserted by his lonely mother (Mabel Sibraa, nee Bourke)

### PETER STONE

#### Yarram, Victoria

A simple question if I may. Why does the memorial need to cost half a million dollars? And, why doesn't the AWM pay for it if (as it is) such an important memorial? (I presume the government's \$100,000 covers that question). I believe the memorial is a worthwhile cause but there are many humanitarian causes 'out there' that demand attention and delimit the private purse. This may result in some difficulty in raising the required funds. Just a thought.

*Keith Jackson responds: Simple question, not so simple answer! True, it will be tough raising the funds. But when we did our consultation with relatives last year, there was a very strong feeling that a memorial should be established and that this should be at the AWM.*

*My own view at the time - that Parliamentary recognition on behalf of the nation, plus the work we're doing on the nominal roll and war grave might be sufficient - was not the collective view. So my considered position was along the lines of 'in for a penny in for a pound' - because I wasn't prepared to walk away from the expressed views of so many people who had carried such a considerable burden for so many years. While I have no personal connection with this sad chapter of Australian history, I - like Alan Griffin and others - felt it was a compelling story and represented unfinished business for our nation.*

*The memorial will cost \$400-500K because that is the (minimum) cost of the substantial memorials in the grounds of the AWM. Although most of them look pretty ordinary to me. The AWM has no funds for this type of enterprise, although it does have the final say over whether a memorial should grace its grounds. The government's view is that it will contribute to an approved memorial so long as the group proposing the memorial shows it has the will and the capability to contribute substantial funding of its own. And that's where we are.*

## **COLIN MacLEOD**

### **Menkara, Mortlake, Victoria**

I have instructions from my father, George MacLeod, a Platoon Sergeant with the 1<sup>st</sup> Independent Company, who is now 92. He considers himself lucky not to have been among a lot of his friends he lost on the *Montevideo Maru*. He naturally still has strong feelings for them. Good luck with the very worthy memorial and hope you get continued support.

## **LIONEL VEALE**

### **Molendinar, Queensland**

The Canberra day was a good start for your project and hopefully it will continue to be a success. As you probably know, I was one of the 1<sup>st</sup> Independent Company in Kavieng and, like Lex Frazer, I have information on the members of the company who were on the *Montevideo Maru*.

I have been writing books which has helped me remember many of the events happening in those terrible days. Again, as a Coastwatcher, I was in the company of the many New Guinea people who did an incredible job of helping the men to escape. Now it has begun to escalate, I trust this work of yours reaches its fulfillment.

## **DOREEN WILSON**

### **Emerald Beach, NSW**

I listened to Ian McNamara on Australia All Over and he spoke to a lady about the *Montevideo Maru*. I have been asking about this ship and often remarked why it was very seldom mentioned. So I was pleased to hear of it on the radio. My brother Ronald Elphinstone Marks, 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion VX56053, was on the ship. It was an American submarine that bombed it, wasn't it - this was not mentioned. It was so difficult for my mother. I was 17 at the time.

## **BRUCE MILLS**

### **Tumby Bay, South Australia**

Please find my modest donation to the construction of a memorial to the memory of the loss of life of soldiers and civilians who went down on the *Montevideo Maru*. I believe my brother, Gunner Jack Mills of 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Lark Force, was one of them. I commend you and your Society for what you are trying to achieve.

## **JOHN C WALTER**

I am the 74 year old nephew of one of the Australian servicemen lost in the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*. In 1987 I did some research at the Australian War Memorial Archives following an article in the *Courier-Mail*. I also tried to buy a book published by the Lark Force Association, but it was out of print. At the War Memorial I was not able to find very much specific reference to my Uncle Sergeant Eric Charles Mann V50869, RAE L Force.

All my life his death had been a big part of our family, along with my mother, her parents, sisters and brother. His fate had a very big influence on their lives. I think mainly because of the long wait to be told what had happened and to have some closure.

I have in my possession a letter by Eric written to me specifically when I was five years old. I am Eric Mann's only nephew or niece who can remember him (my sister was only two). A few years ago my mother's and Eric's youngest sister died, aged 91. She had a collection of letters both to and from Eric while he was in Rabaul. My younger cousin Simon Mann was executor of her estate and as a journalist with Melbourne Age he published an account of Eric and our family, which is very moving. I have a copy of this article and copies of Eric's war service records and some other documents.

I would like to be able to get in touch with Ally Martell, who I have seen on television from time to time. I am somewhat peeved that I have not followed up my earlier research in the last 20 years, so I was completely ignorant of the fact that there was or is an Association or Society that has been pushing for some tangible recognition of the sacrifice of these men. As we have a daughter in Canberra and we visit often, I would have liked to have known about it and attended Parliament House for the recent Statement to the House.

## **DOREEN MacGOWAN**

### **Middle Park, Queensland**

It was good to meet with you in Canberra last week. Thank you for your wonderful effort, along with Andrea Williams, in organising that very special commemoration occasion. I have had close links over the years with many whose fathers and husbands were on the *Montevideo Maru*. It was good to meet with others who shared the same connection.

I was one of the fortunate ones whose father managed to escape from Rabaul on foot, some time after my mother, brother and I were evacuated to Australia on the *Macdhui*. My brother Allen Crawley and I enjoyed the dinner on Monday night - a relaxed friendly evening after the serious afternoon in Parliament.

## **SUE PASCOE**

### **Blackburn, Victoria**

'Thank you' is an inadequate phrase to use for Keith, Andrea and the rest of the committee for your tireless work resulting in the wonderful success in Canberra! It must have been a very healing experience for all who were able to be present.

I read that Catriona Bruce is interested to know the name of the old Carey boy who perished on the *Montevideo Maru*. I have no difficulty in providing that information as it was my father, Frank Pascoe. If she would like to contact me, my telephone number is (03) 9899 2928 and I would be very pleased to speak with her.

Also, if any of the descendants of the Beckett and Conroy plantation owner families belong to the Friends of MvM I would like to contact with them if they are agreeable, as these people showed very warm hospitality to my father and some of his friends, and are frequently mentioned in his letters. Thank you once again for all your ongoing commitment. It is a massive task!

## **ROSS TUCKER**

My uncle Roy Stewart McPherson was on the *Montevideo Maru* to the best of our knowledge. He was a civilian from Kavieng where he was a plantation manager. I am the oldest living relative still alive and I am a Queenslander.

## **BOB WILLIAMS**

### **Fremantle, Western Australia**

Congratulations on a remarkable achievement. You and your team are an inspiration. I'm sure the spirit of my Uncle Frank is smiling in gratitude.

## **SENATOR ANNE McEWEN**

### **Senator for South Australia**

It was indeed a great day! I am still moved especially when I think of all those elderly and frail folk who made such an effort to be there and who patiently put up with all the difficulties of moving around the House and the delays waiting for things to happen...all because it meant so much to them. As for my speech, I am happy with the Hansard transcript that is now online and would be honoured to have my contribution included in the booklet.

## **BENN SELBY**

### **Armadale, Victoria**

Thank you for your July newsletter which covers the Canberra adventure. I am sorry I did not try to negotiate with my four-wheel 'Walker' to meet you at the reception and to mingle with the stalwarts of Rabaul still extant. But I did meet the amazing Andrea who did such a fantastic job of organisation.

The son of Mr Cooper Sr happened to notice my name and exclaimed 'Frisbee Selby, I must get my father', which he did, and I had a pleasant yarn with him. We could not explain how my eldest brother David acquired that nickname.

I found the whole event very moving, and of course reacted similarly to many others about the exit of both parties from the House. I was also assured such was normal procedure which, in my opinion, could well have been changed for the occasion.

My visit to Canberra was greatly enhanced by a small party I organized on Sunday evening attended by about 20 Sydney Selby family covering four generations including David's widow Barbara and her great grandchildren, my great grand nieces and nephews; also including my friend of over 75 years, Emeritus Professor David Craig and his wife, also Sam Furphy and his wife. He wrote *Selbys the Science People*.

I think I told you earlier about my more or less recent visit to Rabaul when, by a fortuitous meeting, I found the spot where my brother had his 2 AA guns. It made my trip for me.

Congratulations to you for the success of the Canberra event and for your untiring efforts towards establishing appropriate memorials for these unsung heroes.

## **PAM WHEELER**

### **Palmwoods, Queensland**

My sincere wish is that funds will come in quickly to provide this much-needed memorial. 'From small things, big things grow'.

## **PATRICIA POIRCUTTE**

### **Putney, NSW**

Congratulations to you and your committee on the sterling job you've done on the organisation of the events in Canberra on 21 June. A lot of time and effort went into the logistics of it and it was really greatly appreciated. As I am a regular sponsor to four other charities, it is not always easy to send off extra cheques but be assured that when there's a bit extra in my 'piggy bank' you will be the recipient.

## **ROSLYN WARREN**

### **Allingham, Queensland**

My sister, Margaret Tiller, and myself, together with my husband Jim and son Hugh, attended the Parliamentary mention of the tragedy. We were very impressed at the organisation of the day's procedures and met so many people that Dad, Lex Fraser, had mentioned by name. Congratulations! We have also got a lot of press coverage in the north, especially from Bob Katter's office through the *Herbert River Express*, *Townsville Bulletin* and ABC Radio. Margaret was also interviewed by the ABC in Toowoomba.

## **MAXWELL R HAYES**

### **Box Hill South, Victoria**

As you know, I have been researching the *Montevideo Maru*, really since my first days in Rabaul around 1960, and have published many articles on this unfortunate vessel. I have done all I can, and all I intend to do, save for my last article now with Andrea Williams. I never had any relative on this vessel and my research was, therefore, a labour of love in pursuit of the consequences to which those captives in Rabaul and those murdered at Rabaul, Tol, New Ireland and elsewhere were betrayed by the Curtin government. I now have closure, as well, on the *Montevideo Maru*.

At my age, now 78, I have so much more, hopefully, to do with Rabaul, RPNGC, PNG events and the like. With the many constraints on my time, it seems pointless for me to consider joining the society which has at last received recognition for those dreadful events of 1942. The formation of the society is largely due to you, Andrea and a few others for which many Australians should be very thankful. I am sure that there will be much more information to come to light as many Australians realise that there was a young relative on that vessel. I urge you and the Society not to overlook the Tol victims, other hapless victims or other captives in Rabaul and elsewhere in the New Guinea islands. They too had relatives. The Society should become a voice for all these.

*Max was in the RAAF in Korea and Japan (1950-57, the RAAF Reserve (1957-65), and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (1959-74). Her served in the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles from 1961-63 and has been a member of the International Police Association since 1964. He can be assured that the Society is concerned to honour all those people who died in or as a result of the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea Islands in 1942.*

## **NORI NAGASAWA**

### **Yokohama, Japan**

Thank you very much for sending me *Montevideo Maru* newsletter 16 of July 2010. I should have sent you my gratitude earlier for your kind arrangement for Mrs Keiko Tamura's attendance at Australia's Parliament for the first time offering regrets for the *Montevideo-Mar* tragedy. She reported to us about the Diet session and resolution. She attended the afternoon party, but could not meet you.

## **MARY SYMONS**

### **Box Hill North, Victoria**

I would like to thank both Keith and Andrea for Monday 21 June. My five children and six grandchildren came too and it really gave them an association with their grandfather, my father Dr H Champion Hosking. Thank you very much for all your efforts.

## **ELIZABETH TRUDGEON**

### **St Helens, Victoria**

Thank you for emailing the newsletters of the Society. I plan to pursue my search for my uncle's diary (Alfred John Cock of Tullamarine) which I think my sister may have. Now I want to know more about his writings. I would like to know exactly what happened if that is ever possible to find out.

## **DOROTHY COLLINGS**

**Garran, ACT**

I thought the day of 21 June at Parliament House was a wonderful gathering and tribute.

## **SANDY McNAB**

**Frankston, Victoria [1<sup>st</sup> Independent Company]**

I was pleased to read that the trip to Canberra was such a successful and joyous occasion. I would have loved to have been there but I can't leave my wife alone. Dave Harper, Lionel Veale and Mark Dale filled me in about the ceremony. My regards to Don Hook. The cheque is to make me a Life Member - that should see me out.

## **GRACE LOVELL**

**Mt Pleasant, Western Australia**

Thank you once again for the newsletter, keeping us up to date with current events. My cousin Helen McMichael and husband Dr Don McMichael, resident in Canberra, attended the 21 June meeting on my behalf and gave me details. Apparently members and relatives were well represented as they said there were "wall to wall" people.

The meeting was a very emotional time for Mary May, as John had been "holding on" for the event but unfortunately didn't make it. I still retain personal contact with Mary as I have been doing for the past 60-odd years. Best of luck for your continued research and for your fund-raising events for the memorial. As the men of Rabaul were mainly from the eastern States we do not have many relatives over here, but those of us who live in WA are vitally interested in all events connected with the *Montevideo Maru*.

## **TED TRIGG**

**Garden Suburb, NSW**

We would like to send you a cheque for \$500 as Life Membership of the Society. Ms Wendy Gadel has been investigating Keith's Roll of Honour and fund Panel No 20 for World War II named 'Triggs, EK' which is an alias. We now have approval from the AWM Director to amend the Roll to Keith Alwyn Trigg. I will inform you as soon as this has been complete.

## **JOHN BELL**

**Airlie Beach, Queensland**

I'd like to congratulate the committee and Andrea in particular on organising the day in Canberra. It was a credit to your dedication, and I thank you for the opportunity to attend.

## **VALDA BALDWIN & ANNE WALLACE**

**St Arnaud, Victoria**

What a great day. A very big thank-you Keith, Andrea and all who did so much to make our day in Canberra on 21 June. So rewarding. We, along with 15 family members aged from 10 to 70+, came away feeling very grateful to have been involved in such an event and wish to thank you all for the time and effort you have put into achieving this recognition for the soldiers of Lark Force and Rabaul personnel, including our father Private Alec Cobden VX28761, who were onboard the *Montevideo Maru*.

## **PAMELA HURST**

**Gordon, NSW**

In March I saw an article about the *Montevideo Maru* written by Kat Adamski in the *North Shore Times*. At the time I wasn't sure if I wished to know more details of my uncle's death but, after much reflection, I would prefer to know. That's why I'm acquiring the documentary.

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## **Commemoration of 70th anniversary of Lark Force march**

A commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the march of the men of Lark and Gull Forces will be held in September. Local Nationals MP, Dr Bill Sykes, who is organising the ceremony, says it will be held in Benalla's Botanical Gardens on Sunday 26 September from 2-4 pm.

"There has been a very enthusiastic response from people in my electorate and also residents in other towns throughout North East Victoria, Melbourne and interstate," Dr Sykes said. "The poignant stories told to me by the many people who extended hospitality to the soldiers en route and the descendants of members of the Lark and Gull Forces who endured so much and lost their lives in defence of our country has made a lasting impression."

For more information contact the office of Bill Sykes on 03 5762 2100 or email [bill.sykes@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:bill.sykes@parliament.vic.gov.au).

## MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY AT 27 JULY 2010

### LIFE MEMBERS

2/22<sup>nd</sup> (Lark Force)  
Association  
Ainsworth, Phil  
Beadle, Doreen & Frank  
Bell, Carol & John  
Brennan, Dorothy & Ted  
Cooper, Ted & Jude  
Cooper, Stan  
Curtis, Marg  
Doyle, Dennis  
Drew, Dr Les & Josie  
Field, Tony  
Fraser OAM, Lex  
Furness, Norm  
Gullidge, Judith  
Hayes, Ken & Barb  
Jackson AM, Adj Prof  
Keith & Ingrid  
Jenkins, Margaret  
Matthews, Bryan  
May, Marian  
May, Mary  
McNab, Sandy  
Moulds, Helen  
Muller, Betty & Peter  
Nagasawa, Ms Nori  
Richardson, Pete  
Shands, Barbara & Bruce  
Smith, Tony  
Speer MBE, Albert  
Steinfurth OAM, Jan &  
Janice  
Trigg, Dorothy & Ted  
Turner JP, Warren  
Warren, Roslyn  
Williams, Andrea & Laurie  
Williams, Hilary  
Worthy, Carole

### GOLD MEMBERS

Albert, Elizabeth  
Albert, Kirsty  
Booth, Nick  
Burns, JL  
Clarke, Maxwell  
Cooper, Andrew  
Coote, Peter  
Davis, Judi  
Doughty, Ralph  
Gustafsson, Håkan  
Hayes, Ron  
Henderson, Margaret &  
Scott  
Hockey, Graeme &  
Philippa  
Hood, Lesley  
Inwood, Elaine  
Johnston, Lorna  
Johnston, Ray  
Larner MBE, Muriel  
Lovell, Grace  
Macleod, George  
McCann, Nola  
McEwen, Senator Anne  
Mills, Bruce  
Moore, John  
Morell, Mick  
Nelson, Emer Prof Hank  
Nisbet, Ailsa  
Selby, Barbara  
Selby, Benn  
Stolz, Coral  
Symons, Mary  
Tucker, Ross  
Vail, Sue  
Vail, Lt Col Todd  
Veale, Lionel  
West OAM, Harry  
Wheeler, Pam  
Williams, Bob

### MEMBERS

Aumann, Doug & Gwen  
Baldwin, Valda & Gregory  
Bartlett, Ann  
Bourke, Patrick  
Bussell, Sue  
Clark, Jim  
Clarke, Shelley  
Collings, Dorothy  
Coomber, Darrell &  
Deanna  
Diercke, Kurt  
Donnison, Phil  
Ellis, John  
Erler, Kerri  
Gambrell, Jan & Tim  
Ganly, Maria & Tony  
Haryjanto, Teddy  
Hook, Don  
Hosking, Rev Doug &  
Jennie  
Hurst, Brian & Pamela  
Irani, Helen & Dr Cyrus  
Ireland, Judy  
Knowles, Barbara &  
Gordon  
Knowles, Gordon  
Lawrence, Bob  
Leo, Paul Yuck  
Loveday, David & Jan  
MacGowan, Doreen  
Mansley, Mary  
McCallum, Megan  
McDonald, David  
Muller, Mary & Neil  
Nikakis, Gillian  
Ning, Paul  
Noble, Jim  
Oakes, George & Edna  
Page, Roma  
Parsons, Arthur  
Pascoe, Sue

Pattison, Ann  
Pearce, Colin & Helen  
Plummer, Norman  
Pritchard, Betty & Peter  
Rogers, Belinda  
Rosenberg, Alison  
Sayers, Ian  
Shands, Catherine  
Sibraa AO, Hon Kerry  
Snow-Reyes, Kate  
Stamps, Joan  
Stewart, Douglas  
Stransky, Peggy  
Sullivan, Jude  
Sullivan, Michael  
Tangye, Joanne  
Threlfall, Rev Neville  
Trudgeon, Elizabeth  
Wade, Nancy  
Wakelin, Hilda  
Walter, John  
Wilson, Doreen  
Yeowart, Anne

**The Society thanks each  
of these new members  
for their continuing  
commitment to  
remembering the lives of  
service people and  
civilians of the New  
Guinea Islands who died  
in World War II**

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**Rabaul and  
Montevideo Maru  
Society, PO Box  
1743, Neutral Bay  
NSW 2090, Australia**